



9SW Lions Newsletter

We Serve



July 2026



Hi! It's Chris Wilkins!

As your incoming leader of 9SW, I truly have a hard act to follow! **Immediate PDG Beverly Fletcher has been a lifesaver** hopping into the role of DG so that I could accomplish my training AND MBA degree from Drake last year. She achieved some awesome goals, and will continue to be part of the team into the following year. We will build on her hard work to continue 9SW's position as a powerhouse in our Multiple District and Constitutional Area.

What should we expect out of the '26-27' Lions year? Expect BIG. Expect FUN. Expect MORE.

Plan to **see your fellow Lions coming to your events** to help with service. Plan to **see specialty and branch clubs formed** to appeal to unique new members. Plan for **more involvement from the local schools** with new LEO and Cub clubs. We will **see our events become a destination**; a place you want to be.

These goals are tailored to bolstering YOUR clubs, because my philosophy on leadership is that 'to whom much is given, much is required'. I am here to wash YOUR feet, and take this duty seriously. The organization is only as strong as its individual clubs. As its individual members. I'm here to SERVE.

I've saved the least for last! Who am I?

I am a native of Murray, IA; born and bred. I became a Nuclear Machinist's Mate Petty Officer in the US Navy. I joined the service also to serve. Afterwards I moved back to southern Iowa to start a family. I became a city mail carrier for the USPS, a job I loved. I traveled to every town I possibly could to fill-in for vacationers: In Iowa towns such as Creston, Bedford, Corning, Atlantic, Lenox, Osceola, Villisca, Winterset, and Clarinda. I adored meeting new people (which if you haven't noticed, you'll see for yourself).

Eventually, I moved back to Murray with my "main squeeze", Lion Melissa, and began my business as a Life Coach focusing on outdoor excursions. In particular, kayaking; however I've taken on all-comers to do group goal-setting, individual coaching, distance trips, and a diversity of events that helped my clients grow. And as our Zone 5 Chair Roger Foelske is fond of telling people, I also drive Amish families across the country for weddings and family gatherings, assimilating with them for days at a time and eating perhaps too much... You might condense my life into this: **I love people of all kinds; to experience them, to learn about them, to serve them.**

I look forward to serving you as your 9SW District Governor this year!

TRAINING: District Governor Elect Christopher Wilkins and your Global Extension Chair Allen Zobel attended the **Summit 1.5 Membership Growth** training sessions to "unite and ignite" us as a powerful service organization in the Lions Association.

UNITE AND IGNITE: Be ready to get fired up and by attending the **Unite and Ignite** work session on **August 8th, 2026 at the DMACC Campus in Boone**. The workshop runs from 9 am until 3 pm and the committee will provide you a free meal. This is a friendly facility with plenty of classrooms. Be on the lookout for more class details, the agenda, and the registration form in the near future. They will emphasize

- Leadership
- Service
- Lions Portal
- Marketing and Visibility
- Member Engagement

Examine the [Agenda](#) for what sessions are available when.

Explore the [Session Directory](#) for workshop descriptions.

Use a [Registration Form](#) or follow the instructions to enroll by email.

Print your own [RSVP flyer](#).

LERC UPDATE: We are all set to recycle eyeglasses in their Exira Lion Building. All the supplies and equipment are now secured in Iowa. We are expecting even more donations from District 9NW and the Fort Dodge Lions. We are fortunate to have procured two lensometers so we will be able to process lots of glasses in the future.

LERC TRAINING: The Exira Lions hosted their first training session for recycling used eyeglasses on July 1st. Fifteen people attended the training. Check below under Service Activities to read my story of how the training went.

SOLES4SOULS UPDATE: 9SW Lions have collected more than 13,000 pairs of shoes with limited participation from clubs. Now we have Highway 52 Storage Unit just east of Indianola with contact to Roger Foelske and a storage unit in Glenwood under the direction of Reg Hockabout. Call the day before to make sure they are there to open the facility to make arrangement for delivery of your shoes. Clear Lake Lions and two other clubs maybe opening centers along highway 20 or so in northern Iowa. Lions are serving and recycling. [S4S Storage Locations](#)

BIG NEWS ON NEW MEMBER DUES!

*** FOR ONE YEAR ONLY ***

During this Lions Year from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, your 9SW District will be paying the \$35 Registration fee for ALL your new members inducted into your club!

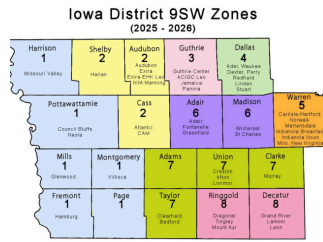
WIN - WIN

WIN # 1 - You get a new member!

WIN # 2 - New member saves \$35!



NEW 9SW ZONE MAPS AVAILABLE TO PRINT



Lions District 9SW Zones, Clubs, and Counties

Iowa District 9SW Zones (2025 - 2026)

Zone	Town	County
1	Adams	Adams
2	Adams	Adams
3	Adams	Adams
4	Adams	Adams
5	Adams	Adams
6	Adams	Adams
7	Adams	Adams
8	Adams	Adams
9	Adams	Adams
10	Adams	Adams
11	Adams	Adams
12	Adams	Adams
13	Adams	Adams
14	Adams	Adams
15	Adams	Adams
16	Adams	Adams

If you would like to look at (or print) the latest 9SW Zone Map, [click the image above](#).

If you would like to look at (or print) the latest Zone Map with a club list of zone numbers and counties sorted by club name, [click the image above](#).

Let's Celebrate!!!
Meet Your NEW Lions!!!
 (And Service Awards)

Let's Celebrate!!!
Share Your Service
Audubon Lions Club



The **Audubon Lions Club** bring their popcorn machine to the City Square every Thursday night and help people enjoy the snack at the weekly Music in the Park

concerts sponsored by the Audubon Public Library. Pictured here is Gary Keller, Linda Keller, Kathy Pozesny, and Barb Jacobsen.
(Contributed by Mike Pozesny)

Exira Lions Club



LERC TRAINING

The Exira Lions Club hosted Lions from the Exira Lions Club, Audubon Lions Club, and the advisors and members of the Exira Leos Club for training at their new Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Center in the Exira Lions clubhouse. [Read Allen Zobel's account here.](#)



Stay Strong to Serve

Dr. Jon Swanson, a physician in Family Health, has volunteered to write articles for our 9SW Newsletter to help us all maintain a better daily lifestyle so that we can better serve our communities longer.

June was Cataract and Osteoporosis Month. Last month Dr. Swanson's article talked about cataracts. This month Dr. Swanson covers the topic of **Osteoporosis**. Next month, Dr. Swanson's article will be about **Lung Cancer**.

Jon has been a member of the Audubon Lions Club for several years.

[Osteoporosis - The Silent Disease](#)

Great Volunteer Opportunity

Dr. Jon Swanson has found a wonderful opportunity for Lions to volunteer and **help raise money for Tori's Angels**. Tori's Angels helps families with children in medical crisis with their medical and living expenses.

[Read How YOU Can Volunteer with Tori's Angels.](#)

IN MEMORIAM:

Forrest Schnobrich, from the Adair Lions Club passed away on June 1, 2026 with 51 years of dedicated service to his club. May he rest in peace.

Ron Bane, from the Lorimor Lions Club passed away on June 25, 2026 with only 2 months of dedicated service to his club. May he rest in peace.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **August 8, 2026 the [Unite & Ignite the Road to MD9](#) Training Convention at DMACC Campus in Boone, Iowa.**
- **September 26, 2026 Tori's Angels Fall Gala at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds**

NOTE: If you would like to reach out to me directly, just click the REPLY link on your email screen. I would love to hear your ideas on how to make Lions more vibrant and meaningful and inclusive of everyone. Looking forward to hearing from you. Chris

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Lions Clubs of Iowa | Lions Clubs of Iowa PO Box 132 | Monticello, IA 52310 US



Try email marketing for free today!