## LIONS DISTRICT 25 A NEWSLETTER

#### Coming Together to Serve

#### **DISTRICT CONTACTS**

District Governor

Lion Patty Cooke-Furlong

patty.cooke@gmail.com

First Vice District Governor

Lion Jim Furlong

jimful179@aol.com

Second Vice District Gov

Lion David Dickinson

daviddickinson20@yahoo.com

Cabinet Secretary

Lion Robin Smith

mswolfen@aol.com

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csdavis61@comcast.net

Newsletter

Lion Jackie Katz

jpkatz1984@amail.com





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#### District Governor: Patty Cooke-Furlong

Hello 25A Lions

August has been a busy month! I spent the first weekend at the Mission 1.5 Summit in Chicago. Lions from multiple districts throughout the United States were there plus many LCI Leaders – past and present. Through various interactions with others (Pretend you are asking someone to join your club) to large energetic plenary sessions with our leaders (PIP Brian Sheehan cruising the stage on his hoverboard) to small groups of district leaders rethinking their 24-25 goals to fulfill the Mission 1.5 challenge. The ultimate goal is for Lions to serve 1 Billion people and to do that we need 1.5 Million Lions!



So, I updated the 25A Goals – we will add **60 new Lions and 1 new club**. I will be working with our GMT Mary Jane and GET Mitch and all of you to make this happen. More Lions means more Service! The Lions of 25A are doing a great job of getting new members – check out the list of new members!!!

And LCI did send me some new member packets for when you start growing your club! Just give me a call. I am sure I can get more.

Then Lion Jim and I went to Indianapolis to work at the Indiana State Fair. This is a great event and a great fund raiser for the Indiana Lions. All the hours we work translate into more money for the Indiana Lions Foundation which can then provide more grants to support service projects around the state. VDG Jim has a plan to encourage more Lions from 25A to work at the Fair and enjoy the "Fair food" and meet other Hoosier Lions.

The following weekend we were off to Rochester, MI and Leader Dog for the Blind. It is an opportunity offered to all First Vice District Governors every year. Please read VDG Jim's article for more insight into this great organization and our fantastic visit.

Although I am busy, I still have lots of room on my calendar for Official Visits. This year Lions International has asked that the District Governors share these visits with their Vice District Governors. It is helpful for the VDG's to get to know the Clubs in the District. Please contact me to schedule a visit to your club.

Save the date for cabinet meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> in Lacrosse. Also see the flyer for my Banner Night on Saturday 9/21. I am looking forward to the party!

Take Care

And Thank You for All You Do

Lion Patty Cooke-Furlong

District Governor, 25A

#### First Vice District Governor: Jim Furlong

In August 2024, I had the incredible opportunity to visit Leader Dogs for the Blind, an organization dedicated to empowering individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Located in Rochester Hills, Michigan, Leader Dogs for the Blind has been a beacon of hope and independence since 1939.

**Mission and Vision** Leader Dogs for the Blind's mission is to empower people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel. Their vision is for every person who is blind or visually impaired to travel safely and independently.



**Programs and Services** During my visit, I learned about the various programs and services offered, including:

- **Guide Dog Training**: Matching clients with highly trained guide dogs to enhance mobility and independence.
- **Orientation and Mobility Training**: Teaching clients to navigate their environments confidently using white canes and other tools.
- **Summer Experience Camp**: A unique program for teenagers to build confidence and learn essential skills.

**Highlights of the Visit** One of the most memorable moments was meeting the dedicated staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to support the clients. Their passion and commitment were truly inspiring. I also had the chance to interact with some of the guide dogs in training, witnessing firsthand the incredible bond between the dogs and their trainers.

**Innovative Initiatives** Leader Dogs for the Blind is continuously evolving to meet the changing needs of their clients. They are currently focusing on creating an accessible workspace that embraces diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. <u>This initiative aims to foster innovation</u>, collaboration, and excellence within the organization1.

**Community Impact** The impact of Leader Dogs for the Blind extends far beyond their immediate community. By providing essential training and support, they help individuals regain their independence and confidence, leading to a better quality of life.

**Conclusion** My visit to Leader Dogs for the Blind was a profound experience. It highlighted the importance of their work and the positive impact they have on the lives of those they serve. I left with a deep appreciation for the organization's mission and the incredible dedication of everyone involved. If your club has the funds you could send a donation to CS Sally Davis who will forward your checks to LDFB.

For more information about Leader Dogs for the Blind, visit their website at <u>leaderdog.org</u>.

#### Second Vice District Governor: Lion David Dickinson

#### District 25A Lions Club-Indiana

#### MAKE YOUR MARK

Everywhere we serve, every time we give, we bring Kindness and compassion, change and hope. And we make our mark on the lives we touch, the communities we serve and the world we share.

Grow the Good. Let's make our district by inviting others to join our clubs, opening the doors to new friendships and new ideas. Come join our club District 25A – Indiana.

"I REALLY UNDERSTOOD JUST HOW POWERFUL SERVICE COULD BE, AND JUST HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE AS LIONS."



International President Fabricio Oliveira's Logo

Make Your Mark

#### News From Around the District—PDG Nick Gonzalez

#### Special Olympics Service Project-Cornhole Tournament

#### I have a service opportunity for all Lions and Leos in our District.

The Indiana Lions have taken on a new sponsorship. In addition to the Winter Games, we are now a sponsor for the Cornhole Tournament. Most Special Olympics events only have a competition at the State level; however, this competition also has competitions at the Sectional level. One of the Sectionals will be conducted within our District.

A Sectional competition will take place at the Orak Shrine, 3848 Frontage Road in Michigan City on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Minimum volunteer age is 16, meaning Leos are able to help. Also, high school credit will be given if needed. There will be 2 shifts available that day – 8am to 12pm and 12pm to 4pm. There are several areas which you can help out. If you like standing, you can assist at the cornhole boards or help pass out awards. Help is also needed for registration and the T-shirt station, for example.

If you wish to join me for this wonderful opportunity to serve, please reach me at <a href="mailto:nsg1917@yahoo.com">nsg1917@yahoo.com</a> or 219-588-4893 and I will get you a volunteer registration link. If you wish to register on paper, simply show up to the event. Thank you in advance for your help!

Respectfully submitted,

PDG Nick Gonzalez

#### PDG Nick Gonzalez—Special Olympics Service Opportunity







#### **Indiana Lions Special Olympics Committee**

**Presents** 

## Indiana Lions Special Olympics Premier Medal Sponsorships

Support the 18,000 plus Indiana Special Olympics Athletes with the opportunity to complete in the

Winter Games and Corn Hole Competitions.

Gold Medal – donate a min. of \$500.00 per year.

Silver Medal – donate a min. of \$250.00 per year.

Bronze Medal – donate a min. of \$125.00 per year.

Send your donations to the Indiana Lions State Comptroller

Robert Yunker

8780 Purdue Road, Suite #9

Indianapolis, In 46268-1173

Make checks to Lions of Indiana with Special Olympics in the memo line

Hello Lions of District 25A! I am PDG Nick Gonzalez, your new District LCIF Cocoordinator. I recently attended LCIF training in beautiful, warm, San Antonio, TX. Just like District Governor training, I had the



opportunity to connect with Lions from throughout the U.S.A. We had over 250 attendees. After a morning of learning, we were divided into 5 groups to cover topics more in-depth. We learned how to plan the year ahead. Deadlines are important in your workplace and in Lions. We learned about the grants available through LCIF and the steps needed to secure them. Being a district coordinator affords me the opportunity to visit clubs within our district. We learned the best ways to promote our foundation. Suppose I had questions throughout the year. We met LCIF development staff who can help me throughout the Lions year. I know it's about to be Fall, but the district convention will be here before you know it. We learned how to make a great appearance at annual conventions.

Thank you to anyone who purchased a Presidential Supporter pin from PDG's Randy or Patty last year. Guess what? They are back! You will be able to support International President Fabricio Olveira with a new pin. For one-time donations between \$50 to \$99, you can receive a Bronze pin. A donation of \$100 to \$199 you can receive a Silver pin. For donations of \$200 or more you will receive a Gold pin. If you wish to purchase one of these limited-edition pins, please contact myself or PDG Randy. These are really-cool pins – you know you want one!

#### Note from PDG Randy Greer:

Our District donated \$27,000 to LCIF in 2023-24. THANK-YOU! That is an Awesome job done by our Lions Clubs and individual Lions.

20 Melvin Jones Fellowships were given to deserving Lions, including 2 Progressive. Several more Fellowship Awards are already in the works for this year.

PDG Nick & I have information regarding the amount that you have donated to LCIF. Please contact one of us with and questions you may have about LCIF!

**PDG Randy Greer** 219-728-8432

lionrandy@yahoo.com

**PDG Nick Gonzalez** 219-588-4893

Nsg1917@yahoo.com







RELIEF











**LIONS DISTRICT 25 A** 

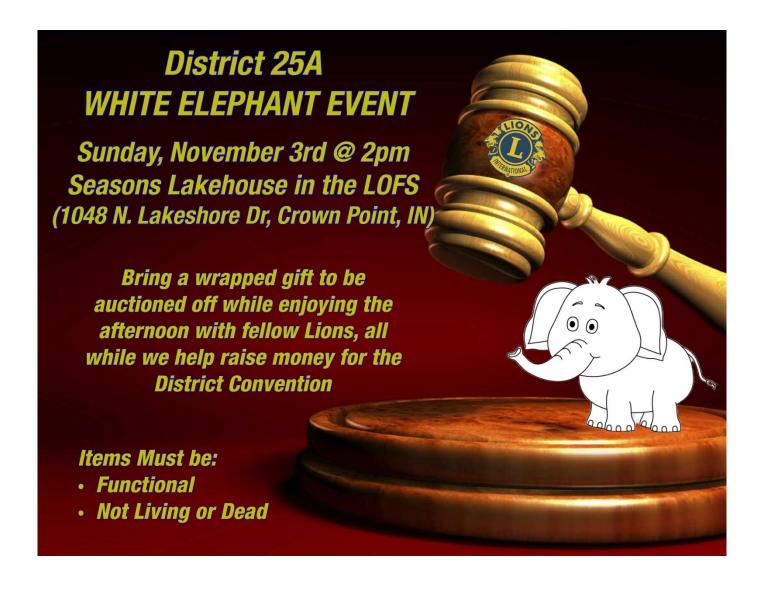
#### News Around the District—La Porte Lions Club



La Porte Lions had a float in the annual 4th of July parade. Lion Oscar Ryl-kuchar's son, Paul, wore the Lion suit and two La Porte High School scholarship winners rode on the float.



News Around the District—District 25A White Elephant



#### News Around the District—LOFS Lions Sail Cardboard Boat

#### Cardboard Boat Race Supports Challenger Baseball League

The LOFS Lions have set a goal to not only run their own projects but support other groups by actively participating in their event. The LOFS Lions ran a hotdog concession stand and collected donations benefiting the Challenger League and...they also built the most seaworthy cardboard boat of all the entries in the race.

Chairs Lion Jenn Niemeyer and Lion Linda Kroner put together the concessions and did a great job getting food donations from local and national businesses.

Lion Tom Snowden and his team of Lion Joe DiSanto, and Lion Dan Moynihan built an impressive boat made only of cardboard, tape, glue (2 gallons) and cardboard tubes. Lion Jim Campagna led the paint and decorating team; the result as seen in images below is a Lion themed boat named the **USS WP Woods.** 

Lion Captain Sally Reagor called out the strokes during the race with team member Lion Jackie Katz in the front of the boat. The LOFS team did not win the race, but that wasn't really the point, it was "We Serve." And, best of the all, the boat survived undamaged to be reused next year!









<u>Top Right</u>: The LOFS Lions Boat Team readies the WP Woods to go into the water.

<u>Top Center</u>: Lion Jackie and Lion Sally before race with builder Lion Tom Snowden (background).

Top Left: The team after the race.

<u>Bottom Right</u>: The WP Woods in the water during the race. As you can see, it was very competitive!

#### News Around the District—South Haven Lions Club

South Haven Lions had their annual Installation and Awards Night at American Legion Post 502. We had entertainment by Harley Hehr who sings and does impressions. IPDG Stephen Helmken installed three new members and inducted our officers. Congratulations to our new President Lion Jason Kegebein and Thank you Lion Carolyn Laviolette for a wonderful year! Congratulations to Lion of the Year Jody Greer, WP Woods Award winner Lion Carolyn Laviolette, and Melvin Jones award winner Karen Buchmeier! These Lions live the moto We Serve! We also were able to present a check to Family Promise for \$3,000.00 to help with their shelter project.









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

#### St. John Lions Club Supports Local K9 Program





On Wednesday, July 24th a few members of the St. John Lions Club made a visit to the St. John Police Department. The Lions presented a check for \$1,000.00 to the St. John Fraternal Order of Police, earmarked to support their K9 program.

Those present for the check presentation were (from L to R) Officer Neil Olson, K9 Raider, Lion Nancy Moneta (club president), Deputy Chief David Demeter and Lion Wayne Pondinas.

Raider's handler, Officer Olson was very excited to receive the donation and took the large presentation check to the police department break room for all officers to see.

Thank you to the St. John Police Department and our K9s Storm and Raider, for all that you do to keep our community safe. We truly appreciate you!

#### K-9's in Service

#### News Around the District—Kouts Lions Club at the Porter Co Fair



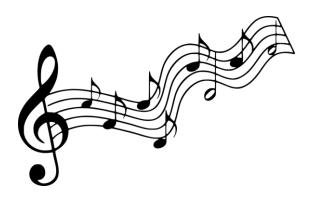
The Kouts Lions Club had their ring a pop game set up at the Porter County Fair. Lions from other clubs and the Leo's helped the Kouts Lions Club work all ten days at the fair. Families could purchase rings to throw and if they got it around the pop and all the way down, they could win any flavor of pop that was available.



LIONS DISTRICT 25 A Coming Together to Serve

#### News Around the District—LOFS Lions Club End of Summer Bash





#### News Around the District—Westville Lions Club Host Cyclists

It was a very hot and humid day on Sunday, August 25, 2024 when the Westville Lions hosted the Westville SAG (stop and go) stop at Bluhm County Park. This SAG stop saw approximately 150 cyclists who participated in the 40 or 100 miles. The cyclists were participating in the LaPorte County YMCA Tour De LaPorte fundraiser. The YMCA provides scholarships to promote a happier and healthy lifestyle through programs that promote healthy living, youth development and social responsibility.

The Lions roared into Bluhm County Park at 8:00 am and worked tirelessly and energetically until 4:30 pm replenishing food and drinks and cheering loudly and proudly for the cyclists. The Lions all agreed that Comet (in the wagon) along with his owner was our favorite team of cyclists. We learned that Comet loves going for rides and looks forward to them and he only gets out when they go over a railroad crossing.

The Lions would like to give a huge shout out to the following businesses for their donations to help make this a HUGE Success and promote Westville, Casey's for pizza, City Pure Ice for Ice, Coulter's Produce for Watermelon, Family Express for Bottled Water and donuts, Ingram Auto Repair for cold cans of soda, and LaPorte County Assessor Michael Schultz for homemade Snickerdoodle cookies. LaPorte County Parks for the use of the pavilion and the air-conditioned bathrooms and Garwood Orchards for their donation of apples.

Besides the above-mentioned foods the riders could have a hardboiled egg, several kinds of cookies, trail mix, Cheese Peanut Butter Crackers, a variety of Rice Krispie treats or a huge dill picker. The Lions learned that pickles and pickle juice help with cramps. The riders were pleasantly surprised with the bathrooms. The Lions were pleasantly surprised when Scott Helmkamp the new YMCA CEO and his lovely wife came out to Bluhm to thank us and introduce themselves. All in all, a very enjoyable day. The riders only request for future years was to have a shuttle bus. They did not lose their sense of humor and made the time pass quickly.



Left to right: Back Row: Lions Jean Bartmess, Mary Beth Slont, Al Slont, Dick Bartmess. Front Row: Debi Ingram, Dave Dickinson. Lions not pictured. Tara Haack and Jim Ingram.



#### News Around the District—Crown Point Lions Prepare Backpacks



1551B



Arthur a Equehua, Chief Human Resource Officer, (pictured right) thanked the Crown Point Lions Club for the great service we're doing with the Backpack Project. We have made the students feel welcome to our community.

Crown Point Lions prepared 30 backpacks for foster children that enter the Crown Point Community Schools throughout the school year. Ten each for High School, Junior High School and Elementary. High Schools and Jr. High have Texas Instruments calculators, along with all the normal items like mechanical pencils, folders, spiral notebooks and more. The Elementary backpacks contain pencil boxes, tissues, glue sticks, crayons, markers, erasers, loose leaf paper and more.

Pictured left Lions Louise Moore, Carla Smolek, Becky Sills, Dr. Amanda Sprehe, Julie Wendorf, Paul Sills, Phylis Porio, Sharon Thom and Alan Thom with Art Equino at the Crown Point Community School Corporation. Not pictured Greg Fabian.





#### A message from Lion President Carla Smolek

I hope to see old and new faces at our club meetings. Give a call to older club members to see if they need a ride to our meetings. Remember, if you can't make it to a meeting, community service counts as a replacement. Let me know if you have new ideas for projects our club can do and "Serve our Community" with other community clubs in town. October 5th is *Pack Away Hunger*, Crown Point High School 9-11am and 1-3pm. Watch for more information.

Let's make it a "WE SERVE" year.

#### News Around the District—St. John's Lions Club

#### **BUNCO-WEEN October 19th**



#### News Around the District—Hobart Lions Club

#### YOU'RE INVITED

# Support the *Hobart Lions Club*Helping to make positive changes

Joe's Spaghetti Dinner



All you can eat Spaghetti, Breadsticks, Salad, Drink & Dessert

(CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE)

Adults \$ 12.00

\$8.00 Children under 10

UNDER 5 FREE

Sunday October 6"

2-6PM

Trinity Lutheran School 891 S Linda St, Hobart

Call

Joe

Salty

219-781-9604 OR

219-942-4433

for tickets

**Hobart Lions Club** 

Connecting with the Community

Help so we can support our projects

Police, Fire, Parks Departments, Food Pantry, softball, baseball, ROTC, backpack food program, Leader Dogs, Cancer, providing medical equipment, provides glasses and vision screening for children

We need your supporting

Supported by a Thrivent Action Team

## Liberty Day: Easy Project Helps Your Local Schools Learn About the Constitution

#### By Lion Don Parker, District Liberty Day Chair

August 2024

Looking for an Easy and Meaningful Club Project to Promote Civics? Lions Clubs can help promote civics and citizenship education with a great and easy-to-do project: Liberty Day. You can use Sept. 17 (Constitution Day), Dec. 15 (Bill of Rights Day), March 16 (birthday of Pres. James Madison, major author of the Bill of Rights), or any day that works well for your club or your community.

Schools are giving increased attention to Civics classes. Clubs can distribute pocket US Constitutions to their local schools to use in Civics education, which as we all know is more critical now than ever for our nation. This is a great opportunity to promote Civics education AND the goals of Lionism!

- Pocket Constitutions are available to order from either <u>Amazon.com</u> or <u>Walmart.com</u> for only \$1.00 each. Sometimes local partners such as The American Legion may have copies available.
- Civics education takes place at about the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade level, so contact your local schools, and arrange to deliver pocket Constitutions for classroom use, or in connection with a Citizenship-related activity.
- As with The Dictionary Project, be sure to attach a sticker or mailing label with your local Lions Club's contact info or web site.
- Report your Liberty Day activities on your Monthly Activity Report.

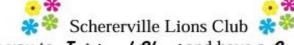
This year, Tues. Sept. 17 (Constitution Day) is also National Voter Registration Day (generally the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of September). Lions Clubs are NOT allowed to actually register voters, but clubs ARE allowed to hand out the standard Indiana Voter Registration Application VRG-7 (State Form 50504, R25, 6/24) which individual voters must then submit to their county voter registrar.

For more ideas or for a speaker about Liberty Day, contact Lion Don Parker (Wanatah Lions Club) at 219-801-5275.



## District 25-A Banner Night





Invites you to Jwist and Shout and have a groovey time

Honoring

### District Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong

Saturday, September 21, 2024

American Legion Post 485 7485 Burr St., Schererville, IN 46375

Social - Cash Bar - 6:00 pm (CST) Dinner - 6:30pm (CST)

 $$25.00 ext{ per person}$  \$30 per person after the deadline (9/13) or paying at the door

50's/60's themed attire requested

There will be DJ - get ready to Shake, Rattle and Roll to the timeless tunes of the 50's and 60's



Silent Auction & 50/50



#### Please RSVP by September 13

District 25-A Banner Night 2024				
Club/District				
Name & Title				
Name & Title				
Name & Title				



Make Checks payable to: District 25A Lions Banner Night

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 = Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_



Mail to: CS Robin Smith, 745-1 Capitol Road, Valparaiso, IN 46385 (219) 916-4549 ~~ mswolfen@aol.com

#### **District Directory Corrections**

pg. 17 - Region 3, Zone 7, REMOVE PDG Kevin Roe as ZC

Region 3, Zone 4, ADD Craig Aigner as ZC, 10535 S 600 W, Union Mills, IN 46382, 219-363-7155, <a href="mailto:craigner55@gmail.com">craigner55@gmail.com</a>

- pg. 27 Ed Paine Care & Helping Hands ADD Chair to Charles DeLasCasas
- pg. 42 Koontz Lake Lions CHANGE title for Sara Yorko to Secretary/Treasurer.

We are in the process of distributing the 2024-25 District Directories for 25A. Here is a direct link to the document:

https://e-district.org/userfiles/307/file/24-25-District-25A-Directory-FINAL.pdf

## New Lions Join District 25-A Welcome!

**BASS LAKE** 

JOHN AHLENIUS Joined: 07/29/2024 Sponsor: GLORIA BALLARD JAYNE JOHNSON Joined: 07/10/2024 Sponsor: GLORIA BALLARD JAMES J JOHNSON Joined: 07/29/2024 Sponsor: GLORIA BALLARD

#### INDIANA HARBOR EAST CHICAGO LIONS CLUB

VANESSA HERNANDEZ-ORANGE Joined: 08/24/2024 Sponsor: ARGELIO TREVINO

LINDA L PETERSON Joined: 08/24/2024 Sponsor: BRYAN COSSEY

#### **KOONTZ LAKE LIONS CLUB**

JOHN DARNELL Joined: 08/17/2024 Sponsor: SARA YORKO MIA PIOCH Joined: 08/01/2024 Sponsor: SARA YORKO

#### **KOUTS LIONS CLUB**

BRYAN D MOSER Joined: 07/11/2024 Sponsor: DENNIS BROWN BROOKS M RUST Joined: 07/11/2024 Sponsor: JACOB RUST

#### LAKES OF THE FOUR SEASONS LIONS CLUB

ANDREW J MONTALBANO Joined: 07/10/2024 Sponsor: JOE DISANTO

ANTHONY P. TSIKOURIS Joined: 07/10/2024 Sponsor: CHARLES DE LAS CASAS

CHRISTI I ROGALA Joined: 07/10/2024 Sponsor: SALLY REAGOR

#### **MONTEREY LIONS CLUB**

JOSH STACY Joined: 07/01/2024 Sponsor: DOUGLAS DENTON TINA STACY Joined: 07/01/2024 Sponsor: KELLI DENTON

#### **MOROCCO LIONS CLUB**

CHRISTOPHER J. EMILY Joined: 07/20/2024 Sponsor: DANIEL BLANEY

#### **MUNSTER LIONS CLUB**

WINNIE MITTELBERGER Joined: 08/03/2024 Sponsor: RICHARD PAULSEN TATIANA SHINKAN Joined: 07/03/2024 Sponsor: GEORGE SHINKAN KURT MITTELBERGER Joined: 08/03/2024 Sponsor: RICHARD PAULSEN

#### **OGDEN DUNES LIONS CLUB**

PATRICIA J GREEN Joined: 08/27/2024 Sponsor: ERIC KURTZ

#### **PORTAGE LIONS CLUB**

PATRICIA RESHETER Joined: 08/10/2024 Sponsor: BRANDIE BELSTRA DUSTIN SCOTT Joined: 07/13/2024 Sponsor: Catherine Johnson

#### **SOUTH HAVEN LIONS CLUB**

JERRY GIBSON Joined: 06/28/2024 Sponsor: ANDREA BRADFORD

#### **WESTVILLE LIONS CLUB**

RUSSELL D MCCOY Joined: 07/02/2024 Sponsor: MYRLE WESTON LINDA E REDMAN Joined: 07/02/2024 Sponsor: Jean Bartmess

## LIONS MEMORIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

**CHESTERTON LIONS CLUB** 

RICHARD STEIN Joined: 10/01/2007

**SCHERERVILLE LIONS CLUB** 

JAMES M VARGO Joined: 01/12/2010

**SOUTH HAVEN LIONS CLUB** 

NANCY L SPICER Joined: 06/24/2009

## District Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong's Calendar

USA Canada Forum, Louisville		9/5/2024	9/8/2024
Rensselaer Visitation		9/10/2024	
My Banner Night, Schererville	Saturday	9/21/2024	
Bravo Reunion, Branson		9/24/2024	9/27/2024
2nd Council, Middlebury	Saturday	10/5/2024	
PDG Weekend, New Harmony		10/11/2024	10/13/2024
2nd Cabinet, Lacrosse	Sunday	10/20/204	

