Lions Tales

District 25-G

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District Officers

District Governor
Lion Steven Weld
1438 Bower St.
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-742-1357
smweld@pm.me

1st Vice District Governor
Lion Jim Steen
P.O. Box 873
601 E. Water St.
Akron, IN 46910
574-835-3014
JSteen@pikelumber.com

2nd Vice District Governor
(Vacant)

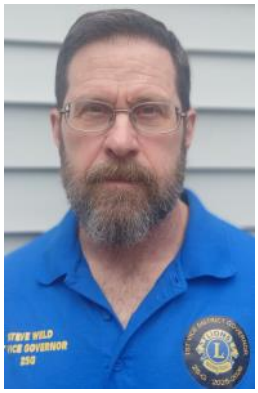
Cabinet Secretary
Lion Faith Kamp
P.O. Box 344
203 Northwood Drive
Akron, IN 46910
574-835-1899
faithkamp13@gmail.com

Cabinet Treasurer
PDG Ron Guth
2386 W. Broadway
Bunker Hill, IN 46914
765-460-7177
guthron@comcast.net

See the final page of the newsletter for contact information for other district staff members.

A Message from District Governor Steven Weld

What the District Does for Your Club



On August 31, 2016, the Middlebury Lions Club received its charter. This year the club turns 10 years old—young, next to Mishawaka's 103 years, and still our district's youngest club.

Middlebury's current president, Lion Sopheap Long, is a Charter Member and has been instrumental in growing the club since its founding. She is also this district's LCIF Coordinator, and one of many Lions serving in both the club and district level roles, while actively serving her community. Serving alongside Lion Sopheap as LCIF co-coordinator is Lion Jackie Kurley, a member of the Dunlap Lions Club, who is also our Immediate Past District Governor and our current Council Chair for Multiple District 25, the Lions of Indiana. The district is not a layer sitting above your club; it is Lions from clubs across the district, taking on extra responsibilities to help all clubs within our district succeed and grow.

Past Council Chair (PCC) David Eisen, a member of the Mishawaka Lions Club, leads district leadership development as our Global Leadership Team chair, coordinating training for club presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and other officers so they do not have to discover the resources needed to fulfill their responsibilities on their own. Past District Governor (PDG) Marlyn Fast, a member of the Dunlap Lions Club, chairs our Global Membership Team, and is always available to answer questions and help with membership, retention, and recruitment issues.

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Have you scheduled the District Governor's visit to your club?

District Governor Steven Weld would like to attend one of your club meetings, share his vision for our district, and hear your concerns. Check his calendar in this newsletter, then give him a call at 574-742-1357, or send an email message to smweld@pm.me.

A Message from District Governor Steven Weld

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PDG Tom Polk, a member of the LaFontaine Lions Club and our Global Service Team chair, can offer assistance with service—the essential focus for every club—from ideas to planning to resources to reporting.

Nine Lions in our district serve as Zone Chairs, offering a direct link between your club and the district, carrying club concerns upward and district information back down. They help clubs connect with each other and to the resources they need. Lion Faith Kamp of the Akron Lions Club not only serves as Secretary for both her club and our district, but also as one of our Zone Chairs.

District Administrator Lion Jill Neidlinger of the Culver Lions Club helps with all club or district administrative challenges, like officer updates and dealing with the many frustrating quirks of our Lion Portal. Each month, PDG Paul Russell of the Lakeville Lions Club spends many hours assembling this newsletter, a rich resource to keep you informed of what is happening in the district.

The Lions serving in district leadership roles are Lions from clubs just like yours, offering their time and experience to help you and your club succeed. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to any district Lion and we will help or connect you to the resources that will help. Also reach out if you have interest in sharing your experience with others, or serving other clubs. We would love to find ways for you to help our district continue to flourish.

Steven Weld, District Governor, District 25-G
Dunlap Lions Club, Elkhart, Indiana

District 25-G—By the Numbers

	Current	Goal
New members this Lions year	9	112
Net gain of members this Lions year	2	+8
New clubs this Lions year	0	1
New members in new clubs this Lions year	0	20
Club officers trained (%)	2%	15%
Clubs reporting service	16%	100%
LCIF goal progress	$0	

A Message From 1st Vice District Governor Jim Steen

Pursuing Club Excellence

Every Lions club strives to make a meaningful difference in its community through membership, service, leadership, training, timely reporting, and LCIF giving. The Lions Clubs International Club Excellence Award recognizes clubs that demonstrate outstanding performance in these areas while maintaining strong club operations and a commitment to growth.

Earning the Club Excellence Award is not simply about meeting administrative requirements. It reflects a club's dedication to effective leadership, active membership, impactful service, and responsible stewardship. By working together toward these shared goals, clubs strengthen both their local communities and the global mission of Lions Clubs International.

Later in this newsletter or a future newsletter, there will be a detailed flyer describing the requirements to earn this Club-level recognition for Lions year 2026—2027.

Good Luck in your quest to achieve the Club Excellence Award!

Lion Jim, FVDG

Celebrating 10 Years of Service

This month, District 25-G proudly recognizes one Lions Club celebrating its charter anniversary. Chartered in August 2016, the club marks 10 years of dedicated service to its community. During the past decade, its members have supported local needs while also contributing to district, state, and international Lions projects.

The club's decade of service exemplifies District Governor Steven Weld's theme, **"*See Clearly, Serve Boldly*."** Through vision, dedication, and compassion, the club continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

CLUB NAME	CHARTER DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Middlebury	August 31, 2016	10

A Message From District Cabinet Secretary Lion Faith Kamp

During the Meeting: Your Responsibilities as Club Secretary

As Lions, we know that successful service begins with well-organized meetings. While the club president leads the meeting, the secretary plays an equally important role behind the scenes by ensuring that the club's official records are accurate, complete, and preserved for future reference. Below are key responsibilities every club secretary should focus on during a meeting.

1. Arrive Prepared
Before the meeting begins, have everything you need readily available. This includes the meeting agenda, a copy of the previous meeting minutes, an attendance roster, a notebook or laptop for recording minutes, and any correspondence or reports that need to be presented. Being prepared helps the meeting run smoothly—you might even get out a few minutes early!

2. Record Attendance
Attendance is more than simply noting who is present. It provides a historical record of member participation and can help clubs recognize engagement trends over time. If guests, visiting Lions, district officers, or prospective members attend, include their names in the minutes as well. Today's guest could be tomorrow's Lion.

3. Record Actions, Not Conversations
Meeting minutes are not a transcript. Instead, record the decisions the club makes. Include:

- Motions and their outcomes,
- Committee reports that require action,
- Elections,
- Important announcements, and
- Assignments and deadlines.

Avoid recording lengthy conversations and personal opinions. Save the play-by-play for the sports announcers!

4. Ask for Clarification When Needed
If you miss part of a motion or are unsure about the outcome of a vote, simply ask for clarification before the meeting continues. The club needs your minutes to be as accurate as possible for historical purposes. A quick question today can save a lot of head-scratching tomorrow!

5. Stay as Focused as Possible
Avoid having side conversations or distractions while the meeting is taking place. Staying in tune with what is going on in the meeting will help improve the accuracy of your minutes and ensure that you do not miss any important decisions or assignments that need to be included. Stay focused—the minutes will not write themselves; I have tried this.

The Club Secretary's responsibilities extend far beyond taking notes during meetings. Accurate meeting minutes provide accountability, preserve club history, and help future officers understand the decisions that were made. By staying prepared, attentive, and objective, you help your club conduct business efficiently, which creates more time for SERVICE. Remember to "***See Clearly, Serve Boldly"*** this Lions year!

Best regards,

Lion Faith Kamp, Cabinet Secretary
574-835-1899

A Message From District Cabinet Treasurer PDG Ron Guth

Lions of District 25-G, welcome to a new Lions year!

Some financial stuff first: Out of 43 clubs in the district, I have received district dues payments from 20 of the 43. Checking the LCI website, I found that 18 clubs show dues were paid as of July 24, 2026.

My thanks to those clubs that have paid promptly upon receipt or notice of dues invoices.

Effective July 1, 2026, LCI changed the time frame for a club to be in suspension for nonpayment of account balances. Any club that has an outstanding balance due of more than $20.00 per member past 90 days will automatically be suspended. If not paid in full within two months, the club will be cancelled.

While in suspension the club may not conduct service or fund-raising activities, add or drop members, or participate in district activities. This is a big deal, and you don't want your club to be on the suspension list.

We are all busy with the many events that occur during the summer and early fall to promote Lionism and the fund-raising efforts to support those activities. This month I would like to offer a little information about the commonly known state projects. Most of us know them as the "five" projects, but today we have six or more state/district level projects and committees that could use support from our district clubs.

Lions Cancer Control Fund of Indiana: This program has helped countless Hoosiers over the years and is currently looking for donations to put toward matching funds to support the research and treatment of pediatric cancer.

Vision First Indiana Lions Eye Bank: The Eye Bank has processed more than 50,000 corneas for Hoosiers and other patients in the USA and foreign countries. Our club donations help support the KidSight program and the Surgical Assistance program.

Leader Dogs for the Blind: I'm sure most of us know some of what this program does to help the visually impaired. This program supplies its clients with Guide Dogs and training at no cost to the client. They also provide Orientation and Mobility training for first time and current white cane users. Did you know they also have a Summer Experience Camp for legally blind 16- and 17-year-olds to teach them skills and provide them with personal GPS units? Your donations go to the program in Rochester Hills, Michigan, *unless you specify that the funds remain in Indiana.*

Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing: "Working for a sound quality of life" This project supports programs offered at the Indiana School for the Deaf, colleges and universities for the speech and hearing impaired, and provides hearing aid assistance for Indiana Hoosiers.

Indiana Lions for the ISBVI: This project helps to support the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The school is undergoing massive renovations and construction over the next several years to allow the Indiana School for the Deaf to share the same campus. Donations are used to help the school cope with continuing the education of our visually challenged Hoosier students.

Indiana Lions Foundation: The foundation offers matching grants of up to $2,000 per year for any club to support the community. **The State Fair fund raiser is an important source of funds and needs your support by working a gate**, but they also welcome club donations.

Diabetes: Our District has a diabetes fund that we use to support a Diabetes Camp, and the state has a Diabetes Committee that funds statewide projects. If your club wants to donate something for

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A Message From District Cabinet Treasurer PDG Ron Guth

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diabetes, I will keep the funds in our district fund, or if specified, I will forward the funds to the state level.

Special Olympics: The state has a Special Olympics committee that collects and donates funds to the Special Olympics summer and winter programs. If your club would like to donate funds for the Special Olympics I will collect it at the district level, then forward it to the state Comptroller for use by the committee.

District 25-G Eyeglass Recycling Program: Our district has an excellent eyeglass recycling program that collects, processes and distributes them in Mexico during annual mission trips. They need your support as well to continue the great work to help others in need.

Now the easy part: When your club decides to donate to any of the above projects or committees, just write one check made out to District 25-G and attach a short note saying how much should be given and to which projects or committees. I will combine your donation with those from other clubs sent in the same period and write checks for the respective projects or committees along with a letter telling them where the funds came from, so your club gets credit.

What is not listed above and is not done at the district level is donations to LCIF. Your club should send all LCIF donations directly to LCIF along with a completed Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) form indicating where the funds should be used. You can send in smaller amounts and just add to your credit, and when the total reaches $1,000, you can give LCIF the information needed for the MJF recipient.

All of you should have received notice of your dues invoice from LCI, unless your club didn't report officers to LCI before July 1st. If you don't have an invoice/statement, please contact me and I will help you access it, or send a copy to you. District dues invoices were sent on July 7, 2026, to all clubs.

It feels great to be a Lion and support projects that allow us to help others in need. I will be ready to distribute your donations per your direction.

We Serve,

CT PDG Ron Guth

Global Leadership Team

CREATIVE GROWTH

Creative: 1. Having the ability or power to create; 2. Productive, creative; 3. Characterized by originality and expressiveness, imaginative. (American Heritage College Dictionary, 3rd ed., 2000)

"Let's call this meeting to order." It's a sentence all Lions have heard and many of us have used. And sadly, what follows tends to be very much the same, no matter which Club we join. And even more sadly, Lions Club meetings tend to run on autopilot until the leader intones "We are adjourned."

We wonder why our meetings aren't well attended or why our guests tend not to return. It's usually not the food. Much of the poor attendance is due to the predictability of our meetings, the sheer repetitiveness of it all. Predictability isn't bad. It's comfortable and we always know just where we are on the agenda. But it also leads to the feeling that if you've been to one meeting, you've been to them all.

I'd like to suggest that we need to shake up our meetings now and then. Let's do something out of order or different enough to maintain, or even capture, our members' interests. And as a new Club President myself, I'm writing this as much for myself as for other new officers. I need to be creative myself as a person who doesn't mind the ordinary.

So what can we do to fit some creativity into our meetings? The easiest thing is to change the agenda. Do we have to have committee reports in the same order every month? Do we have to have committee reports if we know the committee chair has nothing to report? Does the Tail Twister have to be the opening act for the guest speaker? Could there be meetings without a Tail Twister? Can the President request that the Vice President oversee announcing and promoting future special events or meetings, such as Banner Night? Could the Vice President oversee introducing the guest speaker? Does the speaker have to be an officer of the local not-for-profit seeking a handout? Can some other officer besides the President be responsible for possible service projects? Who can bring one bad "Dad joke" to each meeting? How many small projects can we do at our Club meetings and who chooses them? And as always, how can we best keep track of members or family members who need our thoughts and prayers? You can already see that most of these suggestions involve some planning and preparation, and none of this should be the President's job alone.

I don't think I'm advocating anarchy. I'm suggesting that we need to spice up our Club meetings for our new and veteran members. From what I've seen, once a Club experiences creativity in Club meetings, the members don't want to go back to the old predictable model. Meetings will be more exciting, members will be more excited, and Clubs will grow once the word spreads.

So, spend a little time brainstorming with your officers, your members, or through visiting other Clubs to gather ideas for your own Club. Remember, it's easy to keep a routine. It's harder to be creative, but it is so worth the effort. The successful Club and the creative Club can be one and the same.

PCC Dave Eisen

Global Membership Team

***MISSION* 1.5 * Nurturing a Culture of Growth**

Lions of District 25-G: We do not grow together by acting alone.

Each Lion matters to the people who depend on you, and every club is changing their community by making it a stronger, healthier, and kinder place for all. Inviting new members to your club will increase your capacity to serve your community and the people who depend on you. New members you proudly sponsor will bring special talents and unique skills to your service.

We are beginning another new Lions year and our goal for 2026-2027 is a net gain of **8**. This seems very minimal, but yet our records show that we have not had a net gain in membership for over 10 years. Let's begin with a **Lion Spirit** and a **Positive Attitude** in this new year!

Our July records show:

New members	11
Transfer in	1
Reinstated	2
Dropped Members	7
Deceased	0
Net gain 7/27/26	7

PDG Marlyn Fast, Global Membership Team Coordinator

Welcome New Members

During the first month of the 2026-2027 Lions year, 7 district clubs welcomed 11 new Lions to the largest and greatest volunteer service organization in the world. We welcome these new Lions and thank their sponsors for offering them the opportunity to make a difference in their communities and the world.

The following new Lions were not previously reported in the district newsletter.

Argos Lions Club
New Member: Lion Gunnar Crispen
Sponsor: Lion Pam Gagnon

New Member: Lion Janice Jones
Sponsor: Lion Brenda Smith

New Member: Lion Jimmy Jones
Sponsor: Lion Terry Smith

Culver Lions Club
New Member: Lion Charles Fischer
Sponsor: Lion James Harper

New Member: Lion Cheantae Stiles
Sponsor: Lion Jennah Fairchild

Fulton Liberty Lions Club
New Member: Lion Jennifer Richter
Sponsor: Lion Linda Fincher

Greene Township Lions Club
New Member: Lion Allison Whitesel
Sponsor: Lion Ronald Whitesel

Laketon Lions Club
New Member: Lion Shawn Pierce
Sponsor: Lion Diane Binkerd

New Member: Lion Vickie Pierce
Sponsor: Lion Diane Binkerd

Mishawaka Lions Club
New Member: Lion Jennifer Wozniak
Sponsor: Lion Sheila Schafer

Peru Lions Club
New Member: Lion Marcia Harkema
Sponsor: Lion Carolyn Crist

Choose the Project That Matters Most

PDG Tom Polk
PDGTomPolk@gmail.com
260-571-5123

Last month, your club listened. You asked people what the community needs via a community needs assessment (you can get a copy here - Needs Assessment (Google Form). You read the answers. Now comes the next question: What project should we do first?

Do not choose the loudest idea, the oldest tradition, or the project one person likes best. Choose the project that can make the most useful change with the people, time, and money your club has. The goal is not to do everything. The goal is to select one clear need, plan a direct response, and act.

Turning Needs Into Project Choices

A needs survey may give you a long list of good ideas. That is useful, but it can also feel hard. Start by turning each need into one possible project.

- **Need:** Children start school without basic supplies.
  - **Project choice:** Build and give out grade-level school kits.
- **Need:** Some children may have vision trouble.
  - **Project choice:** Partner with the school for a children's vision screening.
- **Need:** A park or school route is dirty or unsafe.
  - **Project choice:** Hold a cleanup and simple safety check.

Write each choice in one sentence. A clear project is easier to compare, explain, and complete.

Use the SERVE Test

Score each project from 1 to 5 for every part of SERVE. A score of 1 means weak. A score of 5 means strong.

	SERVE	Question	Score
S	**Service**	Does it give direct help, not just raise money?	1–5
E	**Effective**	Will it make a clear change for people?	1–5
R	**Relevant**	Did the community name this need?	1–5
V	**Visible**	Will people see Lions working and know how to join?	1–5
E	**Easy**	Can the club finish it with the hands, time, and funds it has?	1–5

Do Not Let the Score Make the Choice Alone

The highest score is a strong clue, but the club still needs to ask four final questions:

1. **Who will lead it?** A good idea without a leader will not move.
2. **Do we need a partner and if so, who?** Schools, food pantries, parks departments, libraries, and health groups may already know how to help. This is also a good way to inform people about Lions.
3. **What does success look like?** Set one simple goal, such as 75 children screened, 100 school kits given out, or 20 bags of trash removed. Without a measurable outcome impossible to know impact.
4. **Can we start small?** A first project does not need to serve the whole county. It needs to work, teach the club, and build trust.

A Simple Club Decision Process

1. **List the top three needs.** Use the needs assessment results, not guesses.
2. **Create one project choice for each need.** Keep each choice short and clear.
3. **Score each choice with SERVE.** Have every member score it, then compare the totals.
4. **Check leaders, partners, cost, and time.** Remove any project the club cannot support right now.
5. **Pick one project and set a date.** Do not leave the meeting with only another discussion.
6. **Tell the community what you heard.** Say, "You told us this was needed, so Lions are taking action."

The August Challenge

- **Choose** one project from your needs assessment.
- **Name** a project leader and at least one community partner.
- **Set** one measure of success and one project date.
- **Invite** at least two people who are not Lions to serve with you.
- **Report** the completed service in the Lion Portal. Lions International says reporting helps clubs celebrate impact and can inspire future members.[3]

Bottom line: The best projects are not the biggest. They are the ones that meet a real need, fit your club, and produce a result people can see.

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."

— Vincent van Gogh

August Service in a Box

PDG Tom Polk
PDGTomPolk@gmail.com
260-571-5123

Back-to-School and End-of-Summer Service

August brings new needs. Families are buying school items. Children are returning to classrooms. Parks and public spaces need care after a busy summer. Use your needs assessment first. Then choose the idea that fits what your community told you.

Project 1. Back-to-School Ready Kits

Global Cause: Youth / Hunger / Humanitarian

School supply drives are common. Turn the drive into direct service by building useful kits with a school or youth partner. Ask the school what students need most before buying anything.

Small (1–5 members)

Goal: Build 25 grade-level supply or hygiene kits.

Steps

1. Ask one school counselor or teacher for a short list of the most-needed items.
2. Buy or collect only those items, then pack the kits by grade level.
3. Deliver the kits to school staff so families can receive them with privacy.
4. Report the number of children served and invite one new helper to the next project.

Medium (6–10 members)

Goal: Hold a one-hour "pack and serve" event.

Steps

1. Partner with a school, library, or youth center and set a goal of 75–100 kits.
2. Create packing stations for supplies, hygiene items, and shelf-stable snacks.
3. Invite teachers, parents, or community volunteers to pack beside Lions.
4. Put a simple "Come Serve With Us" card in each volunteer's hand, not in the child's kit.

Large (10+ members)

Goal: Host a back-to-school readiness day.

Steps

1. Use a school or community building and invite local partner groups.
2. Offer supply kits, haircuts, simple health information, and a meal or snack.
3. Assign Lions to welcome families, guide stations, restock, and clean up.
4. Measure families served, kits given, volunteers involved, and follow-up needs.

Project 2. Children's Vision Screening

Global Cause: Vision

Early detection through vision screening can lead to timely referral and care. Children's screenings can be held in schools and other community sites.

Small (1–5 members)

Goal: Help one school or preschool prepare for a screening.

Steps

1. Contact the district vision team or a trained screening group.
2. Ask one school for a date and the number of children to be screened.
3. Provide check-in help, forms, room setup, or family information.
4. Track children screened and referrals made; protect all private information.

Medium (6–10 members)

Goal: Run one school screening day with trained partners.

Steps

1. Confirm equipment, trained screeners, school consent steps, and referral process.
2. Assign Lions to check-in, guide children, clean equipment, and record totals.
3. Give families clear follow-up information prepared by the screening partner.
4. Share the service story without sharing names, photos, or health details without permission.

Large (10+ members)

Goal: Build a multi-school screening plan.

Steps

1. Work with the school district and district Lions vision leaders to set dates.
2. Create teams for equipment, screening, records, school contact, and follow-up.
3. Ask an eye-care partner how families with referrals can find needed care.
4. Report total screenings and referrals, then review what should improve next time.

Project 3. End-of-Summer Cleanup and Safe School Routes

Global Cause: Environment / Youth

A cleanup can do more than remove litter. It can make the path to school, a bus stop, or a public park cleaner and easier to use. Work with the town, school, or parks department before starting.

Small (1–5 members)

Goal: Clean one bus stop, trail entrance, or school-side block.

Steps

1. Ask the school or town which small area needs attention.

2. Bring gloves, bags, grabbers, and safety vests when needed.
3. Work for 60–90 minutes and note any hazards the town must fix.
4. Take before-and-after photos from safe locations.

Medium (6–10 members)

Goal: Hold a school-route cleanup morning.

Steps

1. Choose a walking route, park edge, or public path near a school.
2. Split into teams for litter, light trimming, sign cleaning, and hazard notes.
3. Invite neighbors, school staff, scouts, or youth groups to join.
4. Report bags collected, blocks cleaned, and hazards sent to local officials.

Large (10+ members)

Goal: Create a community "Ready for School" service day.

Steps

1. Coordinate with the school, parks department, police, or street department.
2. Clean several routes, refresh a public space, and mark safety concerns for follow-up.
3. Use a welcome table where community volunteers sign in and learn about Lions.
4. End with a short thank-you and share the results with the community.

Pick one need. Choose one project. Set one date. Then serve.

We Serve.

Just One Thing

In the 1991 movie "City Slickers" - Curly (Jack Palance), is an old, wise cowboy. When he is asked what the secret of life is, he held up his index finger and said "just one thing". When asked what the "one thing" was he said – "that's what you have to figure out". For the rest of the movie Mitch (Billy Crystal) is trying to guess what Curly's "one thing" is. At the end of the movie (sorry for those who haven't seen it), Mitch figures out that there is no secret. The "one thing" is whatever you make it. It is whatever that is important to you—that thing that you are willing to give up time, money and expend energy to accomplish. It is the most important thing in your life and everything else is measured against it.

So what does that have to do with Lions Club? We, as Lions, have various projects, programs and events to support. Have we stepped back from them and said – "What is our one thing – what will make the most change?" or do we just approve the same projects, the same programs that we did last year? We elect the same officers, ask the same people to serve on the same committees; the same people are doing the same fundraisers as we always have done. But have we found our "one thing"? Have we looked for it? Do we consider how can we make the most impact? Do we consider changes like asking new members, adding women to the club, changing what we have "always done"?

As Lions, let us all find our "one thing" – and together we can serve our communities and local areas to be better places.

(Submitted by PDG Tom Polk, LaFontaine Lions Club)

(This column was originally published in the August 2015 issue of the District 25-G newsletter. The message is still relevant.)

LCIF Coordinators Update

LCIF: One Club, One Fundraiser, One Greater Impact

As we begin a new month and continue a new Lions year, I want to thank each of you for your ongoing service, generosity, and commitment to making a difference. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) continues to be one of the most powerful ways we can extend our service beyond our own clubs and into communities around the world.

LCIF helps Lions respond where the need is greatest, supporting disaster relief, vision, youth, hunger, childhood cancer, humanitarian efforts, and other important causes. When we support LCIF, we help multiply the impact of Lions service and bring hope to people in need both near and far.

At our latest District 25-G Convention, we saw firsthand how enjoyable fundraising can be. With a live Amish auctioneer and silent auction items, we raised $1,700 for LCIF. It was a great reminder that fundraising does not have to be complicated to be meaningful. Sometimes the smallest ideas can create a big impact.

As we move forward, I encourage each club in District 25-G to plan at least one small fundraiser for LCIF during the year. It does not need to be large or time-consuming. What matters most is participation. Every club can do something, and every effort helps strengthen LCIF's ability to support Lions service worldwide.

Recurring giving is another important way to support LCIF. Donations can be made online through the LCIF donation page, and recurring gifts provide steady support throughout the year. If you would like to set up recurring giving, visit www.lionsclubs.org/en/donate.

Please also remember that every club should have an LCIF Club Coordinator listed in the Lion Portal. Your District LCIF Coordinators will be reaching out to club coordinators with information about the per-member average we are working toward, along with ways each club can help meet that goal.

There is truly no amount too small. Each contribution, each fundraiser, and each act of generosity adds to the good we can do together. When many clubs each do a little, the combined impact can be tremendous.

If you have questions or need ideas for how your club can support LCIF, please reach out to one of your District LCIF Coordinators: Lion Sopheap Long or CC Jackie Kurley.

Thank you for your continued support of LCIF and for helping Lions serve a world in need.

Lion Sopheap Long

Service Opportunities Beyond Your Club

Hello, District 25-G Lions!

This is an exciting time to be a Lion as DG Steven Weld and his team begin the 2026-2027 Lions year. Remember, we all need to SERVE to make this our best year ever! There are several leadership opportunities at the district and state levels where you can make a difference. Please plan to come to our 1st District Lions meeting Saturday, August 15 to learn more about how you can become involved. Here are a few ways that I have volunteered to serve: Cancer Control Fund, Reading Action, and Vision Services.

Cancer Control Fund: I am honored to be the new Chairperson for Lions Cancer Control Fund of Indiana, Inc. (CCF). This is a district and state level commitment. Lions of Indiana have supported cancer treatment, research and education for more than 80 years. Please contact one of your district trustees to schedule a presentation at your club meeting. Your 25-G trustees are PDG Warren Allender, PDG Paul Russell, and me, Lion Beth Guth.

Reading Action Committee: All clubs are encouraged to increase literacy awareness through the Dictionary Project. Presenting a dictionary to each 3rd grader in your area is rewarding and helps improve literacy in your local schools. Children love receiving books they can call their own, so contact your local schools to see what their needs may be. Other ideas may be to help out at the library with the literacy program, donate new books to your local schools, set up a Little Library in your community for children and adults to select books of their choice, or volunteer to do tutoring. Contact Lion Beth Guth to share your ideas and tell her how your club is involved with Reading Literacy.

Created using Google Gemini

Vision Services: Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind" during her historic 1925 speech at the Lions International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio. This call to action shaped the organization's core mission. To this day, clubs worldwide continue to support eye banks, vision screenings through SchoolSight and KidSight, and eyeglass recycling. Get involved in your community by screening preschool and school-age children annually to catch treatable eye conditions early. **The guidelines have changed for the near-vision screening requirements. Students now keep both eyes open when reading the near-vision chart at 16 inches.** Contact Lion Beth Guth for more information. PDG Ron and I would love to train clubs in the updated screening procedure.

Let's go SERVE!

Lion Beth Guth

guthbeth@comcast.net 765-210-3318

Just Ask! **You joined a Lions Club because someone offered you the opportunity to make a difference in your community. Offer that same opportunity to someone else.**

News From Around the District

Elkhart Lions Install New Officers, Recognize Community Organization, Present Club Awards

Recently, the Elkhart Lions Club held its annual installation of officers. It was also a time for the presentation of several awards and the naming of the club's Citizen of the Year. This year, the founding members of Elkhart's Owls Club were named recipients of the club's Citizen of the Year Award.

Shown here are founding members of the Owls Club: Front row (L—R): Marsha and Frank Martin, and David and Susan Rowley. Standing (L—R): Connie Fulmer, Ann and Arthur Bower; and Maggie Okponobi, Executive Director.

In addition to individual recognition of the Owls founders, the Elkhart Lions also presented a $1,000 donation to that group to continue its mission.

OWLS Club is an inclusive community organization dedicated to enriching the lives of seniors in Elkhart County and surrounding areas. Its mission is to enhance the health and well-being of adults 55 and older by providing meaningful opportunities for social connection, lifelong learning, recreation, and service.

The following awards and recognition were also announced at the annual awards banquet:

Lion CJ Vetter - Lion of the Year
Lion Leigh Poppelman - Cub of the Year
Lion Richard Trowbridge - Melvin Jones Fellowship
Lion Bill Cork - 55-Year Chevron

Officers installed were:

President - Lion Linda Choler
Immediate Past President– Lion Richard Trowbridge
Vice President - Lion Mike Iavagnilio
Secretary– Lion Sandy Watson Iavagnilio
Treasurer - Lion Adam Bawtinheimer
Directors - Lion Denise Polachek and Lion Marlin Culp

(Submitted by PDG Marty Juel, Elkhart Lions Club)

Editor's Note: Use of AI-Generated Illustrations

Photographs are always the preferred way to illustrate activities reported in the District 25-G newsletter. However, there are times when no photographs are available for an otherwise newsworthy event.

In those situations, the editor may choose to include an AI-generated illustration based on information contained in the news item. These illustrations are intended only to help readers visualize the event and are **not** actual photographs. Any AI-generated illustration will be clearly identified as such.

The decision to use an AI-generated illustration will be made by the editor on a case-by-case basis.

We encourage clubs to continue submitting photographs whenever possible, as authentic event photographs remain the best way to tell your club's story.

News From Around the District

Lakeville Lions Serve Homemade Potato Soup at Potato Creek & Lions Strawberry Festival

The Lakeville Lions Club served homemade potato soup at the Potato Creek & Lions Strawberry Festival in North Liberty in June. The current festival was created several years ago from the merger of the Potato Creek Festival and the Greene Township Lions Club Strawberry Festival to support Camp Milhouse.

(Photos by Lion Anne Weber, Lakeville Lions Club)

Lakeville Lions Club Continues Decades of Participation in St. Joseph County 4-H Fair

The Lakeville Lions Club food booth at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair has been a major fundraiser for the club for more than 80 years. The food booth is open during the 4-H Fair in late June and/or early July, as well as during the Michiana Kennel Club Dog Show in July and the Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show in August. Here are a few photos from the 4-H Fair and the Michiana Kennel Club Dog Show.

Above: At the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair.
Below: At the Michiana Kennel Club Dog Show.

(Photos by Lion Anne Weber, Lakeville Lions Club & PDG Paul Russell, Lakeville Lions Club)

News From Around the District

Lydick Lions Help Keep the Kids Cool at Camp Ray Bird

On July 1st, the Lydick Lions Club joined forces with the Saint Joseph County Fire Territory to help campers at Camp Ray Bird beat the heat!

The firefighters brought the cool-down fun, turning the fire truck hose on full blast as more than 50 campers laughed, whooped, hollered, sang, and danced while enjoying an unforgettable shower on a hot, sticky day. What a fantastic way to cool off!

After all the excitement, our Lions Club treated the campers to snacks to help refuel after all the fun.

The campers had an absolute blast, and it was wonderful to partner with the Saint Joseph County Fire Territory to make the day so memorable. Great job, everyone!

(Submitted by Lion Lori Ferro, Lydick Lions Club)

(l. to r.): Lion Mike Lane, Lion Teckla Lane, Lion Vicki Jones, Lion Wendy Yuhasz, Lion Christine Bella, Lion Marie Briggs

Lydick Lions Welcome New Members and Recognize Recruiters

Lots of great things are happening at the Lydick Lions Club!

At our July 13th meeting, President Lion Wendy Yuhasz proudly inducted our newest member, Lion Delia Davis, who was sponsored by her husband, Lion Josh. We are thrilled to welcome Lion Delia to our Lydick Lions family and can't wait to serve alongside her. Congratulations and welcome, Lion Delia!

We also celebrated Lydick Lions Club members Lion Duke Downey and Lion Bernie Ferro, who were presented with Membership Key Awards in recognition of sponsoring new Lions into our club. Thank you both for helping our club continue to grow and serve our community. Way to go, guys!

Pictured at left (l. to r.): Lion Delia Davis, Lion Josh Davis, President Lion Wendy Yuhasz

Pictured at right (l. to r.): President Lion Wendy Yuhasz, Lion Duke Downey, Lion Bernie Ferro

(Submitted by Lion Lori Ferro, Lydick Lions Club)

Tell Us About Your Club's Signature Service Project

Does your club have a signature service project ... an ongoing or recurring project in your community that wouldn't be done if it weren't for your Lions Club ... a service project that everyone in your community associates with your Lions Club? Write a short article about your club's signature service project and send it, with photos, to PDG Paul Russell <pdgpaul25g@gmail.com> for publication in the district newsletter.

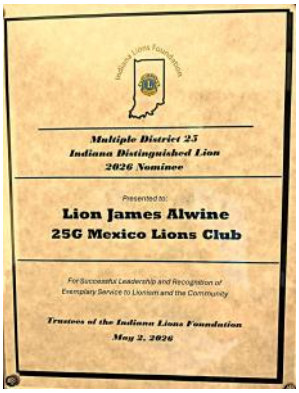
News From Around the District

Lion James Alwine, President of Mexico Lions Club, Recognized as Distinguished Lion Nominee

Editor's Note: The Indiana Distinguished Lion Award is presented annually by the Indiana Lions Foundation at the Indiana Lions State Convention. A nominee must be a member in good standing of a Lions Club in Indiana and must have been a Lion in good standing for at least 25 years. Each nominee receives a plaque. In 2026, there were only 18 nominees from the entire state of Indiana.

On June 10th, at our regularly scheduled meeting, a very special award was given to Lion James A. Alwine, President of our Mexico, Indiana Lions Club.

This was an exciting meeting, with unexpected guests and a special event that took place. We had two guests: PDG Mike Imbler and Lion Kathy Stover from District 25-D. The special event was a well-deserved award presentation to our president, Lion James A. Alwine. He was presented with a plaque recognizing him as a nominee for the 2026 Indiana Distinguished Lion Award in recognition for outstanding service, above and beyond the call of duty, to the Mexico Indiana Lions Club and our community.



The list of activities that Lion Jim has led over the years is numerous and has far-reaching positive impacts for our community, for which we are all thankful.

Congratulations, Lion Jim and many, many thanks!

(Submitted by Lion Richard Phillips, Mexico Lions Club)

Milford Lions Club Installs New Officers

We at the Milford Lions Club are excited to support the vision of growth President Lion Dr. Gerv Schafer has for our club. Pictured below (l. to r): Lion Tamer Past President Lion Dr Bruce Lamb, 2-year Director Lion Nick Jamiel, Tail Twister Lion Judy Marquart, Treasurer Lion Steve Weisser, Secretary Lion Lisa Ensz, (unidentified person), President Lion Dr. Gerv Schafer, 2-year Director Lion Mike Troyer, 2-year Director Lion Barb Zimmerman.

(Submitted by Lion Lisa Ensz, Milford Lions Club)

News From Around the District

North Webster Lions Support Kosciusko County Camp HERO

The North Webster Lions Club donated $250 to Camp HERO in Kosciusko County.

Camp HERO is an annual, three-day summer program hosted by the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Office in Warsaw, Indiana, designed for children ages 8–13. The camp aims to build trust between youth and first responders while educating them about careers in police, fire, and EMS services.

The camp is held annually at the Kosciusko County Fairgrounds and offers hands-on first responder experiences, safety education, and life skills.

Pictured above (l. to r.): Lion Ben Lauber, Lion Dean Glancy, Lion Derik Green, Lion Scott Fox, Officer Justin Smith, Lion Mark Lawson, Lion Dave Dishman, Lion Angela Himes, Lion Aj Himes, Lion Jerry Wright and Lion Jesse Rutan.

(Submitted by Lion Angela Himes, North Webster Lions Club)

Baugo Township Lions Recognize Lion Jim Eggleston for Years of Dedicated Service

Lion President Bob Elli (left) presents a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Jim Eggleston during the Baugo Lions Club's regular meeting on July 20, 2026. Lion Jim was honored for his many years of dedicated service to the club, including his leadership on fundraising and community service projects, his longtime production of the Baugo Lions newsletter, and the countless behind-the-scenes contributions that have helped strengthen the club and its mission.

(Submitted by PDG Warren Allender, Baugo Township Lions Club)

Your club news could be here. Send articles and photos to PDG Paul Russell <pdgpaul25g@gmail.com> by the 25th of the month.

News From Around the District

The Peru Lions Club Memorial Scholarship fund was started in December of 1999 after the passing of two of our members, Jim Busta and Frank Drake. Memorials were donated to the club and it was decided to start a scholarship fund. From that small beginning ($580) good things have happened. Including this year's recipients, we have awarded 162 students with scholarships totaling $80,500.

Below left: Maconaquah High School presentations by PDG Ron Guth to recipients Maya Wagner, Lacy Ramos, Chloe Jordan, Lillian Resler and Lauren Ramos

Below right: Peru High School presentations by Peru Lions Club President Lion David Frushour to recipients Bailee Beatie, Ashlyn Brown, Emily Snyder, Isaac Braley and Addison Robbins.

(Submitted by Lion David Frushour, Peru Lions Club)

Peru Lions Serve Up "Tenderlions" During Peru Circus City Festival

Since 1982, the Peru Lions Club has been serving up the best "tenderlions" in the state. Our presence in the annual Peru Circus City Festival is looked forward to by many fans of our "tenderlions". For six days, July 13-18, we served sandwiches, french fries and soda at our booth. We have been in the same spot for 44 years.

(Submitted by Lion David Frushour, Peru Lions Club)

Publicize Your Club's Fundraiser or Community Event in Our District Newsletter

***** FREE *****

Send a copy of your flyer or just the basic information about your event to: pdgpaul25g@gmail.com

The normal deadline for submission of material for the monthly district newsletter is the 25th of the month.

News From Around the District

Roann Covered Bridge Lions Sponsor 4th of July Activities

The Roann Covered Bridge Lions Club sponsored the July 4th activities in Roann. The Roann Covered Bridge Association held a pancake and sausage breakfast in the covered bridge from 7 am to 10 am. The Lions Club held a tractor drive with 18 tractors. They traveled almost 25 miles and stopped for a lunch break under a shade tree in Miami County. A $100 award was given for the most patriotic decorated tractor. Activities in downtown Roann included a sand volleyball tournament with 8 teams participating, a bouncy house for the kids, and cornhole. In the evening, a nice-sized crowd gathered at In-laws Catering & BBQ for entertainment with Kyle Johnson, who sang and played his guitar. The evening closed with fireworks, which were delayed by 20 minutes due to rain. The next big event the Lions Club will sponsor is the Roann Covered Bridge Festival, September 10th—12th.

(Photos by Lion Ann Hanshaw, Roann Covered Bridge Lions Club)
(Submitted by Lion Donna Harman, Roann Covered Bridge Lions Club)

Indiana Lions State Projects & Foundation

State Projects & Foundation Trustees

Contact one of our district trustees to schedule a program for your club.

Lions Cancer Control Fund of Indiana, Inc.

PDG Warren Allender (Baugo)	warrenallender@comcast.net	574-361-7942
Lion Beth Guth (Peru)	guthbeth@comcast.net	765-210-3318
PDG Paul Russell (Lakeville)	pdgpaul25g@gmail.com	574-250-2621

Vision First Indiana Lions Eye Bank, Inc.

PDG Ron Guth (Peru)	guthron@comcast.net	765-460-7177
PDG Tom Polk (LaFontaine)	pdgtompolk@gmail.com	260-571-5123
Lion Wendy Yuhasz (Lydick)	mt_wendy7402@att.net	574-292-1846

Indiana Lions Speech and Hearing, Inc.

Lion Jerry Wright (North Webster)	(no email address)	574-457-6811
(vacant)		
(vacant)		

Indiana Lions for the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.

Lion Brian Bussard (Baugo)	buzzf117@comcast.net	574-226-4079
PCC David Eisen (Mishawaka)	d.eisen01@yahoo.com	574-250-1469
PDG Mary Klempay (Lakeville)	maryrsb@comcast.net	574-286-4499

Indiana Lions for Leader Dog, Inc.

Lion David Frushour (Peru)	d.frushour@comcast.net	765-473-3626
Lion Faith Kamp (Akron)	faithkamp13@gmail.com	574-835-1899
PDG Brian Thomas (Elkhart)	brian10k@aol.com	574-596-7411

Indiana Lions Foundation

PDG Marlyn Fast (Dunlap)	mafast1107@gmail.com	574-538-1090
Christina Morehouse (Akron)	christina.morehouse3132@gmail.com	574-371-7080
Lion Rose Russell (Lakeville)	RoseWRussell@gmail.com	574-250-0125

Indiana Lions Foundation

It's almost time for the 2026 edition of the great Indiana State Fair. As in previous years, the Indiana Lions Foundation is recruiting volunteers to work as ticket sellers, ticket scanners, ticket kiosk monitors, and hand-stampers. This is the Foundation's largest annual fundraiser. Last year, thanks to your help, we raised more than $80,000 to support Lions service in the state of Indiana.

Sign up today at IndianaLionsFoundationMD25.org. You'll be glad you did.

The Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing project has signed up to fill 19 positions on the first Sunday of the fair, and will be earning State Fair credits that can be redeemed for Community Service grants for the project. This looks like a fun and easy way to earn money for your state project.

Top 10 Reasons to Work for the Indiana Lions Foundation at the Indiana State Fair

10. More fun than mowing the lawn.

9. Free parking and free admission to the great Indiana State Fair.

8. Escape from the boredom of daytime television.

7. It's more rewarding than people-watching at Wal-Mart.

6. Collect stories you'll still be telling at Lions Club meetings ten years from now.

5. Enjoy corn dogs, elephant ears, lemonade shakeups, and this year's strangest fair food.

4. Trade tall tales with other survivors of $2 Tuesday and $3 Thursday.

3. Take the Indiana State Fair World Tour with Lions from Brazil, Ireland, Lebanon, Milan, Peru, and Russiaville.

2. Earn credit towards a W.P. Woods Fellowship or a Community Service Grant.

1. Help the Indiana Lions Foundation support Lions Clubs' community service projects throughout Indiana.

1st District Meeting

District 25-G

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Hosted by the Leesburg Lions Club

Leesburg Community Building,
114 School St., Leesburg, Indiana

Breakfast: Assorted breakfast casseroles and pastries — $8 per person

Scan to RSVP & Pay via Zeffy

Breakfast 8:30 am

Meeting begins at 9:00 am

Wish to register by mail instead? Mail Payment To:
PDG Ron Guth, Cabinet Treasurer
2386 W. Broadway,
Bunker Hill, IN 46914 ·
765-460-7177

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Club _____

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
TRIVIA NIGHT
OCTOBER 24TH
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
LYDICK LIONS & LYDICK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
MORE DETAILS TO COME

District Governor's Calendar August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	**6 DG Visit Dunlap LC**	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	**15 District Meeting**
16	17	**18 Indiana State Fair**	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	**26 DG Visit Culver LC**	27	28	**29 Banner Night (25-F)**
30	31					

District Governor's Calendar September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	**3 Lions Leadership Forum**	**4 Lions Leadership Forum**	**5 Lions Leadership Forum**
6	7	8	9	10	11	**12 Banner Night (25-G)**
13	14	15	16	17	18	**19 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX**
20 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX	**21 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX**	**22 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX**	**23 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX**	**24 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX**	**25 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX**	**26 Eyeglass Mission, Uriangato MX**
27	28	29	30			

District Global Action Team

Global Leadership Team (GLT)
PCC David Eisen
1112 E. Third Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544
H: 574-255-5613
C: 574-250-1469
d.eisen01@yahoo.com

Global Membership Team (GMT)
PDG Marlyn Fast
24261 CR 126
Goshen, IN 46526
H: 574-875-5963
C: 574-538-1090
mafast1107@gmail.com

Global Service Team (GST)
PDG Tom Polk
5378 E 975 S
LaFontaine, IN 46940
260-571-5123
pdgtompolk@gmail.com

LCIF Coordinators
Lion Sopheap Long
13793 US 20
Middlebury, IN 46540
574-215-9474
sopheap.long@gmail.com

PDG Jackie Kurley
20233 Fall Creek Dr.
Goshen, IN 46528
219-689-8424
kurmon@comcast.net

District Administrator
(for assistance with the Lion Portal)
Lion Jill Neidlinger
19420 W 19th Road
Culver, IN 46511
574-216-0526
tutoring@culcom.net

District Newsletter Editor
PDG Paul Russell
P.O. Box 31
Lakeville, IN 46536-0031
574-250-2621 (call or text)
pdgpaul25g@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

Fri-Sun, Aug 7-23, 2026 Lions Fun at the Fair
Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, IN

Sat, Aug 15, 2026 District Meeting #1
Leesburg

Sat, Sep 12, 2026 Banner Night
Camp Alexander Mack, Milford, IN

Sat, Nov 7, 2026 District Meeting #2
Urbana

Sat, Jan 16, 2027 Mid-Winter Conference
502 Event Center, Carmel

Sat, Feb 6, 2027 District Meeting #3
Vandalia Railroad Station, Culver

Sat, Mar 6, 2027 District Convention
TBD

Apr 30—May 2, 2027 State Convention
Bloomington Convention Center, Bloomington

Sat, May 22, 2027 District Meeting #4
Fairview Grange, Dunlap

Image created using ChatGPT