

UPCOMING
EVENTS:

August 2, 2025
MD12 Organizational
Meeting, noon
(Central Time)
Nashville, TN

Sept. 18 - 20, 2025
USA/Canada Forum,
Atlantic City, NJ

October 4, 2025
Fall Cabinet Meeting
Location and time to
be determined



ALL IN

July was packed full of excitement. It was my first time experiencing the International Convention which was held in Orlando Florida. My wife Tatum and I had fun celebrating with TN Lions in the LCI parade and meeting Lions from all across the world. We heard from keynote speaker Olympic Medalist Michael Phelps on the importance of mental health and witnessed AP Singh become the new LCI President.

On July 19th we held our first organizational meeting of the year outlining our plans to serve focusing on the importance of communication, collaboration, and service. I am excited for this Lions year and the direction we are headed!

LCICON takeaways:

Focus on the small details – Greatness is stacking the small things on top of each other and doing it over and over again

Pressure can be both internal as much as external

There are days when you don't want to get up and get better- on those days you have to get 5% better

Its okay not to be okay

There is no shame in talking to someone

Pause the future trip in our mind – focus on the present moment

Time is finite – commit every second to purpose

2025



ORLANDO

107th LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



12N DG Nate and
12O DG Steve



Our 'Fearless' Leader



International
Parade of Nations



Lead to Serve,
Serve to Lead.



DG Nate trying out
the AI screen



DG Nate & Tatum



MD12 District Governors

VDG's Lionhearted Lessons



LCIF Grant for LVBI

As you may know, Lions Volunteer Blind Industries (LVBI) has a 43-year-old quilting machine that is critical to their mattress production, and this machine urgently needs to be replaced. If the machine breaks down, more than 25 blind and/or visually impaired employees could lose their jobs. East TN Lions of District 12N can help to prevent this from happening.

Lions Volunteer Blind Industries has applied to Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) for a Matching Vision Grant, and has received endorsement from our district. LVBI has raised over half of the \$150,000 matching funds, but there is still a significant balance that is needed by the end of October. If you have not already contributed, please consider doing so as a club or as an individual. Encourage friends, family, fellow Lions, and business associates to consider making a donation to the LVBI matching grant account to assist with purchasing this quilting machine.

Yours in Lionism....Wayne Garland, 1st Vice District Governor



International Youth Day

Each year on August 12th, the world celebrates International Youth Day, a global occasion dedicated to recognizing the importance of young people and their role in shaping a better future. This year, we encourage every Lions Club in our district to take part by creating a youth-focused service project that uplifts, empowers, and engages the next generation.

Why Youth?

Young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow—they are a powerful force of change today. By supporting youth through service, we build stronger communities and invest in a brighter, more compassionate world.

Here are just a few ideas:

- Host a Back-to-School Drive: Collect and distribute school supplies to students in need.
- Celebrate Local Youth Heroes: Recognize young people in your community who are already making a difference.

Embracing the Call....Kim Osborne, 2nd Vice District Governor

Clinton Lions Club



For the third year in a row the Clinton Lions Club has sold a winning ticket for the Lions District 12N Charities Reverse Raffle. Pictured here is Patty McCormick being presented her check by Club Secretary PDG Neal Vaughan.



With its meeting on July 7 the Clinton Lions Club welcomed its newest member, Lion Tom Marshall. He was inducted into the club by PDG Wendy Cain.



In a previous meeting Mike Schaffer was inducted into the Clinton Lions Club by PDG Clare Crawford. PDG Neal Vaughan was the sponsoring Lion.

Welcome

Dandridge Lions Club



PDG Wendy Cain with
Past Queen Lion Susie
Jarnigan

The Dandridge TN Lion's Club (which services all of Jefferson County) held their annual Installation Dinner on Monday June 23rd at the Methodist Church. Past District Governor (PDG) Wendy Cain swore in the new officers of the club.



Lion Deborah Wengert
made and donated the
centerpieces for the
event



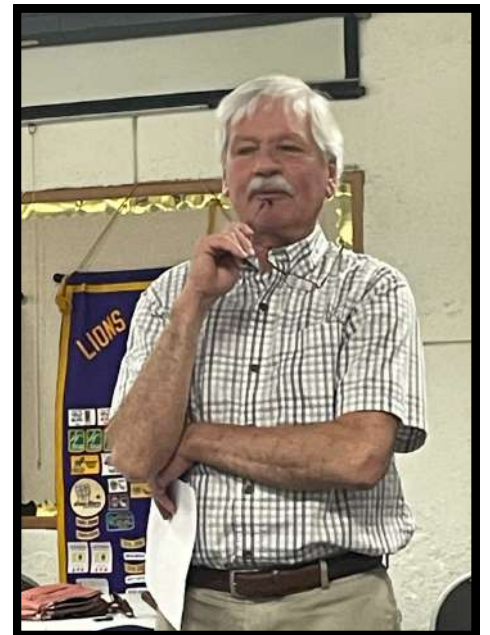
PDG Wendy Cain with
new Queen Lion
RaJean O'Connell



Lloyd Bible was honored
for his work during
Hurricane Helene



New Dandridge Lions with their Sponsors



County Historian,
Bob Jarnigan

Greeneville Lions Club



Installation of officers and directors by PDG Ed Gibbons.

L to R: Jacob May (new Lion), Carolyn Broyles, President Jacob Ball, Susan Price, Nancy Southerland, Ric Brown, Doug Green, Debbie Cogburn, Peyton Shelton (new Lion), and PDG Ed Gibbons.



For the second year, Greeneville club members and Tusculum University staff planted over 400 flowers at the stadium where the Greeneville Flyboys play baseball.

Harriman Lions Club



East TN Lions
District 12N PDG
Wendy Cain (center)
presided over the
Harriman Lions Club
Officer Induction
Ceremony at the
club meeting on
July 14th.



Immediate Past President, Will Burgess, hands over the gavel to President Dan Reid for the 2025-2026 Lions year. Dan is wearing sunglasses because he is blind. To our knowledge, Dan is the first blind individual to serve as a 12N Club President.



Club President, Dan Reid, looks on as the Harriman Club welcomes new member Lyn Sims. Standing with Lyn (center) are co-sponsors Joyce Emile and Michele Dake.



Karns Lions Club



Karns President, Kevin Monaghan, with 1st VDG Wayne Garland



Karns Lions community pool



The Lions Lending Library at the playground

On Monday, July 7th, DG Keltie Kerney and 1st VDG Wayne Garland visited with the Karns Lions Club at the Karns Pavilion.



L to R: Student Ayda Parker receiving a scholarship check from Pres. Kevin Monaghan and Lion Martin Gillenwaters. Ayda plans to enroll in Roane State College in the Fall.



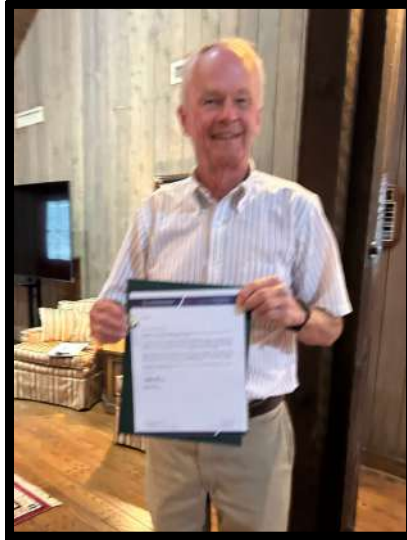
Karns Club members gathered around the “turtle derby” Tail Twister game

Kingsport Lions Club

At the June 24 Kingsport's Lions Club annual service awards and officer installation program, awards and certificates were presented to several members.



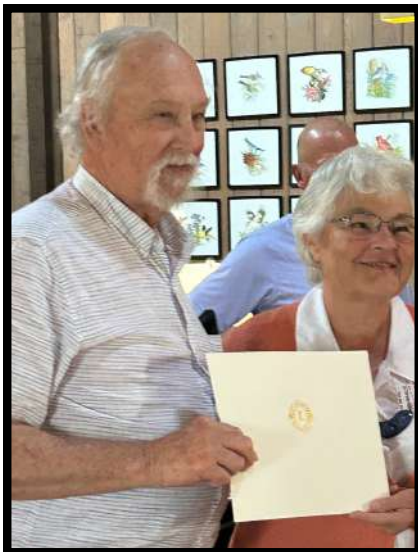
IPDG Keltie presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Lion David Douthat



Lion Bill Murdoch received a chevron for 45 years of service and a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation



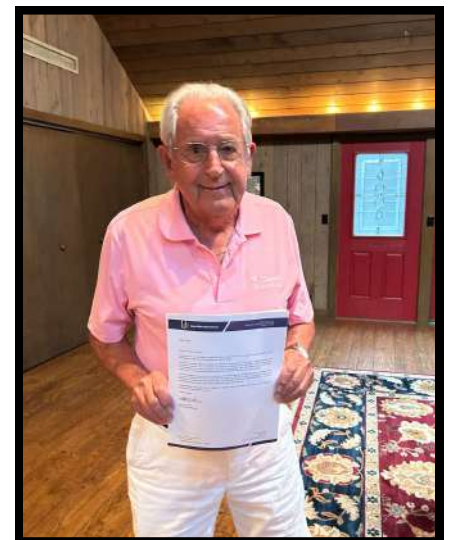
Carol Bowling presents Melvin Jones Awards to Lion Mike Kerney and Asher Elliott



Lion Bob Kerns receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Lion Carol Bowling



PDG Adam Bowling with Lion Carol Bowling, who was recognized for 10 years of service. The club surprised her with a Progressive Melvin Jones Award.



PDG Bill Moore receives a chevron for 55 years of service, followed by a standing ovation and loud roars!

Morristown Hamblen Lions



At the 12N Organizational meeting, Lion Gene Honeycutt was recognized by IPDG Keltie Kerney for his amazing work with Sight Conservation & the KAPA Program. Fantastic job, Gene!



President Lion Ann has been super busy collecting mountains of plastic for our recycling project – it's been a crazy but rewarding experience!



President Lion Ann could not choose one Lion for “Lion of the Year”, so she chose eleven amazing Lions: Lion Johnny Denton, Lion Amy Helton, Lion Larry Reneau, Lion Don McGunnis, VP Lion Dennis Peterson, Lion Debbie Chance, Lion Kim Smith, Lion Billy Seals, Lion Janice Hawkins, Secretary Gene Honeycutt, and Lion Wiley Holbrooks (not in photo). Each of these Lions received a Lion of the Year pin).



Oak Ridge Lions Club

On June 24th, 1st VDG Wayne Garland visited with the Oak Ridge Lions Club to present Membership Chevrons and to present the Club Excellence Award



Presentation of 50 year Lions membership chevrons to William Truex, Robert Smallridge (not present) and William Burris (not present) by First Vice District Governor Wayne Garland



Installation of new member Stephen Preshong (on the right) by First Vice District Governor Wayne Garland. Also pictured are PDG Clare Crawford (on the left) who inducted the new 2025-2026 club officers and outgoing club President Bill Truex (2nd from left).

Congratulations!

Presentation of Club Excellence Award to Past President Wendy Cain by First Vice District Governor Wayne Garland.

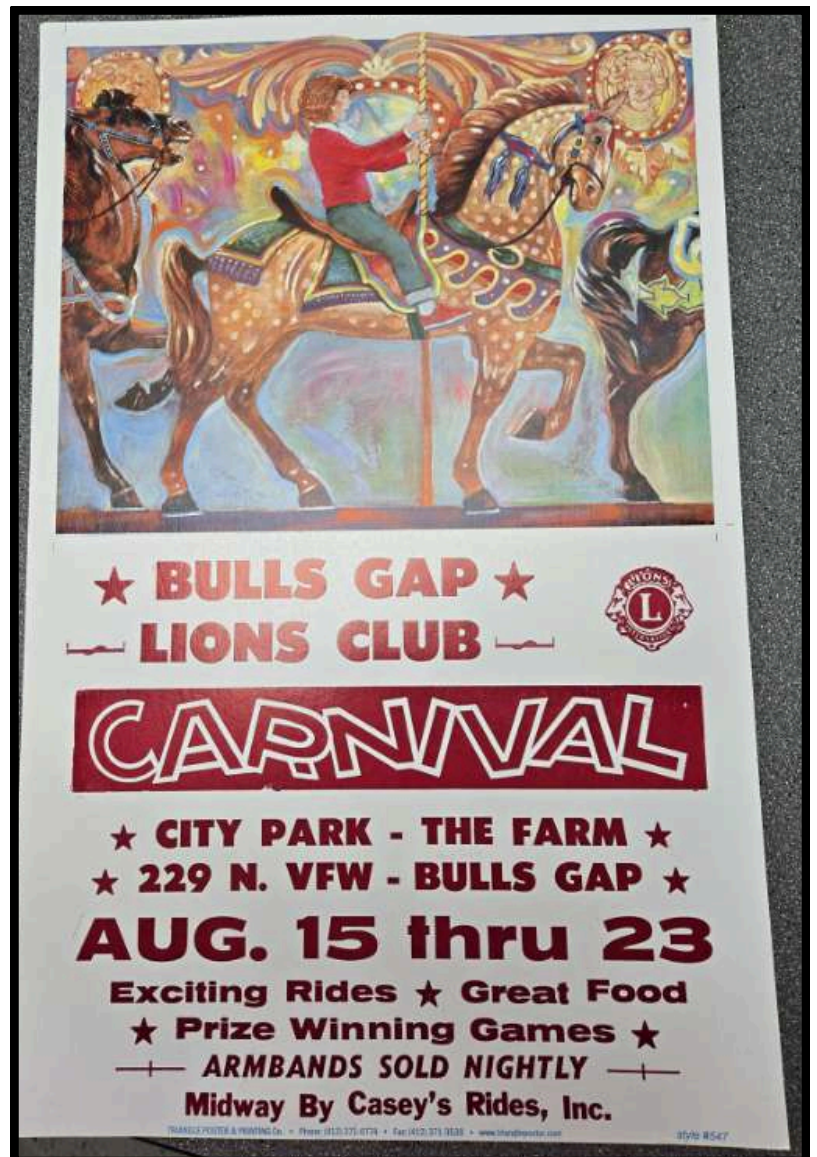
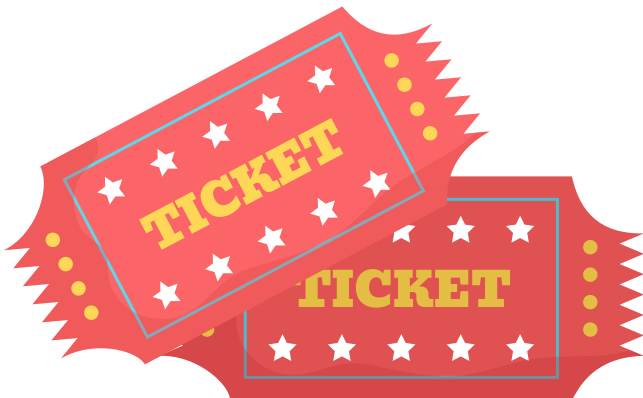


Oneida and Bulls Gap Lions Clubs



On June 23rd the Oneida Club presented a 55 year Lions membership chevron to Amon Lay by First Vice District Governor Wayne Garland and Club President Terry Roark.

The Bulls Gap Lions Club invites all to visit their Carnival on August 15th thru August 23rd at the Bulls Gap City Park.



Sevierville Lions Clubs



Lions Mandy and David donated backpacks and clothing items to Care Cuts.

During the month of July, Sevierville Lions worked to sort, collect, recycle, and donate various items to local organizations. Items included eyeglasses, sunglasses, hygiene kits, backpacks, underwear, clear plastic bags, plastic bottles, medicine bottles, newspapers, and craft supplies. Donations were given to Sevier Animal Center, Sevier Food Ministry, Food City, Care Cuts, and the My People Center.



Lion Chuck donated medicine bottles and vitamin bottles, along with newspapers, to the Sevier Animal Center.



Lions Chuck & 2VDG Kim donated quilting supplies, yarn, and other craft items, along with a large-print version of the Bible, to the Seniors at the My People Senior Center. Shown in the photo is Center employee Greg (accepting donations) and Lion Chuck.



Lion Stacy donated eyeglasses to one of the Lions donation boxes.



2VDG Kim & Lion Chuck delivered 150+ pairs of sunglasses to Care Cuts.



ETLEB Executive Director Valerie Stewart's Retirement Reception

Best wishes 📺



Retiring Exec. Director of ETLEB,
Valerie Stewart



Incoming Executive Director, Laura
Gilleran (Left) and staff of the East
TN Lions Eye Bank, with Valerie (5th
from Left)



L to R: PDG's Dave & Clare



L to R: PDG Ed, Norvell & Kathy



DG Keltie presenting a Hunger
Bowl to Exec. Director, Valerie 14

Summer I Spy











Count the number
of each item shown
in the photo above



Clinton Lions Club

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Clinton Lions Club is celebrating their 85th Anniversary
(Chartered July 2, 1940)

August 9, 2025 at the Museum of Appalachia, 5 to 8 PM

Call to order at 5:00 PM

Dinner served at 5:30 to 6:30 PM, Dress is casual, nice

Tickets are \$35.00 each and children 12 and under are free
Cutoff date for tickets is August 1, 2025 as we need to let
the caterer know how many will be there

Cost of the ticket includes access to all of the Museum
areas, come early and take advantage of it.

There will be entertainment, speakers and door prizes

Seating limited to 150 people

Contact PDG Neal Vaughan for tickets and/or information
E-mail: neallion@comcast.net

Museum of Appalachia
2819 Andersonville Hwy. (hwy 61)
Clinton, TN. 37716

Exit 122 on I-75 and approximately 1 mile east

District 12N Matching Grant with LCIF

Dear District 12N Lions,



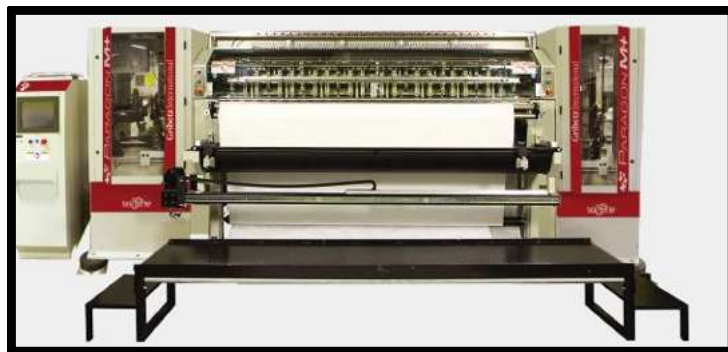
We understand there have been some questions and concerns surrounding LVBI (Lions Volunteer Blind Industries), and we want to assure you that we are actively and thoughtfully addressing them. Like many organizations today, LVBI is taking a close look at how we operate—evaluating what’s working, identifying areas for improvement, and making thoughtful decisions about how best to move forward.

We’re not alone in this process. At the District 12N Organizational Meeting on July 19, 2025, a significant amount of time was spent discussing how both District 12N and Lions Clubs International are also reviewing and refining their policies to better support their missions.

One thing we are absolutely certain of: **our commitment to the future of LVBI and the people it serves remains strong.** We are especially excited to move forward with the LCIF Matching Vision Grant that was recently approved. This grant allows us to purchase a new Gribetz Commercial Mattress Quilting Machine—an essential piece of equipment for our operations. The current machine is 43 years old, and its computer system is no longer capable of being updated. The new machine will not only modernize our production but also help secure continued employment for our 25–35 blind employees.

We fully understand your desire for clear answers, and we share your passion for ensuring LVBI’s success. All we ask is for a bit of patience as we do our due diligence. Our goal is to make informed, responsible decisions that will strengthen LVBI and secure its mission for years to come. Together, with your continued support, we will ensure a bright and sustainable future.

Please contact LCIF Matching Grant Project Manager and LVBI Chair PDG Millie Burke at gebgem@snet.net or 860-912-4171 for more information or to request a Club visit.



Commercial Mattress Quilting Machine

Respectfully Submitted, PDG Millie Burke

East TN Lions District 12N 2025-2026 CALENDAR

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

13th-17th International Convention in Orlando, FL

19th Cabinet Organizational Meeting

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

10th Winter Cabinet Meeting via ZOOM

16th-18th Lions Learning Retreat in Manchester, TN

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2nd MD 12 Organizational Meeting in Nashville, TN Noon-Central Time

5th GLT Zone Chair training via ZOOM 8PM
19th GLT Power Hour ZOOM 8PM

27th DG Nate's ZOOM 8AM

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

3rd GLT Power Hour ZOOM 8PM

25th DG Nate's ZOOM 8AM

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

18th-20th USA/Canada Forum in Atlantic City, NJ

24th DG Nate's ZOOM 8PM

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

27th-28th District 12N Convention
Location to be announced

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

4th Fall Cabinet Meeting
Location to be announced

7th GLT Power Hour ZOOM 8PM

29th DG Nate's ZOOM 8AM

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

7th GLT Power Hour ZOOM 8PM

29th DG Nate's ZOOM 8PM

30th April - 2nd May
MD12 TN State Convention

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

1st MD12 Rally & TLC Honors Banquet

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

30th April - 2nd May
MD12 TN State Convention

Spring Cabinet Meeting
Date To Be Determined

27th DG Nate's ZOOM 8AM

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2nd GLT Power Hour ZOOM 8PM

3rd DG Nate's ZOOM 8PM

6th 12N Charities meeting
10:30 AM in Sevierville

12th TSB Lions Christmas

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

24th DG Nate's ZOOM 8PM

Welcome New Members

Outstanding!

Sue Barker - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor Raneë King
Summer Blalock - Sevierville Lions - Sponsor Stacy Anderson
Asher Elliott - Kingsport Lions - Sponsor IPDG Keltie Kerney
Zachary Hodge - Union Co Lions - Sponsor Deborah Sylvia-Gardner
Robyn Kennedy - Kingsport Lions - Sponsor IPDG Keltie Kerney
Susana Lopez - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor PDG Rich Wilson
James Marshall - Clinton Lions - Sponsor Neal Vaughan
Alejandro Mondragon - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor Terry Aparicio
Judith Moody - Dandridge Lions - Sponsor Susie Jarnagin
Paul Moody - Dandridge Lions - Sponsor Susie Jarnagin
Vickie Ownby - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor Raneë King
Dolly Parton - Sevier County Lions - Honorary Member
Nola Plumb - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor Terry Aparicio
Stephen Preshong - Oak Ridge Lions - Sponsor Samantha Preshong
Michael Schaffer - Clinton Lions - Sponsor Neal Vaughan
Lyn Sims - Harriman Lions - Sponsor Joyce Emile & Michele Dake
Esther Jo Williams - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor Terry Aparicio
Hudson Williams - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor PDG Rich Wilson
Leslie Williams - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor PDG Rich Wilson
John Wills - Maryville Lions - Sponsor Linda Wills
Cecilia Zombek - Sevier Co Lions - Sponsor PDG Rich Wilson
Dr. Lawrence Zubel - Union Co Lions - Sponsor Deborah Sylvia-Gardner

None

In Loving Memory



Lions Code of Ethics



To show my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

To seek success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

To remember that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

Whenever a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

To Hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

Always to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them an unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

To Aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

To be Careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise, to build up and not destroy.

Leadership Corner from PDG Wendy Cain

One of my favorite books is *You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader: How Anyone, Anywhere, Can Make a Positive Difference* by Mark Sanborn. The core message of the book is that leadership is not about position or power; it is about action, influence, and impact. Sanborn breaks down leadership into six key principles to show how anyone can lead from wherever they are.

The first principle is The Power of Self-Mastery:

- Leadership begins with leading yourself.
- Self-mastery involves discipline, integrity, and a strong sense of purpose.
- Leaders commit to personal growth, act with consistency, and demonstrate character.

I will be sharing the other five in upcoming issues of the News & Views, but the book is a short, quick read if you can't wait 😊

Upcoming Events:

- **August 5, 2025:** District 12-N Zone Chair Training from 8-9 p.m. via Zoom
 - Go to <http://tnlions.org/calendar/> for Zoom Link
- **Aug. 19, 2025:** District 12-N Officer "Power Hour" from 8-9 p.m. via Zoom
 - For Zone Chairs, Presidents/VPs, Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership Chairs, and Service Chairs
 - Go to <http://tnlions.org/calendar/> for Zoom Link
- **Sept. 18-20, 2025:** USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Atlantic City, NJ. The registration fee is **currently \$350 but increases to \$375 after July 31**. You can register or get more information at <https://lionsforum.org/>
- **Oct. 2-5, 2025:** Regional Lions Leadership Institute planned at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN. Check next issue for more information and application!
- **Jan. 16-18, 2026:** Tennessee Lions Learning Retreat in Manchester, TN. Registration information will be available soon!

Mission 1.5 Summit in Las Vegas



Lion Thomas Pratt, Wisconsin Lion,
with IPDG Keltie Kerney



IPDG Keltie Kerney with DG Steve
McLelland from 12 O



Global Membership
Team Chair Rich Wilson



PIP Brian Sheehan and
Global Extension Team
Chair Keltie Kerney



Global Leadership
Team Chair Wendy
Cain

On June 28-29, 2025, District 12N was well represented by GET Keltie Kerney, GLT Wendy Cain and GMT Rich Wilson at the recent Mission 1.5 Summit held at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas.

Over 500 Lions were in attendance for the day and a half information packed seminars. The Mission 1.5 goal is to increase membership to 1.5 million Lions worldwide by July 1, 2027.

Plastics Recycling Project

East TN Lions of District 12N are continuing to participate in the NexTrex soft plastics recycling project for 2025-2026. For each 1,000 lbs. of plastics collected, a bench is earned. During 2024-2025, Lions of 12N earned one bench, which should soon be placed at East TN Children's Hospital in Knoxville. The District is continuing to collect soft plastics in order to earn a second bench, with a location to be determined.

Lion Asher Elliott taking plastics to be recycled.



Lions Asher and IPDG Keltie dropping off 14.5 pounds of plastic into a recycling bin.



RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

NexTrex
NexTrex.com 540-542-6930

RECYCLED AMERICA

Recycling locations include Food City, Kroger, Publix, Kohls, Ingles and Food Lion. To participate in this program, take a photo of your plastics, the weight, the store name and the city where you donated the plastics, and **send this information to the 12N Coordinators for this project, Lions Don & Val Abernathy.**

Their email address is:
donvalabernathy@gmail.com.

This project is set up through NexTrex. If you would like more information, visit the NexTrex website at
<https://nextrex.com/view/programs>

Continued Disaster Relief Efforts



The recent East TN District 12N Lions disaster relief donation of \$ 1,500.00 allowed Sunset Gap Thrift Store and Community Center in Cocke Co to purchase much needed metal shelving, cabinets and counter tops along with heavy-duty carts to better serve their increased food pantry distribution.



Executive Director Audrey Jones, volunteers, and Sevier Co Lions Club President Rich Wilson deliver school supplies for the backpack giveaway.



Along with LVBI donating cases of binders, and the Sevier Co Lions Club donating notebooks and hand sanitizers, District 12N was well represented for the Annual Sunset Gap Backpack Giveaway.

Correspondence

District 12N GMT Rich Wilson recently spoke at the Newport Kiwanis Club outlining plans to bring at least 1 new Lions Club to Cocke County. Previous members of the now closed Newport Lions have shown interest in joining.

GMT Rich Wilson pictured on the cover of Newport Plain talk discussing expansion plans.

The Newport Plain Talk
 SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2025
 newportplaintalk Serving @Beebe @Chestnut Hill @Cody @DeHolt @Hartford @Newport @Parrishville @White Pine
 COCKE COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWS SOURCE. STAY CONNECTED

Lions Club planning Cocke County branch

Service organization had a chapter in Newport until 2017

KATHY BARNES
 News Writer

NEWPORT — Plans are in the works to get a branch club of the Lions Club underway in Cocke County. In VDGL Rich and "Rich" Wilson, Zone G chairman and president of the Sevier County Lions Club, said they are recruiting members to get a club started here within the county.

Newport had a Lions Club that served the community for 68 years. The club voted to disband in 2017. The final meeting was held at Seagraves Steakhouse.

The president of the club at the final meeting was the managing editor of The Plain Talk at the time, Rich Hooper. Hooper died in July 2022. Dr. Nathan Ford, who died in July 2024, was a member of the organization for 66 years.

Wilson explained the Lions Club was formed as a club for businessmen in 1917 in Chicago. He said the organization has grown to have almost 1.5 million members and 40,000 clubs.

The organization has become known for their role in helping people with vision impairment. They collect old glasses to be recycled and reused and they have offered assistance with seeing eye dogs.

"Helen Keller referred to the Lions Club as the 'sight of the blind'," Wilson said. "Eyesight is known as our main focus."

As times have changed, the club has progressed and offers more services, Wilson explained. The focus and the services provided to the community can vary from one club to the next, he pointed out, depending on the need and the location.

Diabetes and hunger — with a lack of the proper nutrition — can lead to vision problems, so those are areas that some clubs work on, he said. World peace is also a major focus of the Lions Club, he added.

The Lions Club also works with disaster relief, and he pointed out the Sevier County club helped here in Cocke County after the flooding caused by Hurricane Helene. He said club members work with food pantries and other organizations. He said other projects involve childhood cancer and mental health.

Membership and money, which Wilson refers to as the "bones" of the club, are important, he said.

"When you have strong membership and more money, you can do more good deeds for the community," he explained.

The club has two separate accounts, he said. The administrative account is for dues while the other account is for charitable causes, he added.

"We do not commingle funds," Wilson said. "Each account is used as it should be."

Five members are required to start a branch club. When there are 20 members, a club can apply for its charter. There are also specialty clubs, which focus on a hobby or a specific profession, he explained. Hobby clubs may be for car enthusiasts, quilters and so forth.

Dolly Pearson is going to be honored as an honorary member of the Sevier County Lions Club, he said. She will receive the highest award they can bestow on her, which is the Melvin Jones Fellowship.

"She sets the bar when it comes to community service," Wilson said of Pearson. "She loves her community and she goes above and beyond to help her community on different levels."

"She definitely deserves to be recognized as an honorary member," he added.

"She has set a wonderful example of how we can help one another."

Wilson said civic organizations can also work together. He said the clubs in Sevier County and Sevierville work with the Elks in Gatlinburg and the Sevierville Rotary Club.

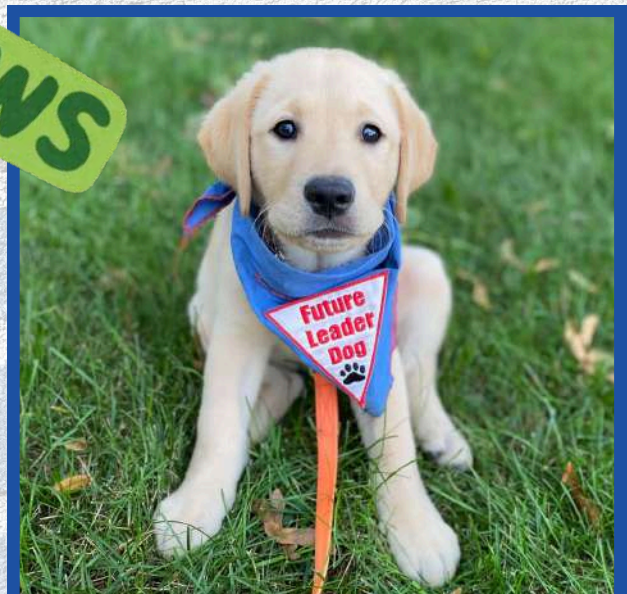
"Competition is healthy, and it encourages growth," he said. "We need to work together to serve our communities."

The Sevier County Lions Club, which has 30 members, meets once each month, he said. There is a \$35 one-time fee to join the club then dues are \$100 per year. He said the Sevier County club meets at the King Family Library.

He said the Lions Club still helps with vision



L to R: Newport Kiwanis Club President Trevor Cates, District 12N GMT Rich Wilson, and Newport Kiwanis President-Elect Judy Moore present a 'Thank you' coffee mug.



A New Purpose, A Loyal Companion: Retirees Invited to Raise Future Leader Dogs - Leader Dogs for the Blind leaderdog.org

Upcoming Changes to 2025-2026 Club Excellence Awards

Changes have been implemented for the Club Excellence Awards for the 2025-2026 Lions year. One change is that applications will not be necessary for the 2025-2026 award cycle since awards will automatically be distributed by Lions International to clubs that meet the updated criteria and eligibility requirements. You will find these listed below.

Membership

- Induct a minimum of two or 20% new members (*previously was 10%*), whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year. **(NEW)**
- Or sponsor a new Lions club. (*previous terminology was "Chartered a new club"*)

Service

- Report a minimum of four service activities to Lions International. Three of these activities must show participation in each of the three International Weeks of Service. **(NEW)**
 - Mental Health and Well-Being: October 4 – 12, 2025
 - Hunger: January 3 – 11, 2026
 - Environment: April 18-26, 2026

Leadership

- Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15 **(NEW)** of the current Lion year.
- A minimum of 10% of the club's members must complete any three courses in the Lions Learning Center. **(NEW)**
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served MORE THAN TWO consecutive terms. **(NEW)**

Donations

- Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year **(NEW)**, multiplied by US\$20 (*previously was US\$10*).

Marketing

- **No longer** a component of the Club Excellence process

In addition to Club Excellence Awards, there are Zone, Region, and District Awards

Important Reminders

Remember to Pay Dues:

Club Treasurers - You Club dues have now been charged by Lions International, with Invoices available in the Portal. Be sure to check these Invoices and pay your Club dues in a timely manner.

Also be sure to send in your District 12N & MD12 dues to Treasurer IPDG Keltie.

KAPA

For clients wishing to make a referral to Knoxville Area Project Access (KAPA), use the new simplified online form:

[Family Health Administration System - Electronic Services \(fphases.com\)](http://fphases.com)

Or call the Knoxville office at (865) 531-2766 and they will fill out the form for you.

This will get the process started and a KAPA representative will respond quickly.

KAPA works with Appalachian Mountain Project Access (AMPA) in Johnson City and will refer patients there as appropriate, depending on patient location and services needed. You can also call AMPA directly, if needed, at (423) 232-6700.

Reach out to 1st VDG Wayne Garland for questions concerning the KAPA referral process.

USA/Canada Forum News:

Are you planning to attend the USA/Canada Forum in Atlantic City, NJ? Will you be flying into the Philadelphia Airport and need transportation to the Venue? If so, check this out!



BREAKING HEADLINES



GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Philadelphia Airport to Harrah's Atlantic City

BOOKING NOW AVAILABLE

Buses depart from Philadelphia Airport, **Wednesday, Sept. 17th** between 10am and 8pm

Buses depart from Harrah's Atlantic City, **Sunday, September 21st** between 3am and 1pm

Cost **US\$90 per round trip**. One-way tickets not sold.

No refunds after August 1st

[Reserve Your Bus Ticket Now](#)

Disaster Relief for Texas

A Catastrophic Flood Event in Texas

From July 4–7, 2025, Central Texas—especially the Hill Country—was struck by historic flash flooding. The Guadalupe River surged over 26 feet in just 45 minutes, with flood waters claiming over 135 lives with several people still unaccounted for. Hundreds of people were rescued from the flood waters.

Local and National organizations immediately launched rescue and relief operations, and donations of supplies of money began pouring into the Texas communities. As an immediate response, LCIF provided a Major Catastrophe Grant of \$100,000 to assist with disaster relief efforts. Ongoing grants and donations will continue.

As East TN Lions, we understand all too well how devastating environmental disasters can be. When we were affected by the flood waters from Hurricane Helene in September of 2024, Texas was one of many states that stepped up to offer assistance to us. Now is the time for us to return that kindness in a meaningful way. In the spirit of “paying-it-forward”, IPDG Keltie has approved a donation of \$2,000 that has been sent to the Kerrville Host Lions Club Foundation of Texas as a show of support from their East TN Lions neighbors.

The horrific floods in TN, NC, and now in Texas reveal communities at their most vulnerable. Yet, they also bring out the best in people—from celebrities and corporations to neighbors and service clubs like ours. The East TN Lions are exemplifying their motto, “We Serve,” with compassion, integrity, and real impact.

NEWS & VIEWS ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

We know you're making a difference in your communities, and we want to hear about it! Whether it's a service project, fundraiser, officer installation, new member inductions, or recognizing a member's hard work, share your experiences with us. Let's inspire and learn from each other.

Articles for News & Views should be submitted in WORD or JPEG formats (please avoid PDFs). Use the font size of 16, and keep articles under 200 words. If including photos (strongly encouraged!), limit your article to 100 words and include the names of individuals in the photos when possible.

Send your submissions to 2nd VDG Kim Osborne at kimosborne607@gmail.com by the 20th day of the month.
We look forward to seeing your stories!

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

It's come to our attention that some of our fellow Lions may not be aware of the News & Views Newsletter that's delivered to inboxes at the start of each month. This monthly publication is packed with valuable updates, event information, and resources that are important for all of us in District 12N.

We're encouraging all Club Presidents to highlight News & Views at each meeting and help spread the word. Please remind your members to check their email and take a few minutes each month to stay informed and connected through this helpful resource.



Together, let's make sure every Lion in 12N is in the know! 🦁📧
2nd VDG Kim Osborne - News & Views Editor and Publisher

Answers to Summer I Spy:

