

District K September Newsletter



On the Cover

The Oberlin Lions Club was a big part of the 3rd Annual Oberlin Carfest & Drag Race on September 19th.



State Fair Vision and Diabetes Screening

All three district governors helped out with the State Fair this year. There were also multiple clubs from all of the districts that made this event a success. A big Kudos goes to Lion Vern Failor and Lion Randy St. Aubin for being such a big part of this event.

Kirwin Kid's Fishing Day

The Kirwin Lions worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help run the Kid's Fishing Day. The club helped cook and serve lunch for 40 kids and 11 parents.

Latest News from Clubs in our Area

Send us your stories and events. We will add them to our newsletter and post to both our social media

newsletter17k@googlegroups.com

DISTRICT
MD 17



Fall Rally RED, WHITE, & ROAR

UNITING IN
SERVICE,
BUILDING A
STRONGER
TOMORROW.



Save the Date!



OCTOBER
23RD & 24TH,
2026



MCPHERSON,
KS



UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1200 E. Kansas Avenue

\$25

FOR REGISTRATION
AND LUNCH!

Lunch Provided on
Saturday!



LEARN

Gain Knowledge



INSPIRE

Spark Ideas



GROW

Develop Leaders



SERVE

Make an Impact



KLBF
BAND AUCTION

Help support local music
and our community!



BRING
BASKET
AUCTION ITEMS

Your donations help
make our auctions
a **BIG** success!

HOTEL INFORMATION



610 N. Main St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-2424



1408 N. Main St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 242-9292



2000 E. First St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-1200



2101 E. First St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-1900

LEARN

INSPIRE

GROW

SERVE



VISION

Brightens Lives!

Fall Rally Service Project

Help Us Collect Vision Essentials!



Non-prescription
sunglasses
(and clip-on sunglasses)



Readers



Glasses cleaning cloths,
wipes and sprays



Magnifiers



Small eyeglass
repair kits

Small
Items...
Big Impact!



ALL COLLECTED ITEMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO
**VETERANS, SHELTERS AND
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.**

Lions Make a Difference!

COLLECT PAW SHARE PAW GIVE



95TH ANNUAL
OLD SETTLER'S DAY

SPONSORED BY KIRWIN LIONS CLUB

Schedule of events

6:45

33rd Annual Anniversary Run
Registration at Kirwin Wellness Center
5K Walk & 5K Run - Kids' 1-mile (12 and under)
call 785-543-7610 for more information

7:30

9th Annual "Take A Ride on the Wild Side"
Registration at Kirwin Fire House
Sponsored by Phillips County CVB
www.bikereg.com/take-a-ride-on-the-wild-side

10:00

Parade
Entries begin at 8:30 a.m. - Kirwin Ball Park on East Main
Parade Theme: "Happy Birthday, America"
All floats, saddle clubs, antique tractors and cars
welcome

10:30

Games on the City Square
Following Parade : Egg Toss, Turtle Derby, Slow Bicycle Race,
Watermelon seed spitting, Hula Hoop Contest, Ladies' nail
driving contest - bring your own hammer - Money in the
Sandpile

Noon

Horse Show till 3:30 at the Lions Club Arena
\$20.00 per horse with rider all day
3 age groups - Prizes will be awarded

1:00

Free Bingo
Kirwin Community Building - Cash Prizes

Food and Vendors

8:30

Kirwin Wellness Center Bake Sale
Until Noon or the goods are gone
Free Coffee

8:30

Phillipsburg FFA Bake Sale
Located in Kirwin Firehouse

11:00

Food Stand
Bierocks, Hot Dogs, Homemade Pie
Chips & Drinks - Kirwin Firehouse

11:00

RC Rub Grub
BBQ Food Truck - on the Square

11:00

Center Fire Pizza
Brick Oven Pizza - on the Square

11:00

Chestnut's Lemonade
Freshly Made Lemonade - Flavors available

11:00

Snowy Peaks & Cozy Eats
Funnel cakes, sno cones and snack items
Food Truck on Square

12:00

Hunter's Concessions
Lions Club Arena - noon through derby end
Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Nachos, Drinks
& More!

all day

Vendors around the Square
ALL VENDORS WELCOME!

1:00

Cornhole Tournament - on City Square
Pre-register with Scott Eller at (785)533-1638
Limit 24 Teams - \$20 per 2-person team
Cash Prizes will be awarded from the Registration Fees

7:00

DEMOLITION DERBY - LIONS CLUB ARENA

- Entry fee \$60-1 car, 1 driver, 1 extra pit pass
- Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m.
- \$6,000 guaranteed purse
- Bone Stock Full Size
- Bone Stock Compact
- Youth Bone Stock Compact (14-17, must have valid ID or proof of age)
- Bone Stock Minivan
- All entrants must be entered and checked in by the drivers meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Judges decision is Final - For information on rules and regulations call Dan Johnson at (785)543-8681
- Admission \$10.00, children 10 and under free, \$20.00 pit pass

OCTOBER 3, 2026

Great Bend Noon Lions Club

Spaghetti
FEED

(Columbus Club • 723 Main Street • Great Bend, KS)

THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 1, 2026

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

\$10.00

ADMIT ONE

Dessert
Included



2026 Annual
Pancake Feed
& Raffle



SATURDAY NOV. 14
SRADER CENTER, 5 AM - 1 PM



MOSSBERG MAVERICK SA 12 GUAGE
EGO POWER+530CFM BLOWER
EGO 15" STRING TRIMMER KIT
BRINKMAN ALL-IN-SMOKER



SEE A MEMBER FOR
TICKETS
\$5 EA OR 5 FOR \$20
EACH ITEM DRAWN
SEPARATELY





Saint Francis Lions Club
PRESENTS:

Sainty, Name that Song!

A family-friendly musical trivia game show, where teams compete to show off their knowledge of songs and artists.

Scan the QR Code to register your team:



CASH PRIZES

Friday, November 27th, 2026
High School Auditorium
100 College Street
Saint Francis, Kansas

Doors open @ 12:30 pm CT

Game show @ 1:30 pm CT

\$10 per Adult
\$5 per Child 10 & under



News From Lions Health Program

Remember the IP slogan “Rooted in Service” as you consider how you will promote October as Vision awareness month and the week of service October 8 – 18. There is a world of helps in the LCI website. To help you with ideas go the LCI website search Weeks of Service, select Vision, then select Vision Service projects. Here you will find a page of projects that will help you in finding a project to pursue. One of those is International White Cane Day October 15th . My Lions Club has participated in this day in the past and it was very educational for the public plus it got your Lions Club into the public with a meaningful project. Here is a quote for the “Vision Service Project Ideas page” at LCI.

VISION SCREENING

Eighty percent of all visual impairment can be prevented or cured. The first step to prevention is awareness. The second is early detection through vision screening. Around the world, Lions partner with medical professionals and community leaders to screen young children, primary school students and adults to identify those at risk for vision loss. Is your District promoting October 8 – 18 Vision Screening week? District A is giving out stickers during that week to the children that says “A Lion Checked My Eyes Today” please use them and if you can please provide some funds to replace the stickers. These can be ordered from KidSight USA. They cost \$29 for the 500 count role plus shipping. I would order more if I had the funds so let me know if you would like to order them and I will get the order placed ASAP.

LHP MD 17 Vision Article Sept 26

If you need help please contact me.

MD 17 Lions Health Programs

Lion Vern Failor

Kansas Lions Health Program

Vision Weeks of Service

October 8th to the 18th



WHICH FORM DO YOU FILE?

Based on your annual gross receipts and total assets

**\$50,000
or less**



990-N
(e-Postcard)

**Greater than
\$50,000 but less
than \$200,000**
and total assets
less than \$500,000



**990-EZ
or 990**

**\$200,000
or greater**
or total assets
\$500,000 or greater



990



Clubs operate on a fiscal year
July 1 – June 30, and the e-Postcard
(990-N) is due by **November 15**
each year.



Register at
IRS.gov before
filing (one time).



Foundations are
separate legal
entities and may
have their own filing
requirements.



Failure to file for
three consecutive
years can result
in loss of your
tax-exempt status.

Stay Compliant

SO WE CAN KEEP SERVING
OUR COMMUNITIES!



Treasurers Info

- Each club needs to fill out a 990 form.
- The amounts are the money made that Lion Year.
- Each club should be tracking two types of funds.
 - Administrative Funds are those collected from Lions Members like membership dues and can be used for Club Items.
 - Activity Funds are those collected from the community. They go back to the community in the form of service projects.

Contact us if you have any questions or need any support with this.



Contact
support17K@googlegroups.com
If you have any issues



2026-2027 Calendar of District K Meetings

2nd District K Cabinet Meeting

11/17/2026 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm central time

Will be held digitally via zoom.

3rd District K Cabinet Meeting

1/26/2027 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm central time

Will be held digitally via zoom

District Convention with International Director Debbie Dawson

4/16/2027 to 4/17/2027 (Agenda will be provided ahead of time.)

Hays KS 67601

4th District Cabinet Meeting

6/12/2027 - 11:00am to 3:00pm central time

K18 Cafe, 5495 KS-18, Lucas, KS 67648

Calendar Download



Scan this with your phone or tablet.

It will take you to an .ics file in Google Drive.

Download it and follow the instructions to add all these dates to your preferred calendar automatically.

Small Acts. Big Roar.

As Lions, we often think a successful service project has to be big, involve a lot of people, or make a huge impact all at once. But sometimes the simplest acts of kindness are the ones that mean the most. This month, I want to challenge every club in District 17K to look for an opportunity to serve someone who may simply need to know that someone cares. That brings me to our Service Idea of the Month: Meal in a Bag or Birthday Boxes.

Meal in a Bag

Put together a simple bag of ingredients that can create an easy family meal. Clubs can work with a local food pantry, school, community organization, or directly with families who may benefit.

Think simple:

- * Pasta or rice,
- * Pasta sauce or canned meat
- * Canned vegetables.
- * Bread or rolls
- * Dessert or snack.
- * A handwritten note from your Lions Club

The goal isn't to create a gourmet meal. The goal is to make someone's day a little easier.



Birthday Boxes

Not everyone has the opportunity to celebrate a birthday. A birthday box can help make a child's—or even an adult's—special day feel special.

- Cake or cupcake mix.
- Can of Soda
- Frosting
- Candles
- A blank birthday card

One box can turn an ordinary day into a celebration.



Your Challenge

This month, don't ask, “How big can our project be?”

Ask:

“Who can we help?”

Maybe your club makes 5 bags. Maybe you make 25. Maybe you partner with another organization and make 100.

There is no magic number.

Every bag represents a meal.

Every birthday box represents a celebration.

Every act of service represents a Lion choosing to make a difference.

Find your strength. Share your talent. Serve with purpose.

Let's continue to show District 17K—and our communities—What's Your Roar?

Linda Chessmore

1st Vice District Governor

Lions District 17K



One more thing from your District Governor

I had the privilege of visiting the Brewster Lions Club recently. This group is always a fun one, with great food and excellent camaraderie. There are a few small things they do that have a big impact, including having themed meetings throughout the year.

Their last meeting focused on their local schools, and they invited teachers from the community to attend. This does a lot for the club. It recognizes the teachers who are helping our students, gets the word out about what Lions do in the community, and increases participation among their members. Each member was tasked with inviting a teacher to the meeting.

I visited with the club about leadership and some of the ways they can get involved at the district level. We went over the roles of the GAT team, which includes the following members:

- **Global Extension Team (GET)** — led by Allen Debey
- **Global Membership Team (GMT)** — led by Patty Morgan
- **Global Service Team (GST)** — led by Justin Burrus
- **Global Leadership Team (GLT)** — led by Linda Chessmore

They have multiple past District Governors, so they are in good hands. They also have several new members, so it was good to go over how the multiple districts work and the different opportunities available to them.

Leadership is essential to ensuring that our district remains strong in serving our communities. The best example of promoting leadership that evening actually came during the reading of the minutes. The president's son, who is in grade school, did an awesome job reading the minutes. Every Lion politely listened to the entire report and applauded when he finished.

This may seem like a simple part of our meetings, but it was also a lesson in leadership for this young man. Speaking in front of a group of people is a skill that most of us fear to some extent. He had an opportunity to practice that skill, build his confidence, and become more comfortable taking part in a Lions meeting.

Sometimes, leadership development happens in ways we don't even recognize at first. Giving our young people opportunities to participate, speak, and take responsibility can be one of the simplest—and most meaningful—ways we can help develop the next generation of Lions leaders.

Our Next Cabinet Meeting is November
17th on Zoom
Starts @ 6:00 pm Central Time

