



9SW Lions Newsletter

We Serve



August 2026



President's Message: Rooted in Service with International President Mark S. Lyon

Lions,

Service is the foundation of our organization. It's at the very root of what we do and who we are as Lions.

Meaningful service fuels growth, increases our impact and strengthens our communities and our world. It's why people join us — and why they stay.

That's why my presidential theme this year is "Rooted in Service." I encourage all of us to reconnect with our Lion roots and focus on what matters most. Get creative with your service. Have fun. Look for new ways to meet the needs of your communities. And remember, no act of service is too small — every effort makes a difference.

I look forward to serving alongside you as your international president. Thank you for all the ways you already serve, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

[More thoughts from President Mark Lyon.](#)



Click image above for your own printable PDF file.

- Our first priority is Service. Our commitment to service makes us who we are. When we focus on service, we strengthen our communities, our clubs, and the bonds we share as Lions.
- Our second priority is Membership Growth.
- Our third priority is LCIF. Every Lion needs to support LCIF so LCIF can support our Lions.
- Our fourth priority is Advocacy. We do it through awareness, education, public policy, events, and partnerships.

“BE THE RIPPLE”: Every time you serve, you make a ripple that travels far and wide, touching many lives along the way. Keep improving our clubs and communities to ensure they are places where everyone can thrive.

STAY CONNECTED: Remember how important the personal side of service is: it starts with strengthening our connections.

BRANCH OUT: Engage young people to become Lions to serve with us and GROW with us!

Greetings Fellow Lions!



Before we talk about Month One, let's talk about Month Minus One. Prior to becoming your DG, I was able to learn from some of our best and brightest. Amazing international trainers, mentors from all over the country, phenomenal peers across MD9, and above all else, great men and women from our own District 9SW. PDG Gary Glockoff and IPDG Bev Fletcher paved the way for me to complete training, both LCI and

my Drake University MBA. Without these wonderful Lions, I would not be able to serve you as well as I feel you deserve.

And this year, we have a dynamic and skilled Cabinet! A lot of BIG personalities who work tirelessly to serve 9SW, and to keep me in-line. We have some returning support: IPDG Bev reprises her role as District Secretary! Treasurer Dale Behrends with his banking prowess and kind-hearted demeanor is back. My bright and feisty friend, Juanita Reynard, returns as Administrator & Marketing/IT Chair. My mentor from the start, GET Allen Zobel, is back to help build our new branch and specialty clubs. The "Dynamic Duo" of Ken and Ardie Klemish are serving in more than Leader Dog Chair and GLT respectively, but also as our award-winning LCIF team. Dawn Goodsell, one of my favorite Lions, is serving as GST for both 9SW and MD9, giving a unique connection unlike any other District.

New to the District Cabinet, we have Mike Pozesny, President of the Audubon Lions and our Zone 2 Chair. Check out his marketing work with that club! I expect great things from him. And my new friend, 2VDG Marissa Stone, is a durable and capable addition to the crew. I am so excited to mentor her and to watch as she takes on the duties of DG! Environmental Chair Janet Haynes is also making waves, bringing big improvements to her club and already making plans to ascend the Lions ranks.

Don't worry, we'll get to all of you we missed in time! This is such a great Cabinet, and I know you'll grow to love them as much as I do. Now, to Month One. We had one of the most successful Leadership Training events I have ever witnessed. Rooms were overflowing! This came after a great Cabinet Meeting in Casey, IA. And would you believe that we only went over time 9 minutes?? Those who know me are impressed. We already have meetings underway with the Clarke County area for a specialty club, and talks regarding a Middle River (Madison County) membership drive. We talked about the clubs who partook in the RAGBRAI festivities; Lions whom I served beside from Exira (also their wonderful LEOs), Guthrie Center, Jamaica, Panora, and Greenfield. We are ahead of schedule on some District Goals, and behind on NONE.

Thanks to a glorious team! I hope to work with all our 9SW Lions to not only support these goals, but more importantly, so I can help YOU support your local goals and service activities!

Your Brother-in-Service,

DG Chris

EVERY Lions Convention is like a dream vacation... But Hong Kong was one of the most memorable experiences of my life! The culture, the speakers, the sights; why doesn't everyone go? [Read a snippet of my journey](#) as Iowa was placed on the map for 200 countries/territories around the globe!

Lions care about our youth! It's one of our [8 Global Causes](#). 9SW Lions give scholarships, help develop leadership skills, support high school sports, and instill a sense of service that can follow them the rest of their lives. We also support LEOs Clubs and Youth Exchange Camp; two important programs to read about in this article. With pictures! Read my article about [International Youth Day](#).

- There are many new officers beginning their term this year. Please take the time to make your job easier by reviewing the online [Officer Training Manuals](#).

- **Each club needs to file their 990N Tax Status by November 15th** each year, to prove to the government that they are a non-profit organization. Below is the information that will help your treasurer with this filing.

Training: Treasurer (990N Tax Reporting) [FAQ](#) and [IRS Filing Information](#) and [User Guide](#)

A Reminder from Beverly Fletcher



Peace Poster 2026-2027 Contest Kit, "Harmony in Humanity"

Each kit contains all the materials needed to sponsor the contest in a school or youth group, including complete rules, promotional material and recognition certificates for participants. One kit is needed for each entry sponsored. Kits are available in all eleven languages. **Now is the time to purchase your Peace Poster Contest Kit. The current price is \$11.95.** The shipping of a kit is in addition to the current price of a kit. Here is the link to order a kit.

<https://lionsclubsinternational.myshopify.com/collections/all/products/ppk1>

Save on shipping by ordering the digital version of the kit!

Want to know what's included in the kit? Click [here](#) to view an unboxing video!

Kits are sold from January 15th through October 1st. Orders received after October 1st will be filled based on availability. PEACE POSTER CONTEST KIT #PPK1EN

If you have any questions, please [EMAIL](#) our **9SW District Peace Poster Chair, Gary Richardson.**

NOTE to Peace Poster Chairs: The key contact person at the school is the middle school art teacher. Each club should attempt to contact that person during the first week of school starting.

BIG NEWS ON NEW MEMBER DUES!

*** FOR ONE YEAR ONLY ***

9SW District Pays the \$35 Registration Fee

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

The Portal shows that this month 7 new members have joined a Lions Club and 2 members have rejoined a Lions Club in our District 9SW.

Please send me their induction pictures so that we can feature your new members in the next issue of the newsletter and share them with the rest of the district. DG Chris

Let's Celebrate!!!
Share Your Service

Exira Lions Club





Exira Feeding 600 RAGBRAI Bikers

Exira Lions served a full course mini buffet meal for their noon break. With the heat, many bikers did not stop to eat a full meal until they got to Guthrie Center.

We served 6 different types of sandwiches (even egg salad sandwich), a pasta salad, tomato salad, boiled eggs, devil eggs, giant pickles, pickle juice, multiple desserts, water, tea, Gatorade, and variety of sodas just to name some of our selection. We served over 600 hungry biker guests!. (Contributed by Allen Zobel)

Audubon Lions Club



Audubon Lions, Linda Keller, Verneta Anderson, Rosemary Williamson, Barb Jacobsen, and LERC trainer Juanita Reynard, put their **Lions Eyeglasses Recycle Center (LERC)** training into production. The next day, we delivered 153 pairs of tested glasses to the Exira LERC. Verneta actually sorted and prewashed the glasses at home before this work session. Each pair of glasses was placed over the lens of a lensmeter to measure the power of both the left and right lenses. Then they were placed into a plastic bag with a printed report to find their way to a missionary group who shares them with communities in the Carribean and inner cities in America. (Contributed by Juanita Reynard)

NOTE: LERC wants you to save your non-prescription sunglasses and send them with your normal collected glasses for recycle.

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.

August is the month focusing on Lung Cancer. Read Dr. Swanson's article here about [Lung Cancer](#).

Next month Dr Swanson will be telling us about **Atrial Fibrillation (AFib)**.



Send Dr. Swanson an [EMAIL](#) and let him know of other medical topics that you would like to read about in future 9SW Newsletters.

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

IN MEMORIAM:

No deaths reported..

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 1-8, 2026, 2026 Indianola National Balloon Classic in Indianola, Iowa (Lions will have a food stand)
- August 8, 2026 the [Unite & Ignite the Road to MD9](#) Training Convention at DMACC Campus in Boone, Iowa.
- August 7-8, 2026, Murray's Jamboree in Murray, Iowa
- August 13-23, 2026, Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, Iowa. The MD9 booth will be in the Varied Industries Building. Featuring 9SW DG Chris Wilkins on Aug 23rd only.
- September 19-20, 2026, Tori's Angel fundraiser [Dozer Day](#) at Iowa State Fairgrounds; [Volunteer Opportunities and Signup](#)
- September 26, 2026 Tori's Angels Fall Gala at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds
- November 20-21, 2026 9NW/9SW District Convention in Winterset, Iowa

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

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