

The Illinois Lion & Leo

MD-1 MAGAZINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

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*Thank you Lions for your service
to your communities and all those
in need in your surrounding areas*

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

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN JIM WORDEN



Hello Illinois Lions of Multiple District 1

Hard to believe, we are already two months into the Lions year!

Since July, the Governors have been hard at work. After enjoying a fantastic International Convention in Orlando, they hit the ground running. They've been diligently focused on several key projects, including:

- Collaborating with Cecilia and the Finance Committee on the budget
- Beginning work on the Policy Manual
- Reviewing the Constitution and By-Laws
- Membership Grants beginning with Districts 1A, 1F, and 1J on membership growth—both new members and new clubs

Pursuing a marketing grant to strengthen Lions visibility across Illinois, improve our website, and expand promotional resources

Suffice it to say, the Governors are putting in tremendous effort to grow Lionism throughout our state.

The **second Council of Governors Meeting** will take place on **Saturday, September 27** at the **Bloomington Marriott**. This will be an exciting and productive session, featuring:

- **International President A.P. Singh** (Zoom appearance & Q&A)
- **1st Vice President Mark Lyon** (via Zoom)

A panel with **PIDs Bob Block, Dan O'Reilly, and Bud Wahl**

We anticipate a very full and worthwhile day. In addition to breakfast, we'll take a midday break for a boxed lunch. For those unable to attend in person, we'll also provide a Zoom link. Thanks to upgraded technology—including a new “smart” camera—the online experience will be more engaging than ever.

The **1st Vice District Governors** will begin their governor training in mid-September. They'll also arrive a day early for the COG meeting to take part in additional leadership training. It's going to be a busy and exciting year ahead!

As of the end of August, **MD1 has added 191 new members**. However, with 216 dropped members, we are currently at a net loss of 21. This is a reminder that **membership retention is just as important as recruitment**—let's all continue working hard to keep our Lions family strong and growing.

"LEAD TO SERVE • SERVE TO LEAD – MISSION 1.5"

CC Jim Worden

DISTRICT 1-A GOVERNOR

RICHARD MOY



Hello Lions!

We're at the halfway point of the first quarter of the Lions year and so far, it's been an exciting time with installing new officers! As I've made my visits it has truly been a warm welcome from those clubs visited. The smiling faces to the enthusiasm for club service projects and events are very much the EXCITEMENT I love to see and hear about. I can already tell that you took last month's CALL TO ACTION to be inspired and serve with leadership with pride of Lions.



I want to recognize some of our Servant Leaders that took the time to complete ELLI training (Emerging Lions Leadership Institute) and RLLI training (Regional Lions Leadership Institute) the weekend of August 15th.

Congratulations and thank you to the following Lions:

Club Director Lion Cindy Meyer – Chicago Ridge Lions
Club President Lion Yari Vera – Windy City Lions
Region Chair Lion Lavetta Beazile – Bellwood Lions
Past President Lion Philippe Beazile – Bellwood Lions
Service Chairperson Lion Anne Caerel Pampolino – Chicago Healthcare Lions
2nd Assistant Treasurer Lion Marie Joy Carino – Chicago Healthcare Lions

Here are some action items that will help us achieve our goals together:

Retention: Work together to resolve conflicts. Engage in those members that have not attended a meeting in a few months or have been uncharacteristically quiet during meetings or get togethers. Identify why our brothers and sisters in service may feel less empowered to be those servant leaders. Celebrate your rockstar servant heroes! Always make sure they are recognized for their efforts and point out how they may have gone above and beyond during an event.

Building Membership: When you're at your club meetings, always invite a friend or family member out to experience the fellowship you all share and invite them to partake in your projects. If you're having an event and you're sitting next to a non-Lion, ask them who and what brought them there to support our efforts. Make them feel welcome and recognized for their time.

Cub Clubs: We were able to form our first two Cub Clubs at the end of the last Lions year for District 1A and that's outstanding as we have never had a Cub Club in our district. But we need MORE! We want to give time to our littles that can grow with our family to be Leos and Lions. As a parent myself, I recognize that if you give time to the children, you'll get time from the parents to serve. That SYNERGY is important to sustaining our future. Get those families in our communities to be involved together.

Some key dates to make note of for September:

Region 2 Meeting – September 4th
Chicago Filipino American Lions Governor Night – September 6th
District 1A LIF Candy Day Jamboree - September 10th
Region and Zone Chair Portal Training – September 15th
USA/CAN Forum – September 18th-20th

As always, please reach out to me with your Governor visit dates before you confirm a venue to ensure I am available to celebrate your club. I look forward to seeing many familiar and new faces in September!

Are you ready to Lead to Serve and Serve to Lead? I believe you are! GO LIONS GO

Yours Always in Service,
Governor Richard A. Moy

DISTRICT 1-A (continued)



Chicago Healthcare Alliance Lions Club Zumba Craze



Chicago Global Lions Club Installation of Officers Picnic



Chicago Fil-USA Lions Club Installation of Officers Picnic



Chicago Beverly Ridge Lions Club provide free vision and hearing tests at their Farmer's Market



Westchester Lions Club Back To School Picnic



Chicago Nurses for Diabetes Lions Club / Fil-Am Lions Club/Chicago Mabuhay Centinial Lions Club packed 6000 lunch bags for the Homeless and Seniors



Chicago Logan Square Lions Club at their annual hearing and retinal screening day at Copernicus Senior Center



Chicago Metropolitan Lions Club delivered a fantastic pet food drive to PAWS Chicago.



Chicago Ridge Lions Club Rummage Sale



Justice Lions Club at the school supply drive in Sterling Estates



Lansing Lions Club celebrates Lion "Doc" Rucoba's 100th birthday



Congratulations to Diego Mora of Stickney for being awarded the 2025 Stickney-Forest View Lions Club college scholarship

DISTRICT 1-A (continued)



**Calumet City Lions Club's
Welcome Back to School**



**Tinley Park Lions Club collecting
items for their Food Pantry**



**The Willow Springs Lioness Lions
Club inducts 2 new members**



**The Palos Lions Club inducts 2
new members**



**River Grove Lions Club Steak and
Lobster**

DISTRICT 1-BK GOVERNOR DENISE LOWE



Planting the Seeds of Lionism

As we journey into another exciting Lions year, I'm inspired by our shared theme: "Planting the Seeds of Lionism." This message is more than symbolic — it's a call to action. Just as a garden needs care, time, and attention, so does our service, our leadership, and our membership growth across the state.

Every new member we welcome is a seed of potential. With the right encouragement, these Lions will blossom into community leaders, service champions, and advocates for change. But growth doesn't stop at planting. It takes engagement. It takes action. It takes us.

Council of Governors Meeting: Cultivating Collaboration

Our upcoming Council of Governors meeting will be a vital gathering for reflection, planning, and motivation. Together, we'll review the ground we've covered, identify new opportunities for growth, and align our vision for continued progress. This is where we connect across districts, exchange ideas, and support one another in growing a statewide garden of service.

Let's arrive ready to learn, to lead, and to uplift one another as we continue our mission.

USA/Canada Forum: Harvesting Leadership

Next stop on our journey is the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, a powerful space for developing leadership and discovering new ways to serve our communities. This forum is fertile ground — where Lions from across the continent come to grow in purpose and passion. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned leader, I encourage everyone to participate and bring fresh ideas home to your clubs.

Membership & Service: Growing Stronger Together

Our state's growth depends on both new roots and deeper ones. That means not only inviting new members — but also engaging them meaningfully from day one. Encourage every new Lion to get involved in hands-on service. Offer them opportunities to lead small projects. Connect them with mentorship.

Some ideas that are already taking root include:

Reading Buddies at local libraries

Community health screenings

Environmental clean-ups

Youth engagement through Leo Clubs

When new members serve early, they stay longer. Let's give them every reason to stay — and to thrive.

Final Thoughts

This year, I challenge each of us to plant boldly, nurture faithfully, and celebrate every new bloom. Whether it's through a local Service Carnival, a new Leo Club, or a simple act of kindness — every seed we plant matters.

Together, let's grow something beautiful for our communities. The future of Lionism is in our hands — and it starts with the seeds we plant today.

In Lionism and Service,
District Governor Denise Lowe

DISTRICT 1-BK (continued)



Crete Lions Club inducts a new member



Bradley Lions Club inducts a new member



Channahon Lions at their Three Rivers Festival



Frankfort Lions Club serving popcorn at



Lemont Lions Club 50/50 Raffle Event for Texas Flood Victims



Towanda Lions Club Golf Outing



Washburn Lions Club at the Washburn Homecoming 2025 parade



Beecher Lions packed over 30 full backpacks today for Beecher students whose families needed assistance



Braidwood Lions Club made a donation to the Braidwood Police Dept



Crete Lions Club at the Crete Monee 201u Community Support



Crest Hill Lions helping the Channahon Lions at Bingo



Bolingbrook Lions Club inducts a new member



Morris Lions kicked off the 2025-2026 Lions' year with their annual Club Steak Fry meeting.

DISTRICT 1-BK (continued)



**Normal Lions Club
collecting food for local
food pantry**



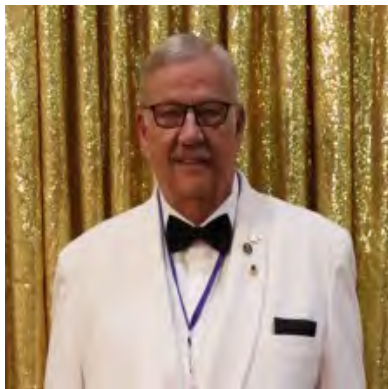
**Onarga Lions Club selling
pork burgers**



**Minooka Lions Club
inducts a new member**

DISTRICT 1-CN GOVERNOR

ROBERT HOMAN



Greetings from MD1-CN.

Things are finally starting to fall into place. The district directory has been sent to the printer. Copies will be sent email to the clubs. In the next week or so I'll be contacting club presidents with proposed club visit dates.

We had a good first Cabinet meeting Aug 9th in Mt Vernon. The turnout was good but we'd like to see more clubs attend to have more input of decision affecting the district. The next Cabinet meeting will be Dec 13 tentatively in Central City.

The MD1-CN District Convention will be Oct 18th at the DoubleTree Inn in Mt Vernon. This will be a one-day convention on Saturday. I'm trying to avoid the need for hotel costs to encourage more participation. First Year International Director Gary Steele will provide the keynote address at the lunch.

We had a great Candy Day Jamboree Aug 21. WE had a good turn out and good food courtesy of the Central City Lions Club. They always serve a good meal. Lions of Illinois Foundation Executive Director Ron Fruit explained the importance of Candy Day. It's the largest fundraiser for the Foundation programs. He highlighted a couple of the programs that don't get a lot of attention but are critical to the clients that are supported : youth low-vision and portable hearing screening equipment. Also please consider making your club a 100% Sustaining Member club for just \$25 per member per year. This will help build the Endowment Fund more quickly to ensure the LIF programs will be supported into the future.

DISTRICT 1-CN (continued)



Troy Lions are selling are beer Brats and \$500 food raffle tickets at Smoking for the kids



Lebanon Lions Club celebrates 75 Years of Service!



Waterloo Lions Club at the Third Annual Family Waterloo Fest



New Baden Lions Club congratulates Mei-Li Hunt as one of their scholarship winners



Two Noble Lions receive a Melvin Jones Fellowship



Waterloo Lion Ron Mueller received the 2025 Outstanding County Fair Person of the Year

DISTRICT 1-CS GOVERNOR
RETHA EURALES



District 1-CS first Cabinet Meeting



Chester Lions Club Installation of Officers



Cobden Lions Club Peach Festival



**The Carbondale Lions Club
delivered 347 Pairs of Sneakers to
Carterville**



**Carterville Lions Club Pancake
Breakfast**



District 1-CS Candy Day Jamboree

DISTRICT 1-D GOVERNOR

MARCIA MEYERS



Greetings from District 1-D!

If you're wondering where we're located, picture this: our district stretches 121 miles from the Mississippi River to Capron, IL—the easternmost club—and 62 miles from the Wisconsin border down to Paw Paw, our southernmost club. That gives you a pretty good sense of our geographic footprint!

The past two months have been a whirlwind of energy and growth. From Governor training in Orlando to working closely with our officers and zone chairmen, it's been a dynamic start to the year. Since July 1st (and the International Convention), I've hit the ground running. Here's a glimpse into what I've been up to:

- Visiting clubs** – truly the highlight of being Governor!
- Collaborating with my GAT Team** – an exceptional group of Lions.
- Encouraging Lions and Clubs to “Step Up”** in their commitment to our mission.
- Looking to launch a new club** and working to **revive another**.
- Exploring six potential new Leo Clubs** – exciting youth engagement ahead!
- Attending local summer and fall festivals** – connecting with communities.
- Navigating conflict resolution** – always a challenge, but essential.
- Sharing and celebrating fresh ideas** from Clubs across the district.
- Listening and learning** the rich histories of our Clubs and their communities.

It may sound like a lot, but every moment is part of the incredible journey of being Governor. With just 10 months left, I'm focused on meeting our goals and celebrating the continued success of District 1-D.

District Governor Marcia Meyers
District 1-D



Durand Lions Club proudly donated \$2,500 toward the Veterans Memorial Project



Capron Lions Club celebrates 70 Years of Service!



Two German Valley Lions receive Foundation Fellow Awards

DISTRICT 1-D (continued)



Mt. Carroll Lions Club Fishing Derby



Poplar Grove Lions Club at the Boone County Fair



5 Stephenson County Lions Clubs PROMOTE LIONS at the Stephenson County Fair



Amboy Lions club updating the 9-hole disc golf course they installed last year at Amboy Park



Pearl City Lions Club Cash Bingo



The Rochelle VFW donated \$4,250.00 to the Rochelle Lions Club



Oregon Lions Club at the Mt. Morris Friday evening band concert



Rochelle Lions Club donated new office furniture and a commemorative plaque in memory of Lion Jim Milligan



Freeport Lions partnered up with a few future Freeport, IL Leos members to help make their community a little cleaner



Cedarville Lions Club annual Dinner in the Dark



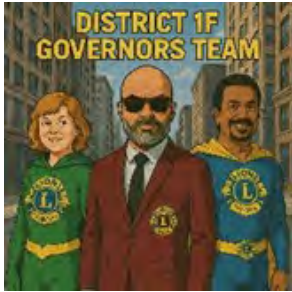
South Beloit Lions Club Corn Roast



Lena Lions Club at the Lena Lions Fall Festival

DISTRICT 1-F GOVERNOR

VINCENZO LEONE



District 1F is off to a truly strong start, and it is no accident. It is the result of the hard work and dedication of our clubs. Lions and leaders have rolled up their sleeves and worked tirelessly to reinforce their membership, coordinate outreach, and bring new vibrancy to their communities. As a result, several clubs have welcomed new Lions, invigorating their local service efforts. This growth reflects steadfast commitment, effective teamwork, and belief in the power of service.

We are proud to celebrate the establishment of a new branch club serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, marking the first new club in District 1F in more than 15 years and a true milestone in our district's history. This achievement shows that when Lions work together with focus and determination, growth is possible even after long periods of challenge. It is a moment of pride for every club in our district.

This new branch exemplifies what Lionism is all about: providing a place where every individual can contribute, serve, and feel valued. It broadens our district's reach and deepens our capacity to offer inclusive, impactful service.

District 1F has been awarded a Membership Development Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation. These grants are designed to help districts strengthen their base, recruit new members, and charter new clubs. For us, this funding will directly support the rollout of service carnivals, which are dynamic community events that showcase the full range of Lions service while also providing an opportunity to connect with potential new members.

Service carnivals bring together vision screenings, diabetes awareness, childhood cancer education, hunger initiatives, and environmental projects in one visible and interactive event. With support from the Membership Development Grant, clubs will receive resources to plan, promote, and execute these events so that community members not only see Lions in action but also feel invited to join.

We are equally excited to share that District 1F has been approved for a Lions Quest Program Grant. Lions Quest is one of the world's most widely used social and emotional learning programs, providing young people with tools to make healthy decisions, resist negative peer pressure, and strengthen academic performance.

In our district, the Lions Quest Grant will allow us to link youth education directly to the service carnival model. By partnering with schools and educators, we can incorporate Lions Quest activities into carnival events, bringing workshops, demonstrations, and materials directly to families. Teachers trained through the program will also be able to extend this work into classrooms, creating a lasting connection between our clubs and the youth we serve.

The Membership Development Grant ensures that service carnivals will not only showcase the impact of Lions projects but also serve as powerful membership drivers. New members will join after seeing firsthand the energy and purpose of our clubs. The Lions Quest Grant ties our youth outreach into these same carnivals, making them true community hubs. Families will come for fun, resources, and education, and leave with stronger connections to Lions and to one another.

This year has just begun, but District 1F is already building momentum and laying the groundwork for long term growth and service excellence. With our clubs' dedication, and the promise of these grants, we are ready to deliver more service, more connection, and more impact for the people we serve. The future is bright, and together we will make it happen.

District 1F Governors Team

DG Vincenzo Leone, FVDG Shajan Jose, & SVDG Sabrina Swanson

DISTRICT 1-F (continued)



**1st Leadership Gathering
for District 1-F Lions**



**Antioch Lions Club inducts
7 new members**



**Fox Lake Lions Club at the Taste
by the Lake & Venetian Night**



**Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates
Lions Club inducts 3 new members**



**Des Plaines Lions Club at National
Night Out**



**The Community Character
Coalition of Elk Grove awards The
Pillars of Caring to The Leo Club of
Elk Grove**



**The Grayslake Lions Club
presented three scholarships to
very deserving seniors at Grayslake
High Schools.**



**Mount Prospect Lions Club picnic
celebrating a successful 86th annual
festival**



**The Community Character
Coalition of Elk Grove awards The
Pillars of Caring to The Leo Club
of Elk Grove**



**Congratulations to the
Evanston Sunrise Lions,
Waukegan Little Fort Lions,
and District 1F Deaf and Hard
of Hearing Lions Club for a
successful District Poker Event**

DISTRICT 1-G GOVERNOR

ROBERT WIRTH



This has been a busy start of our fiscal year; GAT Team organizing, Cabinet Meeting, parade, Camp Lions, soliciting Club start(s), etc.



District 1-G is off to a good start utilizing 'lionsvirtual.org' AI for demographics, suggested wording of flyers-newspaper-radio advertisements to communities within the District in search of adding additional Clubs. A community has been selected and canvased with an upcoming informational meeting scheduled for mid-September. For those of you who hesitate to make personal cold calls our experience has been received with open arms.

Our District is a member of a large community-area, Growth Association, which the District does not have a Club within. This membership has provided numerous contacts that will be followed through for potential Club starts. Through all of our contacts with individuals it's amazing how many do not know who Lions are and what our purpose is.

Our first Cabinet Meeting of the year went well even considering the change of our Treasurer. I considered this meeting an acclimation meeting with District future goals to be forthcoming.

In the past month I had the opportunity to participate in a neighboring Lions Club parade.

Camp Lions which was held at the Lake Williamson Center in Carlinsville was once again an opportunity to see what "Our Work" as Lions provide for these visually and or hearing impaired children. A number of Clubs provided evening snacks and drinks for the campers, which they enjoyed. The campers were pleasantly surprised to have none other than Ninja Warrior Lion Kyle Schulze with them at the camp ! If you have never attended a Camp put it on your "must do list" for 2026 !

A personal story about Camp Lions: Many years ago on a cold drizzly October day while collecting for Camp Lions on the centerline of state highway intersection dodging semis, farm equipment, and cars; a gas station attendant felt sorry for me and brought me a hot chocolate. Needless to say, I was cold to the bone and my mind started to wonder, what am I doing out here under these circumstances collecting for these children ? As the day wore on my questioning thoughts continued. Then it hit me, I also pay dues to do this ! The very next season I attended my first Camp Lions. The experiences these children are provided and what they are able to accomplish at Camp plus their camaraderie amongst each other made all of my grumblings immediately go away. An 'aha' moment !

The point of all of this: attend whatever your District Clubs, LCI, and or LIF programs-functions have to offer, something along the way is sure to provide you that 'aha' moment.

Yours in Lionism.
DG Rob Wirth

DISTRICT 1-G (continued)



District Governor Robert Wirth at Camp Lions



Jacksonville Lions Club school drive



Greenfield Lions Club in the Greenfield Parade

**DISTRICT 1-H GOVERNOR
WILLIAM JEFFRIES**



**It is official! Notice came from International
that Lion Bill Jeffries is our 2025-2026 DG!
Congrats DG Bill Jeffries.**



**Galva Lions at their Ice
Cream Social**



**Silvis Lions Club Pancake
Breakfast**



**Creve Couer sold
popcorn and water at a
car show to raise money
to benefit Pediatric
Diabetes Resource
Center**



**Bradford Lions Club completed the
renewal/refresh of the 'Welcome to
Bradford' signs**

DISTRICT 1-J GOVERNOR

TERRI PASTERNIK

Governor Terri's Calendar



SEPTEMBER

9/3 Southeast Regin Meeting #1
9/6 District Cabinet Meeting #1
9/7 Union/Woodstock Membrshp Event
9/13 Elmhurst Club 85th Anniversary
9/16 Central Region Meeting #1
9/17 Eastern Region Meeting #1
9/17-9/21 USA/Canada Forum-Atlantic City
9/24 District 1J Candy Day Jamboree
9/25 Roselle Meeting
9/26-9/27 Council of Governors Meeting#2
GAT Summit



Malta Lions Club inducts a new member



Glen Ellyn Lions Club selling popcorn at the Concert on Main



Somonauk Lion Richard (Dick) Meyer receives he prestigious Melvin Jones Award



Elburn Leos had root beer floats at their Concession Stand during Elburn Days



Sandwich Lions Club collects school supplies

DISTRICT 1-J (continued)



Aurora Lions Club Free Youth Eye Exams



Malta Lions Club at the Malta Vintage Baseball Game



Huntley Area Lions Club at their Brat and Brew Fest



Fox River Grove Lions Club inducts 3 new members



Westmont Lions Club at the Classic Car Show



McHenry/Wonder Lakes Lions Club Golf Outing



Bartlett Lions Club Hood & Horsepower Car Show



Algonquin Lions Club 12th Annual Bags Tournament



Waterman Lions Club inducts 2 new members



Island Lake Lions Club Corn Fest



Cortland Lions Club Summer Fest



District 1-J Motorcycle Lions Club makes a donation to Animal House Shelter

DISTRICT 1-M GOVERNOR

MARK WYER



Hillsboro Lions Club at the Old Settlers Car Show



Bismarck Lions Club Fish Fry



Oakland Lions Club power washed, scraped , and painted the exterior of the Oakland Memorial Library



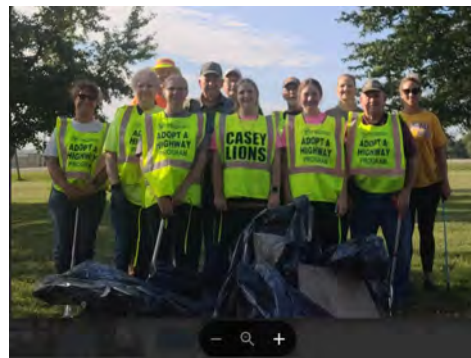
Arthur Lions Club inducts 2 new members



Shelbyville Lions Club at their Summer gathering



Windswept Plain Wind is proud to sponsor the Strasburg Lions Club as they work to improve the local softball field with a new fence and dugouts!



Casey Lions pick up trash in their community