

# The IOWA LION



Dec. 2024/Jan. 2025

[iowalions.org](http://iowalions.org)

## Lions Attend Possibly Last Fall Iowa Learning Conference

*By PDG Debbie Doty  
Editor, The Iowa Lion*

Iowa Lions may very well have attended their last Fall Learning Conference for Multiple District 9. With approximately 75 people registered for the Iowa Lions Fall Learning Conference the first weekend of November, the Council of Governors agreed to bring a constitutional amendment forward for a vote at the state convention in June to only have one statewide Lions convention in Iowa. Because having both a Fall Learning Conference and a State Convention are in the Iowa Lions Constitution and Bylaws, Lion members will need to vote for the change.

This year's Fall Learning Conference did



**MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AWARD.** Lions from District 9SW accept the 2023-2024 Norm Dean Membership Growth Award during the Saturday night banquet at the Iowa Lions Fall Learning Conference in Cedar Rapids. Pictured (L-R) are Kristin Glockhoff, current 9SW District Governor Gary Glockhoff, Council Chair and 9SW Immediate Past District Governor Dawn Goodsell, PDG Allen Zobel, PDG Sheri Holliday and Rick Peake.



**REFLECTIONS.** Lion Charlie Becker shares how Lions have helped Camp Courageous of Iowa over the years.

bring in some interesting speakers to the Cedar Rapids Radisson Hotel, starting with seminars on Saturday featuring information on using the new Lion Portal, Mission 1.5, a married couple who both received cochlear implants within months of each other, advancements in cornea transplants

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 5** International Leo Day
- Jan 12-19** LOTUS Vision Screening Week
- Jan 13** Melvin Jones' Birthday
- Jan 20** Clear Lake Lions 50th Anniversary
- Jan 31-Feb 2** Iowa 2nd VDG Training  
West Des Moines
- February** Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Feb 11-13** FVDG/DGE Seminar  
St. Charles, Illinois
- Feb 15** Int'l Childhood Cancer Day
- Mar 14-15** District 9EC Convention, Camp  
Courageous, Monticello
- Mar 28-29** District 9SW Convention, Perry
- April** Leo Awareness Month  
Environmental Awareness Month  
Family and Friends Month
- Apr 11-12** District 9SE Convention,  
Mount Pleasant
- Apr 22** Earth Day
- May 2-4** Iowa 1st VDG/DGE Training  
West Des Moines
- Jun 6-8** Iowa Lions State Convention,  
Des Moines
- Jun 27** Helen Keller's Birthday
- Jun 27-29** Great Plains Lions Leadership  
Institute, Baldwin City, Kansas
- July 13-17** Lions International Convention,  
Orlando, Florida
- Sep 18-20** USA/Canada Lions Leadership  
Forum, Atlantic City, New Jersey

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**SUCCESS STORY.** Motivational Speaker Harvie Herrington shares how kindness of others contributed to his success in life.

and the importance of making sure a loved one knows about your organ donation wishes; information on Soles4Souls; and how Leader Dogs changes lives.

Lion Charlie Becker talked about how Lions have partnered with Camp Courageous to bring joy to the lives of people with special needs. During the Saturday banquet, ex-professional football player, now motivational speaker, Harvie Herrington shared his life story and how one should never underestimate the power of being kind to a child. Then on Sunday morning, Lion Aaron Horn talked about how losing his son, Eli, to cancer was the catalyst for him and others starting the Beat Cancer Today foundation and the strides Lions

International is making in helping people affected by Childhood Cancer.

During the Saturday banquet, the 2023-2024 Norm Dean Membership Growth Award was presented to Immediate Past District Governor and now Council Chair Dawn Goodsell.



**RESTORED HEARING.** Lions James and Roberta Carver of the Alburnett Lions Club share with Lions their experience with cochlear implants. Both of them had cochlear implant surgery within months of each other.



## Make a Lasting Impact This Holiday

Whether you're looking for a gift for loved ones or a meaningful way to support Leader Dogs for the Blind during the holidays, you can find the perfect gift here! A few options are:

- Symbolically Sponsor a Future Leader Dog.
- Honor your club, a club member or district with a campus tribute brick.

- Join Paws 365 Monthly Giving Program.

No matter what you choose, your gift will make a difference as 2024 comes to a close and far beyond. And, as a 501(c)3 organization, your donation is 100% tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Check out the variety of ways to give at [Leaderdog.org/ways-to-give](http://Leaderdog.org/ways-to-give).

## International Report

Past International Director

Ardie Klemish

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Merry  
Christmas  
and Happy New Year

Take time to treasure your family during the holidays! Thanks to each of you for your dedicated service as Lions. Remember to appreciate your family, your Lions family and partners, and friends during this special season: together. You make a positive impact on the world by “Making Your Mark!”

### Winter International Lions Dates to Remember

January is Hunger Awareness Month. Help your local food pantry and report it on the Lion Portal. Make a personal/club monetary gift. Jan. 13 is Melvin Jones’ birthday.

February is Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Make a donation to LCIF or Tori’s Angels.

The 2025-26 district governors elect have in-person training Feb. 11-13 in St. Charles, Illinois.

### News from the 2024 October International Board of Directors Meeting

**Future International Convention sites:** the 2025 convention has been moved from Mexico City to Orlando, Florida, July 13-17, 2025. Early bird registration fee is \$190 through March 1, 2025. Regular registration (March 2 to July 10) is \$265 per person. Onsite registration is \$340 per person, available July 11-17. Omega Leo registration is \$100 per person; Alpha Leo (under 18 years of age) registration is \$20 per person. Book your hotel through Lions Clubs

International. Any cancellation completed by May 1 will receive hotel deposit refund less a \$15 processing fee. Register online at [LCIcon.org](http://LCIcon.org).

Subsequent conventions are: 2026 Hong Kong; 2027 Washington D.C.; 2028 Singapore; 2029 Minneapolis, Minnesota; 2030 San Antonio, Texas; 2031 Helsinki, Finland.

**LCIF:** LCIF Chairperson Immediate Past International President Dr. Patti Hill has challenged EVERY MEMBER to make a minimum \$50 donation this 2024-2025 year. That is less than \$1 per week per member – a very easy goal for EVERY Lion! Have YOU made your personal donations yet? The year is nearly half gone already!

Iowa received \$40,000 in LCIF emergency and recovery grants in just the first three months of this Lions calendar year (\$30K for 9SW, \$10K for 9NW). Your donations DO come back HOME to work! Not one penny is used for administrative costs! No donation is too small! LCIF has also helped many hurricane victims in the southeast U.S. this fall. Contact your district LCIF coordinator with any questions. Remember that any personal donation of at least \$50 or more qualifies you to receive President Fabricio Oliveira’s beautiful personal LCIF donor pin.

**Leadership:** LOTUS (Lions of the United States) is a new national initiative of the Lions of the U.S. and its affiliates, a grassroots approach to support the Lions Club in the U.S. with unifying to march together in the 2025 international parade, and to reach our Mission 1.5 goals in the USA. LOTUS hopes to host a pep rally event at the 2025 USA/Canada Forum focusing on membership and leadership in a social environment.

**Dues:** The third and final step in international annual dues increase will take effect on July 1, 2025, taking the international dues to \$50 effective for regular members.

### 2025 1VDG Classes Have Begun

All 1st vice district governors have started their virtual training sessions with their group leaders this fall. They’ve received their Phase I assignments in the Lions Learning Center. They will have required virtual sessions with GAT Area Leaders during the next several months. More online classes will be assigned on the Lions Learning Center beginning in January. Attendance at all LCI classes is required. If your district doesn’t have an elected 1VDG, please strive to fill that position immediately so that all the MD9 1VDGs can receive ALL their training with their group leader instead of having to “cram” the mandatory classes into just a few weeks prior to the Orlando convention.

## A View from the Chair

**Council Chair  
Dawn M. Goodsell**

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I have been crazy busy these past few weeks. I have been to a number of club anniversaries, the 9EC Fall Rally, and the Iowa Fall Learning Conference. One of the best parts of this month of traveling has been the Iowa view. Boy, do we ever have some awesome fall-colored trees right now. Like everything else, this time is limited so we need to enjoy it while we can. Take some time and rake some leaves, watch some kid's roll around in them, or heck, take a chance and roll in them yourself. Go a head and find the kid in you. You have my permission to be young.

My first stop on the road to the Lion events was in Belle Plaine. I had the honor of celebrating the charter of their new Leo club. They have 25 youth and growing. What a great bunch of kids. I can't wait to see what they will do. They have awesome support from their local Lions clubs, so I know they will do great.

Next, was the 9EC Fall Rally, which was a huge success. Keynote speaker was a young woman named Mya who is a childhood cancer survivor and is still thriving. She has created a fund called Mya Strong and her focus is to help other kids and their families who are struggling with cancer. What a wonderful young woman, who not only is battling her own fight, she is a college student studying nursing and working a job as well. God bless this little trailblazer. You go Mya! For more information you can go to [myastrongfoundation.org](http://myastrongfoundation.org).

The next stop on my road trip was to the Iowa Lions Fall Learning Conference in Cedar Rapids. This was a fun-filled event. There were a couple of seminars on service ideas, which I thought were interesting. The first one is the Soles4Souls, which recycles shoes to give to those in need. The goal is to collect the shoes, box them up in 50-pound boxes and ship them to their warehouse location. The shipping is free. You just print a shipping label furnished by Zappos off the Internet and then just ship them out. Easy as can be. These shoes will be shipped to those who need them throughout the world. For more information about this service project, visit the [Soles4Souls website](http://Soles4Souls website).

The other service project and fundraiser is the Beat Cancer organization which supports childhood cancer research. Their idea for a fundraiser is to create a contest collecting loose change or pennies. The team with the most pennies/change will earn a pizza party. This can be done with the local schools and make it a contest. What kids wouldn't like a pizza party during the school day? The pennies/change goes

to the Beat Cancer and local Lions pay for the pizza. Come on, we can foot the bill for a pizza party, right? For more information, check out [this video interview](#) with Beat Cancer representative Lion Aaron Horn. Proceeds for this event go to families who are struggling with kids who have cancer.

During the Council of Governors meeting at the Fall Learning Conference, one of the topics discussed was the discontinuation of the Fall Learning Conference due to a decrease in numbers for attendance. The COG has moved to go forward with this process. This will go to the State Convention business meeting in June for vote.

My next stop was for the Keosauqua Lions' 50th anniversary celebration. What a wonderful time to spend with this club and hear all their awesome stories. What a wonderful group of people that are so inspiring. They truly love to have a good time. The food was awesome. Hats off to the catering crew for feeding us well.

My next stop in the month of November was the Lions Club International Foundation dinner in Cedar Rapids. This was a wonderful opportunity to help celebrate the success of many Lion members in the state of Iowa. We had a wonderful speaker in Past International President J Frank Moore III. What an awesome, down-to-earth person who just flows with compassion and grace. It was truly a privilege to meet and talk with him.

The same weekend, I also attended the luncheon at Walcott, as well as the Davenport Village Lions' Centennial Celebration. What a way to spend the weekend with so many Lions with so many stories. Do I need to talk about the food? Let's just say, if you feed them, they will come! I might need to walk to next weekend's events just to work off all the food I have eaten.

My next stop was the Joint District Convention for 9NE and 9NC in Independence. The keynote speaker for this event was Past International President Douglas X. Alexander. I can't wait to see him again.

After I attended the joint district convention, I went to the Cedar Falls Lions' Centennial Celebration. I can't express enough how honored I am to be able to support all the clubs of Iowa this year.

We had one more Past International President visit our state. PIP Brian Sheehan was the keynote speaker for the Northwood Lions' 95th Anniversary Celebration. We have been so blessed to have these three dignitaries attend events in Iowa this fall.

As I close this article, let me wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please remember to say a prayer for those who are fighting wars, fires, hurricanes, and tornadoes. We have had so many devastating disasters this year. Throughout all of this, Lions Clubs International Foundation has come through time and time again. Remember, if disaster hits, get with your district to file a grant application to receive the funds. LCIF is there to help.

Stay safe, stay healthy and keep being kind to each other.

# Two Iowa Lions Clubs Celebrate Centennial Anniversaries in November

By *Debbie Doty*  
 Editor, *The Iowa Lion*

Two Iowa Lions Clubs celebrated 100-year anniversaries during the month of November. Both Davenport Village Lions and Cedar Falls Lions had celebratory dinners with Lions Clubs International past international presidents as keynote speakers.

Davenport Village invited Past International President J. Frank Moore III from Daleville, Alabama to their event and Cedar Falls Lions hosted PIP Douglas X. Alexander of Brooklyn, New York at theirs. Both events were filled with Lions from across the state of Iowa, all eager to celebrate such a milestone.

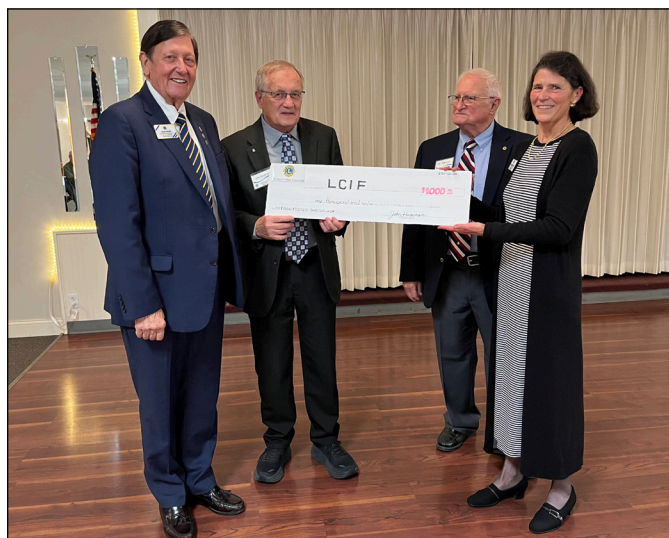
Both PIPs congratulated the clubs on making it to 100 years and encouraged them to embrace change in order to continue serving their communities well into the next century.



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS.** Past International President Douglas X. Alexander addresses the Cedar Falls Lions' 100th Anniversary Celebration.



**IT'S ALL CAKE.** Davenport Village Lions Club's anniversary cakes celebrating 100 years.



**ANNIVERSARY GIFT.** Past International President J. Frank Moore III accepts a \$1,000 gift to LCIF from the Davenport Village Lions Club.



**ANNIVERSARY HONORS.** (Left photo) Cedar Falls Lions Club President Tom Strub presents a President's Certificate of Appreciation to club member Past District Governor Rich Congdon for 50 years of service as a Lion.



**RECOGNITION.** (Left photo) Cedar Falls Lions receive International Presidents Certificates of Appreciation. Pictured (L-R) Darrin Gillett, Blake Bishop and Justin Tolan. (Right photo) Cedar Falls Lions (L-R) Gina Newcomb, Jim Newcomb and Cindy Wiles receive letters of their Melvin Jones or Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships.



# Iowa Lions Honored at Special LCIF Events



**LCIF SUPPORTERS.** At a special LCIF awards banquet at The Hotel Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids, several Lions receive Lions International President's LCIF Support pins for making personal donations to LCIF and/or their Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships. Pictured with Past International President J. Frank Moore III (clockwise from top left) are Past District Governor Donna Wood, Past District Governor Ken Klemish, Past Council Chair Paul Hain, Past Council Chair Nancy Oehler Love, Past District Governor Paul Fugate, Past International Director Ardie Klemish and Council Chair Dawn Goodsell.



**CHAIRPERSON'S AWARD.** PIP J. Frank Moore III presents District 9EC LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane with PIP Patti Hill's LCIF Chairperson's Award.



**LEGACY GIFT.** Past International President J. Frank Moore III addresses the Walcott Lions Club at a special recognition dinner celebrating an LCIF Legacy Gift from Walcott member LaVerne "Butch" Arp.

## District 9MC

District Governor  
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merit a “Maybe,” or even better a “Yes! Where do I sign?”

If the roles were reversed, what answer would you give? Would it center on the 3 F’s: Fun, Fellowship & Fulfilment? How do we inspire a person to embrace the statement of President John F. Kennedy, “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country?”

In some fashion, we need to answer the second question for them and the answer to the first will follow in the form of the 3 F’s. The slate is clean.

## Why Should I Join

Suppose you just moved into your house in a new town with which you are not familiar. A neighbor stops by during the first few weeks while you are settling in and explains that he/she is a member of the Hometown Lions Club and invites you to join them at an upcoming membership meeting or a service activity. You ask a few questions about the cost and time commitment involved. Then you ask the BIG question, “Why should I join?”

What answer could they give that would prompt you to say “NO.” Refocusing, what answer would

## WELCOME NEW LIONS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Kelly Dawson	Altoona	Bill Pollard
Kristopher Ray	Altoona	Bill Pollard
Scott Decker	Des Moines South	David Lybarger
Karla Vos	Des Moines South	Betty Sue Harris
Kellie McGriff	Grinnell	Lyle Roudabush
Carrie Donoso	Reinbeck	Amanda Grunklee
Lily Cutler	Story City	Linda Narigon
Sophie Delahaye	Urbandale	Scott Seeger



**WANT SOME CANDY?** The Marshalltown Evening Lions Club recently took its nuts and candy fundraiser on the road to eastern Iowa. Pictured (L-R) are Lions Deb Lang, Club President Deb Estabrook, Michelle Drummer and Elaine Peterson. The four represented the Marshalltown Evening Lions at the 2024 Iowa Lions Fall Learning Conference in Cedar Rapids at the beginning of November. The club’s nuts and candy sale fundraiser is currently ongoing.



## WE SERVE

**ALTOONA** set up a tent and handed out candy to over 3,000 people for Trick or Treat (pictured below); KidSight screened 340 children.



**BONDURANT** sponsored the annual Cow Pasture Golf Tournament and raised over \$10,000 for community projects; donated \$100 to the Iowa Lions Eye Bank in honor of a member's wife.

**DES MOINES SOUTH** helped Hy-Vee on Fleur Drive celebrate Halloween by handing out cookies, pumpkins and coloring sheets to the children; cleaned cemetery stones; held a pancake breakfast; provided a person with hearing aids; collected, cleaned and delivered to Altoona 1,000 pairs of used eyeglasses; donated used eyeglass cases to different surplus stores; took part in the Alzheimer's Walk.



**DYSART** KidSight screened 48 children; had a food stand at the annual Dancin' with the Witches event, which included a costume contest and a pickle ball toss; placed new Lions eye glass recycling boxes (pictured above) at the local banks.

**GARWIN** donated to the Iowa Lions Foundation; served over 100 people at a soup supper on election eve.

**MITCHELLVILLE** held a field goal game at an elementary school Trick or Treat event; KidSight screened 40 children; transported cornea tissue for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

**MARSHALLTOWN EVENING** donated all the fall fundraising funds, over \$4,000, to the Marshalltown Fire Department to purchase a Fast Rescue Board (pictured right) for rapid rescue in homes and water.



**REINBECK** KidSight screened 58 children at Gladbrook and Reinbeck daycare centers; assisted in pouring concrete at Gladbrook-Reinbeck High School for student convenience in boarding the school busses.

**STORY CITY** held a pancake supper; collected and sorted used eyeglasses; passed out stickers to children on Trick or Treat night; helped with maintenance on the Story City Golf Course.

**URBANDALE** handed out candy for Trick or Treat at the Urbandale Police Station; provided snow cones and popcorn to the kids at Camp Sunnyside; served a pancake breakfast for over 50 people at the Urbandale Historical Society; transported cornea tissue for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.



**SERVING UP RECOGNITION.** Bondurant Lions serve a hot dog meal during a recognition night for the Bondurant Fire Department.

## District 9EC

District Governor

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### Fall Rally

The first Lions event since my last article was the District Fall Rally held in Goose Lake. I want to thank the Goose Lake and Andover Lions clubs for their help with the Fall Rally. I also want to give a special thanks to Lion Marty Jahn of the Goose Lake Lions Club who helped with registration. I have been told the Fall Rally was quite special and a very nice event for Lions to attend. Because of the location, I saw many Lions whom I had not seen for many years at a Fall Rally.

The Fall Rally special guest speakers were Brooke Gilcrest (mom) and Mya Gilcrest (daughter). Their address was amazing. I do not think there was a dry eye in the room and everyone had a lump in their stomach after the Gilcrests' presentation. If not for the presentation, no one would have guessed Mya had faced four rounds of pediatric cancer or the years upon years of chemotherapy. After the presentation, Mya took time to visit with all Lions in the room. Pictured are the Gilcrests with Low Moor Lion Glenn McCulloh.



### Fall Learning Conference

The next event I attended was the Iowa Lions Fall Learning Conference in Cedar Rapids. I listened to a list of wonderful speakers which I know all Lions would enjoy to hear. I know I did.

One item which occurred at the Council of Governors meeting during Fall Learning Conference was the approval of Lions Loan Program. Clubs can apply for a loan in the amount up to \$5,000 with a two year repayment plan at 0% interest. The maximum dollar amount of all loans is \$25,000. The loans are to help facilitate a club fundraiser.

A second program the Council of Governors is working on is an ALERT program. The concept is to have two trailers (one in the east side of the state and one in the west side of the state) which will be moved to disaster sites across Iowa. The program is still in the concept stage but a company from Denver, Iowa, already donated a trailer for this program. The trailer is currently sitting in a horse barn at Camp Courageous of Iowa. As the concept goes forward, watch for more information on this project.

### LCIF Event Cedar Rapids

I attended the LCIF event at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids. Past International President J. Frank Moore III presented LCIF pins during the evening. Many Lions received Legacy Society pins while others received Melvin Jones Fellowship awards and progressive awards. There are lots of photos on Page 7.

### LCIF Event Walcott

I attended the LCIF event in Walcott with the Walcott Lions Club celebrating the Legacy of LaVerne "Butch" Arp. This event was an amazing way to celebrate LaVerne's legacy to Lions. See photo on Page 7 of this issue.

### Davenport Village Lions Club Centennial Celebration

I attended the Davenport Village Lions Club 100th Club Anniversary. Once again, what an amazing event! I want to congratulate the Davenport Village Lions Club on their centennial anniversary. See photos on Page 6.

### 9EC District Convention

So what am I working on now? It's hard to believe but the March 2025 District Convention. There is a registration form on the next page. The agenda for the day has not yet been set. I am waiting on the schedule of our visiting International Director Robert "Ski" Marcinkowski from Fairbanks, Alaska. His schedule has not been determined as he is traveling through our district on his way to the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors meeting in Chicago, Illinois starting the evening of our district convention.

District Convention will be held at the Durgin Pavilion on the campus of Camp Courageous of Iowa. The dates of the convention are March 14 and 15, 2025.

There will a 50/50 drawing, a District Governor's special drawing and during the day a tail twister will sell fifty tickets at \$10 each for a chance to win \$200 of Iowa Lottery Scratch-off tickets ranging from \$1 to \$20 tickets. Ten tickets will be drawn and those 10 persons will come forward. Then we will play "Heads or Tails." The last person standing will win the scratch-off tickets. All I ask is the person who wins to please report back the grand total of their winnings.

The district governor's special drawing will come from the 50/50 raffle tickets. My very good friend Pat Larson from the Davenport Village Lions Club came up with this special drawing.

### 2023-2024 Club Excellence Awards

The following clubs received the 2023-2024 Club Excellence Award from Lions International.: Alburnett, Davenport Village, Delmar, DeWitt, DeWitt Nite, Low Moor, Miles, Monticello, Stanwood, and West Branch. Photos of them receiving their awards can be seen on Page 30 in the digital section of this magazine.

# CLUB ACTIVITIES

**ALBURNETT** – parked cars for football games; cleaned up the Martin Complex.

**ANAMOSA** – Toys for Tots; Pumpkin Fest Float; Spook Parade; Trunk or Treat; eyeglass pick-up.

**BETTENDORF** – White Cane safety days.

**BLUEGRASS** – KidSight screening; trash collection; collected recycled materials; mowed a yard for a senior citizen; transported a senior to a medical appointment; blood drive.

**CENTER POINT** – road clean-up; Harvest Festival.

**CLINTON** – Soles4Souls.

**DAVENPORT BREAKFAST** – Candy Day; Trivia Night; KidSight screening; eye tissue transport.

**DEWITT** – Butterfly garden maintenance; collected eyeglasses.

**ELDRIDGE** – Bingo night; meal delivery; road clean-up; KidSight screening; eyeglass collection; eye tissue relay; food pantry collection; library book sale set-up.

**LOW MOOR** – Halloween party.

**LOWDEN** – take down ramp; multiple cash donations to area farmers markets and Lions entities; KidSight screening.

**MARION NOON** – KidSight screening.

**MILES** – Fish Fry; Yard of the Month; collected eyeglasses.

**MONTICELLO** – Soles4Souls.

**OTTER CREEK** – Tenderloin fundraiser; cheese sales; Legion Hall maintenance; Meals on Wheels; part maintenance.

**PRESTON** – cash donations; Halloween party; Peace Poster contest; KidSight screening.

**STANWOOD** – KidSight screening; Trunk or Treat; cash donations.

**WEST BRANCH** – sponsored pickleball night; collected eyeglasses; transported eye tissue; grilled at school football games; assisted Boy Scouts; volunteered at Camp Courageous of Iowa's Haunted Trail event.

# DISTRICT 9EC CONVENTION

## REGISTRATION FORM

*(please send one form per attendee)*

### March 14-15, 2025

#### March 14, 2025

Monticello Golf Club, 712 N Maple St, Monticello  
*"Meet and Greet the International Director"*  
 Robert "Ski" Marcinkowski from Fairbanks, Alaska  
 Catered Roast Beef Meal (\$20.00)

#### March 15, 2025

Durgin Pavilion located on the campus of Camp Courageous of Iowa, 12007 190th St, Monticello  
 (\$30.00 with Meal / \$15.00 without Meal)  
 Choose from Champagne Chicken Breast  
 OR Apple Bacon Smoked Pork Tenderloin

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB/DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST TIMER (circle one): Y / N

*Please note any special dietary needs.*

*I would like a display table for:*

\_\_\_ Friday Evening Meal \$20.00

\_\_\_ Saturday Registration w/ Lunch/Breakfast \$30.00

CHOOSE ONE:  Chicken  Pork Loin

\_\_\_ Registration Only (No Meals) \$15.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

***Make checks payable to District 9EC***

*In order to guarantee meals, registration and payment must be received by March 1, 2025*

Send completed registration form and fee to:

Regena Busch, Convention Chair  
 22345 Songbird Dr  
 Monticello IA 52310

## District 9SW

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A blessed holiday season to you all from the Lions of 9SW. First, we must give thanks for our successes and the positive trends we see in our association. Give thanks that we have a new and very effective computer program for reporting our good works and allowing our international office the ability to show the world all the good we are accomplishing.

You may think I'm kidding about the Portal being a blessing, but I'm not. If you are having problems using the system, be honest with yourself. Ask yourself what you can do to become one of those people who is able to navigate the system without problem. Did you attend the training sessions that have been offered?

Only about 1/3 of the clubs in 9SW are using the Portal to report their activities. If you need help, please ASK! Juanita Reynard, Allen Zobel and Kristin Glockhoff are happy to help. I don't find the pathways to be very intuitive, but they do work and if you write down some crib notes on how you get where you want to go, you should be able to use the system. Let's all give it another try so that we can all be on the same level going forward.

Another thing that I am grateful for is the return of the zone system. I've had some people ask me why I think the zone system is even relevant in 2024. I've been a Lion for 42 years and I've come a long way in my appreciation of having strong zones.

MD9 Global Leadership Team Coordinator Paul Fugate has identified the life of a Lions club as a bell curve with a steep rise in membership as the club organizes and the excitement of charter night approaches. There is energy as the club works to find its purpose in the community. As the club ages, complacency sets in and the curve becomes horizontal. As more time passes, the work of the club can become rote and the comfort that sets in to the club can weaken and cause it to lose membership. At this point, if new innovation doesn't happen, the club will eventually fail. I've seen this process in action and it is a serious problem for the Lions of Iowa.

Where does a Lions Club find new vitality? Look for

purpose. What does your community need?

After the club, the zone is the smallest organizational unit in Lionism. In 9SW I have divided the district by counties into eight zones. I have six active and energetic zone chairs and they are busy organizing meetings. Please attend these meetings. They aren't far away. They are your neighbors. You are able to meet and enjoy the company of your neighboring clubs and if you socialize together, you can easily lend a helping hand for fundraising and service projects. If worse comes to worse and a storm hits your community, your fellow zone members can serve as first responders to come to your rescue.

If you reside in Zone 1 (Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills, Montgomery, or Fremont counties) or Zone 8 (Ringgold, Decatur), please let me know if you have any interest in being a zone chair.

The first zone meeting in Zone 2 with Harlan, Atlantic, Exira and Audubon was everything I could have hoped for. The clubs spent the night building bonds and having fun together. Clubs who have a strong connection with other clubs tend to develop new ideas and projects. Clubs who isolate themselves often suffer from inward thinking that discourages growth and renewal. Let's look to a new year for inspiration to do new things and grow our clubs.

Allen Zobel suggests that we introduce a takeoff on Mission 1.5 for 9SW. We could have a Mission 1.5k to grow our district to 1,500 members by 2027. I think we could do it if we all pull together.

### **LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER**

Or in other words, LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

**Mark your calendars to attend the 9SW District Convention on March 28-29 at Hotel Pattee in Perry.**

Our official international guest will be International Director Chris Carlone from the Pelican State of Louisiana, aka Bayou State, Creole State, Sugar State, and Child of the Mississippi. Come and celebrate MARDI GRAS with us. More convention details and the registration form will be available in Gary's January newsletter and the February and March issues of *The Iowa Lion* magazine. That's March 28-29 in Perry, Iowa!

### **MAKE YOUR MARK...WITH NEW MEMBERS**

Member	Sponsor	Club
Joanie Kunze	Natalia Kunze	Atlantic
Jeff Doolittle	Ryan Parrott	Diagonal
Doyle Kelsey	Amy Kelsey	Diagonal
Bailey Taylor	Jim Taylor	Diagonal
Fred Christian	Rick Wilson	Indianola

# 9SW CLUBS MAKE OUR MARK...THROUGH SERVICE

## ZONE 1

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** screened preschoolers and Head Start children at seven different preschool sites.  
**GLENWOOD** helped at Mills Co Storehouse food bank.  
**MISSOURI VALLEY** KidSight screened at five community schools.  
**NEOLA** bagged and sorted cans and bottles for redemption.  
**VILLISCA** provided transportation as needed; KidSight screened 436 children at 12+ locations.

## ZONE 2

**ATLANTIC** collected 15 pairs of eyeglasses; donated funding for one month of books for local children participating in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program; provided hearing aid assistance; attended the Zone 2 meeting.  
**AUDUBON** hosted the annual Audubon Schools Fun Run by providing T-shirts and water to participants in grades 3-8, blocking traffic and cheering on students as they ran with the cross country team.

**EXIRA** attended the Zone 2 meeting.

**HARLAN** attended the Zone 2 meeting.

## ZONE 4

**ADEL** hosted a speaker about Good Samaritan Food Pantry; KidSight screenings at five locations; directed car parking at ADM school district for football game.  
**PERRY** donated 143 hours of time for various local community organizations including Toys for Tots program and Perry's Christmas celebration; worked at St. Patrick's church and school; collected eyeglasses; provided care to an ill family member; collected food and volunteered at local food pantry, animal shelter, local community theater production, Elks Lodge, nitrate testing in three waterways; committee work to prep for 2025 softball season; helped high school seniors with voting information.  
**WAUKEE** provided food, cleaned and restocked shelves at a neighborhood food pantry; attended various MD9 Lions events and meetings; conducted KidSight screenings at three locations.

## ZONE 5

**INDIANOLA NOON** held a meat raffle; served hot dogs and chips at Indianola Public Safety Night to raise funds for a fiberoptic laryngoscope for the fire station rescue squad; donated \$3,000 to LCIF; donated food to the food pantry; assisted Indianola Evening Club with a KidSight screening at the Indianola Trunk or Treat; volunteered with the Indianola Tree Committee; helped and donated food for the Indianola Music Boosters concessions; donated desserts and served food at the Open Table community meal; assisted in planning and staffing a fall hayride and s'mores event for Carlisle area families; volunteered at Indianola Schools music programs.

## ZONE 6

**ADAIR** provided music to multiple area care centers; attended several leadership meetings and conventions for 9SW, MD9, LCIF, and the USA/Canada Forum; provided transportation to appointments; helped at the food pantry; sent cards and provided fall yard cleanup to shut-ins; provided 278 hours of community improvement service in Yale, Iowa; donated to the Iowa Lions Foundation, LCIF, Atlantic Lions Club; provided KidSight screenings to 18 children.

## ZONE 7

**LORIMOR** served a free will donation meal and collected donations for the local food pantry.

## ZONE 8

**LAMONI** KidSight screened 45 children.



**ALL DRESSED UP.** Past District Governor Sheri Holliday is all smiles at the Saturday night banquet during the Iowa Lions Fall Learning Conference.

### *In Memoriam*

*"A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed." - Henrik Ibsen*

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the following 9SW Lions Club member:

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Dallas Clayton	Villisca	8

## District 9NC

District Governor

Mike Ravera

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Clear Lake, Iowa 50428

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Greetings, Lions team!

As I am writing this newsletter, it is the day before Veterans Day, so I want to give a shout out to all of our veterans. Thank you so much for your service to our great country!

I was inspired to mention this not only because of Veterans Day but also because I have just finished watching the series “Band of Brothers” on Netflix. So, what the heck does a war movie have to do with Lions? Here’s what I think; I believe we are a “Band of Lions!” Like those in the movie, we are a group of diverse people that have learned to work together even though we are all different.

We are working to help others. We work together in service. We have each others backs. We trust our fellow Lions to do the right thing. When the need comes up, we do whatever is needed to get a job done, whether its with our labor or our wallets. We are not running forward to do battle with an enemy. We are running forward to help those who need it most. We have learned to be creative when a problem arises. We have solid leadership (although we need more) and we have a “band” of troops (AKA good old Lions!) that step-up to the challenge over and over again.

Please keep thinking outside the box with your projects. Don’t be afraid to try something new and definitely do not be afraid of things not working out like you think they should. For example, my home club (Clear Lake Evening) recently held a diabetes awareness event and we only had six attendees. Pretty frustrating for the project committee, for sure. During our post project review, we discussed what we need to do better next time (yep, we’re doing the event again next year). Turns out, our event marketing scheme could be a lot better! That said, we also felt that even though we had a small turn-out, if our event helped just one person, then the project was a winner. Your project might be small and only help a few, but nobody could argue it’s not a winner if someone was positively affected by your efforts.

### Pumpkin Run

I want to give a shout out to the Humboldt Lions Club which recently held its annual “Pumpkin Run.” It was attended by 90 students in 1st through 6th grades. This activity is the brainchild of Club President Dean Clasen, who started the event when he was an assistant cross-country coach and wanted to introduce youngsters to distance running. The club has provided the pumpkins for the run for over 30 years!

### Remember Our Foundations This Season

As we move deeper into the holiday season (I define this by the amount of Christmas advertising on TV), please make sure to tell your family that you love them, don’t worry about eating too much, and keep things safe and mostly sane! Since we are all in the giving mode this time of year, remember that a gift to LCIF or the Iowa Lions Foundation is always a great idea!



**THE RACE IS ON.** Humboldt school kids racing to get their pumpkin during the annual Humboldt Pumpkin Run.

## KidSight News

I received some amazing news regarding KidSight recently. During the past fiscal year, 46,073 children were screened with 2,062 referred to eye doctors. The screening events were supported by 407 Lion volunteers! It costs approximately \$9.60 for each screening, so, please consider having your club donate!

### Emergency Response Trailers

You may have heard that there is a team working on getting two emergency response trailers that will be used when we are helping during a disaster. We are fortunate to have received the first trailer that was donated by the company PDG Bruce Piehl works for. The trailer is currently stored at Camp Courageous and the team is actively working on filling it with needed supplies.

### District Convention Success

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have just completed our first ever joint district convention with District 9NE. Thanks to 9NE District Governor Chris Waring and our own Past District Governor Lisa Prochaska for carrying much of the load in planning this event. I believe it was a great success with Past International President Douglas X. Alexander as our international guest (pictured above eating Dinner in the Dark). See more photos on Pages 28-29.



**APPRECIATION.** Lions receive International President's Certificates of Appreciation, the fourth highest award in Lionism, during the 9NC/9NE Joint District Convention. Pictured with 9NE District Governor Mike Ravera (far right) are (L-R) Brent Janssen, Dawn Janssen and Darwin Meyer.



**FEEDING THE HUNGRY.** Parkersburg Lions (L-R) Carol Johnson, Lori Mason, Jeff Jacobsen and Tony Finch work at the Aplington-Parkersburg food pantry, serving 100 people at this one event.

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

**CLARION** helped set-up and assist with running the American Association of University Women supervisor candidate's forum.

**CLEAR LAKE EVENING** held a diabetes awareness event and provided free A1C screenings.

**EAGLE GROVE** held a blood glucose screening event and screened 22 people; donated 10 pairs of glasses to the local eye clinic; held a hot dog fundraiser, earning \$468; finished collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic and will donate the "buddy bench" they earned to the local elementary school; screened 54 children at various KidSight events.

**HAMPTON** screened 157 children at four different KidSight events.

**NORTHWOOD** donated \$1,608 to the LCIF disaster relief fund with dollars raised at the club's 95th anniversary celebration, where PIP Brian Sheehan was the guest speaker (See photos on Page 31).

**OSAGE** collected 700 pairs of used eyeglasses.



**EQUIPMENT FUNDING.** Stratford Lions Club Vice President Amy Link presents a check for \$3,750 to the local fire department to be used to purchase needed equipment.

## District 9SE

District Governor

Michael D. Renken

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Nov. 6 found me at Keosauqua Lions Club's 50th anniversary party. Keosauqua Lions celebrated their charter anniversary with a party at a local café with members of the club and surrounding communities in attendance. Visiting dignitaries included Council Chair Dawn Goodsell, State Secretary/Past Council Chair Nancy Oehler Love and me. That evening, I was also privileged to give a 50-year Monarch Chevron Award to one Lion and a 50-year Charter Monarch Chevron Award to another.

The members of Keosauqua have been making headway with pancake breakfasts for the 4th of July celebration and the fall forest craft festival, as well as helping host the 4th of July fireworks, the Autumn Fly-In at the local airport, and so many activities coming together as a group.

Frost has come into the morning air and fall suppers are the norm. Many of the local clubs are having fall soup suppers and having a fun time with them. How about your club? What are your fall activities?

As I visit clubs, many ideas flow for fun and activities in the communities served by Lions. Last evening while visiting a club, plans were being made for a Christmas stroll that included Christmas trees to be decorated and sold by silent auction, carolers, hot chocolate and cookies, and window themes with live persons acting out scenes.

What are your plans for the holidays? Have you thought of possible donation to LCIF or the Iowa Lions Foundation? What better way than that to help out should disaster strike. Even in winter, disasters can strike with ice and snow storms.

Leadership is an area we have been struggling with for some time and that struggle seems to be lightening as we have persons willing to step up into leadership roles.

On my way home from a club visit last evening, I received a call from a cabinet member who visited a club for LCIF and stated the a 2nd vice president was interested to be on the district cabinet if there was a position open. Sometimes we face challenges of no one willing to step up, then we have people willing to step

up out of nowhere. I thank you people for the time you are willing to put into service by stepping up.

This last couple of weeks, I have had eyeglasses come in and am going to finish up checking them for broken frames, loose lenses, and eyeglass cases. I am also repacking the district convention materials and labeling the totes before they are put in the storage unit. We now have a centralized storage unit for the district in which we can keep the convention materials, banner poles, and other items that have been scattered all across the district. Once the convention materials are toted and labeled, I ask that if you use those materials, please put the materials back in the totes they came out of. This way, it will make it easier to find materials when needed the next time.

District convention is coming up April 11 and 12, 2025. It seems like a far-off time, yet it is right around the corner. Information and registration for convention will be in the February issue of *The Iowa Lion*, so stay tuned for more to come.



**SPIN ART MONEY.** Oskaloosa Lions Club member Susan Stearns (left) presents a donation check to Stephen Memorial Animal Director Shanna Smith. The money was raised at the Lions Spin Art booth during the annual Bark & Boo-A-Que.



# CLUB ACTIVITIES

**IOWA CITY** screened 492 kids for KidSight; assisted eight persons to receive eyeglasses; transported eye tissue for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

**LONE TREE** KidSight screened 19 children at the Lone Tree Community Preschool.

**NORTH LIBERTY** participated in the North Liberty Community Halloween Trail, where children of all ages trick-or-treated their way around Liberty Centre Pond with friendly ghosts for a self-guided family outing.

**OSKALOOSA** ran Spin Art to raise money for Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter

**VICTOR** teamed up with Victor Boy Scouts to collect Food in Victor, Ladora, and Hartwick for the HLV school food bank.



**COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS.** Lone Tree Lions present a \$1,200 check to the Lone Tree Fire and Rescue. Pictured (L-R) are Lone Tree Lions Club President Amy Shalla, Treasurer Jeff Lihs, Fire Chief Matt Zadow and Joel Schillerstrom, co-chair of the Muscle Tractor Show at the Lone Tree Fall Festival. The Muscle Tractor Show netted \$600 and the club added another \$600.

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Grandview-Letts	Jennifer Massey	Kevin Schlutz
Washington	Robert F. Roddy	Alan Olson
West Burlington	Barbara Stallings	Jeanette Diehl
West Burlington	Robert W. Stallings	Jeanette Diehl



**BREAKFAST CREW.** Columbus Junction Lions serve up a biscuits & gravy breakfast in the fall. Above, the kitchen crew is all smiles in the serving window. Right, Lion Benjamin Quint keeps the beverages flowing.



**FOUNDING MEMBER.** District Governor Mike Renken (right) presents Lion Don Aldrich with a 50-year Charter Monarch Chevron Award during the Keosauqua Lions Club's 50-year anniversary celebration. See more photos in the digital section.

## District 9NW

District Governor  
Mike Mulroney

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Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

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**VISION SCREENING.** The Peterson Lions Club sponsors the Kidsight program for Storm Lake and surrounding area schools. They have tested over 250 preschoolers for eye diseases and potential sight problems.

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Akron	Sandy Koch	Dolores Watson
Akron	Dennis Supalla	Dolores Watson
Akron	Dave Magwire	Dolores Watson
Badger	Michael Hedron	Roger Curtis
Boone	Jordan T. Icenogle	Michele Hull
Churdan	Jake Berns	Don Ferguson
Fort Dodge Evening	Cody A Sleiter	Rick Jones
Orange City	Ryan Mcewen	Mike Stokes



**THE RIGHT TO VOTE.** Lions served the Webster County community as precinct election officials at the Lions Den in Fort Dodge on Nov. 5. Over 500 citizens voted at the Lions Den on election day. Lions Mike and Doug have served as PEOs for many years. Pictured (L-R) are Lion Mike Mulroney, Peggy Wilson, Carla Shimon, Joann Sunken, Lion Doug Kinseth and Tim Hanneman.



**LET THE MUSIC PLAY ON.** The Akron Lions Club presents a \$250 check to the Akron Opera House building fund.



**THANKS FOR HELPING.** Akron Lions Club President Dee Watson (center) presents a \$300 check to the local FFA in gratitude for helping with the club's recent Omelet Breakfast.

## District 9NE

District Governor  
Chris Waring

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Jesup, Iowa 50468

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A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the joint NE-NC District Convention on Nov. 15-16!

The weekend was filled with fun, service, and generosity. Friday's Dinner in the Dark was a great success, raising \$400 for Leader Dogs for the Blind. Past Council Chair BJ Blahnik from Wisconsin inspired us with his story of how the words of a Lion on a plane led him to Leader Dogs for the Blind and how it changed his life (pictured left).



On Saturday, we had a spirited moment when the gavel was "stolen," leading to a passing of the hat that collected \$800 to help with repairs to the Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp bus. And the grand finale? A pie in the face of DG Chris, raising an incredible \$890 for LCIF! Past International Director Ardie Klemish held the winning ticket to allow her to throw the pie (pictured right).



Your participation and support made this event truly memorable. Together, we're proving that Lions can make a difference while having fun! See more photos on Pages 28-29.

### Service and Membership – A Perfect Partnership

In Lions, "We Serve" is more than our motto — it's what we do. Service is the heart of Lions, while members are the hands and feet that make our work possible. Together, service and membership fuel each other, helping us make a bigger impact in Iowa communities.

#### Service Brings People Together

From food drives to vision screenings, our service



**CONVENTION HONOREES.** 9NE Lions receive Presidential Certificates of Appreciation, the fourth highest award presented by Lions International, at the District 9NE/NC Convention. Pictured (L-R) are DG Chris Waring with award recipients Dennis Litterer, Dale Schrad and Richard Shaefer.

projects address real needs while showing the community what Lions can accomplish. These projects don't just help others, they also inspire people to join us. When we invite volunteers or community members to participate in projects, they see firsthand how rewarding it is to serve.

#### Growing Through Service

Here are simple ways to connect service and membership:

1. Host Exciting Projects: Plan activities that unite people and make a difference.
2. Share Stories: Post photos, videos, and stories of your projects to social media or local news to show what Lions do.
3. Invite Volunteers: After people help with a project, ask them to join your club and keep the momentum going.

#### Service Strengthens Us All

Helping others attracts new members and energizes current ones. Working together on projects builds connections and pride in our clubs. It shows the power of teamwork and gives everyone a reason to stay involved.

#### A Simple Goal for December

Let's end the year strong by growing through service. Each act of service is a chance to invite new members and make a bigger impact. More members mean more hands, and more hands mean more service. Together, we can do even more for our communities.

This December, as we serve, let's also grow. Because together, we serve – and together, we thrive.

# Making Your Mark

**BELLE PLAINE** handed out meals for the Meals On Wheels program.

**CALMAR** held a Pancake Feed with funds donated to LCIF Disaster Relief.

**CEDAR FALLS** labeled bags at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

**DECORAH** did its semi-annual highway cleanup in conjunction with the Mark S. Cady Day of Public Service (see story on Page 24).

**GARNAVILLO** sorted 12,456 cans and bottles.

**HAWKEYE** sold raffle tickets to give away donated frozen turkeys to raise funds for Christmas gifts for "Secret Families."

**HUDSON** refurbished park benches in the community (pictured right).



**JANESVILLE** made monetary contributions to LCIF, Iowa Lions Foundation, KidSight, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Camp Courageous and Camp Hertko Hollow.

**NEWHALL** hosted an annual Halloween party for the city of Newhall, serving a free meal before Trick-or-Treating and gave out donated prizes (pictured below).



**WESTERN DUBUQUE** conducted a food drive for the Elementary Weekend Backpack Program, receiving over 1,000 individual servings.

**WEST UNION** participated in the annual Trunk or Treat held in downtown West Union with over 700 children in attendance; helped put up Christmas decorations at West Union Recreation Park for the Festival of Lights.

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Cedar Falls	Eric Rosburg	Adrian Talbot
Denver	Denise Ulrich	Bruce Piehl
Dubuque Noon	Sandy Dremmel	Joshua Hickey
Hopkington	Glen Rickey	Douglas Melchert
Hopkington	Kristen Rickey	Douglas Melchert
Independence	Brian White	Harold Freeman
Nashua	Virginia Olsen	Dennis Litterer
Shellsburg	Marge McDonald	Edward Shaeffer
West Union	Mark Baumler	LeRoy Soppe



**HOLIDAY SPIRIT.** West Union Lions Club members assemble one of many holiday displays at West Union Recreation Park for the West Union Festival of Lights.

*We are sorry for the loss  
of these dedicated Lions*

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Cedar Falls	Ronald King	60 years
Cedar Falls	Sylvester Van Hove	53 years
LaPorte City	Glen Moore	40 years
LaPorte City	Galen Peckham	26 years
Nashua	John Larson	48 years
Waverly	Roger Lee Bluhm	56 years

# Give Sight, Give Love

By PDG Bill Shutters

Iowa Lions Foundation Trustee

In 1954, Dr. Alson E. Braley, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa, needed to perform a cornea transplant. The corneal tissue for the patient's left eye was shipped from New York and arrived near the end of the 36-hour window the tissue was considered safe to transplant. It was one of the first corneal transplants in Iowa and Dr. Braley saw the need for an eye bank in the Midwest.

At the 1954 Iowa Lions State Convention at Fort Dodge, he approached the Lions with the idea of an eye bank. The Lions accepted the challenge and over the next year the needed legislation was passed and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB) was established at the University of Iowa Hospitals.

When the same patient later needed a cornea transplant in their right eye, that tissue came from the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank is a non-profit service organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of sight through the recovery, processing and distribution of human ocular tissue for transplantation and research, primarily in Iowa, but also throughout the world.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank remains the only eye bank in Iowa. Each year it provides corneas for over 800 transplants. It is a leader in research in the area of cornea transplantation with cutting-edge technology, outstanding facilities and a world-renowned research team.

The Iowa Lions Foundation was established in 1959 to administer the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

MD9's Legacy Project for the Lions Clubs International Centennial in 2017 was to raise funds for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank to purchase several pieces of equipment needed for research. The project went from January of 2017 to June of 2018. The goal was \$65,000. The Lions exceeded the goal, generously donating over \$67,000. ILEB's research team purchased several key pieces of equipment with these funds through this gift from the Lions Legacy Project:

1. Chemidoc MP Imaging System, which is critical for ILEB's investigation of the effects of diabetes and

other diseases on corneal health;

2. qCPR (quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction) machine, which is used for studying gene expression, or the process by which information from a gene is used in the synthesis of a functional gene product;
3. Nanodrop spectrophotometer, which allows for faster quantification of the amount of DNA, RNA and protein in a tissue sample.

If you visit the ILEB lab, you will see there is a plaque on each machine stating it was funded by the Lions of Iowa.

Then Covid-19 brought everything to a halt.

2025 is the Iowa Lions Eye Bank's 70th anniversary and the Lions of MD9 are celebrating the Iowa Lions Eye Bank 70 years of service to Iowa with "Give Sight, Give Love," a fundraising event to celebrate Iowa Lions' investment in the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

The members of the team leading Give Sight, Give Love are: Dale Schrad, President of the Iowa Lions Foundation; Esther Baker, Iowa Lions Eye Bank Executive Director; PDG Darwin Meyer, Immediate Past President of the Iowa Lions Foundation; PCC Judy Stone; Lion Bernadette Lane, fundraising specialist; PDG Jim Bixler; and PDG Bill Shutters.

Some of the equipment at ILEB is outdated and/or approaching the end of its productive life. A prioritized list of equipment that needs replaced or added to maintain the quality of the program comes to an estimated \$210,000 for total funding.

1. OCT microscope (\$60,500)
2. Refrigerator/freezer for VA lab (\$400-\$800 depending on size)
3. Recording equipment for curriculum development (\$500)
4. pH meter (\$800) and thermal cycler (\$20,000)
5. Monitor/all-in-one computer screen (\$1,000)
6. 37-degree Celsius incubator (\$700-\$800) & pipettes (\$2,000)
7. pH meter for ILEB lab (\$800)

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**

# Join in the January Vision Screening

*By PID Judy Hankom*

*Lions of the United States Service Committee*

The Lions of the United States (LOTUS) Service Committee is encouraging all KidSight screeners to do vision screenings during the week of Jan. 12-19, 2025. This is to honor and recognize the birthday of Lions Clubs International Founder Melvin Jones.

This committee met recently through a Zoom meeting and chose two projects to focus on this year. The first project is the vision screening.

It is understood that many screenings may be completed already for this Lions year. So, we are

asking interested screeners to come up with a new group to screen.

This project was presented at the MD9 Council of Governors meeting held Nov. 1. The governors gave their approval and commitment to this screening project. Another Zoom meeting is to be held soon, and more details will be forthcoming, especially publicity.

I encourage and challenge all screeners to complete an Iowa KidSight screening in January!

Please contact me if you have any questions: 641-494-5911 or email [jrhankcom@earthlink.net](mailto:jrhankcom@earthlink.net).

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

8. One year of ear in-situ recovery kits (\$35,000 for 800 kits).
9. High-speed centrifuge for Eppendorf tubes up to 20,000g (\$5,000), set of microcentrifuge for Eppendorf tubes + vortexer (\$1,300)
10. One year of enucleation instruments (\$11,000 for 300 test kits)
11. Thermal cycler for droplet digital qPCR form Bio Rad (\$60,000)
12. Medical grade refrigerator/freezer for ILEB lab (\$8,000) and a -20-degree Celsius medical-grade freezer (\$2,500)

To give an example, the first item on the list is an OCT microscope (Optical coherence tomography), which provides high-resolution, cross-sectional images of the cornea to allow evaluation of the tissue's suitability for transplantation. It allows the researchers to be better stewards of the gift of sight while delivering the highest quality of tissue to the surgeons. The OCT allows the researchers to measure the thickness of the cornea before processing, as well as after processing to ensure it meets the surgeon's parameters for the surgery being undertaken. It is critical to the work of the Clinical Operations units in Donor Eligibility and Processing.

ILEB's OCT microscope is extremely old and outdated, and the staff has been anticipating the end of its productive life, knowing it could happen without warning. Funding from Give Sight, Give Love would allow an upgrade to a state-of-the-art OCT to replace the obsolete equipment.

The \$210,000 goal will be achieved via a fundraising campaign starting now and continuing through June 30, 2026, budgeted as follows:

1. LCIF Matching Grant: \$105,000.
2. Iowa Lions Foundation: \$40,000.
3. Iowa Lion Clubs and individuals: \$65,000. We have raised this amount before during the Centennial Legacy Project, so we know we can do it again.

**To donate**, send a check to payable to the Iowa Lions Foundation, PO Box 1, Monticello, IA 52310. Be sure to write "Give Sight, Give Love" on the memo line. All funds received will be deposited in a separate Give Sight, Give Love account at the Iowa Lions Foundation.

Individual donations are welcome, as well as donations by clubs. The Iowa Lions Foundation is a 501(c)3 entity, so the donations are deductible for purposes of State and Federal Income Tax.

We ask that you continue to send your normal donations to the Iowa Lions Foundation and the Lions Clubs International Foundation by Lions clubs and individuals.

If you have questions or concerns with regard to Give Sight, Give Love project, please send them to [washutters@gmail.com](mailto:washutters@gmail.com) and we will address them in future issues of *The Iowa Lion*. Also, we will provide additional information on recognitions, pin and patches, public relations, disbursement of funds and updates on the 12 needed items in future issues of *The Iowa Lion* magazine.



**DAY OF PUBLIC SERVICE.** Decorah Lions clean up a section of highway outside of their town as part of the Cady Day of Public Service, an annual service day coordinated by Drake Law School in honor of the late Iowa Supreme Court Justice Mark Cady.



THE IOWA LION

# Decorah Lions Participate in Cady Day of Public Service

*By David Arp  
Decorah Lions Club*

The Decorah Lions Club did their semi-annual highway cleanup on Oct. 26, in conjunction with the Mark S. Cady Day of Public Service.

The Cady Day of Public Service is organized by Drake University Law School and dedicated to late Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady, a Drake alum. The event brings the community together to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Justice Cady and his commitment to public service, access to justice, and civil rights. Attorneys and others throughout the state were invited to join in service to the public or pro bono work on Oct. 25. (Note: We talk about “Cady Day” but projects held in honor of Cady Day of Service on other dates were recognized and celebrated as well!)

With its obvious connection to the Lions motto “We Serve,” participating in the Cady Day of Service is a way to promote the work being done by Lions clubs



and to encourage service-minded Iowans to join Lions if they are not already a member.

Hundreds of volunteers from Davenport to Council Bluffs and beyond the borders of Iowa have helped make Cady Day of Service a huge success. Projects and events held as part of Cady Day have impacted tens of thousands of individuals through community service, legal clinics, and educational programming.

If your Lions club would like to participate in next year’s Cady Day of Service, please visit the [Cady Day of Service page on the Drake University website](#) to register a project.



# ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



## With Heartfelt Gratitude



### From our Program Manager

Dear Iowa KidSight Supporter,

We hope this message finds you well. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping us achieve our mission of providing free vision screenings to children across Iowa.

As we continue our work, we are excited about the future and the potential to expand our reach to underserved areas in Iowa. We cannot do this impactful work without you. Your continued support is crucial to ensuring that every child in Iowa has the opportunity to see clearly and succeed. Thank you for making a difference!

With gratitude,

Chelle Lehman and the Iowa KidSight Team

### FY24 Success Stories

- Milestone Year - Screened our 750,000th Child in Iowa**
- Screened 46,073 Children this Year**
- 2,062 Children Referred to Eye Doctors**
- 407 Active Lion Volunteers**

### Looking ahead:

GOALS	Increase the number of screenings in underserved counties
FUNDRAISING	Cost to provide FREE vision screening for 1 child = ~\$9.60
VOLUNTEER	Reach out to us for ways to get involved
LEADERSHIP	We have established the first Iowa KidSight Medical Advisory Board
SHARE	Please share the great work that Iowa KidSight is doing

### Stay Connected

- [chelle-lehman@uiowa.edu](mailto:chelle-lehman@uiowa.edu)
- 319-353-7616
- [www.facebook.com/iowakidsight/](http://www.facebook.com/iowakidsight/)
- [www.iowakidsight.org](http://www.iowakidsight.org)
- Give to Iowa KidSight [bit.ly/3zyG568](https://bit.ly/3zyG568)

grateful



# ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



**WARM WELCOME.** Members of the Columbus Junction Lions Club greet hungry patrons at the club's Fall Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast. Pictured (L-R) are Lions Kris Johnston, Dorothy Orr and Nancy Oehler Love.



**50-YEAR MEMBER.** District Governor Mike Renken (right) presents Lion Ben Morris with a 50-year Monarch Chevron Award during the Keosauqua Lions Club's 50-year anniversary celebration



**KEY HONORS.** Keosauqua Mayor Melissa Mahon presents longtime member Virgil Morris with a key to the city for his many years of service to the community both with and outside of the Lions.

**ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**

**Clear Lake Evening Lions Club  
50th Anniversary Celebration**

**To Celebrate Our January 27, 1975  
Charter Of The Clear Lake Evening Lions**

**VFW  
219 Main Ave  
Clear Lake, IA 50428**

**January 20, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.  
Social**

**6:30 p.m.  
Dinner & Program**

**Reservations Required  
No Walk Ins**

**Cost \$20.00 Per Person  
RSVP Due January 3, 2025**

**\*No Late Reservations Accepted  
\*No Cancellation Refunds After  
January 3rd**

.....  
**Mail RSVP & Money To  
Clear Lake Evening Lions  
PO Box 527  
Clear Lake, IA 50428**



## **ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**

# **More 9NC/9NE Joint District Convention**



**LCIF PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORTERS.** Past International President Douglas Alexander (far left) presents 9NE Lions (L-R) Bruce Piehl, Sandy Moses, Ron Giddings and Bryan Schaeffer with LCIF Presidential Supporter pins for making personal donations to LCIF.



**DINING BLINDFOLDED.** 9NC Past District Governor Lisa Prochaska navigates Dinner in the Dark blindfolded.



**PIN COLLECTING.** Past District Governors Harold Freeman (left) and Ron Hankom negotiate over pin sales at the vendor tables.

## **ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**



**LEADERSHIP MEDAL.** Past International President Douglas Alexander pins a 2023-2024 International President's Leadership Award on 9NE Past District Governor Dale Schrad. Dale was set to get the award at the MD9 State Convention in June but was unable to make it due to a case of COVID.



**AT YOUR SERVICE.** Denver Leos serve dessert to Dinner in the Dark attendees as Lion Mary Weber scoops ice cream onto slices of pie.



**PASSING THE HAT.** Lion Dennis Litterer collects funds to ransom 9NE District Governor Chris Waring's gavel that went missing during the convention. The money collected was donated to repair costs of the bus at the Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp. Over \$700 was collected to have the gavel returned.

**ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**

# District 9EC Club Excellence Awards

Immediate Past District Governor Rick Baughman presented clubs with the 2023-2024 Club Excellence Awards during the 9EC Fall Rally. To obtain Club Excellence, clubs must meet a set of criteria set by Lions International and submit the application, signed by the previous year's district governor, no later than the August deadline immediately following the Lions fiscal year.



**Davenport Village Lions Club  
Past President Erik Torrison**



**Miles Lions Club  
Past Secretary Valda Johnson**



**Low Moor Lions Club  
Past President Dennis Schroeder**



**Monticello Lions Club  
Past President Carolyn Tonn**



**West Branch Lions Club  
President Craig Verlo**



**Delmar Lions Club  
Past President Brad Taliaferro**

**ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**

# Northwood Lions Celebrate 95 Years



**PRESIDENTIAL HONORS.** Past International President Brian Sheehan presented several International President's Certificates of Appreciation during the Northwood Lions Club's 95th anniversary celebration. Pictured (L-R) are Norlyn Stowell, Debra Harris, Mike Godfrey, Dick Hagen, PIP Brian Sheehan, Gladie Hagen and Lori Sheehan.



**MAKING A POINT.** Past International President Brian Sheehan is animated as ever as he gives a highly-energetic keynote address at the Northwood Lions Club's 95th anniversary celebration.



**VISITING LIONS.** District 9NC dignitaries attend their fellow club's anniversary celebration. Pictured (L-R) are Lion Tony Finch, Immediate Past District Governor Tasha Finch, and Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank Coordinators Dawn and Brett Janssen.



**FRIENDSHIP.** PIP Brian Sheehan presents 9NC District Governor Mike Ravera (left) with a friendship banner.