



9SW Lions Newsletter

We Serve



September 2026



Greetings Fellow Lions!

As we welcome the blessing of cooler weather, we as Lions should remember our pledge to **be a blessing to our respective communities**. September holds significance as "Child Cancer Awareness Month", and Sept. 10th is "Suicide Prevention Day"; two causes near-and-dear to my heart. [Read about Joey Wilkins' tragic bout with cancer](#), as well as understanding how the weight of depression and stress can be invisible.

And as the leaves begin to paint the landscapes shades of orange and red, **Peace Poster Contest** time has arrived! Contest Chair Gary Richardson, with help from fellow Cabinet Members PDG Allen Zobel and Melissa Means, are on their way to advertising this to *every art teacher in 9SW!*

Be advised: **Poster Kits are only available for purchase until Oct. 1st**, so IF you wish to purchase a kit, please let us know OR follow the link: [Peace Poster Online Resource](#). The theme is "Harmony in Humanity", and we hope to see our brightest young artists show us their vision for peace.

For me, September begins a continual season of bonfires, bringing to mind our **Unite & Ignite event** that was held on August 8th! SO much fun! **An inspirational event filled with collaboration, education, and celebration of Lionism**. Plans are underway already for next year, so be ready!

With the changing season comes an important change to 9SW: Dues. We have consistently had the lowest dues in all of the Multiple District. As every dollar collected through fundraising and donations goes to philanthropy, dues are nearly the **ONLY** way we can pay our administrative costs. That includes the free insurance each and every event we hold is provided through the organization. We will be advertising in multiple places, including the 9SW Newsletter, that there is a proposal for our 6 month **\$6.50 dues to increase to \$8.00.**

This will be voted upon at our 9NW/SW District Convention November 21st.

To support OR vote against this proposal, come to the 9NW/SW District Convention November 21st in Winterset, Iowa.

And after all the leaves fall, you'll get the best view of the rocky cliff-faces and rolling hills of Madison County when you head to the Convention! Commemorating the historic **Covered Bridges of Madison County**, our shared convention will focus on "Building Bridges". And as the birthplace of legendary actor John Wayne, we will honor him with a Western theme.

See our ad here in the newsletter and in the Iowa Lion Magazine!

Anchors Aweigh!



[Click here to get your printable Registration Form](#)

[Click HERE \(or the image\) to read/print the Convention Flyer](#)



Updates from Allen Zobel

Iowa Lions just pulled off a very successful **Unite & Ignite** workshop with skilled instructors teaching multiple sessions in Leadership, Service, Lions Portal, Marketing and Visibility, and Membership Engagement. [Read my report here](#) and plan to join us next year ... in a location in eastern Iowa yet to be determined.

REMEMBER: This is the year to emphasize inviting new members into your club. The \$35 entrance fee is being taken care of by your 9SW Lion District. Let's add more than 200 new Lions this year. That's about 4 Lions per club. Can your club invite members from your community? Can your club with other clubs start a new club? Lots of possibilities to get 200 members.

If you have questions about our [Iowa S4S storage units](#), please contact me.

I also have several Lions flyers that are excellent as motivational materials for membership growth. Let me know if you need some.

I will also help your club to establish a Leos Club or a whole new Lions Club in a new community where you see a need and the possibilities..

You may contact me at 712-304-5066 or 46azobel@gmail.com

➤ PRESIDENT'S CORNER

WHY I CALL MYSELF A LIONAHOLIC

AND WHY YOUR INVITATION CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE.

From Army brat to workaholic to Lionaholic – how the Audubon Lions Club gave me purpose, friendship, and a chance to make a difference.

YOU CAN INVITE SOMEONE TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE MISSING.

FRIENDSHIP Build lasting connections.	SERVICE Make a real difference.	IMPACT Leave our community better than we found it.	PURPOSE Discover the joy of giving back together.

THINK OF ONE PERSON. INVITE THEM. BRING THEM. Let them experience Lions.

LIONS ARE GREAT PEOPLE DOING GREAT THINGS.

MIKE POZESNY
PRESIDENT
AUDUBON LIONS CLUB

WE SERVE

★ SERVING AUDUBON SINCE 1943 | LOCAL SERVICE ★ GLOBAL IMPACT | ❤️ WE SERVE

Read about **Audubon Lions Club member and District Zone 2 Chair, Mike Pozesny**, and what Lionism has come to mean to him. Just click the picture above and read his very personal story and let it inspire all of us to find other people in our communities to share with us our joy of Lions and service.

A Reminder from Gary Richardson (2026-2027 Peace Poster Chair)



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

The key contact person at your local school is the middle school art teacher. If you haven't already done so, please contact that person **NOW**.

The deadline date is November 15th to have the winning poster to the DG Chris Wilkins. That means **your winning posters need to be sent to me by November 1st.**

NOTE: Please, let me know if your club will be participating.

Thank you for your support.

Gary Richardson

402-359-3173

gwropus@msn.com

Mailing Address: 615 Trail Ridge Rd., Indianola, IA 50125-1088

Let Me Introduce You to Your 9SW Cabinet!!! (by Beverly Fletcher)

9SW Cabinet consists of both officers and chairmen of a variety of service committees. **These Lions are available to answer your questions and to interact with your club and /or members.**

I would recommend you visit the website of the Iowa Lions of 9SW. Type in: iowalions9sw.org and then hover over the tab **About** and scroll down and click the **9SW Leadership** tab ... and your whole 9SW cabinet will be displayed for you.

Now, let me introduce you to three of those members.



PEACE POSTER CHAIR - GARY RICHARDSON -

- Type in: iowalions9sw.org and then click the word **Media** and scroll down and select [9SW Monthly Newsletters](#). Click on August 2026 issue and find the information on the Peace Poster Contest. There you will find the link to order the kits.
- If you click on **Nuts and Bolts**, you can see the latest 2025-2026 winners of the Peace Poster Contest.
- The **Peace Poster Chairman** is Gary Richardson from the **Indianola Noon Lions Club**. He should be able to answer any of your questions about the contest and deadlines. His contact information is: gwropus@msn.com. In the latter part of August, Gary sent an email to all club secretaries about this year's Peace Poster Contest.



CARE & SHARE CHAIR - BEVERLY FLETCHER -

- *The Purpose of Care & Share is to give aid and comfort to persons within the Iowa Lions District 9SW in need of financial assistance for sight, hearing, hunger through 9SW District Food Pantries, or other emergencies which are above the capabilities of an individual Lions Club to meet.*
- Using the same website, iowalions9sw.org, then click the tab **Nuts & Bolts**. Scroll down to **FORMS**. There you will find the **9SW Care & Share Guidelines** and also the **9SW Care & Share Application Forms**. When your club wants to apply for these funds, you need to follow the guidelines outlined and complete the application form and submit it to the Care & Share Chair.
- Schools are back in session and your community or school might want to use funding to help with their food pantries.
- The **Care and Share Chairman** is your Past District Governor **Beverly Fletcher**. Beverly is a member of the Council Bluffs Lions Club. Her contact information is: bafcbia@gmail.com
- The last item on the website, iowalions9sw.org, to review under **Nuts & Bolts** is the **2026-2027 Who's Who for District 9SW**. (Updated 08/29/2026). Juanita Reynard and I try to keep it updated with any changes on the district level and the club level. It is your telephone and email directory on line. You can contact club officers near you for service ideas or for help with a service project.
- I plan to highlight and introduce other members of the 9SW Cabinet monthly this Lion Year.



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR CHAIR - JUANITA REYNARD -

- Every so often, you may need help in entering your information into the **LCI Portal**, such as changing an officer, finding where to record information about a deceased member, how to enter your service reports, how to update your club's information, etc. Your District Administrator is there to help you travel through these hurdles, especially when you are a new officer.
- The **District Administrator Chair** is **Juanita Reynard** from the Audubon Lions Club. Her contact information is: kahluafawn@yahoo.com.

BIG NEWS ON NEW MEMBER DUES!

*** FOR ONE YEAR ONLY ***

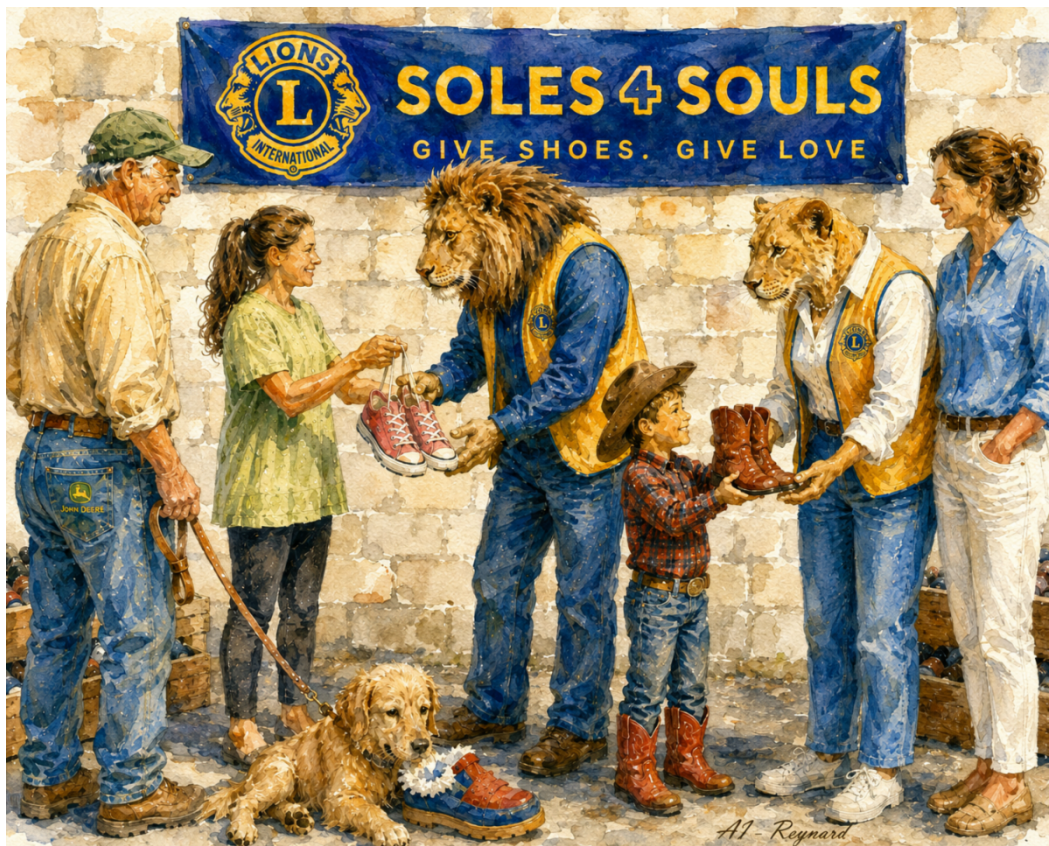
9SW District Pays the \$35 Registration Fee

[Read How This Works for Each New Member](#)

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

The Portal shows that since July 1, 2026, District 9SW has added 12 NEW MEMBERS. 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



An anonymous donor has purchased this Soles4Souls 8' x 2' banner to be used by any 9SW Lions Club when holding a shoe drive in their community.

The **Atlantic Lions Club** will be the first to use the new banner at their **Soles4Souls Shoe Drive** on September 11 at the HyVee Store in Atlantic.

This banner is available to other clubs when they hold their own shoe drive. The club only needs to reach out to Allen Zobel and he will find a way to get this unique banner to your club. (Contributed by Vicki Nordskog)

NOTE: Click the above image and download your own print of the S4S Lions Food Drive Banner picture to use at your own shoe drive or to tape above you collection boxes in your home town.

Indianola Noon Lions Club



The **Indianola Noon Lions** entered their Lions float in the **Indianola National Balloon Classic Parade** on August 1.

A hot air balloon was featured, and Lion Angie Banks and her granddaughter (little Lion) are pictured here. (Contributed by Carlisle Charlton)

Exira Lions Club



In late August, Jayne Houtchins in front, next Boyd Schlater, Jodi Nelson, and Jacqueline Phippin worked hard to make 200 hoagies and 190 Deli sandwiches so help support their donations to ILF and LCIF and other entities.

Many farming families buy several snadwiches to throw in the freezer, then when harvest starts they take several with them to the fields and by lunch time, they are thawed. Yum!



Hoagies and Delis

Since 2020, the **Exira Lions Club** have been making and selling Hoagies ... and the first time this year, Deli sandwiches ... to raise money to donate to both LCIF and ILF for their important humanitarian and service projects. They made 200 Hogie and 190 Deli sandwiches the week of August 24th and sold out nearly immediately. They will be making more the following week to help fill the demand.

The Hoagies sell for \$15 for 3 sandwiches and the Delis sell for \$15 for 4 sandwiches. The Hoagies come with ham and turkey, provolone and colby cheese on a hoagie bun. The Delis come with either ham or turkey, either provolone or colby cheese, on a hamburger bun.

Audubon Lions Club



Audubon Lions Club drove their float through the **76th Annual Operation T-Bone Parade** on Saturday, August 1, 2026.

Our volunteer Lion (in costume) said it was worth every one of the 53 pounds he shed this year to fit into the Lion costume, JUST TO SEE THE KIDS SCREAMING AND LAUGHING AND JUMPING WITH JOY IN SEEING A "REAL LIVE LION"!. (Contributed by Juanita Reynard)

Villisca Lions Club



The **Villisca Lions Club** owns and operates a barrel train as a childrens' ride at the Villisca Heritage Days each year. This is a great activity for the kids and thoroughly enjoyed by kids and adults alike. (Contributed by Leanna Darnold)

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.



I have been asked to tell you about A-Fib in September and how it may affect your life. Read Dr. Swanson's article here 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:

- **September 11, Atlantic Lions Club S4S Shoe Drive** at the HyVee store
- **September 19-20, 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 1, Peace Poster** winners need to be **RECEIVED** by Gary Richardson
- **November 15, Peace Posters** all sent to DG Chris Wilkins
- **November 20-21, 2026 9NW/9SW District Convention in Winterset, Iowa** (Will vote on District dues increase here.)

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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