Lions Tales

District 25-G

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

A Message from District Governor Steven Weld

Every Member We Keep

The Leesburg Lions Club was chartered September 4, 1944. Congratulations to them for more than eight decades of service to their community. Thanks, also, to the Leesburg Lions Club and to Club President Lion David Ferguson for opening up their meeting hall to host our first District Meeting of the year. I appreciated them offering breakfast and making room for more than 40 Lions from across the district to gather and conduct district business. This month's column turns to a subject every club knows all too well: keeping the members we already have.

Membership Development has been an area of significant emphasis by Lions Clubs International for several years in our Mission 1.5 journey, so recruitment always seems to be an important issue to discuss. The first of our District Goals for this year is 132 new members. More specifically: one new club with 20 new members, plus 112 new members across the remainder of the clubs in the district. But recruitment only tells part of the story. Our district consistently adds new members, often exceeding goals and expectations. The greater challenge is retention. The second of our District Goals is to end the year with a net gain of 8—that is, inducting 8 more Lions than we lose through the year. Retention is an area where we have struggled, because we have not been as successful in retaining members as we have been in bringing them in.

Retention has many components, but a critical issue for Lions is Service. I have heard many say something like "People do not join Lions to go to meetings; they join to serve their community," and I think that remains very true today.

(continued on next page)

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

(continued from previous page)

Every club must ensure it continues to create the opportunity for meaningful service for club members.

While it is true that people join or remain Lions because of Service, we also need to recognize the critical issue of Fellowship. Many opportunities for service actually do exist in our community, and the younger generation is finding ways to "give back" without "becoming members." But if we can offer not only ways to serve but also friendship, encouragement, connection, and a feeling of community that is more personal than merely geographical, then we are well on our way to building stronger clubs and making great progress in retention.

A few projects across the District are meaningful and personal. The Leesburg Lions Club's support for Meals on Wheels is one of the steadiest, most consistent service programs reported anywhere in the district. A special thanks to Leesburg Lion Michael Webb for his advocacy for Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a project and partnership in which a number of clubs—including Akron, Argos, North Webster, and Baugo Township—have found particular joy and fellowship, with Lydick supporting a similar effort.

This is exactly the clarity a new member needs. A new member who cannot answer "what do we actually do" within their first few months is a member we are likely to lose within a year or two, no matter how warm the welcome was at their induction.

If your club has an energetic and focused service project—something specific enough that a new member can picture themselves doing it -- lean into it when you talk to prospective members, and use it to build connections within your club. I would like to hear about projects that serve your community and build a sense of belonging within your club.

See Clearly, Serve Boldly

Lion Steven Weld, District Governor

District 25-G—By the Numbers

	Current	Goal
New members this Lions year	21	112
Net gain of members this Lions year	+11	+8
New clubs this Lions year	0	1
New members in new clubs this Lions year	0	20
Club officers trained (%)	8%	15%
Clubs reporting service	34%	100%
LCIF goal progress	$3,545	$43,580

A Message From 1st Vice District Governor Jim Steen

SERVICE:

Answering the Call in Our Own Backyard (Lions Clubs at the International, State and District levels all have causes)

But where we really make an impact is at the local level!

Fellow Lions, our greatest superpower is proximity.
We do not look at our communities from afar; we live in them. We see the real, immediate gaps that others miss, and we don't wait for someone else to step in. **We are the ones who step up.**
Our localized responsiveness turns into urgent relief every single week:

- **Feeding the hungry:** We load pantries and distribute meals directly to struggling families.
- **Building accessibility:** We construct projects that restore mobility and independence to our neighbors.
- **Supporting youth:** We mentor the next generation to spark a lifelong love of service.
- **Strengthening networks:** We partner with local groups to maximize our community impact.

Your hands are the ones changing lives.

Look around your neighborhood today.

Find the next need.

Fill it.

Where there is a need, there is a Lion.

Live it!

Celebrating 134 Years of Service

District 25-G proudly honors the Lions Clubs that were chartered during the month of September. Collectively, these clubs have dedicated an impressive 134 years of service to their local communities. Each club has made a unique and lasting impact—supporting not only local initiatives but also district, state, and international projects.

Their enduring commitment to service exemplifies District Governor Steven Weld's theme: ***See Clearly, Serve Boldly***. These clubs are living proof that when service is coupled with vision, it uplifts both the giver and the community.

CLUB NAME	CHARTER DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Leesburg	September 4, 1944	82
Richvalley	September 10, 1974	52

A Message From District Cabinet Secretary Lion Faith Kamp

The Importance of Good Record Keeping in Lions Clubs

I would like to share a few thoughts about something that may not always be the most exciting topic at a Lions meeting—record keeping. I know, some of you just stopped reading! Good records are a vital part of keeping our clubs strong, organized, and ready for the future.

Record keeping is much more than putting meeting minutes in a folder and hoping someone remembers where that piece of paper went. It includes membership information, financial records, meeting minutes, committee reports, service projects, correspondence, and other important club documents. These records tell the story of our clubs and help us remember what we did, why we did it, and who volunteered for it!

Good records help keep everyone on the same page. Financial records, receipts, and reports allow members to see how the club funds are being managed. Meeting minutes help us remember decisions that were made, especially when someone says "I don't remember volunteering for that!" A detailed set of minutes will help settle this conversation before our coffee gets too cold … or before we start discussing the same subject again at next month's meeting!

Record keeping is also important when leadership changes. Without good records, a new Club President or Secretary may feel like they have been handed the keys to a car without being told where the brakes are. Organized records give new leaders a place to start and allow them to learn from the work of those who served before them.

As Lions, we spend countless hours serving our communities, raising funds, helping those in need, and making a difference. Good record keeping may happen behind the scenes, but it helps make all of that work possible. Our records are the history of our clubs and a roadmap for the Lions who will serve after us.

While record keeping may not be the most exciting part of being a Lion, it is one of the things that helps keep our clubs moving in the right direction.

Thank you for your service, your dedication, and your willingness to keep Lionism moving forward!

Best Regards,

Lion Faith Kamp, Cabinet Secretary

574-835-1899

A Message From District Cabinet Treasurer PDG Ron Guth

Hello Lions,

Ok, in the last few months I have been talking about paying dues and bringing the state projects to you. Now it is time to talk about something dear to my heart: **our children's eyesight**.

I am a trustee for Vision First, Indiana Lions Eye Bank so, yes, everything vision is on my mind.

SchoolSight Vision Screening: Your clubs should have contacted your local school district by now offering to help the school nurse with vision screening. The state of Indiana requires that students in KG or 1st grade receive acuity screening and be seen by an eye care professional. They also require the students in 3rd, 5th and 8th grade to be screened for vision acuity. What is acuity, you ask? The ability to read 3 out of 5 letters on the 20/32 line of an eye chart calibrated for use at 10' or 20' and the ability to read the 20/32 line at a near vision of 16". The state of Indiana guidelines changed in July 2025, so those clubs with eye charts may need to update to the new requirements. KG and 1st Grade students must be screened using HOTV letters or LEA symbols. 3rd, 5th and 8th grade continue to be screened using Snellen or Sloan letters. Also changed is that near vision screening is now done with both eyes open. Depending on the grade size in the school it can take the nurse several months to screen all the students.

When our club goes into the school with 4 screening stations, we can do a grade of 125-150 students in 90 minutes! If your club has not done this before, ask a neighboring club who has and offer to help and learn. Nothing else makes your day like watching smiling kids leave after you finish giving them a test they did not have to study for! It is also a great service project to invite non-Lions to help screen. (Retired teachers are great screeners!) If you would like a copy of the current state vision screening guidelines, please send me an email and I will forward them to you.

As a district, we excel at screening in the schools, but we don't do so well on reporting the results to the state, which is needed to keep officials apprised of what we do. Please see the "School Screening Reporting Sheet" that is attached to this newsletter and fill it out and send it to the phone # or email shown on the form for each school/class you screen.

KidSight Vision Screening: This screening is for children 18 months to 6 years of age. This type of screening uses a Photoscreener device to look into the child's eyes for indications of several eye problems with the most common being Amblyopia (lazy eye), which if detected early is very treatable. The two most common devices used are from Plusoptix and Blinq with loaners available for shared use from Vision First who oversees the KidSight program. Some clubs have bought them for their own use using grant money as they are in the $5,000 to $8,000 price range. Pre-schools and Day Cares are the target facilities for this type of screening. Unlike the SchoolSight screening, you must have a KidSight form signed by the parent or guardian before the child can be screened. Our club has been fortunate to screen Kindergarten and Pre-school students at a local elementary school as part of a reading intervention program we are participating in.

We Serve our communities as **Lions.**

CT PDG Ron Guth
guthron@comcast.net, 765-460-7177

Global Leadership Team

FOR WANT OF A NAIL

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the knight was lost.
For want of a knight the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
So it—a kingdom—was lost, all for the want of a nail.

Sound familiar? I re-discovered this little saying in an essay of the same title by Steven L. Jones, a recently deceased Amishman whom I was proud to call a friend. The saying itself is not new. It has been traced back to the 14th century, but it still holds relevancy today, especially for Lions.

Each line links forward to a larger loss that could have been prevented and the situation resolved if only the previous loss had been prevented. So too with Lions. Simply substitute the word "member" for "nail" and "Club" for "shoe." Or you could substitute the words "service activity" for "nail" and "member" for "shoe." Or just fit in your own version of Lions-related words.

This is a great lesson for Lions leaders on all levels. Club Presidents need to be sure to include all Lions in Club activities. Members who feel neglected don't last long. Losing too many members could mean losing an entire Club, the effects of which go all the way up to Lions International itself. Zone Chairs, District Governors, Past District Governors, and Global Action Team members all play the same role in their respective areas of responsibility.

It's all too easy not to see the missing nail, or even if it is noticed, it's all too easy to assume someone else will fix it. Again, here's where leaders play a special role. While it is all too easy to keep our eyes on the larger goals ahead, we also need to keep an eye on the details, those very small things that help ensure members remain happy and Clubs flourish.

As a horse owner, I've seen the dire consequences of a hoof nail coming loose or pulling out. It can "quick" a horse's foot, lame the horse, cause it to be pulled from competition or become forever afraid of getting new shoes put on. So it is with Lions. Inattention to detail, assuming that Club members are happy, failing to induct new members or install new officers are all signs that the nail is being loosened. Find jobs for all Lions. Thank them for their effort. Listen to their ideas. Keep them as vital parts of your Club. Leadership plays a huge role in making that happen. Losing a kingdom for want of a nail is truly a sad conclusion for a magnificent Lions organization, small though it may be. Don't let it happen.

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.

LET'S "BE VISIBLE!"

Lions everywhere are doing great things with a great attitude. Our servant mentality is fantastic, but people aren't going to join if they don't know who Lions are or about the good work we are doing. I suggest that we all become 'more visible' in little ways such as:

1. Wear something with a Lions logo.
2. Get a Lions license plate.
3. Find a way for your club to do visible service in the community.
4. Get articles about your service in the news.
5. Chat with people about ways they like to help their community.
6. What other ways can you think of?

Whatever we do, let's be VISIBLE!

Our July and August records show:

New members	21
Transfer in	1
Reinstated	4
Dropped members	12
Deceased	3
Net gain as of 8/25/26	11

We are shooting for 112 new members for 2026-2027 with a net gain of 8.

PDG Marlyn Fast, Global Membership Coordinator

Welcome New Members

Since the start of the 2026-2027 Lions year, 10 district clubs have welcomed 21 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 Mark Kessel
Sponsor: Lion Monty Peden

Lakeville Lions Club
New Member: Lion Brent Heckman
Sponsor: Lion Larry Ort

New Member: Lion Dwight Noble
Sponsor: Lion Jim Tillman

New Member: Lion Melissa Noble
Sponsor: Lion Jim Tillman

New Member: Lion Elaine Racine
Sponsor: Lion Anthony Cordes

Lakeville Lions Club (continued)
New Member: Lion Ryan Racine
Sponsor: Lion Anthony Cordes

Mishawaka Lions Club
New Member: Lion Emmanuel Mwachande
Sponsor: Lion Richard Amacher

Syracuse Lions Club
New Member: Lion Mike O'Dell
Sponsor: CC Jackie Kurley

New Member: Lion Amanda Sexton
Sponsor: Lion Renee Howard

New Member: Lion Shawn Sexton
Sponsor: Lion Todd Howard

Global Service Team

Who Are You Asking?

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

New voices can lead to new service — and new members.

We talked about choosing the service project that will make the biggest difference. Before your club makes that final choice, there is one more question to answer: Who are you asking?

If we ask the same people the same questions, we should not be surprised when we get the same answers. Most clubs talk with people they already know. We ask members, friends, long-time partners, school leaders, churches, and groups that have worked with us for years. Those voices matter, but they are only part of the community.

The problem is not that we are listening to the wrong people. The problem is that our circle may be too small. Every town has people we rarely hear from: new residents, young parents, first responders, caregivers, small business owners, public health workers, youth leaders, and people who use local services. They may see needs that Lions have never noticed.

If we stay inside our normal circle, we keep solving yesterday's problems. That does not mean old projects have no value. It means we should check that they still meet today's needs. The R in SERVE means Relevant to the community. Relevance cannot be decided only inside a club meeting. Someone outside the club must help confirm the need.

Lions International's service programs can help clubs turn what they hear into action. The site includes service programs, project planners, and ideas linked to Lions service areas. Use those tools after you listen, not before. First find the need. Then choose the project that fits it.

This also matters for membership. If the same people see the same club doing the same things in the same places, we should not expect a different membership result. New service puts Lions beside people who may never attend a club meeting. They see the work, meet the members, and have a simple way to help. Some will serve once. Some will return. A few may become Lions.

One of the things that I have said in my years in business: people do not want a 1/4-inch drill bit. They want a 1/4-inch hole. In the same way, the community is not asking us to run a project. It is asking us to solve a problem. The project is only the tool.

Before your club selects its next project, widen the circle. Talk with people you have not asked before. Listen more than you speak. When several people point to the same need, pay attention. That may be where your next service project — and your next member — is waiting.

The September challenge

Ask five people outside your club's normal circle one question: "What is one need in our community that nobody seems to be addressing?" Bring the answers to your next club meeting. Look for a pattern before choosing the project.

Lions service programs and project resources

Use the official Lions International page to review service programs, planners, and project ideas: lionsclubs.org/en/service-programs

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

— Often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi

Service in a Box

Ready-to-use service ideas that can be scaled to the number of Lions who will actually show up — not the number listed on the club roster.

Cost guide: $ = usually under $250 | $$ = about $250-$750 | $$$ = usually more than $750. Costs will vary by community and donated supplies.

Project 1. Family Comfort Kits

Lions service area: Childhood Cancer

Families dealing with childhood cancer may spend long hours away from home for care. A comfort kit provides small, useful items requested by the people who support those families. The important word is requested. Do not guess what a care site can accept.

Ask before you collect	Possible community partners
What items are allowed? What ages should the kits serve? Must all items be new? Can food be included? How many kits can be used now?	Pediatric care providers, hospital family-support staff, cancer support groups, family lodging programs, schools, and social-service agencies that help families with sick children.

Small project 2-4 members	Medium project 5-9 members	Large project 10+ members
Confirm an approved item list with one partner. Collect or purchase items for 15-25 kits. Pack by age group, label the kits, and deliver them.	Run a one-week collection at two or three public sites. Invite guests to a two-hour packing event. Prepare 50-75 kits and deliver them with the partner.	Use several collection teams and public drop-off sites. Prepare 100 or more kits or support more than one site. Add a public packing day with clear jobs for guest volunteers.

Time and cost	Basic supplies
Small: 2-3 hours, $. Medium: one collection week plus packing, $$. Large: two to three weeks, $$-$$$.	Approved comfort items, new bags or boxes, labels, markers, collection signs, tables, and thank-you cards.
Visibility and membership	**What to report**
Photograph Lions packing and delivering the kits, not children receiving care. Invite coworkers, families, students, and new residents to help pack.	Kits delivered, people served as confirmed by the partner, Lions and guest volunteers, volunteer hours, and donated value.

Project 2. Know Your Risk: Diabetes Awareness

Lions service area: Diabetes

Lions International offers both Type 2 diabetes screening resources and Strides activities for diabetes awareness. A club can begin with education and movement, then add screening only when a qualified health partner is present.

Ask before you plan	Possible community partners
What message is most useful locally? Can the partner provide trained staff? Are screenings allowed at the site? What should happen when someone needs follow-up care?	Public health agencies, healthcare providers, pharmacies, hospitals, wellness groups, fitness centers, employers, schools, and community event organizers.

Global Service Team

Small project 2-4 members	Medium project 5-9 members	Large project 10+ members
Set up an awareness table at an event already being held. Share risk information, healthy food ideas, and local resources. Do not offer testing unless a qualified partner provides it.	Hold a short Strides walk or other group activity. Add a 10-minute talk from a qualified health professional. Invite the public and give each guest a next-step resource.	Host a community wellness day with several service stations. Use qualified health partners for any screening or testing. Include education, movement, referrals, and family activities.

Time and cost

Small: 1-2 hours, $. Medium: 2-4 hours, $-$$. Large: half day, $$-$$$.

Basic supplies

Printed resources, table signs, water, simple healthy snacks, registration sheets, walking route signs, and first-aid supplies for an event.

Visibility and membership

This is a strong public project. Invite walking groups, coworkers, families, and health workers to serve. Give guests a clear way to join the next project.

What to report

People reached, walkers or participants, screenings completed by qualified partners, referrals made, Lions and guests, and volunteer hours.

Project 3. Disaster Ready: Prepare Before the Next Storm

Lions service area: Disaster Relief

Record flooding struck parts of central Indiana in August 2026. The National Weather Service reported water rescues, washed-out roads, and property damage. A preparedness project is timely across District 25G because every community can face flooding, severe storms, long power outages, or another local emergency.

Ask before you act

What hazards are most likely here? What supplies are actually needed? Which emergency alerts should residents use? Who needs help preparing? After a disaster, do not self-deploy. Follow local emergency officials.

Possible community partners

Emergency management agencies, fire and emergency medical services, law enforcement, public health agencies, relief groups, libraries, schools, senior-service agencies, utilities, and local government.

Small project 2-4 members	Medium project 5-9 members	Large project 10+ members
Build 20-25 preparedness folders or mini-kits. Include a contact sheet, local alert steps, a checklist, and basic supplies approved by a partner. Give them to one group that may need extra help preparing.	Hold a one-hour family preparedness workshop. Help 40-75 households make a plan and build a basic kit. Show guests how to receive local warnings and where to get help.	Host a Community Disaster Preparedness Day. Use stations for warnings, family plans, pets, power outages, and kits. Invite public volunteers and prepare 100 or more household kits.

Time and cost

Small: 2-3 hours, $. Medium: 3-5 hours, $-$$. Large: half day plus planning, $$-$$$.

Basic supplies

Preparedness checklists, contact cards, document sleeves, flashlights, batteries, first-aid items, kit bags, signs, and partner-approved local information.

Global Service Team

Visibility and membership	What to report
Preparedness events are visible and open to all. Invite neighborhood groups, families, youth groups, employers, and first responders. Give guest volunteers real jobs.	Households reached, kits or folders given out, alert sign-ups when available, Lions and guest volunteers, volunteer hours, and donated value.

Sources and resources

Lions Clubs International, Service Programs: lionsclubs.org/en/service-programs

PDG Tom Polk, Global Service Team Coordinator
pdgtompolk@gmail.com / 260-571-5123

A Message from Zone Chair Jim Tibbs

Hello Fellow Lions of District 25-G,

For those who don't know me, my name is James (Jim) Tibbs. I am a proud member of the Lakeville Lions Club. This year I am also proud to be the Zone Chair for District 25-G, Zone 3, which includes the Lakeville Lions, the LaPaz Lions, the Plymouth Lions, the Madison Township Lions, and the Wakarusa Lions. At this time I have a couple of things to share with you.

First is that the Plymouth Lions are working their food booth at the Blueberry Festival on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of September. That is Labor Day weekend.

The second thing is that the Madison Township Lions are having their second Pork Chop Sale of the year. This will be held on the 19th of September, at the Madison Township Fire Station at 66341 SR 331 in Wyatt, IN.

I am excited for the coming year, and I am looking forward to working with each of my assigned clubs. One of my goals for this year is to bring all of these clubs together for a Zone Project. This project will benefit all five clubs and their communities. This won't be easy, but as Lions, I know we can do this and have fun while we are doing it. That's it for now and I'll be seeing all of you around the District.

Yours in Lions,

James W. Tibbs

Zone Chair, District 25-G, Zone 3

574-276-7521

tibbs.james829@gmail.com

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.

LCIF Coordinators Update

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, giving us an important opportunity to focus on the ways Lions support children and families facing cancer. Through Lions Clubs International and the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions help provide hope, assistance, and resources to children and families during some of their most challenging moments.

Every month, we can highlight one of Lions International's global causes and connect it to meaningful service. Please consider inviting your club trustees to participate in these discussions and help members learn more about how LCIF strengthens our ability to serve locally and around the world.

It is also time to begin filling our Change for Change jars. Small contributions collected at each club meeting can become meaningful support for LCIF. Please encourage members to participate so the jars will be ready for submission with the next quarterly donation.

We will also share information about the Presidential Club Giving Award for LCIF and opportunities for individual donations connected with the new Presidential pins honoring International President Lyon. Please watch for additional details regarding eligibility, donation instructions and recognition.

Recent storms and flooding in southern Indiana have reminded us how quickly communities can be affected by natural disasters. Through LCIF Emergency Grants, Lions can provide immediate, short-term assistance to people impacted by floods, severe storms and other catastrophic events.

These grants help local Lions respond to urgent needs and support their communities during the early stages of recovery. This is a meaningful example of how contributions to LCIF strengthen our ability to respond, both in Indiana and around the world.

To learn more, visit the LCIF Disaster Relief Grant Program.

LCIF grants have helped Lions address important community needs, including hunger relief, vision care, disaster support, and other humanitarian efforts. Sharing these stories helps us understand how our donations become meaningful service.

Please consider sharing an update about a past LCIF-supported project in your community, including the need that was addressed, the people who benefited and the difference the project made.

October is also a time to prepare for the global Vision Weeks of Service. Clubs can begin planning vision screenings, educational activities, partnerships with local organizations or other projects that support the Vision cause.

As you plan your service, consider making a donation to LCIF as part of your club's participation. Together, hands-on service and financial support help Lions extend their impact far beyond our own communities.

Thank you for continuing to support LCIF through Change for Change, individual giving, club contributions and service. When we work together, we help children and families, respond to disasters and strengthen communities in Indiana and throughout the world.

Where there's a need, there's a Lion!

Yours in Service,

Lion Sopheap Long

District 25-G LCIF Co-Coordinator

Akron Lions Club Hosts Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build Day

On Saturday, August 8th, the Akron Lions Club partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace-Kosciusko County and hosted their second annual Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build at the Akron Community Center. The event brought together an amazing 101 volunteers, ranging from 4 years old to 104 years old, who worked side by side to build 44 beds for children in need in their local school communities. The beds are now stored at the club's own Akron warehouse, ready to be delivered when needed. The club has also formed its own delivery teams, ensuring the beds can quickly reach children and families in their community. The Akron Lions Club is proud to partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace in Kosciusko County and grateful to everyone who helped make this day of service a success. Together, we are building hope for families, and making a difference—one bed at a time.

Left: Delivery volunteers talking with kids.

Right: One of the Akron delivery teams after a bed delivery.

Below: 101 volunteers who showed up on August 8th to help build beds.

(Submitted by Lion Faith Kamp, Akron Lions Club)

Akron Lions Help Install a New Ramp For Local Resident

On Monday, August 10th, Akron Lions Jim Steen and Josh Manns helped install an accessibility ramp for a couple in the Akron community. The project provided the couple with a safer and easier way to enter and leave their home. The Akron Lions Club is proud to have members who are always ready to step up when someone is in need!

Pictured (Left to Right): Lion Jim Steen, and the recipients of the ramp

(Submitted by Lion Faith Kamp, Akron Lions Club)

News From Around the District

Akron Lions Help With Storm Cleanup Efforts in Gary, Indiana

On Saturday, August 22nd, Akron Lions Faith Kamp, Jim Steen, and Bonnie Steen traveled to Gary, Indiana to help with storm cleanup efforts following recent severe weather that struck the area.

Working alongside the World Compassion Network of Warsaw, Indiana, the Akron Lions joined fellow volunteers in helping with storm cleanup and recovery efforts. Many residents were still without power, while downed trees and power lines blocked roads throughout the community. Numerous homes also suffered significant damage. The Akron Lions were honored to lend a helping hand to those affected and be part of the ongoing recovery efforts.

(Submitted by Lion Faith Kamp, Akron Lions Club)

Bourbon Lions Participate in Annual Bourbon Summerfest Parade

Past President Lion Eleanor Watkins and current Secretary/ Treasurer Lion Peggy Zvalaren represented the Bourbon Lions Club at the Annual Bourbon Summerfest Parade. The driver was Michael Watkins, Eleanor's son.

(Submitted by Lion Mike Zvalaren, Bourbon 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

Rain, Rain, Go Away—Fulton Fun Day Is Here To Stay

The Fulton Liberty Lions Club 25th Annual Fulton Fun Day Festival started out with monsoon-like weather permeating the mushball field, drenching the 5K runners and Lions street crew putting out road signs, but at the desperate hour of 10:00 a.m. the skies closed up and the parade and festival events were now "ON"!!!!

The day that started around 6:30 a.m. for runners and ballers warming up, and ended at 10:45 p.m. with sand volleyball closing down the park in Fulton. Here are a few pictures to remember our 25th annual festival.

(Submitted by Lion Linda Wade, Fulton Liberty Lions Club)

Left: Mushball game around 8 to 9 a.m.

Right: Rowena Richardson of Huntington with the 1st US Light Artillery recreated 1812 cannon.

Left: Base Camp for the Me-To-Cin-Yah Long Rifles showing 1840s living.

Right: Best Float winner, Fulton Baptist VBS, in the Parade.

Left: Members of the 5th Armored Division WWII Living History on their way to the Parade.

News From Around the District

LaFontaine Lions Flip Breakfast Into a Community Celebration

The LaFontaine Lions had plenty of helping hands—and plenty of fun—at their latest Upside Down Breakfast where they serve breakfast in the evening. The Wabash County Fellowship Program, which brings college interns to serve throughout Wabash County during the summer, arrived ready to jump in and help make the event a success. With the Lions supervising and the interns taking on job after job, it quickly became one of the easiest breakfasts the club has ever hosted.

Cleanup wrapped up in record time as tables and chairs came down almost as quickly as the pancakes disappeared. After the work was done, the interns enjoyed a little extra LaFontaine hospitality. They visited with residents, explored town, and even stopped by the local volunteer fire department, where they climbed aboard a fire truck and tried on firefighting gear.

From breakfast plates to fire trucks, the day was full of smiles, service, and community spirit. Best of all, the event helped raise funds for the local library—proving once again that when the LaFontaine Lions and community volunteers team up, good things happen.

(Submitted by PDG Tom Polk, LaFontaine Lions Club)

News From Around the District

Laketon Lions Club Wins $1,000 in Beacon CU Project Spotlight Contest

The Laketon Lions Club won $1,000.00 in the North Manchester Beacon Credit Union Project Spotlight contest. We will use part of it to purchase dictionaries for our 3rd grade students at Manchester Elementary.

Pictured here (l. to r.) Lion Denny Unger, Lion Becky Warmuth, Beacon Credit Union representative, Lion Diane Binkerd, and Lion Betty Boardman.

(Submitted by Lion Diane Binkerd, Laketon Lions Club)

Laketon Lions Celebrate 75 Years of Service to the Community

On June 27th, the Laketon Lions Club celebrated 75 years of service to the community. As part of the celebration, the club also unveiled a time capsule that had been buried 50 years ago. The time capsule was opened at the Laketon Fire Station. The contents were taken inside so they could be examined and reviewed.

Thelma Butler, a former Laketon Lion, was the only living member of the committee that buried the capsule 50 years ago. Now 93, Thelma spoke when the capsule was unearthed. She also assured the Lions that, if they decide to bury another time capsule, she will not be the speaker when it is opened!

(Submitted by Lion Diane Binkerd, Laketon Lions Club)

Lakeville Lions Induct New Members at End-of-Summer Meeting

The Lakeville Lions held their annual end-of-summer meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, at their food booth at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds. The menu included hamburgers, breaded tenderloins, French fries, and other fair food favorites.

New members Lion Brent Heckman, sponsored by Lion Larry Ort, and Lion Ryan Racine, sponsored by Club President Lion Tony Cordes, were inducted by PDG Paul Russell.

The guest speaker was Ken Peterson (pictured at left), who spoke about the history of high school basketball in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

L. to R.: Lion Larry Ort, Lion Brent Heckman, Lion Tony Cordes, Lion Ryan Racine, PDG Paul Russell

Peterson is the current maintainer of the etpearl.com website, which is dedicated to the history of high school basketball in north central Indiana.

(Photos by Lion Anne Weber and PDG Paul Russell)

News From Around the District

Little Free Library Established in LaPaz Town Park

A Little Free Library has been constructed, erected, and stocked in the LaPaz Town Park through cooperative efforts of the Town of LaPaz, Girl Scouts of Lakeville Troop 59004, and the LaPaz Lions. Ideas for the project began over a year ago, spearheaded by Lion Steve Barber, Angel Gann on behalf of the Girl Scouts, and Sue Cox.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Its mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes. The LaPaz Little Free Library is now registered through the organization.

For Junior Girl Scouts, Paisley Rhodes, Rayna Gann, and Maddie Horvath, building a team and dedicating at least 20 hours to a sustainable community action project is necessary to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest honor for a Junior Scout.

A team effort was required to lay the concrete base in the park. Sue Cox coordinated construction efforts, contacting David's Courage residents to build the library. The Girl Scouts helped dig out the surface for the concrete. Family members supplied forms, a concrete mixer, and a finisher for the project. The LaPaz Lions donated funds for the library.

The Scouts also selected and displayed the first batch of books in the library. They also prepared a tray of painted rocks for visitors to the library.

(Submitted by Lion Dr. Don S. Balka, LaPaz Lions Club)

For Lydick Lions, It's Dictionary Time Again!

The Lydick Lions are on the move, delivering dictionaries to some very excited third graders!

Our first stop was Holy Family Elementary School, where we were greeted by lots of happy faces and eager students. Then we headed over to Wilson Elementary School, where the students were just as excited to see us!

Lion Wendy Yuhasz talked with the students about the Lions Club and why we give dictionaries to third graders. The students listened closely and were excited to receive a dictionary of their very own. And, of course, we loved hearing all those "thank-yous!"

What a great day of sharing, learning and connecting with the kids in our community!

We love giving back, and seeing those smiles makes it even better!

Pictured here (l. to r.): Lion Elaine Gaulin, Lion Wendy Yuhasz holding mascot Lionel, and Lion Christine Bella.

(Submitted by Lion Lori Ferro, Lydick Lions Club)

News From Around the District

Lydick Lions & Friends Volunteer at Cultivate Food Rescue

Well done, Lydick Lions!

Tuesday, August 25th, was another great night of giving back! Twelve of our Lions volunteers, along with two friends, came together at Cultivate Food Rescue and packaged 821 meals!

What a great way to spend an evening giving back and helping make a difference in our community.

Thank you, Lions Delia Davis, Mike Hardman, Karen Trzaskowski, Elaine Gaulin, Liz Lucas, Howard Morse, Marcia Labelle, Cindy Morse, Bernie Ferro, Grace Downey, Lori Ferro, Steve Downey and friends Bev D. and Sue Morgan for volunteering your time. Together, we're making a difference, one meal at a time!

L to R front: Lion Delia Davis, Lion Karen Trzaskowski, Lion Liz Lucas, Lion Marcia Labelle, Bev D., Lion Grace Downey, Sue Morgan

L to R back: Lion Mike Hardman, Lion Elaine Gaulin, Lion Howard Morse, Lion Cindy Morse, Lion Bernie Ferro, Lion Lori Ferro, Lion Steve Downey

(Submitted by Lion Lori Ferro, Lydick Lions Club)

Lions Helping Lions — Together, We Serve!

Lydick Lions were blessed to have Lion Andy Edelbrock of the Clay-Granger Lions Club offer to deliver 2,755 cleaned, used prescription bottles that the Lydick Club collected over the past year. Lydick Lions love tag-teaming with Clay-Granger Lions as we help each other provide community service. Thank you, Lion Andy! We so appreciate you delivering the bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio.

Matthew 25 Ministries is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization. They serve people in need throughout the United States and around the world. Matthew 25 collects excess products from corporations and manufacturers, as well as the general public, and ships these donations to those in need. Regions served include North America, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

(Submitted by Lion Lori Ferro, Lydick 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

Madison Township Lions Club News

Three Madison Township Lions Club members visited the Door Village Lions Club in District 25-A on August 10. We have been attending their summer picnic meeting for approximately thirty years. It is always a good time and informative visitation.

The Fall Pork Chop Sale will be held on September 19 from 11 AM until 2 PM or sold out, at the fire station in Wyatt, IN. The chops will sell for $9.00 a chop or $8.50 per chop, when buying 10 or more. We will also have a limited amount of baked beans available for $3.00. We look forward to having a successful event.

Lion Al Beehler (pictured at right) worked for the Indiana Lions Foundation at the Indiana State Fair.

(Submitted by Lion Al Beehler, Madison Township Lions Club)

Roann Covered Bridge Lions Help Assemble Playground Equipment in New Park

Several of the Roann Covered Bridge Lions Club members helped assemble the playground equipment at the new Jimmy Turner Memorial Park in Roann, IN. The park is being built where the former Roann School building sat. Many volunteers, church youth, college students, and local residents came for three days to put the equipment together. The local churches provided meals for each day. Phil Dale also helped and put many bolts and nuts into place. It was amazing to see all the volunteers. The park also has three very nice pavilions and new restrooms. Life is good in a small town!

Left: Keith Ford is pounding a pipe into the ground to stabilize a pole.

Right: Donna Harman took all the labels off of each pole of the playground equipment.

Far right: Volunteers working on playground equipment at Jimmy Turner Memorial Park in Roann.

(Submitted by Lion Donna Harman, Roann Covered Bridge 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.

Previews of Coming Attractions

Madison Township Lions Club

Pork Chop Sale

Saturday, September 19, 2026

11 AM to 2 PM

Madison Township Fire Station

66341 SR 331, Wyatt, Indiana ONLY

Pork Chops $9.00 each

10 or more $8.50 each

Baked Beans with Pork $3.00/pint

Carry Out Only

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.

Previews of Coming Attractions

You don't need to print this flyer. You can show it to the server on your cellphone.

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

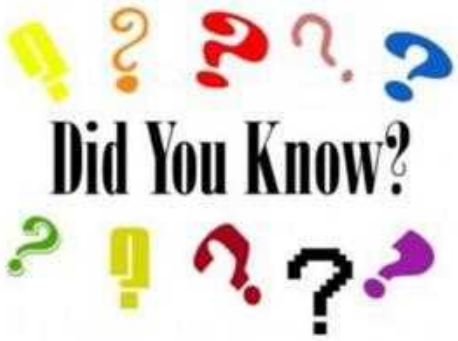
PDG Marlyn Fast (Dunlap)	mafast1107@gmail.com	574-538-1090
Christina Morehouse (Akron)	christina.morehouse3132@gmail.com	574-371-7080
Lion Rose Russell (Lakeville)	RoseWRussell@gmail.com	574-250-0125

Trivia Night

&

Silent Auction

Saturday, Oct 24
Doors Open at 6:00pm
Trivia Begins at 7:00pm



$100 per 10-person table / 18 years or older
Bring your own snacks
Non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase
(No carry-in alcohol allowed)
Sponsor a round for $25
Reserve your table TODAY!
Call church at 287-3646 or Steve at 283-0376

Name_____

Phone #_____

Table Name_____

Make Checks Payable to Lydick United Methodist Church

Lydick United Methodist Church
26510 W. Edison Road, South Bend, IN 46628

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT LYDICK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND LYDICK LIONS

District Governor's Calendar September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	**3 USA Canada Forum Memphis**	**4 USA Canada Forum Memphis**	**5 USA Canada Forum Memphis**
6 USA Canada Forum Memphis	7	8	9	**10 DG Visit, Leesburg LC**	11	**12 Banner Night, Camp Mack**
13	14	**15 DG Visit, Peru LC**	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 Governor's Calendar October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	**8 Week of Service: Vision**	**9 Week of Service: Vision**	**10 Council Meeting**
11 Week of Service: Vision	**12 Week of Service: Vision**	**13 Week of Service: Vision**	**14 Week of Service: Vision**	**15 Week of Service: Vision**	**16 Week of Service: Vision**	**17 Week of Service: Vision**
18 Week of Service: Vision	**19 DG Visit Plymouth LC**	**20 DG Visit, Somerset LC**		22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

District Global Action Team

Global Leadership Team (GLT)
PCC David Eisen
1112 E. Third Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544
H: 574-255-5613
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PDG Paul Russell
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574-250-2621 (call or text)
pdgpaul25g@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

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
TBD

Image created using ChatGPT