

The Illinois Lion & Leo

MD-1 MAGAZINE FOR DECEMBER 2025

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Lions of Illinois,

The spirit of Christmas—kindness, generosity, and giving—perfectly reflects what it means to be a Lion. All year long, Lions work to spread hope, support our communities, and make the world a brighter place.

This holiday season, let's carry the joy of service into the New Year. Together, we can make every day feel a little like Christmas.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





IMPORTANT NOTICE – POSTED November 26, 2025

**Applicants for the position of Council Chairperson for the
2026-2027 Lion year are being accepted**

Persons interested in the position of Chairperson of the Council of Governors are being sought. Eligible candidates must be an MD1 Past District Governor in one of the previous five Council years (2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026) or a sitting Governor on the 2025-2026 Council.

The Council Chairperson for 2026-2027 must be from a district other than the 2025-2026 Council Chairperson's District (1J). More information regarding eligibility is available at www.lionsclubs.org.

The duties and responsibilities of the Council Chairperson are detailed in the Lions of Illinois Constitution & By-Laws and the Policy Manual, both of which are posted on the MD1 website at www.illinoislionsmd1.org.

Candidates must send a letter of intent and a resume of relevant Lions and/or business experience. In addition, written responses to 3 questions must be submitted. These questions are available from the SST at the email address below.

Please send your letter, responses to questions and resume via US Mail or email, no later than close of business on Wednesday, January 31, 2026, to the State Office to be considered for the position.

The mailing address and email address for the State Office are listed below. Applicants will be advised by US Mail, e-mail or telephone of the time and location of their interview. Please ensure you confirm with State Secretary-Treasurer (SST) that your submission has been received following sending.

Please submit your letter of intent, responses and resume to:

State Secretary-Treasurer
Lions of Illinois, Inc.
828 South 2nd Street, Suite 101
Springfield, IL 62704 sst@illinoislionsmd1.org



IMPORTANT NOTICE – POSTED November 26, 2025

Applicants for the following Global Action Team (GAT) Chairperson positions for the 2026-2027 Lion year are now being accepted:

Global Service Team (GST) Chairperson
Global Leadership Team (GLT) Chairperson
Global Membership Team (GMT) Chairperson
Global Extension Team (GET) Chairperson

Persons interested in the above listed positions are being sought. To be eligible to serve as a GAT Chairperson, a candidate shall have served at least one year as a district appointee to the State Committee he/she seeks. This requirement may be waived by the District Governors Elect if no application is received with the appropriate requirement or if they are not in favor of any applicant.

The duties and responsibilities of the above positions are detailed in the Lions of Illinois Constitution & By-Laws and the Policy Manual, both of which are posted on the MD1 website at www.illinoislionsmd1.org.

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LIONS & LEOS WEEKS OF SERVICE 2025-2026



The Weeks of Service centers around significant international days, highlighting the impact of Lions through the world. Lions are encouraged to do service that greatly impacts their communities while also finding sustainable ways to increase service impact, visibility of the Lions brand through consistent periods of service.

THE 3 FOCUS AREAS FOR THIS FY INCLUDE:



MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

LIONS SERVICE WEEK WILL BE ON
OCTOBER 4-12, 2025



HUNGER

LIONS SERVICE WEEK WILL BE FROM
JANUARY 3-11, 2026



ENVIRONMENT

LIONS SERVICE WEEK WILL BE FROM
APRIL 18-26, 2026

Date	2025-2026 Lions Calendar	Location
Sep-25		
September 13 2025	LIF Annual Roar-In Charity Car Show	Cortland IL
September 18-20 2025	USA Canada Forum	Atlantic City NJ
September 26 2025	GETS Conference- Bloomington Marriott	Bloomington IL
September 26 -27 2025	2nd COG Meeting - Bloomington Marriott	Bloomington IL
September 27 2025	GAT/GMA Summit - Bloomington Marriott	Bloomington IL
Oct-25		
October 17 & 18, 2025	District 1-CN Convention	TBD
Nov-25		
November 8 2025	LIF Board Meeting Embassy Suites	East Peoria
Dec-25		
December 5 2025	VGETS Conference -Crowne Plaza	Springfield IL
December 5-6 2025	3rd COG Meeting & Holiday Dinner Crowne Plaza	Springfield IL
Jan-26		
January 23-24, 2026	District 1-M Convention Holiday Inn	Champaign, IL
Feb-26		
February 6-7 2026	4th COG Meeting - Four Points by Sheraton	Peoria IL
Mar-26		
March 6-7, 2026	District 1-BK Convention	TBD
March 13-14, 2026	District 1-F Convention	TBD
March 20-22, 2026	District 1-A Convention Westin Hotel	Itasca IL
March 27-28, 2026	District 1-G Convention Great Rivers Hotel	Alton, IL
Apr-26		
April 10-11, 2026	District 1-J Convention Holiday Inn	Carol Stream, IL
April 17-18, 2026	District 1-CS Convention	TBD
April 24-25, 2026	District 1-D Convention	TBD
May-26		
May 15 2026	5th COG Meeting Marriott	Bloomington IL
May 14-17 2026	105th State Convention LIF Annual Meeting Marriott	Bloomington IL

DISTRICT 1-A GOVERNOR

RICHARD MOY



Good afternoon Servant Heroes!

I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing Thanksgiving with loved ones. One of the many reasons I'm thankful is because of my Lions Family. For the many I've had a chance to meet and get to know, you all are incredible servant heroes and I couldn't be more thankful to serve this world in need along side you. To the Lions Family I've yet to meet, I do see from afar the service you do for your communities and or those in need of a helping hand. Your dedication to humanity does not go unnoticed. Even though we haven't met, I see you Servant Heroes as well! Thank you!

The month of November saw myself in the busiest I've been since the start of my year. I celebrated with 10 clubs this month for their Governors Night, I installed 50+ new Leo's into the Harold L. Richards Highschool Leo program, celebrated 2 club anniversary's, 10 club new officers and new members as well as partook in LCIF Training with the coordinators of our District, Lea Agaton and Austin D'Souza and PID Dan O'Reilly. So between zoom meetings and visits, my month was quite literally filled daily. THIS IS AMAZING! That shows me you all are about ACTION and action is what Leaders do!

Through my travels I was able to see all of the beautifully designed entrants for our Peace Poster contest. Let me tell you that the 10 entries we had were all extremely well done and the students are extremely talented. I want to thank all of our participants, their teachers, parents and clubs for their entries and time to contribute those talents in representing our District. With that being said, our District winner came out of the Thornton Lions Cub which was voted upon at our Cabinet Meeting. I will be taking the winner down to my COG (Council of Governors) Meeting in December to represent District 1A. Good Luck!

As we head into the Christmas Season, I want you all to continue to lead the charge for service, membership and having FUN! Our next weeks of service is Hunger in January. So if you have not done so already, start planning those projects now to be ready to hit the ground running. The First Lady Edith has her service Project available that your clubs can partake in during those weeks of service in January. The information can be found on our District website and Facebook page. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me directly or our Service Chairperson PDG Joan McMillan.

We also have our District Christmas Party December 14th, this information is also on our website and Facebook page. I would love to see all of our Lions Family in attendance to enjoy some holiday cheer! This is also a great time to bring with you a potential Lion that you may have been talking to already to join our pride. Let's show them that Lions also have FUN and love to let loose! What better memory for them than to be installed by the Governor at the District Christmas party in front of so many of our Family. Something to consider!

I want to wish you all Happy Holidays and I will see you in December!

GO LIONS GO!!

DISTRICT 1-A (continued)



Westchester Lions Club at the Special Olympics "Opening Eyes" vision screening for children



Chicago Windy City Lions Club put together a Giving Tree



Chicago Global Lions Club held bingo for the seniors



Chicago Nurses for Diabetes Turkey Giving Event



VOICES of District 1-A decorated a Christmas Tree at Brookfield Zoo



Chicago Asian American Lions Club inducts 9 new membes



Chicago Bayanihan-Sampaguita Lions Club's Governor's Visit



Chicago Ecuadorean Lions Club inducts 5 new members



56 new Leos were inducted into the Richards High School Leo Club

DISTRICT 1-A (continued)



Willow Springs Lioness Lions Club inducts 2 new members



Chicago Ridge Lions Club celebrates 10 years of service



Chicago Healthcare Alliance Lions Club at the Walk for Diabetes



Justice Lions Club at the Family Bingo



Lansing Lions at the Nicor Gas resource fair and food drive



Stickney-Forest View Lions Club's Ham & Eggs Breakfast



Tinley Park Lions Club made a monetary donation, as well as toys, to the Tinley Park Food Pantry



Worth Lions Club at the Worth Ton of Food Drive

**DISTRICT 1-BK GOVERNOR
DENISE LOWE**



**SEASON OF SERVICE – A HOLIDAY MESSAGE
FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR DENISE LOWE**

As the holiday season wraps us in its warmth and reflection, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the Lions of District 1BK and across the great state of MD1. This year, we have embraced challenges, extended our hands in service, and deepened our impact in the communities we care so deeply about.

Through vision screenings, food distributions, youth mentoring, and community events, our Lions have lived out the motto “We Serve” with boldness and compassion. We’ve also taken meaningful steps to build strategic partnerships—with libraries, schools, and civic organizations—to expand our reach and sustain long-term impact.

Using tools like the Action Plan Template, our clubs have set clear, measurable goals to grow leadership, launch new initiatives, and involve more youth through Leo Clubs and Lions Quest. These goals help ensure our service is not just responsive—but intentional and lasting.

As District Governor, it brings me joy to see the heart and hope each of you bring into your communities. Your passion, your time, and your commitment are what make this district thrive.

From my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace, love, and continued purpose. Let’s carry the spirit of the season forward into a new year of service, unity, and Lion pride.

In Service and Friendship,
District Governor Denise Lowe
District 1BK

DISTRICT 1-BK (continued)



Crete Lions Club inducts 2 new members



Lemont Lions Club inducted a new member



Minooka Lions Club inducted a new member



Members of Plainfield Friends for Charitable Giving donated \$10,000 to the Plainfield Lions Club



Bradley Lions Club made a donation to the LGBTQ Network



Crest Hill Lions Club inducted a new member



Bolingbrook Lions Club along with the Knights of Columbus and the Bolingbrook Park District planted 35 trees



Buckley Lions Club celebrate 70 Years of Service



Dwight Lions Club at their Pancake Breakfast

DISTRICT 1-BK (continued)



Joliet Noon Lions Club continues its 52-year Student-of-the-Month program



Morris Lions Club makes a donation to Grundy County We Care



Onarga Lions Club sponsored the 65 th annual National Honor Society induction at the local High school



Serena Lions Club participated in the Peace Post Contest



The Hardscrabble Lions Club prepared Thanksgiving turkey food baskets for delivery

DISTRICT 1-CN GOVERNOR ROBERT HOMAN



**Carmi Lions Club had their
Thanksgiving Dinner and
Governor's Night**



**Troy Lions Club has 2
new Foundation Fellows**



**Lebanon Lions Club had cookies,
hot cocoa & apple cider at the
Lebanon Victorian Holiday**

DISTRICT 1-CS GOVERNOR
RETHA EURALES



Hello my Lion family and friends,

It has been a busy month in District 1CS. I'm so grateful to be a part of an organization that's focus is on serving those who are in need.

Our International Mission statement is to create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement.

District 1CS believes in the mission statement and help where is needed. We know that people and communities will need help at sometime, whether it is a natural disaster or a devastating loss in the home. When that happens District 1CS is on the job.

This month I have visited seven clubs far and wide and happy to report that all my clubs are in Good Standing. I Installed a new member into the Mounds Lions Club. Membership is continuing to grow. We are 522 strong, unfortunately one passed away in the Mounds Club. Lion William Eason was a member for seventeen years.

During the November 8th District Cabinet meeting There was club officers training for the President/Vice. Secretary and Treasurer. One of my goals for the district is to get all the club officers trained by December 2025. WE are progressing well and hopeful that it will be achieved by the end of the year. I am excited to celebrate this accomplishment.

Service Projects for this month were Roadblocks to help The Lions Club Telethon of Stars which helps to provide programs and services for people with physical and developmental needs. In Illinois all donations go to the Coleman Tri-County Developmental Center in Harrisburg, IL Individuals are serviced from birth to the end of life. They serve 31 counties in Southern IL.

As District Governor PDG Derek and myself assisted the city officials in Cairo to deliver Turkeys with all the trimmings to families for Thanksgiving.

I hope that you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends and looking forward to many more blessings to come.

Yours in Service,

Lion Retha Eurales
District Governor 1CS

DISTRICT 1-CS (continued)



Christopher Lions Club at their Fall Festival Pancake & Sausage Breakfast



Carbondale Lions Club rose early to put flags up on Main Street



Galatia Lions Club Governor's visit



Sparta Lions Club donated \$500 to the Westminster Presbyterian Church Food Pantry



Mounds Lions Club inducts a new member



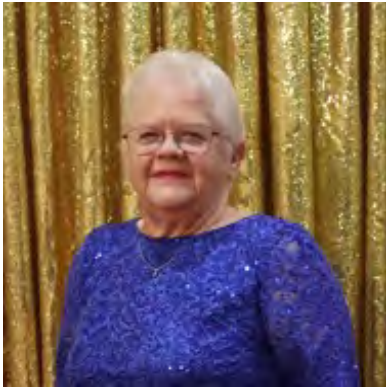
New Athens Lions Club's Governor's Visit



District 1-CS Club Officers' Training

DISTRICT 1-D GOVERNOR

MARCIA MEYERS



HOW “WE SERVE” AS VOLUNTEERS

Governor Marcia Meyers

District 1-D

This week I had the opportunity to speak with a local publication about Lionism and the value of volunteering. I began by defining a volunteer as someone who “gives their time and service to help others—or support meaningful causes—without pay.” That simple description reflects the very heart of our organization. Lions clubs, churches, schools, community organizations—none of them could thrive without individuals who are willing to step forward, give of themselves, and make a difference. I sensed that my interviewer was genuinely impressed by the pride I expressed not only for my own Lions Club, but also for the community we serve.

District 1-D is made up largely of small towns, many home to just 200 to 800 residents. Several of our clubs have ten members or fewer. Yet every visit I make leaves me inspired. In each club, I see deep pride—not only in their club identity but in their communities. The projects they undertake are impressive, and their fundraising efforts continually fuel meaningful service. Their commitment makes me even prouder to serve as their Governor.

During many club visits, I ask members a simple but powerful question: “What would happen in your community if your Lions Club closed?” The responses are always eye-opening. Members quickly identify unmet needs, lost programs, and people who would go without support. When we view our service through that lens, the importance of our ongoing work becomes undeniable—our communities truly depend on us.

Service projects and fundraising opportunities look different from one community to another. Larger towns may have more resources and a wider range of needs to address, while smaller towns may need to think more creatively to identify new ways to serve. But rather than being a challenge, this becomes an opportunity. Being a Lion means staying aware, staying flexible, and always being ready to respond with compassion and ingenuity.

Whether large or small, every club makes a meaningful impact. Let us continue to look for new needs, new ideas, and new ways to serve—because when Lions serve, communities grow stronger.

DISTRICT 1-D (continued)



Polo Lions Club made a donation to the Polo Lifeline Food Pantry



Byron Lions Club all set up for their Christmas Tree Sales



Freeport Lions Club made a donation to Joseph's Pantry



Genoa Lions Club made a donation to Rooted for Good to assist in holiday meal boxes



Loves Park Lions Club at the Light Up The Parks parade



Oregon Lions Club made a donation to the VFW

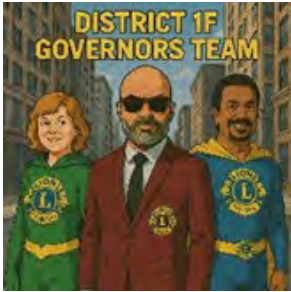


Prophetstown employees made a donation to the Prophetstown Lions Club "Toys for Kids."



Orangeville Lions Club donating toys to Barkau's Toy Drive

**DISTRICT 1-F GOVERNOR
VINCENZO LEONE**



The District 1F Governors Team extends warm holiday wishes to all Lions across our multiple districts. We hope your season is filled with peace, family, and meaningful service, and we wish you a strong and successful New Year. As we reach the midpoint of our Lions year, it is worth taking a moment to appreciate how far we have come together.

District 1F has added more than 50 new members since July, a steady sign that our clubs continue to grow and attract dedicated people who want to serve. We also officially added the Lake County DHH Lions Club, the first new club in many years, and a clear example of how focused outreach can meet real community needs. More than 80 percent of our clubs are reporting service activities, which show commitment, accountability, and pride in the work being done every day.

The second half of the year will be just as active. Several membership drives are already scheduled, along with multiple service carnivals that continue to bring communities together. We will also hold a District Forum to support training, communication, and leadership development. Our District Convention will take place on March 14, and we encourage all Lions to mark their calendars and plan to attend.

While we celebrate the district's progress, we also pause to acknowledge the meaningful losses we experienced this month. District 1F said goodbye to two respected members of our Lions family. Past District Governor Richard W. Walters of the Grayslake Lions Club served with integrity and steady leadership that shaped our district and influenced many Lions throughout Illinois. We also mourn the passing of former First Lady Claire Pushee of the Winthrop Harbor Lions Club, known for her kindness, her support of Lions service, and her pride in her community. Both individuals represented the spirit of Lionism, and their contributions will continue to guide and inspire us. We ask all Lions to keep their families and clubs in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

District 1F Governors Team

DISTRICT 1-F (continued)



Barrington Lions Club highway cleanup



Mount Prospect Lions Club donated \$1,000 to the Elk Grove Township Food Pantry



Park Ridge Lions Club donates \$3,500 to WINGS



Westmont Lions Club at the PRC's Coat Drive



Gagewood Lions Club donated \$10,000 to the Wildwood Park District and \$10,000 to the Lake County Center for Independence



Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Lions Club hosted final Senior Social



Arlington Heights Lions Club inducts a new member



Des Plaines Lions Club donated \$500 and over 200 personal care



Lake Villa Township Lions Club at their Fall Pancake Breakfast

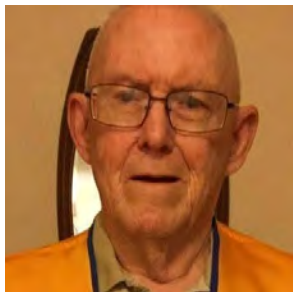


Palatine Lions Club's Trivia Night



Waukegan Little Fort Lions Club hosting Rockford Charitable Games Association for charity poker

DISTRICT 1-H GOVERNOR
WILLIAM JEFFRIES



Andalusia Lions Club served hot dogs on Halloween for their community



Alwood Lions Club delivered dictionaries to a school in their community

DISTRICT 1-G GOVERNOR

ROBERT WIRTH



With Thanksgiving behind us and the close of the 2025 coming let us take time to reflect on the bounty of harvest given to us, and be thankful for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us.



My theme for this year is “Building the Future” which is a very important topic. Without dedicated Lions at all levels, our goals as we DGÕs established within MD-1 will not be not achievable. This is the reason I work to bring awareness to each and every Club to the support network that is available to them through the LIF, LCI, and LCIF.

Personal involvement is needed for each and every Lion so they can either touch, feel, or experience programs-events that are available to them beyond their local community. A personal experience-connection can go a long way in lieu of just reading and or hearing about them.

Yours in Lionism,
Merry Christmas and a Happy-Blessed New Year!

DG Rob Wirth



**Staunton Lions Club
made a donation to the
Staunton Helping Hands
Center**



**Staunton Lions Club inducts a new
member**



**Alton Lions Club on Wear
It Wednesday!**

DISTRICT 1-J GOVERNOR TERRI PASTERNIK



**Wood Dale Lions
preparing their annual
'feed a family' for the
holidays**



**Bartlett Lions Club assembled 24
Meal Care Kits for families staying
at the Ronald McDonald House in
Winfield**



**Burr Ridge-Hinsdale-Oak Brook
Lions Club donated diapers and
wipes to the Hinsdale Community
and Family Services Food Pantry**



**Huntley Area Lions Club at their
annual Flower Show**



**Aurora Lions Club doing eye
screenings for children**



**Darien Lions Club grilled and
distributed 400 hot dogs at the
annual Holiday Tree Lighting
Ceremony**



**Glen Ellyn Lions Club's
Thanksgiving Celebration at the
Glen Ellyn Children's Resource
Center**



**Wheaton Lions Club
collected food for the
Wheaton Food Pantry**



**Dundee Township Lions Club
worked at Feed My Starving
Children**



Batavia Lions Club Food Drive

DISTRICT 1-J (continued)



Waterman Lions Club packed meals at Feed My Starving Children



Elmhurst Leo Club's Pumpkin Patch



Island Lake Lions visited the Pearl City Lions Club in Hawaii



Roselle Lions Club collected socks for Socktober



Elburn Leos at the Elburn Lions Club Bingo Night



Algonquin Lions Club all set up for their Xmas Tree & Wreath Sale



Malta Lions Club inducts 2 new members



Downers Grove Lions Club doing a vision screening



District 1-J Central Region Meeting



Lion Paul Friedrichs was gathered around the Lombard Lions Club to receive the Melvin Jones Fellowship



Sycamore Lions Club participated in Feed My Starving Children



Westmont Lions Club inducts 3 new members

DISTRICT 1-M GOVERNOR MARK WYER



**Altamont Lions & Leo
Club at their Pack-A-Sack
event**



**Bismarck Lions Club doing a vision
screening for children**



**Danville Lions Club
ringing the bells for the
Salvation Army**



**Hillsboro Lions Club at their Pork
Chop Fundraiser**



**The Rankin Lions Club preparing
for their Senior Dinner**



**Springfield Noon Lions did a vision
screening for kids**



**Strasburg Leo Club raked leaves
for some residents of Strasburg**



**Sullivan Lions Club had a great
turnout for their Turkey Party**