



Together in Service

MD 17N Newsletter

www.kansaslions17n.com

Volume 1, Issue 10 • April 2008

Upcoming Events

April 16

Wichita Downtown Lions
Pancake Day 7 a.m.-8 pm.
Century II Exhibition Hall

April 18

Knight for the Blind
A Grand Gala to benefit
Leader Dogs for the Blind.
See page 3 for ticket info

May 9

Leadership training
State Office Building
S. Tyler Rd., Wichita
Incoming club presidents
and secretaries should plan
to attend. More details in
May newsletter.

May 28-30

State Convention
Airport Hilton-Wichita

July 6-10

International Convention
Minneapolis, MN
Watch for information
on a bus trip to the
International Convention.

July 16-10

Great Plains Lions
Leadership Institute
Storm Lake, Iowa

September 24-26

USA Canada
Leadership Forum

A Very Personal Message

As we contemplate the future of Lions here in Kansas and its place in our international organization, I offer a few key questions: What critical role has Lions played in its 92-year history? What vital role is Lions playing now? What role will Lions have in shaping the future of serving community and humanitarian needs? How will Lions' vital mission change as we adapt to the evolving needs of our members?

So, what critical role has Lions played over the last 92 years? In any given civic organization, there are those who aspire to the highest level of service and those who choose to be on the cutting edge. And try as they might, many members fail to meet these goals. Hence, Lions was founded to meet these needs and from these roots it grew to become the largest service organization in the world; a cutting-edge organization with its eye on the future and a strong commitment to service.

What vital role does Lions play now? Lions Clubs continue to be a vehicle for members to gather as a tightly knit family. One of the absolute greatest benefits is the many relationships and new friendships we have made through the Lions family. And the benefits don't stop there. We have discovered together many new ways to serve the underprivileged, the visually impaired and the blind. We have gained new insights and ways to approach service that have profoundly impacted our lives, our family and our communities.

What role will Lions have in shaping the future of serving community and humanitarian needs? Someone once said that the best way to predict the future is to create it. Our Lions members will continue to be innovators and leaders. We are-and will continue to be-agents of change in this organization. Have you ever noticed that we never run out of service projects that serve our communities and humanitarian needs? By the time other service organizations learn about the needs, we've already done it.

Finally, how will Lions' vital mission change as we adapt to the evolving need of our members? This one is a tough one for me. Members



**DISTRICT GOVERNOR
BRYCE DAY**

Contact Information

1030 Mission Road
Wellington, KS 67152
Home: 620.326.8500
Work: 620.326.5100
Cell: 620.326.1999
E-mail: bryceday@sutv.com

Continued on page two

A thank you

My fellow 17 N Lions:

Wow! What a ride!

The last few weeks and months have truly been a whirlwind of emotions as I have pursued the endorsement of International Director from our district. Despite the outcome, I remain passionate about my service to others less fortunate than myself, the visually impaired, and the blind. I'm dedicated to the cause of making our world a better place.

Regardless of what the future holds, you have my word that, that commitment will never change on my part. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of you who have been so amazing in your support of me and my efforts to take my enthusiasm and energy for this organization to another level. My Lion family means the world to me and your words and gestures of support and encouragement mean more to me than you'll ever know.

Together in Service,
DG Bryce

Governor's Message

Continued from page one

are the lifeblood of Lions, so this is the place where I need your full attention. Membership has been declining and attendance at our council meetings; Mid-Winter Rally, district conventions and state convention all have continued to go down. Our best salespeople are our members.

As a voluntary service organization we come together to solve problems, meet needs and accomplish goals. What makes Lions unique is in our DNA, our genetic makeup. As members, we are the "owners" and the "workforce" of this amazing organization. As we near the end of our 92nd year, Lions continue to be an influential service organization. But this is no time to rest on our laurels.

We must now more than ever strive to make our organization better-and it all begins with you and me. We, as members, must make an unyielding commitment to introduce LIONISM to qualified prospects daily. We must invite members to come and reintroduce them to our council meetings; Mid-Winter Rally, district conventions and state convention that some of us take for granted. We as members must reach out to others and continue to build on our existing foundation. This essential work cannot be left to anyone else. The future of the district and state begins now. I'm counting on each of you.

Together in Service,
DG Bryce

Everyday Heros, Kansas Style

To celebrate our international theme of "Everyday Heroes" at our state convention in June, we want to showcase the wonderful work our Kansas Lions are doing everyday around our great state.

Please send photos of your club in action to Lion Tonja Wienck by May 1, 2009. Photos can be "hard copy" (printed out-send through the mail or get them to Tonja at any upcoming district convention) or electronic. Just email them to her.

Please include a brief description of what is happening in the photo and identify your club and the individuals in the photo, if possible.

If you have any questions about this project, please don't hesitate to contact Lion Tonja Wienck: 1120 E. 210, Hillsboro, KS 67063; telephone: 620.382.5756 or e-mail: twienck@hotmail.com

Family member dues still offered

While visiting some district conventions in February, I had two occasions where past district governors (PDGs) asked me about the status of the Family Member Dues Program. My conclusion is that, if PDGs are not aware, the majority of our Lions may also be unaware.

The Family Member Dues Program is alive and well and there are no plans to discontinue the program. This program was designed to attract more family members to our Lions clubs by giving them some relief on costs for multiple members of the same family. Up to four additional family members residing at the same address may join the same Lions club and have the privilege of paying no entry fee (International) and also paying only half of the annual **international** dues.

The Lions club secretary must complete the necessary forms (easily completed online in the membership reports section of the Lions Club International website) to activate this privilege.

If you need more information, contact PID Ernie Young, eyoungks@aol.com, or Lions Clubs International Membership and Extension Division at (630) 571-5466 x 304, for additional information.



A Grand Gala to benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind

Saturday, April 18 • 6:30 p.m.

At the Historic Broadview Hotel

400 W. Douglas • Wichita

*Wine & Cheese Reception • Silent Auction • Dinner
Special Guest from Leader Dogs for the Blind • Dance
\$100 per plate • Reservations Requested by April 6*

Contact DG Bryce Day

1030 Mission Road, Wellington, KS 67152

620-326-8500 or 877-326-6100 or bryceday@sutv.com

Make checks payable to Kansas Lions Foundation.

A portion of your ticket is a tax-deductible donation for Leader Dogs for the Blind

Thank you

Lions of District 17-N,

Thank you so very much for your support for my endorsement as a candidate for International Director.

When my name was announced at the District Convention, my mind just went blank! While that rarely happens to me anymore, it did on March 8th.

What I should have said was how much I appreciate that so many of you took your time to attend our convention. We had a great turnout. Our challenge for the future is to promote our convention and give you plenty of reasons to attend and participate.

I should have offered my thanks to Bryce for the leadership he has shown in our district this year and for the good and positive campaign in which we engaged. Thank you, Bryce.

We have an extraordinary group of good leaders who are growing new skills daily. If there is any way that I can help you, just call on me.

You have supported Tom and me in so many ways on our Lions journey. I will give this new challenge everything I have. The Lions organization is the best on this planet!

Lion Anne Smarsh, PCC

Retention tips

The Value of Networking

Give Members Added Value to their Membership

Concept: Chief among a person's motivation to join a Lions club is the desire to help those in need and serve the local and world communities. However, membership in a Lions club offers benefits beyond humanitarian service, including:

- Develop leadership skills
- Meet peers in the community
- Expand one's personal and professional network
- Build prestige as an active community volunteer
- Learn how being a part of the world's largest service club organization can make a difference

While it is important not to let other interests inhibit the club's ability to serve the community, it is possible to feature other member benefits and offer opportunities that will make your club more attractive to potential members.

Giving members the chance to network is an excellent way to add value to their Lions club membership. **Networking** opportunities can be offered in several ways, such as:

- Publish professional interests and expertise along with member contact information in the club directory.
- Allow members to make business announcements at the beginning of each meeting.
- Include news regarding members' professions or business in the club newsletter or Web site. This could be part of a monthly "Member Spotlight" column.
- Have a page featuring members' professions or business in the club newsletter or Web site. Include links to their businesses' Web sites from this page.
- Hold a networking social event or business fair where the focus is on members making professional connections. This can be an informal get together and could include several clubs. (How about trying this at a zone meeting?)
- Encourage members to build an interesting club program around their profession. For example, a doctor could speak about the warning signs of Type II Diabetes; or a landscape architect could give advice about choosing the right trees for your yard.

Networking allows members to make connections or do business with people whom they know on a personal level. That networking strengthens the bonds among Lions and adds value to their individual membership.

Lions, the information above was taken from LCI's website, www.lionsclubs.org.

Perhaps you could discuss these ideas at your next club meeting. While our #1 priority is community service, we have SO many positives to offer to current and prospective members. Take a risk! Try something new! If it works, keep doing it—and improve it! If it doesn't work, then try something else. Thanks for the exceptional work you do in your communities.

~~~Lion Anne Smarsh, PCC  
17-N Retention Chair

*Earth Day—April 22, 2009*

## What are you or your Lions Club going to do for this special day?

**LuRay Watts, District 17 N Environmental Chair**

You might say Earth Day, what is that? Well, back in 1970 a movement that was concerned with the environment started. April 22, 1970 was the first Earth Day. Because of this major concern for the environment the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) came into being. It opened its doors on Dec. 2, 1970. Not that some ideas on environment were not tossed about back in the early 1960's. Earth Day is not only recognized in the United States, but is now worldwide. To learn more on the history and information about the Environmental Protection Agency go to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). The Earth Day Network website is a good place to look at for ideas individuals or a group can do to participate in Earth Day: [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net). And of course, look up our International Lions Clubs website: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org). Click other programs, then click Community & Environment, then click Lions Green Team.

### **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**

#### **REDUCE**-what?

- Use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of standard (Federal law to use compact fluorescents by 2012)
- Styrofoam or plastic cups—use a durable item instead.
- Electricity by unplugging items not in use, turning out lights, etc.
- Use reusable shopping bags instead of plastic ones at the store.
- Gas or electricity consumption by turning the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Check with utility companies for more ideas.
- Car emissions-walk or ride a bicycle instead of driving when your destination is a close distances away.

These are only a few examples. Ask yourself—How more efficiently can I use my current consumption of natural resources?

#### **REUSE**-what?

- Clothing—give away or resell those items or even use them as rags.
  - Coffee grounds put on rose bushes.
- The main question here is if you can't use it—Can someone else or something else (like the rose bushes/coffee grounds) use it without it being thrown away.

#### **RECYCLE**-what?

- |                                             |               |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| • Plastics (milk jugs, water bottles, etc.) | • Aluminum    |
| • Newspapers                                | • Cell Phones |
| • Electronics                               | • Card board  |
| • Yard waste                                |               |

The above are only a few. Every time you throw something in the trash can—think, can I recycle this somehow instead of just trashing it?

Contact your local city or county or trash hauling company for recycle opportunities in your area. Don't forget to ask about household hazardous waste (oil, house paint, unused chemicals, batteries, etc.) recycling too. A Kansas website that is really good go to: [www.kskor.org](http://www.kskor.org).

What away to show off that LIONS are concerned about the Environment by wearing a MD-17 Kansas Environmental Pin on EARTH DAY. I have only 10 pins left at \$5.00 each. Give me a call 316-722-7699 or just e-mail me at [123la-watts@prodigy.net](mailto:123la-watts@prodigy.net) to let me know you want to purchase one.

We need to make Every Day an Earth Day!!!!

P.S. Send me an e-mail if you or your club does something extraordinary for Earth Day-April 22 this year!

## It's time for elections!

Club elections must be completed by April 30, 2009 and sent to Lions Club's International. Please use the internet to file your PU101 or contact the Vice District Governor by e-mail at [djfunke@cox.net](mailto:djfunke@cox.net) with the names and addresses.

Please make sure to update all e-mails, phone numbers and other contact information before sending. This information is used for our Kansas State Lions Directory. If we don't have a good address or e-mail it is hard to send newsletters and timely Lions material to club officers. Let's be the first district in the state to have ours into LCI.



**Celebrate  
Earth Day  
April 22, 2009**

# We're moving ahead—new clubs and new members!

**By VDG Dan Funke**

I would like to thank the many Lions who encouraged me during 17N's Convention to work more with our Lions Clubs in the district to increase membership and to go full steam ahead with extension in the district. Only with increased membership and more clubs can we increase the service to our communities.

During the past two months our district has made great strides in both membership and the development of new clubs. On Wednesday, March 25, I was honored to send in the completed charter of the new Hutchinson Noon Lions Club with 25 members. **Mark your calender and watch for details about their Charter Night on Saturday, May 2.** I know that Governor Bryce is completing the paperwork for the new Bel Aire Lions Club and will soon have it sent to International.

Newly elected Vice District Governor Tom Smarsh has been busy working in several communities to get the ball rolling to start new Lions Clubs. We are in hopes that we can announce a least one more new club next month. If you would like to be a part of the extension of new clubs, please call or e-mail me.

## ***Clubs showing growth!***

Special congratulations to the following clubs for obtaining more than 10% membership growth since the beginning of the Lions year.

1. Maize
2. Newton Mid-Day
3. Walton
4. Arlington
5. Kingman
6. Rose Hill
6. Goddard
8. Valley Center

Congratulations to the following clubs for achieving a net membership of 1 – 9% since last July 1.

1. Park City
2. Hesston
- 3 Inman
- 4 Oxford
- 5 Conway Springs
- 6 Little River
- 7 Hutchinson Breakfast
8. Medicine Lodge

In order for us to be a Quality District we must have more than 50% of our clubs have a net increase in membership. It just takes a little time and effort from each of us to accomplish this, and it allows us to better serve our communities with more service. If you need a speaker on membership or extension please call me and I will be glad to make sure you have a program

## ***A Personal Note***

I would personally like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the Little River Lions Club for inviting Lion Tom Smarsh and I to their last club meeting. We were both amazed at the historical knowledge and memorabilia that club had of PIP Claude DeVorss during his years of serving our association.

I was privileged to talk to the Little River Lions Club about what benefits they receive by belonging to our International and State Lions Organization. During the meeting I visited with many of their members and was amazed at the amount of community spirit this club has. They told me of the many projects that they were involved with and at the meeting they presented an award to a non Lion for being the Citizen of the Year.

I was also introduced to four prospective members at the meeting who told me that this club was intent on growing so that they could do more projects in the community. I am proud to report that 3 out of the 4 prospective members filled out applications that night and I am sure they will get the other prospective member to join by the next meeting.

The club's dedication to taking care of the community was evident in the tree trimming and removal project they do in the community, both as a fundraiser and a service. It is obvious that they do a lot of work for a small price. Congratulations Little River Lions Club for exemplifying the motto "We Serve"

## ***Leader Training Scheduled***

Club Officer Training for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers

**May 9, 2009 at the State Office Building, 231 S. Tyler, Wichita.**

More information will be sent to current club officers by April 15, 2009

## **Newsletter deadline**

Something for the next newsletter: a club event, success story or something else to share?

Deadline for the May newsletter is April 20. Send articles and photos to [bfunke@activeagingonline.com](mailto:bfunke@activeagingonline.com).

Our goal is to have the newsletter distributed electronically before the first day of the month.

The newsletter—and past newsletters—are available on the website: <http://www.kansaslions17n.com>.

# **Share your best project**

As Lions, we are always looking for new ways to help our communities, raise money for good causes and recruit new members.

The Kansas Leos are currently working on collecting information from Lions to compile into a book that could be shared with all clubs around the state. This will allow clubs to get new ideas for projects, fundraisers, and member recruitment and share their great ideas with others. Leos are collecting this information by conducting face-to-face interviews and also by soliciting the information via regular or e-mail.

To assist with this project, simply complete the form and send to the state Leo chair. The form can be found on the Kansas Lions website, the Kansas Lions Foundation website, and the Kansas Leos website. (web addresses listed below). Or contact:

Lion Tonja Wienck, MD 17 Leo Chair  
1120 E. 210  
Hillsboro, KS 67063  
620.382.5756  
[twienck@hotmail.com](mailto:twienck@hotmail.com)

Kansas Lions website: [www.kansaslions.org](http://www.kansaslions.org)

Kansas Lions Foundation website: [www.kansaslionsfoundation.org](http://www.kansaslionsfoundation.org)

Kansas Leos website: [www.kansasleos.net](http://www.kansasleos.net)

# **The Clearwater Lions Club Train Ride**



- Saturday, May 2, 2009
- Three Departure Times
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - 11:30 a.m.
  - 2:00 p.m.

The train will depart from the South Central Kansas Education Service Center located at 13939 Diagonal Road in Clearwater and will travel to Conway Springs and back.

## **Ticket Prices**

Ages 13 & Older....\$15.00

6 to 12.....\$10.00

5 & Younger sitting on lap....Free

Tickets are available at Home Bank & Trust or First State Bank & Trust in Clearwater or Contact Steve Hatfield at 620-584-2428 or [stevenphatfield@hotmail.com](mailto:stevenphatfield@hotmail.com)

# District Convention Highlights



**Above: DG Bryce Day recognizes Tytus Cornejo with an International President's Award during the Sunday night banquet. Also pictured, from left, are PID Rick Meyers and PIP Bill Wunder.**

**At right: Lion Mike Webb of Wichita Airport addresses the audience after his club presented him with a Melvin Jones Fellowship.**





**PID Rick Meyers of Nebraska was the district's special guest during the March 7 and 8 convention.**

**Below left: Goddard Lion Wanda Groves, center, and Connor and Taylor Heersche helped out with the entertainment during the Saturday night social event. A threatening thunderstorm cut short the fun.**

**At right, Council Chair Tom Badger was certainly in the St. Patrick's Day spirit!**



**We're on the web!**  
**[www.kansaslions17n.com](http://www.kansaslions17n.com)**

**Visit our website for the newest information about  
Lionism in Distict 17N.**

**Resources to help you include a complete list of district leaders, a calendar of events, a place to read or download and print the district newsletter, links to sites of special interest to Lions and much more.**

51st Annual Wichita Downtown Lions

# PANCAKE DAY & SAUSAGE

**\$5**

Thursday, April 16, 2009 | 7 :00 am to 8:00 pm  
Century II Exhibition Hall | 225 West Douglas

Fun for the whole family!

Fast moving lines for easy entry.

Featuring more than 50 entertainers.

And no wait between 2 pm and 4 pm.

**FOR TICKETS** call the Downtown Lions Club at 316.264.4743  
or pick them up at Wichita Kwik Shop Stores, starting March 15th.

Event proceeds will support the programs of the  
Wichita Downtown Lions Club and Youthville.



**Youthville**

Adoption | Foster Care | Counseling  
Psychiatric Residential Treatment



**KwikShop**



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## Sponsorship Opportunity 2009 State Lions Convention Booklet

*The 2009 state convention booklet is a GR-R-R-E-A-T way for Lions, Leos, Lions Clubs and businesses to support the state convention. Clubs, why not use your space to promote your favorite service activity or fundraiser? Celebrate your success!*

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### Check appropriate box.

- Full Page - \$100**
- Half Page - \$50**
- Quarter Page - \$25**
- Individual Sponsorship Listing - \$10**
- Individual Sponsorship Listing (Bold) - \$15**



Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

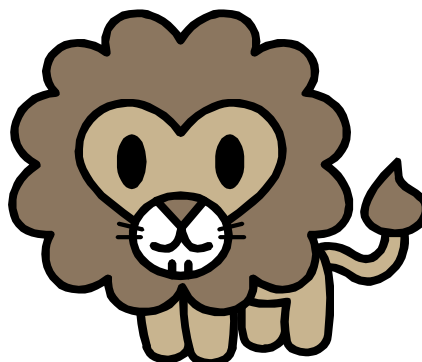
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return with your payment to: Laura Olson-Oxley, PDG  
9820 West 3<sup>rd</sup> North, Wichita, KS 67212 ~~ e-mail: [laura@elbailer.com](mailto:laura@elbailer.com)

**Deadline for sponsorships is April 24, 2009**

***THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE KANSAS LIONS***

# LIONS SHARE



## KANSAS LIONS STATE CONVENTION

May 28—30, 2009

**Thursday**—DGE and spouses review meeting

**Friday**—State Council business meetings

Seminar—service learning opportunity

Friday night fun at the Late Show with David Lion-man

**Saturday**—Kansas Lions band concert

Afternoon convention session

Saturday night celebration banquet

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

**International President Al Brandel & Lion Dr. Maureen Murphy**

Bring your  
stuffed LION  
TOYS for the  
Greensburg  
Hospital



**KANSAS LIONS  
STATE CONVENTION**

**WICHITA AIRPORT HILTON**  
2098 AIRPORT ROAD  
PHONE 316.945.5272  
[www.wichitaairport.hilton.com](http://www.wichitaairport.hilton.com)  
Lions rate \$91/night