

The Illinois Lion & Leo

MD-1 MAGAZINE FOR OCTOBER 2025

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**MD-1 Council of Governors presenting food donations
to the Oasis community outreach center sponsored by
the Normal Lions Club.**

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



**District 1-A's service project -
Healthy Families/Aunt Martha's Baby
Shower**



**Thornton Lions Club celebrates
75 years of service**



**Chicago Windy City Lions Club was
happy to kick off the 2025-2026
season with a social**



**District 1A presents \$20,000 Cancer
Grant check to Camp Quality USA**



**Orland Park Lions Club prepared
dinner for residents at the
Ronald McDonald House**



**Puerto Rico Lions Club volunteer at
the VA hospital**



**Tinley Park Lions Club doing free
vision and hearing screenings**



**Stickney-Forest View Lions Club
and Elevance Health create 500
Sack Suppers for the unhoused in
the Chicago area by Night Ministry**



**Chicago Healthcare Alliance Lions
Club had a successful medical
mission**



**Chicago Filipino American
lions contribute to Feed
My Starving Children**



District 1-A Candy Day Jamboree

DISTRICT 1-BK GOVERNOR

DENISE LOWE



Planting the Seeds of Lionism

As we enter the vibrant colors of fall and the crispness of the harvest season, I can't help but reflect on what we've cultivated together this year in District 1BK.

From the very beginning of this Lions year, our theme has been clear: Planting the Seeds of Lionism — seeds of service, leadership, kindness, and community engagement. Like any good gardener knows, you don't just toss seeds into the soil and walk away. You prepare the ground, water diligently, remove the weeds, and protect what's growing. That's what each of you has done — through your projects, your time, your dedication, and your unwavering heart for service.

What We've Grown Together

Across our districts, Lions have nurtured a powerful garden of impact:

New Leo Clubs blossomed, giving young people a space to grow in leadership and service.

Service and Vision Screenings brought hope and visibility to our neighborhoods.

Food drives, literacy events, and environmental clean-ups flourished — reaching hands and hearts in need.

Lions Quest informational sessions helped us plant seeds of resilience and social-emotional growth in youth.

And many clubs began cultivating relationships with local libraries and schools, forming strong roots for future collaborations.

These efforts are not just projects — they are the fruits of intentional service. And now, in the season of harvest, we celebrate the results. Lives touched. Volunteers inspired. Communities strengthened. And yes — new Lions are sprouting across our district!

The Soil of Our Success

Our success wasn't accidental. It grew because we:

Invested time in planning and outreach.

Partnered with institutions like libraries, schools, and health centers — the rich soil of our community.

Embraced the principles of Service, Leadership, and Legacy — the three pillars of Lionism we've embedded into every initiative.

Just like a good harvest depends on good weather, our impact depends on strong partnerships and intentional effort. And the forecast ahead? Bright, full of promise.

Preparing for the Next Season

As any seasoned farmer will tell you, the harvest is only part of the cycle. After the gathering comes the reflection, the composting, and the preparation for the next planting.

Let's begin preparing the ground for:

New Lions Clubs and Leos

Expanded Lions Quest outreach

A bigger, better Service Carnival season

And deeper connections with our community libraries, where the seeds of literacy, leadership, and Lionism can continue to grow.

Together, let's not only celebrate what we've harvested — but begin preparing the next plot. Because the seeds we plant today become the legacy we leave tomorrow.

Final Thought

To every Lion in Illinois— thank you. Thank you for being gardeners of hope, planters of compassion, and harvesters of impact. I am proud to serve with you.

Keep sowing. Keep serving. Keep growing.

Yours in service,
Lion Denise Lowe
District Governor, 1BK

DISTRICT 1-BK (continued)



Towanda Lions Club presents 2 Scholarships



Marseilles Lions Club 1st Annual UTV/Jeep Poker



Crete Lions Club gave a donation to Oasis; a group that does wonderful work with the blind and visually impaired



Gibson City Lions Club Fall Roadside Cleanup



At the Bradley Lions Club Breakfast, they made a donation to Hippocrates Medical Clinic



Frankfurt Lions Club inducts a new member



Lemont Lions Club at their Gorski Steak Fry



Bellflower Lions Club inducted a new member



Marseilles Lions Club inducts a new member



Bolingbrook Lions continue to fill the micro food pantries



Channahon Lions partnered with Channahon PTO for a family bingo night.

DISTRICT 1-BK (continued)



Gardner Lions Club participated in 'Gardner Gratitude Day'



Crest Hill Lions Club annual Luau fundraiser was a huge success.



Joliet Noon Lions held their 60th Steak Cook Out



Earlville Lions hosted the annual Leland – Serena – Earlville Lions Meet, Greet, & Eat



Lemont Leos participated in the annual Keepataw Parade



Morris Lions selling their Car Raffle tickets at the Crest Hill Lion Luau Fest.



New Lenox Lions participated in New Lenox's 'Aging Health Fair'



Bloomington/Normal Lions Club held the required annual vision screening for Heartland Head Start



Streator Hardscrabble Club purchased and deliver school supplies to the local grade schools



Fairbury Lions Club had a great time hosting the Bingo at the Fairbury Fair.



The PDGs of 1-BK got together for their bi-annual meeting to discuss ways on assisting the Cabinet.

DISTRICT 1-CN GOVERNOR

ROBERT HOMAN



Fellow Lions,

Please mark your calendar to attend the upcoming District Convention to be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, in Mt. Vernon, IL. We are planning a one-day event on Saturday, beginning with a service project to put together some packets for the Midwest Distribution Agency. We have a Lions International Director lined up to speak to us. There will also be additional

Lions-flavored sessions and a Celebration of Life Service to honor the valued service of recently deceased members of our District. If your Club has a member who has passed away and needs to be honored, please reach out to me, Lydia Ellis, or Mo Ritzel with the information. We will also be holding our District officer elections for 2026. Your attendance and that of your fellow Club members are important and appreciated. Lunch is included in your registration of \$65.00. Spouse lunch cost of \$25.00

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS!

We hope to see you at the convention - [Doubletree by Hilton Hotels](#), 222 Potomac Blvd, Mt. Vernon, IL on Saturday, October 18, 2025. This will be a one-day convention. We start at 8:00 in the morning with a short service project on-site, and we're done by 6:00 in the evening. Please feel free to invite your spouse to come along, as there are opportunities for shopping and exploring the Cedarhurst Art Museum in Mt. Vernon.

[Click here to register for the event](#). Credit/debit cards, Apple/Google pay, and EChecks.

Contact the hotel for rooms, 618-244-7100. \$129 for a standard room.

There will be a small hospitality suite for out-of-town guests,

DG Bob Homan



**Mount Vernon Lions Club
celebrates 55 years of service**



**Central City Lions Club hung up
jack-o'-lanterns along the parade
routes for their community**



**Lebanon Lions Club inducts
2 new members**

DISTRICT 1-CS GOVERNOR

RETHA EURALES



Hello from District Governor Retha Eurales 1-CS.

These past couple of months have been very exciting. 1-CS is on the move.

Our membership is growing, and our goals are on target.

A new club is about to charter in a few months.

A branch club is also coming in soon. Our new website is up and looking very nice.

The tech person, Lion Jim Taylor, is doing a fantastic job. We are very blessed to have him in 1-CS.

You all are welcomed to send information to him at jimtayloror4383@yahoo.com. The website is 1-CSe-district.org

During my virtual club visit with the Red Bud Lions Club, I was informed that they are no longer an all male club.

They have four new females with possibly one more joining.

“1-CS IS ON THE MOVE” AND PROUD OF OUR SUCCESS

The Cobden Lions Peach Festival was a big success as always, with lots of games, food and fun for all ages.

The Peach Cobbler and Lemonade Stand were the best.

The Eldorado Lions Club sold their famous Homemade Corn Dogs during their fall festivals days, September 17 th through the 20th .

The club started selling the corn dogs during World War II and the tradition carries on today. People visit from miles around, coming just for the corn dogs.

As I said earlier, 1-CS is on the move. WE SERVE “ROAR”

Yours in Lionism,
District Governor Retha Eurales – 1-CS

DISTRICT 1-CS (continued)



Carterville Lions Club and Williamson County Shrine Club's screening event



Carbondale Lions Club collected supplies for Bethel A.M.E.'s "Feed My Sheep"



Carbondale Lions Club Pancake Breakfast



Chester Lions Club received an LIF Certificate of Appreciation Award for their participation in the Trustee Challenge



The Sparta Leo Club collected dresses to give away free for any girl attending Homecoming or Prom

DISTRICT 1-D GOVERNOR

MARCIA MEYERS

Fall Reflections and Exciting District Updates



Fall is here—and it's been beautiful! I used to dread this season because it meant winter was coming, but a couple of years ago I made peace with fall. Now, I truly enjoy the cooler weather and the stunning colors of the trees and flowers.

It's hard to believe the first three months of my term are already behind me. It has been a whirlwind of club visits, zone meetings, and planning for the year ahead. I've already visited 6 clubs and have 22 more scheduled—so I'm halfway there! Visiting clubs and connecting with so many dedicated Lions has been the most rewarding and enjoyable part of serving as District Governor.

I'm pleased to welcome **Lion Thomas Champley** from the Oregon Lions Club to the cabinet as our new **Leader Dog Chair**. A heartfelt thank you goes out to **Harold and Carol Owen** for their past dedication and service in that role—job well done!

I'm also excited to welcome **Lion Nicole Fruit** and **Lion Tiffany Gorham** from the Rockford 815 Club to the cabinet as our new **Mental Health and Wellness Chairs**. Their energy and commitment will be a valuable addition to our team.

Upcoming Events – Spooktacular Bowling, Ice Hogs Hockey Night, Zoom the Zone and a Service Carnival - The GAT Team is hard at work planning this district-wide showcase of service organizations and opportunities. It's shaping up to be a great way to highlight the impact we make in our communities. If interested in any of these events – please message me!

As we look toward the upcoming holiday season—just three months away!—I'm reminded of IPDG Lonna Bentley's words: "The year will go fast." She wasn't kidding! Hang on, Lions—it's going to be a great one!

Lions Project for Canine Companions

It all starts with a puppy!

The Lions Project for Canine Companions Foundation was established as a 501© (3) non-profit foundation in 1983, dedicated to raising awareness and providing vital support for Canine Companions. This remarkable organization provides service dogs free of charge to assist individuals with disabilities, ensuring high-quality partnerships that enhance their clients' independence and confidence.

Lions Project is comprised of an all-volunteer Board of Directors, Area Directors and Trustees who devote their time to sharing the mission of Canine Companions with Lions across the United States. The foundation has grown with Lions Clubs from California to Maine, and has resulted in over \$5.1 million in contributions to support this life-changing mission. Currently Lions Clubs and individual Lions in 34 states support the program. The goal is to have Lions Clubs in every state participate in this worthwhile program.

I took this project on as my Governor's Project for the year. I would like to raise some money for Canine Companion but more important to raise awareness for those with disabilities and Veterans with physical disabilities, hearing loss or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

I first was introduced to this organization when I picked up a brochure at a USA/ Canada Forum years ago. I have a friend with disabilities that I thought would benefit! I'm proud to say that after applying, Vicki now has Gabel! This addition to the family has made a world of difference to her!



DISTRICT 1-D (continued)



Lena Lions Club Fall Festival



Durand Lions Club was proud to donate \$5,000 to the Durand Area Food Pantry



Savanna Lions Club Free Movie Night



Poplar Grove Lions Club doing the Route 173 Fall Cleanup



Genoa Lions Club getting ready to deliver the mums



Mount Carroll Lions Club provided a Low Vision Reader for the residents of Allure of Mount Carroll



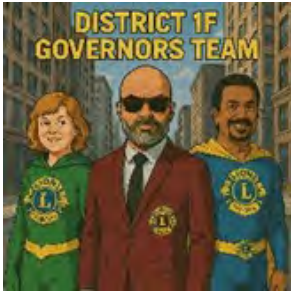
Oregon Lions Club made a donation to Canine Companions



Pecatonica Lions Club makes a \$2,000 donation to the Pecatonica Food Pantry

DISTRICT 1-F GOVERNOR

VINCENZO LEONE



Fellow Lions,

September was filled with energy, fellowship, and service. I am proud to share some highlights that reflect the spirit and dedication of our district.

September Highlights

- **District Bowling Event** – This was a great success, with everyone enjoying the fun and camaraderie. A special thank you goes to SVDG Sabrina, PDG Sue Hastings, and our Zone Chairperson for their efforts in making it happen.
- **Palatine and North Chicago Golf Outings** – Both outings were well attended and brought members together in support of our clubs and communities.
- **Gagewood Lions Club Annual Pig Roast** – Another wonderful event that showcased the hospitality and hard work of our Lions.
- **Lake Zurich Lions Club at Rock the Block** – Our members were visible in the community, building connections while serving.
- **Mount Prospect Lions Club** – In the face of recent high wind damage, the club stepped forward with a generous donation to disaster relief efforts
- **Lions Quest and Service Carnival Training** – We had an excellent training session covering Lions Quest, Service Carnivals, and available grants. Thank you to Nicole Matia, Educational Program Specialist, for serving as our featured speaker. The video presentation can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/sY2lbnCdkOU>.
- **Arlington Heights Lions Club Concert at the Park** – A wonderful evening of music and fellowship, giving Lions the chance to enjoy time together while connecting with the community.

These events remind us that service can take many forms: fellowship, fundraising, and direct support for those in need.

Looking Ahead

October brings even more opportunities to connect and serve together:

- **District Cabinet Meeting lead by FVDG Shajan Jose** – October 11th
- **District 1-F Halloween Bash & Pig Pen Derby** – October 17th

And the largest event of the season is just around the corner: on October 18th, we will celebrate the **100-year anniversaries of the Arlington Heights, Barrington, and Palatine Lions Clubs**. This milestone reflects a century of service, leadership, and impact. During the celebration, we will also officially install the new members and officers of the **Lake County Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Lions Branch Club**. This marks a new chapter of inclusion and growth for our district.

As we move forward, let us continue to build on these successes. Every event and every act of service strengthen our legacy and prepares us for the future.

Yours in Service,
Vincenzo O. Leone
District Governor, Illinois Lions (D1-F)

DISTRICT 1-F (continued)



Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Lions Club Bingo at September Fest



Des Plaines Lions Club inducts a new member



Palatine Lions Club Golf Outing



Lake Zurich Lions at Rock the Block



District 1-F bowling fundraiser event



Barrington Lions Club was thrilled to support the Barrington Hills Fall Fest!

Mount Prospect Lions Club donated \$5,000 to help our neighbors still impacted by the roof being torn off at Huntington Commons



Elk Grove Village Leo's and Cub's participating in the October Fest Parade



Gagewood Lions Club at their 16th annual Pig Roast fundraiser.



Lake Forest /Lake Bluff Lions Club supporting the Lake Bluff BBQ Society Ribfest



SVDG Sabrina Swanson with new members of the Barrington Leo's Club

DISTRICT 1-G GOVERNOR

ROBERT WIRTH



Most recently, a few members of our GAT Team held a Lions' informational meeting in a community that lost their Club approximately 6-8 years ago. While attendance was less than anticipated, those in attendance have shown an eagerness to organize and we will support them throughout their journey to Charter.



District 1-G was successful in obtaining a Membership Development Grant which will help offset expenses incurred through our Goals and Action Plan schedule.

Recently I kicked-off my Club visits which are centralized around the awareness of LCI, LCIF, and LIF. Being a past District and State LIF Coordinator Chair, my observations of Clubs visited indicate the Clubs are focused on their own Club resources without a clear understanding of what LCI, LCIF, and LIF offer. Most members have no real understanding of these entities and what services and programs they offer; so again, it's my mission to enlighten them. Each Club member receives a clear bag loaded with informational brochures from LCI, LCIF, and LIF to follow along with my presentation.

Yours in Lionism.
DG Rob Wirth



**Jacksonville Lions Club inducts
2 new members**



**White Hall Lions
Club Drag O Way Car Show**



**Greenfield Lions Club presented a
LIF Foundation Fellow Award to
the Family of Betty Thien**



**Carlinsville Lions Club annual
Carnival six Queen candidates sold
\$1.00 tickets totalling over
\$41,000.00!**

**DISTRICT 1-H GOVERNOR
WILLIAM JEFFRIES**



**MD-1 Lions,
Please say a prayer for Governor
William Jeffries as he recuperates
from a broken back.**

**Thank you,
PDG Joni McMillan**



**Orion Lions Club Bike & Hike for
Sight**



**Orion Lions Club serving pancakes
at their Fall Festival**



Macmob Lions Club Donut Sale



**Galva Lions Club picnic with the
Abilities Plus group and their
families**



**First and second grade students
received their first book Wemberly
Worried by Kevin Henkes through
Children's Literacy program
sponsored by the Silvis Lion's Club**



**Galesburg Lions Club
Pancake Breakfast**

DISTRICT 1-J GOVERNOR

TERRI PASTERNIK



Greetings 1J Lions!

According to the Calendar Fall has arrived. According to Mother Nature it's still summer!!! Yay! September was a great month. Wonderful activities, meetings and learning.

I was fortunate to participate in two more Region meetings in Southeast and Central. It was wonderful hearing about all of the wonderful work their clubs are doing. At the Central meeting we heard about Ronald McDonald House charities and did a service project creating care packages. Southeast had a great speaker who talked about what it is like to have a small child with vision issues. I was also able to attend Club meetings in Huntley and Waterman, as well as the Lions of Illinois Foundation Car Show in Cortland, where I was honored to present the trophy for Lions Choice. We also had our first Membership Event coordinated by 2VDG and Extension Coordinator John Nienhuis in Woodstock. The new club goal for the District is to Charter 2 new clubs. This was the first of many membership recruitment events 2VDG John and Membership Coordinator Jim Worden are planning for the year. We hope you will join us at one and spread the word about Lions.

The remainder of September included attending the District's Candy Day Jamboree, the USA/Canada Forum in Atlantic City and our 2nd Council of Governors (COG) Meeting in Bloomington. The USA/Canada forum is an outstanding event where you can immerse yourself in excellent training, fellowship with like-minded Lions and inspirational speakers who will reenergize your passion for serving. Our COG meeting gave us the opportunity to hear and speak with International President A.P. Singh and 1st Vice President Mark Lyon. They were there to encourage us and answer questions regarding issues within our District. It was a great experience.

I encourage all of District 1J to continue your amazing work in your communities. Use every service project, fundraiser and event as the opportunity to spread the word about Lions and what we do... SERVE! I am SO proud of our district and am constantly amazed at how hard you work to serve those in need. As always, if you have ideas or suggestions, please always feel free to let us know. Send your emails to myself at lionterrip@gmail.com, 1VDG Bob Olender at rolender@cmographics.com, 2VDG John Nienhuis at LionJohnNienhuis@District1JLions.org or Secretary Kari Freeman at Secretary@District1Jlions.org

We are ON FIRE and making a difference. Look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Terri's Calendar

October	November
10/1	11/1 District 1J Training Forum
10/4	11/12 Club Rebuild Meeting
10/9	11/15 District Cabinet Meeting #2
10/10-10/11	11/18 Central Region Meeting #2
10/15	11/19 Eastern Region Meeting #2
10/17-18	11/20 Roselle Meeting
10/21	11/27 Happy Thanksgiving!!!
10/23	11/29 Roselle Lunch with Santa
10/26	
10/29	
10/31	



DISTRICT 1-J (continued)



Algonquin Lions Club at their Annual Wine and Beer Tasting



Glen Ellyn Lions Club Pasta Dinner



McHenry/Wonder Lakes Lions Club inducts a new member



Malta Lions Club working on the playground at Malta Lions Park



District 1-J's first Central Region Meeting where the Lions put together snack packages as their service project



Huntley Area Lions Club at their Scoopie Night event



District 1-J's first Southeast Region Meeting



Waterman Lions Club inducted 2 new members at their Steak Fry



Westmont Lions Club induct 2 new members and a CUB member



Aurora Carillon Lions visited Leader Dog and participated in Dinner in the Dark



Bartlett Lions Club waiting for the runners for their race



Roselle Lions Club recycling event

DISTRICT 1-J (continued)



**Somonauk Lions
presented a donation to
Fox Valley Older Adults**



**Villa Park Lions working at the
Summer Festival in town**



**Wheaton Lions Club
participated in the 2nd
Annual Food Drive**



**Huntley Area Lions Club Pancake
Breakfast**



**Dundee Township Lions Club
5K Run**



**Roselle Lions Club has collaborated
with Phil's Friends to collect
donations for the organization's
mission to support adults and
children affected by cancer**



**Batavia Lions Club help the
Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
install shelving in their new
location**

DISTRICT 1-M GOVERNOR

MARK WYER



Strasburg Lions Club donated \$1,500 to Blessings in a Backpack-Stewardson/Strasburg for the school year



Catlin Lions Club Fish Bash



Athens Lions Club collected toys for Toys for Angels



Palastine Lions at their Labor Day Weekend Festivities



Ramsey Lions Club serving lunch



Hillsboro Lions Club selling pork chop sandwiches