

UPCOMING
EVENTS:

January 6, 2026
Food Packing Event
Sevierville, TN

January 3-11, 2026
Hunger Week

January 7, 2026
IPDG Keltie's Disaster
ZOOM

January 10, 2026
Winter Cabinet Meeting
ZOOM 9:00 AM

January 16-18, 2026
Lions Learning Retreat
Manchester, TN

February 28, 2026
Deadline to submit Lion of
the Year and Lion of the
Decade applications

March 27-28, 2026
District 12N Convention
Farragut, TN

Happy New Year!

As we start a new year, many of us will use this new beginning as a way to start over placing a goal/s at the end of the finishing line December 31, 2026. Some popular goals include: Weight loss or fitness, getting my money in order, reading my Bible, and the list goes on... Historically only around 25% of people will commit to their annual goals past 30 days. Less than 8% achieve their new year goals. To keep goals top of mind write them down. Visual reminders prompt small actions daily that will yield results. Daily exposure reinforces our brains and tells us that what we are doing matters. I have a few personal and business goals that I want to achieve in 2026. My phone background has been changed so I can view that goal multiple times per day; I have also changed my passwords so I have to type my goals out. Let's dream big in 2026.

I'm wishing you much success as we try to improve our lives and the lives of others.

In Service...Nathanael Hughes, District Governor

VDG's Lionhearted Lessons



January 2026 – New Day, New You

“New Year, New You” often fades after January, but “New Day, New You” keeps renewal alive daily. For Lions Club members, this mindset means every sunrise offers a chance to serve with fresh energy, vision, and purpose. Instead of waiting for resolutions, we embrace small, consistent acts of kindness and leadership that strengthen our communities. Each

meeting, project, or conversation becomes an opportunity to grow, inspire, and make a difference. By living “New Day, New You,” Lions embody service not as a yearly goal but as a daily commitment—building momentum, fostering unity, and creating lasting impact together.

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



Welcoming a New Year of Service in East Tennessee

As we step into a brand-new year, the East Tennessee Lions Clubs are reminded of the incredible power of service—and the bright possibilities that lie ahead. Each New Year gives us a chance to reflect on the lives we’ve touched, the challenges we’ve faced together, and the unwavering commitment our Lions continue to demonstrate across our communities.

This past year, our Clubs have shown strength, compassion, and resilience—from vision screenings and disaster relief efforts to supporting families in need and uplifting our neighbors in countless ways. Every act of service has strengthened our mission and deepened our impact throughout District 12N and beyond.

Now, as we turn the page, we are inspired to dream bigger, serve bolder, and continue growing our pride of Lions. The New Year encourages each of us to renew our dedication to our motto: “We Serve.” It’s a time to welcome new members, explore new service opportunities, and strengthen partnerships that help us change lives here in East Tennessee. Let’s make this our strongest year of service yet!!

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

“Leadership Corner” from PDG Wendy Cain



This month I share the sixth and final principle of leadership from *You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader: How Anyone, Anywhere, Can Make a Positive Difference* by Mark Sanborn. This one is right up the alley for every Lion!

The Power of Giving:

- Great leaders are givers, not takers.
- They give time, encouragement, support, and recognition.
- Generosity earns loyalty and helps create a culture of positivity and growth.

Leadership is not about being in charge, it's about taking care of those in your charge.

I think about how important this principle is in my work environment, and then I realize it is **MORE** important in a volunteer organization like Lions! We aren't always going to agree, but should **ALWAYS** treat others with respect, encouragement, and empathy. As Lions, we try to lift up those who are in need, but let's also lift up those who take on leadership roles in our clubs and district.

Upcoming Events:

- **Jan. 16-18, 2026:** Tennessee Lions Learning Retreat in Manchester, TN. Scholarships are available from the District (reimbursement after you attend), and registration information will be available soon!
- **February 3, 2026:** District 12-N Officer “Power Hour” from 8-9 p.m. via Zoom for Presidents/VPs, Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership Chairs, and Marketing Chairs. Go to <http://tnlions.org/calendar/> for Zoom Link

District 12N Treasurer's Update:

District 12N Treasurer's Report as of November 28, 2025

Administrative Account Balance as of 11/01/2025.....	\$51,762.54
Deposits: Disaster relief expenses reimbursement	+\$106.04
Expenses: MD Rally, postage, plaque for bench, stamps.....	-\$342.91
Ending balance as of 11/28/2025	\$51,525.67

District 12N Charities Inc. Treasurer's Report as of 11/28/2025

12N Charities Account Balance as of 11/01/2025	\$2,470.43
Deposits: \$13,756.00	+\$13,756.00
Expenses: \$13,265.10 (camper #14, camper title, mattresses for camper)	-\$13,265.10
Ending balance as of 11/28/2025	\$2,961.33

District 12N Charities Inc. DBA Lions District 12N Disaster Preparedness

Account Balance as of 11/01/2025	\$19,868.61
Deposits: \$0.00	\$0.00
Expenses: CWS (to go kit supplies, other supplies).....	-\$10,453.41
Ending balance as of 11/28/2025	\$9,415.20

Money Market Balance will be reported in the next update

**Submitted by,
Keltie Kerney**

IPDG, 12N Treasurer Administrative and Charities Accounts

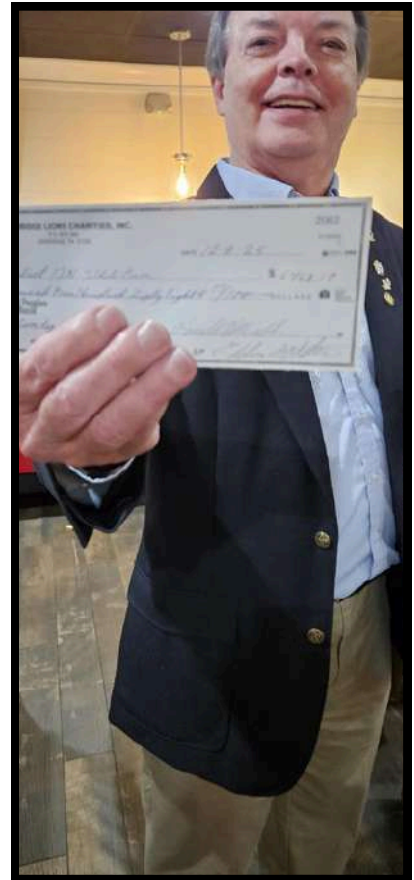
Dandridge Lions Club



Former Queen Lion Carolyn Rinehart presented a check to the Masonic Lodge in the form of a donation for \$500.00 for Thanksgiving dinners. Shown L to R: Mason Scott Czarkowski, Lion Carolyn, and Mason Butch Carmichael. The Masons cooked the dinners, and the Dandridge Lions (which services all of Jefferson County) delivered 85 hot Thanksgiving dinners to shutins in Dandridge.

Dandridge Lions presented a check to 1st VDG Wayne Garland for White Cane Day.

L to R: RaJean O'Connell, Club President and Harrell Webb, Club Treasurer.

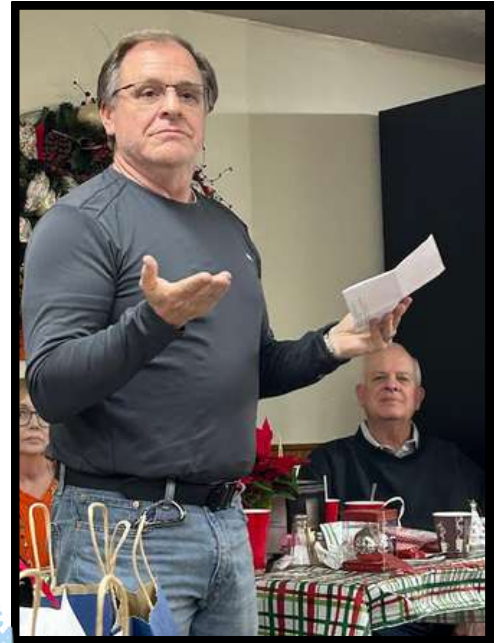


HAPPY
New Year

Elizabethton Lions Club



Photos from the Elizabethton Lions Club Annual Christmas Party that was held at Lion Jennifer Hughes restaurant, City Market. Lions and guests enjoyed a meal, ornament exchange, award ceremony for Yolanda Vestal and conducted a mini service project where they collected toys to be distributed to children at Niswonger Children's Hospital. Guests included 1st VDG Wayne & Carol Garland, and IPDG Keltie & Mike Kerney.



Lion Yolanda Vestal was the recipient of the Elizabethton Bumble Bee award in recognition of her club and community contributions. Yolanda serves as the Club Membership Chairperson.



Harriman Lions Club



The Harriman Lions Club handed out candy as part of the annual Harriman Christmas Parade on December 4th. L to R: Lions Carrie, Esther, Andy, and Mike (back).

The Harriman Club held their annual Christmas Party on December 15th.



Lion Pat Whitman conducted the Christmas games as part of the evening entertainment. A member ornament exchange followed.



Lions enjoyed the Christmas dinner



The "Kitchen Krew". Lions Will Burgess, Carie Gecelosky, Betty Guyton and Pat Whitman.



Dr. Ahler and Club President Dan Reid. Dan is blind and, we believe, the only blind president ever to serve in 12N.

During the party, Club President Dan Reid hands Dr. A Julian Ahler, M.D. a letter of appreciation from International President A.P. Singh. Dr. Ahler has completed 65 years as a Lion, and, at 93 years old, still remains an active member of the club.

Johnson City Lions Club

In late December, Johnson City Lions members stepped outside of their regular service to ring the bell for the Salvation Army—standing as a visible reminder that service doesn't stop with meetings, but lives in action. For Lions, ringing the bell means answering the call to serve wherever there is need, offering hope, dignity, and compassion to our neighbors.

Every ring is a message: We serve. Together, we show that small acts, done with big hearts, can make a powerful difference in our community.



L to R: Lion Charles Green, PDG Ed Gibbons, and Lion Doris Kaifa bell ringing for the Salvation Army on Wednesday, December 17, 2025.



Lion Charles Green ringing the bell for the Salvation Army



Kingsport Lions Club



Kingsport Lions and friends enjoying their Christmas social!



Carol Garland (wife of 1st VDG Wayne), cuddles her stuffed gingerbread toy



President Larry White exclaims that his gift is a homemade coconut pie. He expressed gratitude for an exceptional group of Lions Club members!



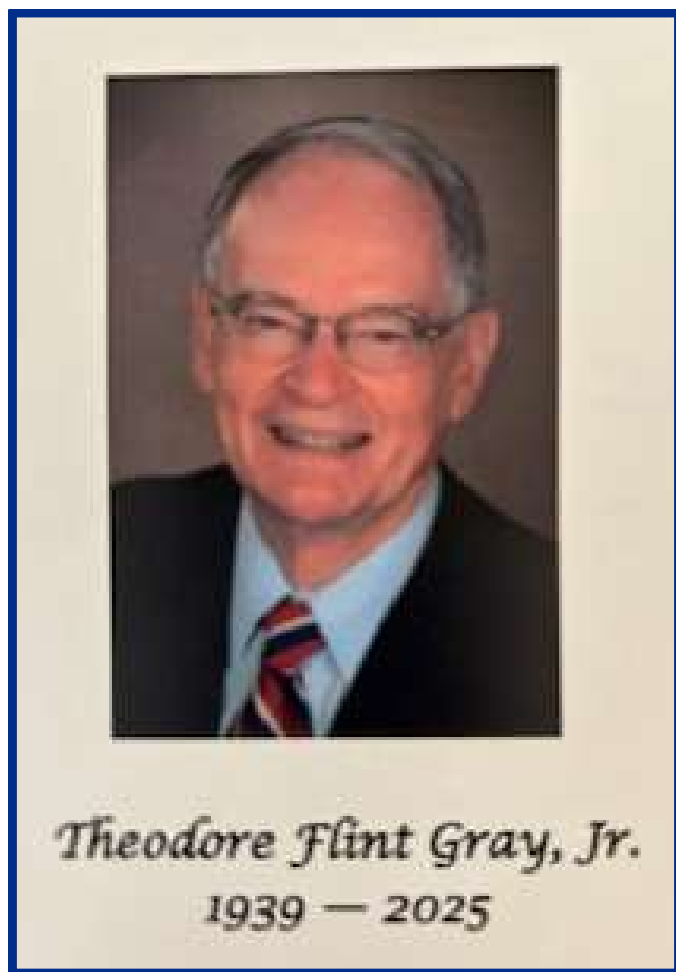
Harry Ennis always exudes the best smile even with an unusual gift



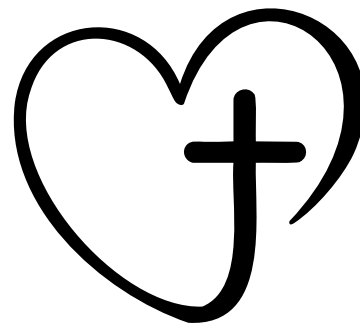
1st VDG Wayne is amused by Lion Val Abernathy's gift

Kingsport Lions Club

Kingsport Lions Club members mourn the loss of **Lion Theodore Flint Gray, Jr.** Flint was a wonderful person and a dedicated Lion who served in many leadership positions. Lion Flint played in the Kingsport Lions Club annual golf tournament on September 12th, 2025. IPDG Keltie will always remember his story about a time when 60 or more turtles escaped from their enclosure and roamed Lion Flint's neighborhood. He arrived home from work to find people looking thru his yard and the neighborhood for the turtles. Lion Flint's wife reminisced at his funeral about how only a few of the turtles were recovered! Somehow, the Turtle Derby went on that year. Lion Flint will be greatly missed.



in
loving
memory



Knoxville Tri-County Lions Club

In the Holiday Spirit of Giving: Knoxville Tri-County Lions Hold Souper Saturday

What a great time at Souper Saturday in Seymour; on December 13th Knoxville Tri-County Lions provided seven crock-pots of soup, bread, and cookies to the approximately 80 elderly residents at Renaissance Square Apartments and afterwards gave each a bag of pecans and a handcrafted Christmas card. Numerous members prepared the soups in crock-pots for the event—everything from minestrone to chili, potato soup, and more!

One recipient commented, “That's so awesome! Congratulations! Yes, I was one of the people that got some of that. I say God bless everyone that worked on this. To put a little joy in so many homes.”

Seven volunteers participated in serving, as well as delivering meals to apartments of individuals unable to make it to the meeting room where the event was held due to health conditions.



A scene from Souper Saturday in Seymour.

Knox Tri-Co Lions Club (con't)

Tri-County Lions Ring Bells for Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive

On a chilly Saturday, December 6, Knoxville Tri-County Lions rang the bells to raise funds to help the Salvation Army support social services, including food, shelter, rent/utility assistance, and holiday aid. The kettle was set up in front of Kroger in Seymour. By the end of the day, the red kettle was so full it was difficult to get more to go inside, thanks to the amazing generosity of folks in the greater Tri-County area surrounding Seymour.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Lions Bill Barnes, and Jennifer and Dusty Robbins, with their son Porter, were among nine volunteers who braved the cold to ring the bell.



Lions Richard and Peggy Russell took the morning shift in front of Kroger. Other bell-ringers, not shown, included President Spence Perry (who took these photos), Lion Connie Emmons, Rita Barnes, and Lion Ken Moffett.

Maryville Lions Club

Effective Marketing Increases Membership

During a visit to Dollywood while wearing a Lion's branded rain jacket, a member of the Maryville Lions Club was approached by Andrea, a former Lion from Mississippi who recently moved to Tennessee.



BE A LION

- Make a difference
- Give back to the community
- Make new friends
- Develop your personal and professional skills

BE A LION ... WE SERVE!!

Instructions:

5. Put your name and contact on the back of the card that you give to the potential Lion.
6. Put the potential Lion's name and contact information on the back of the card you keep.
7. Give the potential Lion contact info to the Club Membership Chair.
8. Follow-up using contact info with invitation to join.

Lion Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Potential Lion Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The Maryville Lion had a “*Be A Lion*” card in her purse and asked Andrea if she would mind completing it, which she did. The information has been forwarded to both Lions Clubs in the Sevierville area. One of them may gain a new member. Shown above is a copy of the form handed to Andrea.

Marketing can be just that easy! This is a two-sided card created by the Maryville Lions Club and can be a useful marketing tool. Carry some in your purse or pocket because you never know when you might be able to give it to someone who shows interest in the Lions.

Since this is a generic card, we would be happy to share it with anyone interested in using it for your club. Please reach out to us at maryvillelions@gmail.com.



Wear your Lions branded clothing or hats at least once a month. You can make your own branded clothing by adding a patch to an existing item. Patches are available on the Lions International website.

Maryville Lions Club (con't)

MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION



At the recent Christmas party of the Maryville Lions Club, President Paulette Bailey presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship plaque and pin to member John Wills for his dedicated work in creating a new website for the club. The club invites you to take a look at it and subscribe -

maryvillelions.org/subscribe

Members John and Linda Wills hosted the party at their beautiful home high up in the mountains of Townsend. Club members brought various goodies to eat. What a great time was had by all with lots of camaraderie, delicious food and fun and challenging games like



shooting stretchy finger chickens into a bucket and passing squishy toys with little plastic hands that fit on the ends of your fingers! Other than the MJF presentation, the highlight of the party was a kazoo concert where we were all given kazoos, divided into 3 groups and played various Christmas carols. While one group played a tune, the other two had to shout out what the name of the carol was. What a blast! We then ended up with the entire group playing "Oh Christmas Tree" while John conducted!

The club wishes to publicly thank John and Linda for hosting our party and Happy New Year to all our Lions friends!

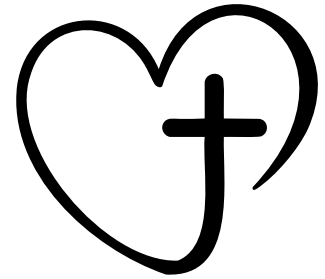
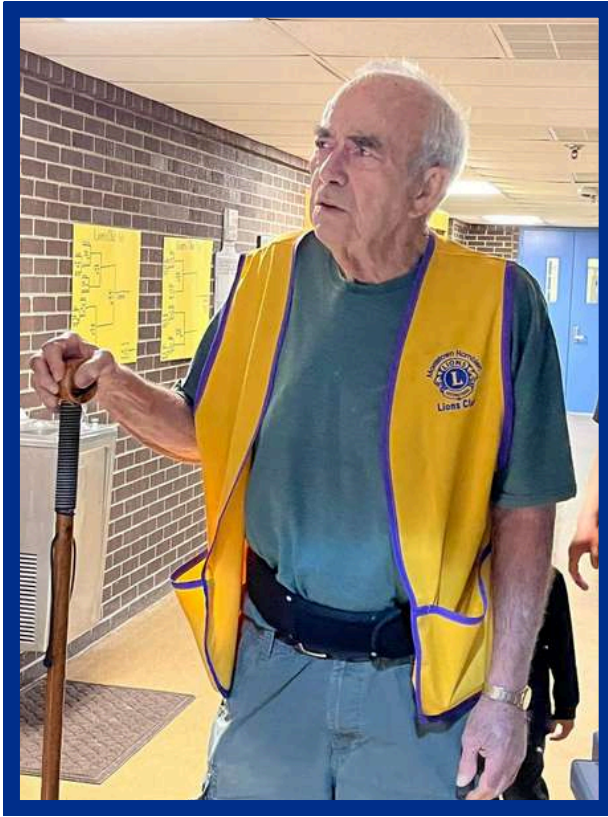
Merry Christmas

Morristown Hamblen Lions Club

Our Morristown-Hamblen Lions Club, in a wonderful partnership with the Hamblen Car Club, recently had the profound pleasure of hosting a heartwarming Christmas Dinner. We welcomed the amazing children and dedicated staff from Kingswood to the Golden Corral for an evening filled with pure delight.



Morristown Hamblen Lions Club



Morristown Hamblen Lions Club members mourn the loss of **Lion Donald Warner**.

Don's unwavering commitment and tireless service to the Morristown Hamblen Club spanned many remarkable years. He was not merely a member; he was a steadfast pillar of the Lions organization, whose wisdom, generosity, and inspiring spirit profoundly shaped countless initiatives and enriched the lives of everyone he encountered. His contributions were invaluable, and his passion for the Lions mission was evident in all he did.

The void left by his absence will be deeply felt, not only within the Morristown-Hamblen Lions Club but also throughout the community he so passionately served and uplifted. We will dearly miss his kind demeanor, insightful guidance, and the profound positive impact he had on us all. 16

Sevier County Lions Club



Sevier County Lions celebrating Christ and each other at our Christmas Party held at Lion Yessi Romero's restaurant.



Sevier Co. Lions Club (con't)

Making eyeglasses in Knoxville at Smoky Mountain Lions Charities vision clinic Dec 17th. We provided approximately 60 eye exams and made about 30 pairs of glasses same day. The rest will be made and picked up in couple weeks.



L to R: Lion Ranee King, Sevier Co and Lion Tim Hilliker, West Knox



Huge "Thank You" to Lion Bryan and his family for decorating our SCLC tree at the Gatlinburg Festival of Trees.

Sevierville Lions Club



L to R: President Kathi presents a check to My People Center's Will & Lion Ashley, assisted by 2nd VDG Kim, in appreciation for allowing us to hold meetings & events at the Center.



In December, the Sevierville Lions held a short club meeting, followed by a Christmas Social with fun, games, and gift exchanges.



Lions Erik and Chuck at the Christmas Social



Sevierville Lions members personalized and mailed 713 Christmas Cards to the **Veteran's Last Patrol Organization**. Cards will be delivered to Hospice Veterans all across the United States.



L to R: Lions Stacy and Andrea modeling their Ugly Christmas sweaters



LVBI Employee Christmas Party



Lions DG Nate, Chuck, Kim, PDG Ed, Ann, and Don

On Friday, Dec. 19th, **Lions Volunteer Blind Industries (LVBI)** held a Christmas party for Employees and the LVBI Board of Directors. Gifts, a delicious meal, festive decorations, and a fun time was had by all. THANK YOU, CEO Trevor and Staff for putting on an amazing event!



LVBI (con't)...Santa's Elves!



JINGLES is the prankster of the group. He loves to play jokes on his fellow elves, but when it comes to making toys, he is serious and dedicated. (Trevor)

MERRY is the artistic genius among the elves. She's responsible for designing and crafting beautiful ornaments for the Christmas trees. (Keltie)



TWINKLE is the expert in decorating. She transforms Santa's workshop into a winter wonderland with her dazzling light displays. (Kim)



BUDDY is the lovable elf who has a knack for spreading holiday cheer. He is Santa's right-hand man. (Mike)



SUGARPLUM is in charge of all of the sweet treats during the holiday season. She bakes delicious cookies and candies that are enjoyed by both children and adults. (Ann)

Lions in the News



East TN Lions are thrilled to announce that two of our very own District 12N Lions, **Stacy** Anderson and her daughter, **Summer** Blalock, along with Stacy's son, Sage, will be starring in ***Extracted*** – Season 2 on the FOX Network. Both Stacy & Summer are members of the **Sevierville Lions Club**.

Extracted is a high-stakes reality competition filmed deep in the rugged terrain of British Columbia. In the fall of 2025, Stacy, Summer, and Sage traveled to the remote Canadian wilderness to take on the intense challenges of Season 2. Their journey will unfold when the season premieres on January 26, 2026, on the FOX Network (next day on Hulu).

Summer was one of twelve 'Competitors', each completely isolated in the wilderness and forced to rely on their own resourcefulness—finding food, building shelter, and enduring the elements—to survive. Every move was continuously monitored by strategically placed cameras throughout the terrain. **Stacy and Sage** served as "Companions," stationed together in nearby Headquarters with the other Companions, where they watched and listened to the competitors at all times. At key moments during the competition, the Companions were given the critical opportunity to assist their teammates by selecting essential survival items—such as tools, bedding, food, and other necessities—which were delivered to the competitors by drone.

District 12N Lions will be cheering proudly each week as we follow Summer's journey surviving on her own in the wilderness, supported by strategic decisions and encouragement from Stacy and Sage inside Headquarters.

Representing East Tennessee and the heart of Lionism, this incredible family team showcases resilience, teamwork, and determination. **Will our East TN Lions bring home the \$250,000 grand prize? Tune in each week to find out!**

GO TEAM EAST TN....we're rooting for you!!!

Other Happenings



On behalf of 12N Charities Inc., Immediate Past District Governor & 12N Charities Treasurer, Keltie Kerney presents \$810.30 donation to Frank Waldo, President /CEO, Appalachian Miles for Smiles for use in their mobile vision program. The funds are an allocation from the eyeglasses recycling service project income. Also, a donation will be presented to Smoky Mountain Charities Vision Van for their vision mission clinics. Thanks to each program for continuing to meet the vision needs in many communities across the 12N district.



Photos from Lions Volunteer Blind Industries (LVBI) Thanksgiving lunch where CEO Trevor Southerland served food to employees and guests. Guests included FVDG Wayne Garland, IPDG Keltie Kerney and Morristown Hamblen Club President Ann Holbrooks.



District 12N Charities Updates

Recap of Lions District 12N Charities Budget Meeting

The Lions District 12N Charities Budget Board of Directors meeting of December 13, 2025 approved the following 2026-2027 budget to be presented at the District 12N Convention in March 2026 to be voted on by the Corporation Members:

12N Charities Operating Expenses	\$ 2,000. ***
12N District Governor's Emergency Fund:	\$ 1,000. ***
12N District Discretionary Fund:	\$ 1,000. ***
Braille Slate	No Request
Childhood Cancer	\$ 1,000.
Diabetes Awareness	\$ 1,000.
East Tennessee Lions Eye Bank (ETLEB)	\$ 1,000.
Hearing & Speech Foundation	\$ 1,500.
Leader Dogs for the Blind	\$ 0
Learning Ally	No request
Lions Quest	No Request
Lions Volunteer Blind Industries (LVBI)	\$ 17,381.
Tennessee School for the Blind	\$ 0
World Services for the Blind	<u>No request</u>
Total Funds allocated:	\$ 25,881.00
Total Available Funds:	\$ 25,881.22

***Required funding per by-laws

Roaring News and Notes:

District 12N Lions Charities Notice of Board of Directors Vacancies

Lions District 12N Charities President PDG Rich Wilson has announced the appointment of the 12N Charities Nominating Committee. The committee will be chaired by Charities Vice President Doris Kaifa and includes Lion Doug Dykstra and Lion Carolyn Rinehart.

Lions in good standing, from District 12N clubs in good standing, who are interested in serving on the District 12N Charities Board of Directors are invited to submit their names for consideration.

Four (4) Board of Directors positions will be filled at the District 12N Convention scheduled for March 2026. Each position carries a three-year term beginning July 2026.

To submit your name for consideration, please email one or more of the following committee members:

Doris Kaifa:


celebratelifeyaun@gmail.com

Doug Dykstra:

douglasddykstra@att.net

Carolyn Rinehart:

rinehartcarolyn@gmail.com




MARKETING LIONS
LIONS VIRTUAL .org
The Power Of Story Telling

Learn how to tell your story for REAL impact
Master storyteller Daniel Marney Elkins will show you why storytelling matters and how it can grow your club, strengthen your brand, and build community partnerships.

Then Jodi Burmester will teach you how easy it is to create your own video story (reel!) using the FREE version of CapCut.

Followed by an open Marketing Q&A!

Don't miss this one—your club's next big story starts here.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
9 am CST (Chicago) / GMT-6
bit.ly/MarketingLionsStorytelling

Stay curious. Stay growing.



WISDOM WEDNESDAYS
Wednesday, January 7th
8 pm EDT / 7 pm CDT / 6 pm MDT / 5 pm PDT

A Combined LinkedIn & WhatsApp Event

Join Winster Ceballos, Jodi Burmester, & Chris Wooters for a fast, fun session on LinkedIn & WhatsApp — two platforms where many of our next-generation Lions are already connecting. Whether you're looking to level up your LinkedIn presence or finally learn how to communicate like the rest of the world with WhatsApp, this session has you covered.

Register now & get the basics, the tips, & the must-know moves to make these apps work for you. Don't miss it — it's going to be a great program!



Register once. Join every month.
<https://bit.ly/LUSAWisdom>
Questions? info@lionsusa.org

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

August 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 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

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

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 9:00 AM LVBJ

7th GLT Power Hour ZOOM 8PM

29th DG Nate's ZOOM 8AM

4-12th Mental Health Week

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

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
3rd & IPDG Keltie ZOOM

6th 12N Charities meeting 10:00 AM in Sevierville

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

3-11th Hunger Week

10th Winter Cabinet Meeting via ZOOM

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

29th - ETLEB Board Mtg

February 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

3rd GLT Power Hour ZOOM 8PM

4th IPDG Keltie's ZOOM 8PM

25th DG Nate's ZOOM 8AM

March 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				

4th IPDG Keltie's ZOOM 8PM

27th-28th District 12N Convention
Farragut Community Center

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

18 - 26th Environmental Week

30th April - 2nd May
MD12 TN State Conv.

May 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						

30th April - 2nd May
MD12 TN State Convention

Spring Cabinet Meeting
Date To Be Determined

27th DG Nate's ZOOM 8AM

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

NONE REPORTED

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026**



In Loving Memory

**Theodore Flint Gray, Jr. - Kingsport Lions
Doug Rodenbeck - Knox North Lions
Donald Warner - Morristown Hamblen Lions**

Lion of the Year Contest

Lion of the Year 2025

Lion of the year is a great way to honor an outstanding Lion for this calendar year. Send an email to the district awards chair by **February 28, 2026**, and include the following information about your nominee and please see additional rules on the following page.

Name of Nominee

Name of Club

District

Hometown of Nominee

How long has this person been a Lion? (must be a lion for a full year)

1. **In what way has your nominee served your club this year? (60 points)** include any projects chaired or other projects worked on in the last 12 months.
2. **List any awards or offices (club level or higher) held this year. (20 points)**
3. **Outside Volunteering done by nominee (20 points)**

The nomination must be submitted from the email associated with the Club President or Secretary based on the Lions Portal.

Request an emailed copy of the Application from Cabinet Secretary, Kathi Hofstad at: Kathihofstad@gmail.com

Deadline for Submitting Application to DG Nate Hughes via email is February 28, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Lion of the Year Contest (con't)

Rules and Regulations Lion of the Year for District and MD 12

1. The committee selecting the "Lion of the Year" shall consider the following points regarding the importance of the three items in the contest. Item No. 1 = 60 Points, Item No. 2 = 20 Points, Item No.3 = 20 Points.
2. Only one (1) nominee from a club may be entered each year in the District Contest, only one (1) nominee from a District may be entered each year in the Multiple District Contest and only one (1) Multiple District "Lion of the Year" shall be selected each year.
3. The candidate, club, and District shall have been "In Good Standing" during the entire contest period. (See MD-12 Constitution and By Laws Article III, Section 1 and Lions International Constitution and By-Laws Article XI, Section 1(a).)
4. Contest begins **January 1, 2025**, and ends **December 31, 2025**.
5. The District Contest & Awards Chairman must receive the local club's completed entry form **emailed no later than February 28, 2026**, for the entry to be considered.
6. The District selection committee shall be chaired by the District Contest & Awards Chair and shall be composed of Lions appointed by the District Governor.
7. Those ineligible to be entered in the district competition are: District Governor, Vice District Governors, District/Multiple District Contest & Awards Chair.
8. The district winner will be announced at the State Convention, with appropriate awards and publicity being given.
9. The District Contest & Awards Chairman will submit the district winner to the Multiple District 12 Tennessee Lions Contest & Awards Chairman on or before a date specified by the MD-12 Contest & Awards Chairman. **Only one (1) nominee shall be submitted to the Multiple District.**
10. The State Contest & Awards Committee shall review the District entries sufficiently in advance of the State Convention in order to select a winner and have a suitable award prepared for presentation before the close of the State Convention.
11. Once a Lion has won the District or MD level award of Lion of the Year, he/she must not be nominated again for the same award for a period of 5 years.

Deadline for Submitting Application to DG Nate Hughes via email is February 28, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Lion of the Decade Contest

1

"LION OF THE DECADE CONTEST – 2025 CONTEST PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

NOTE: Club must be "In Good Standing" with District and International dues paid up to date for candidate to be considered. (See MD-12 Constitution By Laws Article III, Section 1 and Lions International Constitution and By-Laws Article XI, Section 1(a).) Use the following format to submit your Club's "LION OF THE DECADE" for competition in the District and Multiple District contests. Complete your club's entry form in detail and mail it to your District Contest and Awards Chairman **POST-MARKED OR EMAILED NO LATER THAN February 28, 2026**. Include a small picture of your candidate (color print is acceptable) if at all possible. Attach additional pages (no more than 6) with the information specified in items 1-3 below. No additional pictures or letters of recommendation will be considered.

NAME OF YOUR LIONS CLUB _____ DISTRICT _____
NAME OF YOUR "LION OF THE DECADE" _____
NUMBER OF YEARS AS A LION (must have been a Lion for 10 years) _____
ADDRESS OF YOU "LION OF THE DECADE" _____

NO 1. How has your nominee served your club in the past 10 years. Please list dates of Projects or committees chaired or served on. **(50 points)**

NO. 2. SERVICE RENDERED TO LIONISM BEYOND THE LOCAL CLUB LEVEL BY YOUR CANDIDATE DURING THE PAST TEN-YEAR PERIOD. List all offices, committees served on, committees chaired, etc., in the District and beyond. List dates served in these capacities. List all awards received for service to Lionism. **(Counts as 25 Points.)**

NO 3. SERVICE RENDERED TO YOUR COMMUNITY BY YOUR CANDIDATE DURING THE PAST TEN-YEAR PERIOD.(25 points)

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Name of Secretary or Lion of the Decade Chairman _____
Contact information _____

Request an emailed copy of the Application from Cabinet Secretary, Kathi Hofstad at: Kathihofstad@gmail.com

Deadline for Submitting Application to DG Nate Hughes via email is February 28, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Lion of the Decade Contest (con't)

Lion of the Decade - 2025 Rules and regulations governing the "Lion of the Decade" contest

1. The district committee selecting the "Lion of the Decade" shall consider the following points with regard to the importance of the three items in the contest. No. 1 = 50 Points No. 2 = 25 Points No.3 = 25 points.
2. Only one (1) nominee from a club may be entered each year in the District Contest, only one (1) nominee from a District may be entered each year in the Multiple District Contest and only one (1) Multiple District "Lion of the Decade" shall be selected each year.
3. The candidate shall have been "In Good Standing" in his/her local club during the entire contest period. (See MD-12 Constitution and By Laws Article III, Section 1 and Lions International Constitution and By-Laws Article XI, Section 1(a).)
4. Contest begins **January 1, 2015 and ends December 31, 2025**
5. The District Contest & Awards Chairman must receive the local club's completed entry form **postmarked or emailed no later than February 28, 2026** for the entry to be considered.
6. The District selection committee shall be chaired by the District Contest & Awards Chairman and shall be composed of Lions appointed by the District Governor.
7. Those ineligible to be entered in the District competition are: District Governor, Vice District Governors and District Contest & Awards Chairmen
8. The District winner will be announced at the State Convention, with appropriate awards and publicity being given.
9. The District Contest & Awards Chairman will submit the District winner to the Multiple District 12 Tennessee Lions Contest & Awards Chairman on or before a date specified by the MD-12 Contest Awards Chairman. **Only one (1) nominee shall be submitted to the Multiple District,** and Lion of the Decade cannot be Lion of the Year.
10. The State Contest & Awards committee shall review the district entries sufficiently in advance of the State Convention in order to select a winner and have a suitable award prepared for presentation by the close of the State Convention.
11. A lion who has been nominated for the award of Lion of the Decade and wins at the District level may not be nominated again for the same award for a period of 5 years and cannot use the nominating information previously used for the prior 5 years.

Deadline for Submitting Application to DG Nate Hughes via email is February 28, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

LIONS VOLUNTEER BLIND INDUSTRIES

December 11, 2025

To: Lions Clubs of District 12-N, Lions Club Members of District 12-N, and Generous Donors throughout East Tennessee



Subject: Mission Accomplished: A Heartfelt Thank You for the LCIF Matching Grant Success!

Dear Esteemed Lions and Valued Supporters,

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news: thanks to your overwhelming generosity and unwavering support, Lions Volunteer Blind Industries (LVBI) has successfully reached our goal for the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) matching grant! Your collective effort has made a significant impact, turning an ambitious goal into a reality.

Your contributions were instrumental in securing the necessary funds for a vital new quilter for our operations. We are delighted to inform you that we will be placing the order for this essential equipment this month, with an estimated delivery date in early March 2026.

This new quilter is more than just a piece of machinery; it represents a commitment to our mission and will provide our dedicated employees with quality equipment to continue their valuable work. Because of you, we can enhance our capabilities and ensure our employees have the best tools to succeed.

We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and dedication to the LVBI mission. Your belief in our work inspires us every day. We couldn't have achieved this milestone without you.

We look forward to keeping you updated on the quilter's arrival and the positive impact it will have on the lives of our employees.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Trevor Southerland CEO Lions Volunteer Blind Industries

*Thank
you*

Operation Inasmuch Food Packing



DISTRICT 12N LIONS – 4th Annual FOOD PACKING Event

Tuesday, January 6, 2026: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

The Hangar at Pathways Church
1210 Airport Blvd.
Sevierville, TN 37862

The **District 12N GST Team** has partnered with “*Operation Inasmuch*” and Pathways Church for the 4th Annual food packing project on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. **ALL DISTRICT 12N CLUBS** can serve their communities this holiday season and address one of the Lions Clubs International focus causes: **HUNGER.**

We will be packaging approx. 40,000 pasta and/or soup meals. “*Operation Inasmuch*” provides all hair nets, gloves, masks, and product. On-site training will take place on how to do each stage of the packing process. **Each club will be eligible to receive approx. 4 boxes containing 36 meal packets that will feed a family of 6.**

To make this project a success, we will need **volunteer help** and **Club Commitment** to have someone pick up the club’s share of boxes on Tuesday, January 6th, **prior to 1:30 PM** to distribute however the club deems appropriate (individuals, church, community food banks, Domestic Violence Shelters, Meals on Wheels, etc.). LCIF would like to know how we are serving our communities. Please provide details and photos AND report your service hours!!!

8:30 AM: Meet n Greet; Breakfast, develop teams, training.

9:00 AM: Prayer, Pledge, Introductions, recognitions; Shift 1 commence.

11:00 AM: Break; lunch; develop teams; training.

NOON: Shift 2 commence

1:30 PM: Pick-up & dispense boxes of food; clean up.

2:00 PM: Kudos and out the door!



No outside food or beverage may be brought in. Health Department protocols will be followed.

Club Name	9AM – 11AM and/or NOON-2:00 PM Shift 1 or 2	# Volunteers	Volunteer Name(s)	Food Only – Pick-up Name(s)

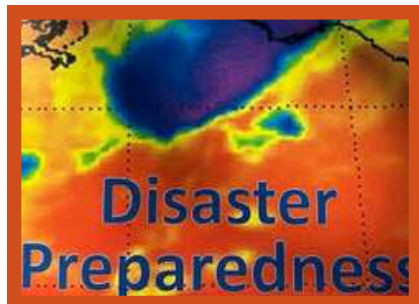
Send registration information to: **Don and Val Abernathy at: donvalabernathy@gmail.com**

Registration deadline: Friday, January 2, 2026. Please provide the name and phone number (above) of the individual that will be picking up the boxes.

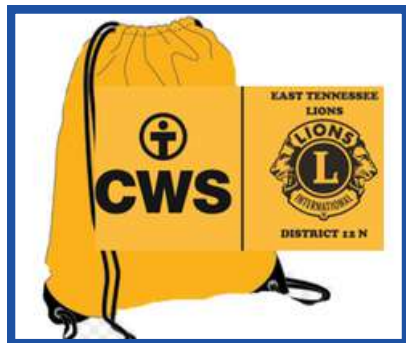


Thanks in advance for making this a successful 12N event! See you next year!!!

Disaster Preparedness Updates



The **Disaster Preparedness Team** continues to meet regularly, with the team recently making the decision to collaborate with **Church World Services (CWS)**, an organization experienced in disaster preparedness. An advantage with this collaboration is leveraging their knowledge in disaster planning, and developing a list of essential items needed during the immediate aftermath of a disaster. In addition to the basic list of items, the team decided to add a few additional items. Click on the Amazon link (below) to see the Gift Registry and to consider purchasing one or more items.



Lions 12N Disaster Preparedness Kits | Amazon Gift List

 amazon.com

Please plan to attend the District 12N Convention in Farragut in March. On Saturday morning, March 28, 2026, District 12N members will pack 400 “To-Go kits”, which is more than the original projection. The increase is due to the collaboration between District 12 N Lions and Church World Services (CWS), with CWS donating 200 “To-Go kits”. One of the CWS staff members will attend the convention and assist with packing the kits.

There is ongoing development of an informational video and a flyer regarding the importance of the need to be prepared for a disaster.

The **Disaster Preparedness** service project to pack “To-Go kits” is made possible thru a matching grant from LCIF. LCIF awarded \$15,000 and donations of \$5,000 were provided for the matching requirement.

The District is very grateful to LCIF for their support following Hurricane Helene as a Disaster Relief grant of \$20,000 was also awarded to District 12N.

The **Disaster Preparedness/Relief team** meets by Zoom the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm, and all are invited to participate. If you wish to receive the Zoom link, contact Cabinet Secretary Kathi Hofstad (kathihofstad@gmail.com) to request the link. Much work has already been accomplished, involving collaboration with local emergency management experts and other knowledgeable sources. All clubs are encouraged to participate as we move forward with this very important project.

Disaster Relief Updates

The District continues to provide **disaster relief support**, with the most recent purchase and placement in East Knoxville of Camper #14. In addition to the camper, household supplies were provided for the family of 3 adults (one in a wheelchair) who had been living out of their car since September of 2024 after losing their home in Greeneville from the Hurricane Helene flooding.

If you know of ongoing disaster relief needs, please contact a member of the disaster relief/preparedness team as there are some remaining funds designated to be used for disaster relief.

L to R: Lions Kim, Erik, Liz, Tom, Chuck, and Trevor with Care Cuts founder Marti (front). Delivering donated Camper #14.



L to R: Lion Liz and new homeowner, Shirley



L to R: Lions Chuck, Erik, and Trevor setting up the camper

Lions Learning Retreat 2026



Lions Learning Retreat
January 16-18, 2026
 Manchester Coffee County Conference Center
 Manchester, Tennessee

DEADLINE TO CONFIRM MEALS IS DECEMBER 31, 2025!!!!

Attendee 1: _____ Printed name on Badge: _____

District: _____ Club: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

First Time Attendee? (Please Circle One): Y N Lion: _____ Leo: _____ Cub: _____ Guest: _____

Special Meals: Diabetic: _____ Low Sodium: _____ Vegetarian: _____ Other: _____

Attendee 2: _____ Printed name on Badge: _____

District: _____ Club: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

First Time Attendee? (Please Circle One): Y N Lion: _____ Leo: _____ Cub: _____ Guest: _____

Special Meals: Diabetic: _____ Low Sodium: _____ Vegetarian: _____ Other: _____

Type of Registration	Deadline (postmarked by)	Amount	# to Register
<i>Full registration: Includes all seminars, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch & dinner and Sunday breakfast</i>			
Early	Now - October 31, 2025	\$160.00	
Regular	November 1 - December 31, 2025	\$170.00	
Late/On-Site	January 1 - January 16, 2026	\$180.00	
<i>Saturday only includes seminars with lunch & dinner</i>			
Regular	Now - December 31, 2025	\$80.00	
Late/On-Site ***Meals not guaranteed***	January 1 - January 17, 2026	\$90.00	
<i>Saturday seminars ONLY (NO MEALS INCLUDED)</i>			
Regular	Now - December 15, 2025	\$25.00	
Late/On-Site	January 1 - January 17, 2026	\$35.00	
		TOTAL:	

Please choose one protein for Saturday night meal: Turkey with cornbread dressing OR Beef Medallions

For full registration: mark if NOT ATTENDING one of the meals below:

Friday dinner: _____ Saturday lunch: _____ Saturday dinner: _____ Sunday breakfast: _____

PAYMENT

Check# _____ enclosed in the amount of _____ made payable to **Lions Learning Retreat**

Credit Card# _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

I authorize the LLR to charge \$ _____ to my credit card. **Add Convenience Fee of \$5 per Reg.**

Signature _____

Send all registrations and payments to:

Lion Jim McFarland, 8030 Whitestone RD, Knoxville, TN 37938

Additional Information located on page 29-30

Lions Learning Retreat 2026 (con't)

Lions Learning Retreat (cont)

The Host Hotel is the **Holiday Inn Express**, 111 Hospitality Blvd., in Manchester, TN. **Please call today** for room reservations. **931-728-9383** and ask for the Lions Rate of \$115.00 plus taxes. Additional Important Information: **This rate is good until January 1, 2026. Reservations made after that date will pay a higher room rate.**

Other hotels near the Conference Center

Laquinta Inn & Suites at 120 Hospitality Dr. - 931-450-4005

The Comfort Inn & Suites at 152 Hospitality Dr. in 931-228-8393

The tradition of the Basket Auction continues. This helps keep the cost of the LLR registration as low as possible. Can we count on you to bring a gift basket? Yes _____

Another tradition is the first-timer seminar at 5PM on Friday night. This is valuable time spent if this is your first LLR. Learn what to expect from the LLR and meet other Lions who have not attended an LLR. It'll be worth getting there early!

Return on Investment of time and finances by attending the LLR.

Have fun learning to be a better Lion, increase your education on all things Lionism hone your leadership skills, and help your club become it can be! **Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead.**

Interested in presenting at the Lions Learning Retreat????

Contact Tawnya Buster - tawnyabuster@gmail.com or 615-945-9906.

We will be selling ads in this year's Lions Learning Retreat booklet

FULL PAGE \$100

½ PAGE \$50

¼ PAGE \$25

PATRON \$10 – one-line listing with all the patrons (NAME & CLUB).

Please email your ad to tawnyabuster@gmail.com to be placed in the book by **December 1, 2025.**

Our Lions International guest this weekend will be Past International Director Robert "Bob" Block and his Partner in Service Brenda Block.

Looking for the latest Lions Learning Retreat information including schedule, seminar information and more? You can find it on our WEBSITE! <https://tennesseelionsllr.com/>

We will have fun, learn a lot, do a little service, make new friends as we catch up with old ones and I've got a few surprises up my sleeve to ensure we have FUN!!!!!!
Hope to see you in Manchester in January 16-18, 2026!

Additional Information located on page 28 & 30

Special Weeks of Service

LIONS & LEOS WEEKS OF SERVICE 2025-2026



The Weeks of Service centers around significant International days, highlighting the impact of Lions through the world. Lions are encouraged to do service that greatly impacts their communities while also finding sustainable ways to increase service impact, and visibility of the Lions brand through consistent periods of service.

THE 3 FOCUS AREAS FOR THIS FY INCLUDE:



MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

LIONS SERVICE WEEK WILL BE ON
OCTOBER 4-12, 2025

COMPLETED



HUNGER

LIONS SERVICE WEEK WILL BE FROM
JANUARY 3-11, 2026



ENVIRONMENT

LIONS SERVICE WEEK WILL BE FROM
APRIL 18-26, 2026

Information on State Convention 2026



There has been a change in the location of the 2026 Tennessee Lions State Convention. It will now be in Clarksville at the **Doubletree by Hilton, Clarksville Riverview**. The room cost is \$139 plus tax which includes a breakfast buffet (at a value of \$21 per person). Reservations can be made at:

<https://group.doubletree.com/hfiu0r> or by phone at 931-919-5044. Hotel reservations must be made by March 30, 2026.

The convention will kickoff on Thursday, April 30th from 6-9 PM with a reception for our International Guest, **1st International Vice President Mark Lyon**. Light finger foods will be available and are included in the registration package price.

The Full Registration package is all that is available at the present time. This includes Lunch and Dinner on Friday, in addition to Lunch and a Grand Banquet on Saturday evening. The cost is \$150 for four meals and the Thursday reception.

There will be optional seminars on Friday morning, with great speakers scheduled throughout the day on Friday and Saturday.

There will be a **live basket auction on Friday night** with Ed Cope conducting the auction. The baskets will be provided by Lions and Lions Clubs with a value of at least \$50 to make the auction productive. Your support is very much appreciated. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to donate items for this auction.

Special entertainment will be provided by Chris Golden, son of William Lee Golden of the Oak Ridge Boys.

There will be many vendors to share information on service, fund raising and equipment that would be useful to your club.

See Page 35 for a copy of the State Convention Registration form.

Registration for State Convention 2026

2026 (107th) Tennessee Lions State Convention

April 30-May 2, 2026

Doubletree by Hilton Clarksville Riverview

Semi quinentennial of the United States

1st International Vice President Mark S. Lyon

Name _____ Club _____ Current Office/Position _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Club _____ Current Office/Position _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Early Full Registration by November 1, 2025 _____ @ \$150 = \$ _____

Regular Full Registration by February 1, 2026 _____ @ \$180 = \$ _____

Late Full Registration by April 15, 2026 _____ @ 200 = \$ _____

No Registrations will be accepted after April 15. No walk-ins.

Thursday Night Reception included with paid registration

Any dietary needs (Be Specific) _____

Please mail checks made out to "Lions of Tennessee" (the sooner the better to save you money)

Mail to:

Lion Ed Lantz

5087 Minnis RD

Springfield, TN 37172



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.

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