



Together in Service

MD 17N Newsletter

www.kansaslions17n.com

Volume 1, Issue 11 • May 2009

Upcoming Events

May 2

Hutchinson Noon Club Charter Night

May 2

Mexican Dinner sponsored by Newton Clubs at the Newton Rec Center, 415 Poplar, 11 am-2 pm and 4-7 pm Adults \$6.

May 28-30

State Convention
Airport Hilton-Wichita

June 13

Newton Clubs host Mobile Screening Unit.

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, Iow
Details on page 8

September 24-26

USA Canada Leadership Forum
Memphis, TN
www.usacanadalionsforum.org

We Are Changing the World— And That's What It's All About

WOW!!! Do I need to say anymore than that? If you weren't in attendance at the Knight for the Blind Grand Gala on April 18, you missed out on the event of the year in this district. To date we have raised more than \$30,000 for the Leader Dogs for the Blind organization. This could not have been accomplished without the dedication of Lions in this district; but Lions throughout the state as well.

You know they say there comes a point in your life when you realize who matters, who never did, who won't anymore and who always will. So don't worry about people from your past, there's a reason why they didn't make it to your future.

After this experience I can say without a doubt those individuals with whom I worked on this project are the kinds of people who will always matter. I'm blessed and thankful for dedication of the Knight for the Blind committee. They have worked endlessly for this great cause. I would mention each of them by name, but I know they feel like I do. **WE DO NOT NEED RECOGNITION** for serving in a great organization such as Lions that enables us opportunities to follow our calling for serving the visually impaired, blind and the underprivileged. Martin Luther King said this ...“Everyone has the power of greatness; Not for fame, but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.” This committee exemplifies GREATNESS.

What we (our committee, all of you who participated, and other Lions, individuals and companies from around the state) were able to accomplish through the Gala fundraising event is truly phenomenal. While the committee members all believed such an event could be successful, we weren't sure to what degree it would be. Reflecting back, there are some lessons to be learned here that apply not only to the NEXT event like this, but all of our Lion work. First of all, we've got to aim high....set our goals



**DISTRICT GOVERNOR
BRYCE DAY**

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Continued on page 2

Governor's Message: We Make a Difference

Continued from page 1

above and beyond what we've accomplished before and work as hard as we can to reach them—great things WILL result. Next, we MUST continue to seek new opportunities and look for unique strategies to serve. We CAN try things we haven't before. We'll never know how much we can accomplish unless we continue to be innovative and push fear of failure and the unknown

to the side. Finally, we have to believe in our cause and ourselves. We all know how valuable the services provided by Leader Dog are...we have to believe that others we encounter will want to be a part of something so great...and this applies to all our Lion projects and service work. My final thought regarding the Gala is



this...for months you have read in my newsletters and heard me say that it only takes 3% of the population to change the world...guess what, folks... the number of people participating in the gala was almost exactly 3% of our current Lion membership. We ARE changing the world and that's what it's all about.

Now let's turn to another great event coming our way. The Kansas Lions State Convention is in the final planning stages and what a conference it will be! We'll be hosting International President Al Brandel and his wife, Lion Maureen. Among the various meetings and seminars, we'll have fun on Friday night with the Not-So-Late Show with Bryce Day featuring the Dale Rein Orchestra. Don't ask—you'll just have to show up to see it for yourself! Lion Maureen will be making a presentation during the Saturday luncheon following the State Lions Band Concert. The weekend promises to be packed full of these and other interesting and exciting things. Make your reservations now.

Together in Service,
DG Bryce

Knight for the Blind Grand Gala a Success

Leader Dogs for the Blind received a major boost from Kansas Lions on Saturday night, April 18 as nearly 200 Lions and non-Lions gathered at the Broadview Hotel in Wichita for the 1st Annual Knight for the Blind Grand Gala. The evening, full of music, food, fun and giving, was emceed by Lion Shelley Hansel and KAKE TV news anchor Jeff Herndon. Guests were treated to a wine and cheese reception and social hour followed by a sit-down dinner. Silent auction bidding took place throughout the evening, on a wonderful array of items generously donated by many area businesses and individuals.

Highlighting the evening were two keynote presentations. The first was by Kansas' own PDG Richard "Buss" Brauer, who presented emotional insights about several recent Leader Dog recipients. Following PDG Buss was Leader Dog president Greg Grabowski, who shared several of the recent innovations taking place at Leader Dog including the introduction of the "Trekker" and "Trekker Breeze" GPS systems to assist clients in mobility and navigation. Youth camps and programs for the deaf and blind are all part of the great work that Leader Dog does to further the independence and mobility of the blind and visually impaired.

After the speakers finished, guests submitted their final silent auction bids, and winners were announced. Everyone danced the evening away as DJ Milton Bradley played a variety of hits. The event was a wonderful success, resulting in donations of over \$30,000 for Leader Dogs for the Blind. Many 17N clubs were represented at the gala along with other non-Lion guests and businesses. The evening was a wonderful melding of Lions and non-Lions coming together to support a wonderful organization founded and supported by Lions for 70 years.

The committee would like to thank all the individual Lions and clubs who not only believed in the value of this project but supported it in thought, word, and deed. Your encouragement and contributions have made a huge impact for Leader Dogs for the Blind and the blind and visually impaired.

For all of you who know how much fun we had this year and those of you unable to participate in our first event, mark your calendars now...the 2nd Annual Knight for the Blind Grand Gala is tentatively scheduled for the last Saturday in April, 2010. You don't want to miss the opportunity to be a part of this amazing experience!

Dancing the night away—Lions capped an evening of celebration for a successful fund raising effort for Leader Dogs for the Blind at the Knight for the Blind Grand Gala.

The event raised more than \$30,000 for Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Mich.



I Always Wondered. . . .

I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.

--Lily Tomlin

LIONS ALL:

Please take a few minutes—right now—to help. The LEO's of Kansas are compiling a book of resources for all of us. We are asking ALL the clubs in Kansas to contribute success stories, stories about service projects, fundraisers, recruiting or even volunteer recognition.

Will you help, please, to make this book one of the best resources we've ever had? A Lion in Wichita said, "I wish we knew what other clubs are doing. Somebody should write a book." Well, guess what? Somebody is.

Thanks for you help.

~Lion Anne Smarsh, PCC
17-N Retention Chair

Send your stories to Tonja Wienck, MD-17 LEO chair, by May 15, 2009.

You can e-mail twienck@hotmail.com

or mail to:

Lion Tonja Wienck
MD 17 Leo Chair
1120 E. 210
Hillsboro,KS 67063

LION INTERVIEW FORM

Service Project Book

Lion Name _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Club _____

Type of Project: _____ Service Project _____ Fundraiser
_____ Membership Recruitment _____ Other

Duration: _____ One-time _____ On-going

Name of Project: _____

Minimum number of members needed for project: _____

Project Description:

(Use additional pages as needed).



A sunny April afternoon is the perfect time to set up some tables, haul out boxes of glasses and have a party...a glasses sorting party that is.

Lions from clubs around the Wichita area showed up at the state office for an hour or two...some for three or four hours...and sorted thousands of pairs of glasses: the first step needed to prepare the used eyeglasses collected around the state for shipment around the world to bring the gift of sight.

It was a dusty job, but someone had to do it. *We Serve!*



Club Resources to Promote Healthy Vision Month

Did you know that more than 11 million Americans have common vision problems such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, and/or presbyopia? While this number may sound alarming, the good news is that these problems can be detected through a comprehensive dilated eye exam and are easily corrected with the use of prescriptive eyewear such as glasses or contact lenses.

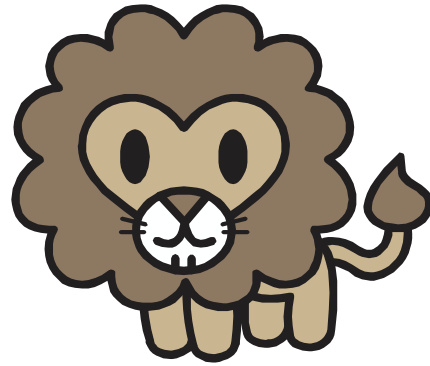
May is Healthy Vision Month, a national eye health observance in the United States. The focus this

year is to reduce uncorrected visual impairment due to refractive errors. Healthy Vision Month is sponsored by the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) of the National Eye Institute. Lions Clubs International is a member of NEHEP and works closely with them to promote healthy vision in our communities.

In order to help your Lions Club educate the public about healthy vision month and the role regular eye exams play in maintaining good

eye health, NEHEP has developed a variety of resources available in a Healthy Eyes ToolKit. It includes a variety of resources such as web links, e-cards, print and radio public service announcements (PSAs), sample text messages, drop-in articles, fact sheets, and downloadable posters, bookmarks, and stickers that can be used to promote the importance of eye exams. <http://www.healthyvision2010.nei.nih.gov/hvm/> and <http://www.nei.nih.gov/healthyeystoolkit/>

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

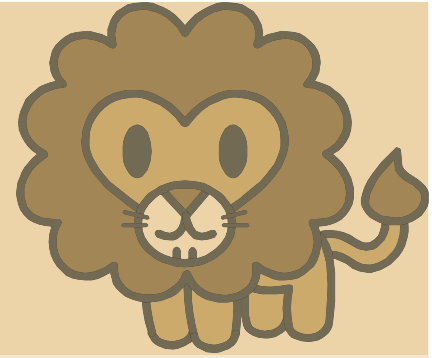
2098 AIRPORT ROAD

PHONE 316.945.5272

www.wichitaairport.hilton.com

Lions rate \$91/night

LIONS SHARE REGISTRATION FORM



KANSAS LIONS STATE CONVENTION May 28-30, 2009

NAME _____ Club _____

NAME _____ Club _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Registration fee, per person	_____ X	\$5.00 =	_____
Thursday night dinner	_____ X	\$12.50 =	_____
Friday lunch	_____ X	\$13.00 =	_____
Friday dinner	_____ X	\$15.00 =	_____
Saturday lunch	_____ X	\$13.00 =	_____
Saturday celebration banquet	_____ X	\$20.00 =	_____
		TOTAL	_____

Registration due by May 22, 2009
Checks payable to Kansas Lions Convention
 Mail to Pat Agnew, Kansas Lions Convention
 231 South Tyler Road, Wichita, KS 67209
 E-mail kansaslions@aol.com



Convention headquarters:
WICHITA AIRPORT HILTON
 2098 AIRPORT ROAD
 PHONE 316.945.5272
www.wichitaairport.hilton.com
 Lions rate \$91/night
 Reservations due May 14

Convention highlights—don't miss this one!

The state convention is the place to celebrate the accomplishments of the year, enjoy fellowship with Lions from across the state and most of all have some fun!

And this year's convention, May 28, 29 and 30, offers all of the above in generous measure. Our special guests for the weekend are International President Al Brandel and his wife, Lion Maureen Murphy of New York. Convention headquarters are at the Airport Hilton Hotel.

Convention kick-off is a dinner Thursday evening at the Airport Hilton. There will be some musical entertainment and lots of time to meet and greet Lions from near and far.

Friday is a full day with meetings in the morning, a lunch hosted by the PDG Club and a don't-miss program on Civil War music by J.C. Combs, professor emeritus of music from Wichita State University. He will have an extensive collection of Civil War artifacts and perform authentic period music.

Later Friday afternoon, if you've only heard of Facebook or Twitter, come and hear David Kameron, Ph.D., visiting professor at Wichita State University's Elliott School of Communication talk about how Lions Clubs can use social media to help spread the word about our good works.

Lion Tonja Wienk will also talk about using the internet and offer a tour of the new Lions Club International website.

Friday night will feature some home-grown entertainment (see the Governor's column).

One of the not-to-be-missed events at every state convention is the Kansas Lions Band Concert. Young

musicians from across the state have rehearsed four days to bring an exhilarating concert to us at Central Community Church, 6100 West Maple. Dr. John Taylor of Friends University is directing the band this year and always delivers a wonderful morning of music.

Saturday lunch promises an inspiring program with Dr. Maureen Murphy, wife of our International President Al Brandel, talking about September 11, 2001. The Leos of Kansas have put together a program "Everyday Heroes," to debut at the luncheon.

Business sessions and the memorial service will be held Saturday afternoon.

The weekend of celebration will end Saturday evening with the banquet and keynote address by President Brandel.

Salute the governors who have served this year and meet the leaders who will serve next year as they are formally introduced at the banquet.

Stuffed Lion Project

As a special service project, the convention committee is collecting stuffed lion toys to be given to the Greensburg Hospital for their pediatric patients.

Bring stuffed lion toys—new or gently used—to the convention and look for the collection boxes.

Don't miss out—your convention registration form is inside!



We're on the web!

www.kansaslions17n.com

Visit our new website for the newest information about Lionism in District 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.