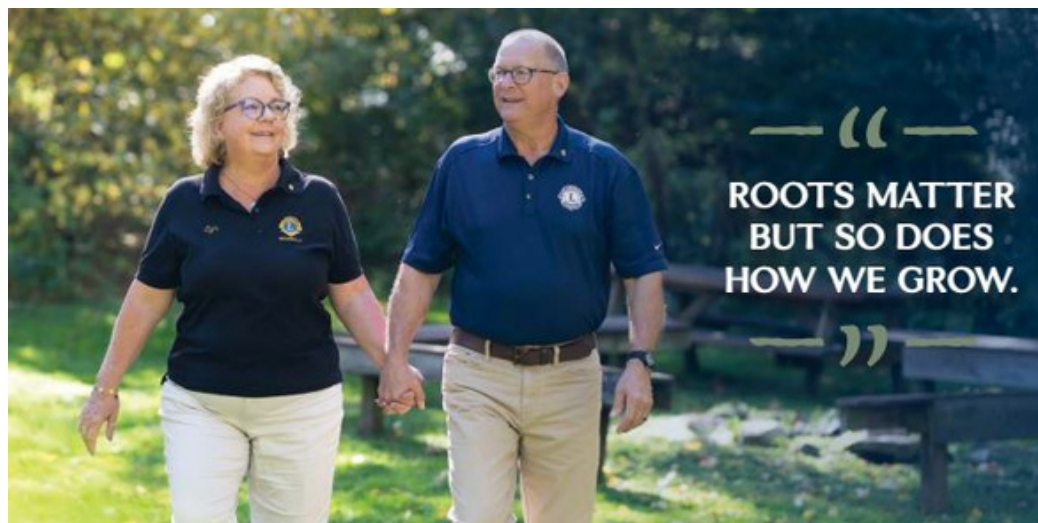




WE SERVE

MISSOURI LION

SEPTEMBER 2026



MEET INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MARK S. LYON & LION LYN LYON

As Lions begin a new year of service, International President Mark S. Lyon of Brookfield, Connecticut, takes the helm with a message that brings us back to the heart of who we are: **Rooted in Service.**

President Lyon joined the Brookfield Lions Club in 1996 after attending a meeting and discovering friends and neighbors focused not on themselves, but on what they could accomplish for their community. He knew immediately, "This is where I'm supposed to be." Nearly three decades of Lions service followed.

Sharing that journey is his wife, Lion Lyn Lyon, a lifelong friend and one of his strongest supporters. Together, Mark and Lyn are parents to three daughters adopted from China. Their own family experience inspired them to create a local support group connecting adoptive families and children with similar cultural backgrounds.

Their lives may be firmly planted in their Connecticut community, but their vision reaches much farther.

As President Lyon says, "**Our roots are here in Brookfield, but our hearts are global.**"

For 2026–2027, President Lyon invites Lions everywhere to strengthen those roots through meaningful service, strong communities and the connections we build along the way.

We Serve — Rooted in Service.

YOUR DISTRICT CONNECTION Got News? Start here.

M1 - DG Marilyn Reaves	mdreaves63@gmail.com
M2 - Lion David Kinkade	editor@lions26m2.org
M3 - Lion Mary Brunkhorst	marylbrunkhorst@gmail.com
M4 - PDG Tina Anderson	ctanderson5@gmail.com
M5 - PDG Mickey Beach	mbeach1960@gmail.com
M6 - Lion Cheynne Nava	cheynnenava3@gmail.com
M7 - Lion Lyle Rosburg	lrosburg@hotmail.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *District Governors*
- *Weeks of Service*
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- *Peace Poster*
- *KidsSight*
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MEET YOUR MISSOURI LIONS LEADERSHIP

• One Missouri • Seven Districts • United in Service •



2026-2027 Missouri Lions Leadership: Council Chair and District Governors, joined by Past International Directors.

L - R : IPID Debbie Cantrell, CC Rachel Harper, DG Marilynn Reaves (M1), DG Kelly Rackovan (M2), DG Carol Deters (M3), DG Kathy Rice (M4), DG Warren Trivett (M5), DG Tammy James (M6), DG Bruce Berger (M7), PID Donal Knipp, and PID Don Noland.

FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR - CC Rachel Harper 2026-2027

One of the things I love most about being a Lion is that no one ever has to face a challenge alone. Some of our greatest opportunities come from asking questions, sharing ideas, and learning from one another.

As your Missouri Council Chair, I am honored to serve Lions across our state and to be a resource, advocate, and partner for every district.

Whether you have questions about club operations, membership, leadership, service projects, grants, or simply need help finding the right resource or person, please reach out. If I don't know the answer, I'll gladly help you find it.

As we begin this Lions year, I encourage you to dream big, ask questions, and lean on one another. None of us has all the answers—but together, we can solve almost any challenge.



DISTRICT 26-M1 — DG MARILYNN REAVES

Boots on the Ground

District M-1 is beginning the year focused on collaboration, participation, and stronger clubs. District gatherings have been renamed Collaboration and Celebration sessions, with an emphasis on making meetings more productive, engaging, and fun.

M-1 currently has 30 active clubs, while district leaders continue working with clubs facing challenges, including efforts to restructure two suspended clubs that are showing promise.

We are also exploring ways to increase support of LCI.

My thanks to our District Cabinet and every Lion serving alongside me this year. Boots on the ground!



DISTRICT 26-M2 — DG KELLY RACKOVAN

Bee the Difference

A new Lions year is in full swing, with clubs across M-2 continuing fantastic service in their communities. As summer activities wrap up and fall programs begin, there are plenty of service projects, fundraisers, and opportunities ahead.

What a fantastic organization we belong to! Let's keep moving forward by strengthening membership, expanding our outreach, and continuing to serve our communities.

The momentum is building—let's keep it going and make things happen!

To make a difference, we need to continue to “Bee the Difference!”

DISTRICT 26-M3 – DG CAROL DETERS

Serving Together, Moving Forward

The 2026–2027 Lions year has begun, and I am honored to serve again as District Governor in memory of 1st VDG Don Eichorn, who unexpectedly passed away in March. He is deeply missed by all of us. Our first District Cabinet meeting was held August 8, where we reviewed our District Goals. While M-3 has lost a few clubs, we are working toward starting a new club and strengthening service throughout our district. Times are tough, and Lions are needed in our communities more than ever. Along with 1st VDG Rimmy Massey and 2nd VDG Jeri Smith, I look forward to visiting your clubs. If you have questions or need help, please reach out. **I'm excited to be working with you again.**



DISTRICT 26-M4 – DG KATHY RICE

Plans Change

I joined Lions in 2008 to spend more time with my husband, Lewis, and son, Bob, who were already active Lions. I had no intention of holding office—I simply wanted to support our projects and fundraisers. **As you can see, plans change.**

When the 2nd Vice District Governor position went unfilled in 2024, I decided to step forward. After two years of training, I've learned that what I thought I knew about Lionism had only scratched the surface—but I've gained incredible friends and resources along the way.

My greatest strengths are listening and continuing to learn. As we begin this year Rooted in Service, I'm confident we can grow our membership, reach our Mission 1.5 goals, and continue doing what Lions do best:

We Serve.



DISTRICT 26-M5 – DG WARREN TRIVETT

A Legacy of Service

It is a privilege to serve as your M5 District Governor. My wife and partner in service, Lion Mary Trivett, and I are proud members of the Sedalia State Fair Lions Club.

Like many of you, I joined Lions to make a tangible difference in my community. Through vision screenings, food drives, and service projects, I've witnessed the power of our simple motto: We Serve.

Mary's parents, Lions Bob and Ramona Davis, first introduced us to Lionism, with Bob also serving as District Governor. In a way, Mary and I are continuing a second-generation District Governor legacy.

Our district is only as strong as the dedicated Lions who show up to serve. Thank you for your commitment.

Let's make this a remarkable year together.



DISTRICT 26-M6 – DG TAMMY JAMES

Plant a Seed in Lionism and Watch It Flourish

There may be one reason you first become a Lion, but it quickly turns into many reasons to remain one. My first reason was simple—***I was asked.***

After joining, that one reason grew into many: the joy of serving with purpose, meeting new people, building lifelong friendships, growing personally, and developing leadership skills.

We may not know what the future holds, but by serving others, working together, and staying true to our values, we can help shape it for the better.

I look forward to serving alongside each of you as we continue making our communities—and our world—a better place.



DISTRICT 26-M7 – DG BRUCE BERGER

Serving the Heart of Missouri

Hello, fellow Missouri Lions! This year, M7 is excited to see our clubs grow and to work toward starting at least one new club.

Last Lions year, our district achieved a net growth of 44 members, and this year we hope to nearly double that number.

Our theme is “Serving the Heart of Missouri.” We will encourage clubs to invite prospective members not only to meetings, but also to service projects—giving them an opportunity to experience firsthand the difference Lions make in their communities.

And who knows? Maybe they'll want to join our ranks.

It should be an exciting year in the heart of Missouri!





WEEKS OF SERVICE

THREE WEEKS.
THREE POWERFUL CAUSES.

2026-2027



LIONS SERVE. COMMUNITIES THRIVE. ❤️ TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!



VISION

OCTOBER 8-18, 2026

Opening eyes. Changing lives.

Promote eye health and support sight-saving initiatives in your community and around the world.



YOUTH

FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027

Empower today. Lead tomorrow.

Invest in our youth through service, mentorship, and programs that build brighter futures.



ENVIRONMENT

MAY 29-JUNE 6, 2027

Protect today. Preserve tomorrow.

Take action to care for our planet through sustainability, conservation, and clean community initiatives.

HOW WILL YOUR CLUB SERVE?

VISION IN ACTION

A NEW PERSPECTIVE AT LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

District Governors-Elect Seminar • Rochester Hills, Michigan • July 30-August 2, 2026

By 1VDG Phil Karrer, 26-M2

Missouri's First Vice District Governors, along with Lions from several other states, had the privilege of attending the District Governors-Elect Seminar at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

During our visit, we toured the campus and met clients who shared moving stories about the difference Leader Dogs has made in their lives. Among them was BJ, whom many Missouri Lions may remember as a speaker at our State Convention. Their stories were powerful reminders of why Lions' continued support of Leader Dogs is so important.

We also learned about planned improvements to the campus, including updates to technology and facilities that support client training and transition.

One of the weekend's most memorable experiences was Dining in the Dark. Eating while blindfolded gave us a new perspective on navigating an everyday activity without sight—and reminded us that, at the end of our experience, we had the privilege of simply removing our blindfolds.

We also met a puppy raiser returning one puppy for formal training while beginning the journey again with a new puppy, Timber. The weekend left us with a renewed appreciation for Leader Dogs for the Blind and the lives changed through its programs. I encourage Missouri Lions to continue supporting this important mission.





CALLING ALL LIONS, TEACHERS, YOUTH LEADERS & PARENTS!

Help Young Artists Share Their Vision of Peace!

PEACE POSTER CONTEST

★ 2026-2027 THEME ★
"Harmony in Humanity"



INSPIRE YOUNG VOICES

Encourage creativity and understanding.



ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY

Build connections and spread kindness.



SPONSOR A CONTEST!

Make a difference in the lives of young people.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Students ages 11-13 on November 15, 2026 are eligible to participate.

- Original 2D artwork
- No words, letters or numbers on the front of the poster
- Kits Available: Jan. 15
- Club Winning Poster Due to District Governor: Nov. 15

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

JAN. 15	OCT. 1	NOV. 15	DEC. 15
CONTEST KITS AVAILABLE	KIT PURCHASE DEADLINE	CLUB WINNING POSTER DUE TO DISTRICT GOVERNOR	DISTRICT GOVERNOR SUBMISSION TO THE STATE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
Jan. 15	Oct. 1	Nov. 15	Dec. 15

Plan ahead and be part of this inspiring journey!

GET STARTED TODAY!



ORDER OFFICIAL PEACE POSTER KITS

Lions Clubs International Peace Poster page



OFFICIAL RULES & RESOURCES

Find rules, guides, templates & more!



VISIT THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER WEBPAGE

Discover the history, prizes & more!

? Questions? Contact Your District Peace Poster Chair.

Inspiring Peace Through Young Artists

♥ Sponsored by Lions Clubs International ♥

We're closing in on **ONE MILLION** children screened!



This fall, KidSight expects to screen its **one-millionth child!**

A million opportunities to identify a potential vision problem early and change the course of a child's learning and life.

Lions Make Clear Futures Possible

For three decades, Missouri Lions have supported KidSight's mission: opening doors in your communities, volunteering at screenings, championing children's vision, and donating to further our work.

The need remains urgent. Children with an undetected vision problem may struggle to recognize letters, follow words across a page, see the board, or stay focused. They may be labeled distracted or behind when what they really need is the opportunity to see clearly.

KidSight brings vision screenings to schools, preschools, daycares, Head Starts, and community events. *But screening is just the first step.* When a child is referred, KidSight helps families connect with local providers, find financial resources, and overcome barriers to follow-up care.

Help Us Reach the Next Child

Every Lions Club can play a part:

- Connect KidSight with a school, childcare center, community event or kid-friendly eye doctor.
- Recruit club members to become KidSight volunteers.
- Give a monetary gift to help KidSight reach more children this year.



63,634

children
screened
last year.



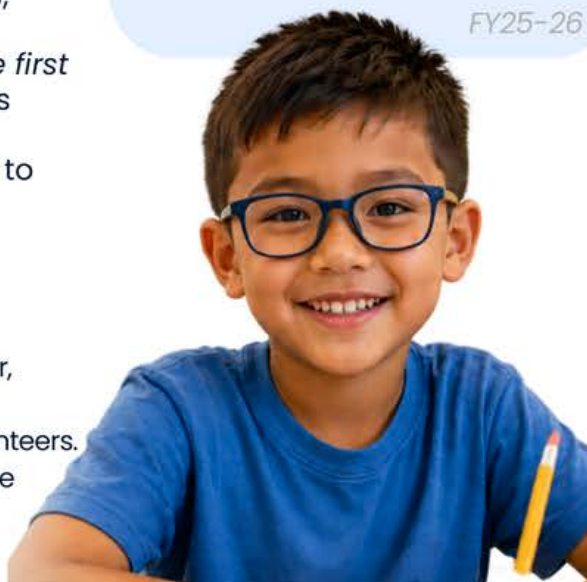
14,000+

more children
served than the
previous year.



Helping
Missouri children
learn, grow
and thrive.

FY25-26



Thank you, Missouri Lions, for helping children see clearly.

Together we can celebrate one million and keep looking ahead. **GIVE:** www.kid-sight.org/give

Learn more at: www.kid-sight.org/onemillion | Submitted by KidSight

Join Us for the

6th Annual

MYSTERY TOUR

A KidSight Fundraiser, sponsored by PDGs

Saturday, September 26, 2026

A Day of Fun, Adventure and Mystery!

- Mystery Stops!
- On-Board Snacks & Trivia!
- Raffles & Laughter!

📍 **UPDATED** Departure Info

📍 Depart Walmart Supercenter
131 Eureka Towne Center Dr., Eureka
No later than 9:15 AM

TICKETS: \$100 Per Person (Make Check Payable to KidSight)

DON'T MISS OUT! Call for Tickets:

- PCC Al Blumenberg: 314-606-5568
- PCC Joe Foster: 573-259-7700



Returning to **EUREKA** by 8:00 PM!

PG 07
SEP 26
MO LION



Become a Host Family

Open your home for a summer and gain a friendship that spans the globe. Share your world with an exchange youth — and see it change yours too.

30+ Countries

6 Continents

A Friend for Life

Is Hosting Right for You?

Families who host say the experience gives them as much as it gives their exchange youth.



Share your culture — experience the joy of showing your everyday life to someone seeing it for the first time.



Learn theirs, too — discover the customs, traditions, and stories of another part of the world.



Open a new world of thinking — for you, your family, and everyone your youth meets along the way.



Make a friend for life — host families often stay close with their exchange youth for years to come.

What Hosting Involves



Room & Board

Provide a room — ideally shared with youth of similar age and gender — plus balanced, everyday meals.



Transportation

Typically covers airport/train transfers, trips between host families, and travel to planned activities.



Financial Responsibilities

Cultural activity costs are arranged with your youth and Lions Club — some programs offer stipends.



Selecting a Youth

Choose based on age, gender, and interests. Your YCE Chairperson helps match you with availability.



See Hosting in Action

Scan the code or search "Lions Clubs International" on YouTube to watch real host families share their story.

Before You Host

- ✓ Get screened by your Host Lions Club & YCE Chairperson
- ✓ Confirm schedule allows quality time together
- ✓ Read the YCE Host Family Handbook

Ready to open your home?

Ask your local Lions Club how to get started today.

2nd VDG Jeri Smith, State Youth Chair • lionjerismith@gmail.com

Lion Toni Mahoney • 314-805-7391 • tkmahoney54@gmail.com



ALL OF MISSOURI

— SEVEN DISTRICTS • ONE MISSION • WE SERVE —

THE MISSOURI LION – News, information and connections for Lions across Missouri's seven districts.



WE SERVE



SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Send club news, service stories, event flyers, photos and other submissions to:

LION SHELLY CHILDERS
MISSOURI LION EDITOR



573-501-7056



lion.christichilders@gmail.com



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Office Administrator: Lion Brenda Weider



Assistant Office Administrator: Lion Jackie Twehus



573-635-1773



missourilions@gmail.com



VISIT US ONLINE:

missourilions.org



Announcing the

Bowling Green Lions Club's 75th Anniversary Celebration

The Bowling Green Lions Club, sponsored by the Mexico Lions Club, has proudly served our community since November 28, 1951.



"A Look Back..."

Our very first Back Pack Library ensured generations of children had the joy of reading books of their own to take home. What a powerful start to a legacy of service!

To be held at the Pike County
Fairgrounds Building
Saturday, November 7, 2026

For ticket information,
please reach out via
Messenger on our
Facebook Page



Celebrating

100th

ANNIVERSARY

1926 - 2026

KIRKWOOD LIONS CLUB

A century of service, compassion, and dedication
to our community and to those in need.



WE SERVE
with Heart



WE LEAD
with Purpose



WE CONNECT
with Community



WE GIVE
with Vision



WE MAKE
a Difference

*Thank you for 100 years of service
and here's to the next 100!*

MISSOURI LIONS CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1, 2026Missouri Lion Published Online **(8/15 Submission Deadline)**
September 3-5, 2026USA/Canada Forum Memphis, TN
September 26, 2026, 9am ...Saving Sight Board Development..... Creve Coeur, MO
September 26, 2026Mystery Tour, KidSight FundraiserSt. Louis, MO
October 8-18, 2026.....Week of Service: Vision Internationally
October 9-11, 2026.....PDG WeekendSedalia, MO
October 24, 2026Council of Governors Meeting..... Jefferson City, MO
November 14, 2026Mid-South Board Meeting via Zoom
December 1, 2026.....Missouri Lion Published Online **(11/15 Submission Deadline)**
December 8, 2026, 7pmSaving Sight Board Meeting via Zoom
January 30, 2027Council of Governors Meeting..... Columbia, MO
February 13-21, 2027Week of Service: Youth..... Internationally
February 19-20, 2027Mid-Winter Forum..... Lake Ozark, MO (Tentative)
February 26-27, 2027M1 District Convention.....Poplar Bluff, MO
February 26-27, 2027M5 District Convention..... Warrensburg, MO
March 1, 2027Missouri Lion Published Online **(2/15 Submission Deadline)**
March 5-6, 2027M7 District Convention..... Jefferson City, MO
March 9, 2027, 7pm.....Saving Sight Board Meeting via Zoom
March 12-13, 2027M3 District Convention..... Bowling Green, MO
March 14, 2027Mid-South Board Meeting..... Memphis, TN
March 19-20, 2027M6 District Convention..... TBD, MO
April 2-4, 2027M2 District Convention.....St. Louis, MO
April 9-10, 2027M4 District Convention..... Maryville, MO
April 9-10, 2027Visiting Lions Day **(not set in stone yet)** .. Hamilton Eye Inst., Memphis,TN
April 29, 2027.....Council of Governors Meeting..... Columbia, MO
April 30 – May 2, 2027.....State Convention Columbia, MO
May 29 – June 6, 2027.....Week of Service: Environment Internationally
June 1, 2027Missouri Lion Published Online **(5/15 Submission Deadline)**
June 4-5, 2027Mid-South Board Meeting..... Hamilton Eye Inst., Memphis,TN
June 25, 2027, 6:30pmSaving Sight Leadership Program..... Kansas City, MO
June 26, 2027, 9amSaving Sight Board Meeting Kansas City, MO
July 2-6, 2027International Convention..... Washington D.C.
September 16-18, 2027 USA/Canada ForumHuntsville, AL
June 23-27, 2028International Convention.....Singapore

Updated August 24, 2026

September 21-23, 2028USA/Canada Forum Grand Rapids, MI
June 29 – July 3, 2029.....International Convention..... Minneapolis, MN
September 13-15, 2029USA/Canada ForumShreveport, LA
June 28 – July 2, 2030.....International Convention.....San Antonio, TX
July 4-8, 2031International Convention..... Helsinki, Finland

****Calendar is subject to change!****