

The Oklahoma Lion



December, 2025



Upcoming Council Dates

- January 24, 2026 OKC WestSide
- April 24, 25, 2026 State Convention Lawton
- June 20, 2026 OKC West Side
*January 31 Snow Day



Hello Oklahoma Lions!

The holiday season is upon us once again! Lions International President AP Singh has designated three weeks of service for this Lions year. The second week of service, from January 3 - 11, 2026, will focus on hunger.

According to the United Nations, approximately 2 billion people worldwide lack access to safe, nutritious food in sufficient quantities. One in three people struggles with food insecurity, including our neighbors.



In the United States, 13.5% of households experience food insecurity. In Oklahoma, 15% of households are food insecure. People across all demographic groups are affected by food insecurity, including children, older adults, and low-income households. Unfortunately, we are in inflationary times, and food is expensive.

Our own District Governor, Sharyl Pickens, is leading a district service project to package 10,000 meals for distribution in 3NW. Each meal is 45 cents for a total of \$4500. She needs our support in funding this project.

In Oklahoma, two major food banks partner with local community food pantries. Local Lions clubs are encouraged to contact their community food pantries to volunteer time or resources to help alleviate hunger.

December 5, 2025 is International Leo Club Day. The first Lions Leo Club was established in 1957 by a baseball coach, Jim Gaver, a member of the Glenside Lions Club in Pennsylvania. Gaver wanted to establish a service club for high school students at the school where he coached.

The name "Leo" was an acronym for the program's core values: Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity. In 1964, the Lions Club Board of Directors officially adopted the Leo Club Program.



Today, the Lions Leo program has over 7500 clubs, with more than 180,000 members, in more than 150 countries. Happy 67th birthday to the Lions Leo program! Special thanks to the Leo Club of

Biyagama North, Sri Lanka, for the information. Our Leos of Oklahoma have designed several of the annual Leo pins that are used worldwide.

In state news, Marie Burns received the Educate Award at the Hough Ear Institute Gala. The Oklahoma Lions have donated over 250 hearing aids to the Hough Ear Institute to be refurbished. These hearing aids have been donated to help people hear better. Congratulations to Marie Burns (& the Lions of Oklahoma) on receiving this award, and thank you to those who have donated hearing aids.

At the November council meeting, 3E DG Nancy Wood spearheaded a project to give hats and gloves to veterans at the Norman Veterans Center. The meeting had a patriotic theme with red, white, and blue. Lion veterans who were present, as well as those from across the state, were honored for their service.

After the council meeting, the informal audit for the Lions of Oklahoma was held.

The holiday season is a time for giving. As you are thinking about gifts for your loved ones and charitable organizations, please consider giving to Lions Club International Foundation. We have received many monetary grants from LCIF over the years. LCIF provides various types of grants to Lions of Oklahoma. We must do a better job of giving back to LCIF through individual and club donations.

Valerie and I look forward to seeing you at the Meadows of Hope Christmas Party. We hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

CC Mark Adair



2025-2026

**District 3 E
Governor
Nancy Wood
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Nancy@
mcalesterink.com**



While we there, we were given a tour of the Beautiful New Veterans Home.



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

DG Nancy Wood

PDG Neal Wood helped with the KidSight Vision screenings at the re-



cent **McAlester** Regional Health Center Foundation's Health Fair at the McAlester Expo on November 13. Over 150 people stopped by to visit with the McAlester Lions attending the table. Lions Mike Parks, Paul Perry, Gary Wansick, and DG Nancy Wood also were on hand for the event.

Lion Dr. Carter Mattson with new Lion Justin McLemore that he sponsored.



Lion Will Cooke with the Wilburton October and November Senior Students of the Month.



Wilburton Trunk or Treat



Seasons Greetings 3-E Lions !!

It's hard to believe that December is here and we're almost halfway through the year. Many of our clubs are gearing up to participate in their community's Christmas Parades, helping with their community Angel Trees, helping with Community Food Baskets, and getting ready to enjoy some Christmas Festivities and Parties.

I'd like to thank everyone that helped and participated in honoring and recognizing our Veterans at our last Council Meeting. We brought Stocking Hats, brown jersey work gloves, and wrote cards to some of the Veterans at the Norman Veterans Home, thanking them for their service!

At our District Cabinet meeting in Okmulgee on November 1st, we collected items and wrote cards to each of the 26 Veterans at the new Veterans Home in Sallisaw. Then on Veterans Day, PCC Neal and I had the privilege of delivering them all to the Veterans at the new Sallisaw Facility. We delivered a Veterans Challenge coin, a card, a stocking hat and a pair of gloves for each one of the Veter-



ans at the home. Speedy and Louise Brewer from the **Bokoshe Lions** were also there to help.



I recently visited the **Bristow** Lions Club where I was honored to present immediate Past President Lion Chapman Shields with a International President's Certificate of Appreciation for maintaining a club of more than 20 members while retaining the current members for the 2024-2025 year! While there, I also got to present Lion David Barnett with his 50 year Chevron! Congratulations to the Bristow Lions!

Besides planning to prepare Holiday Candy & Fruit sacks for all the children in their community, the **Porter Lions** were busy making plans for next summer's Porter Peach Festival. They said next summer's festival will be their 60th Annual Peach Festival and they want to set the World's Record for the largest Peach Cobbler. They said the cobbler will be over 2300 pounds! That might be a good place to be next July.

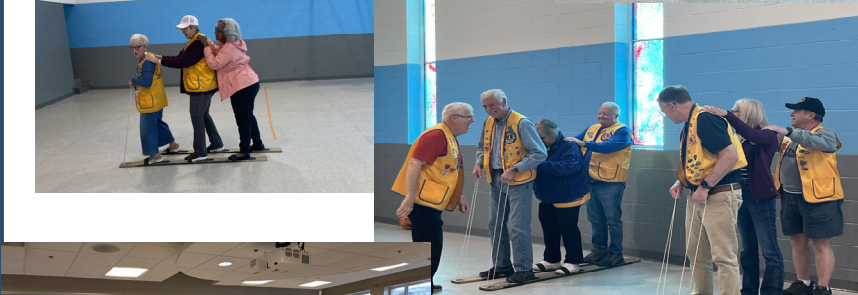


The **Bristow, Idabel, and Vinita** Lions clubs report that their Leo Clubs are off to a good start this fall. Bristow said they have about 20 Leos. Idabel said they have about 15 Leos, and Vinita said they have about 30 Leos. We thank you for engaging our Youth, "Our Future"!

As we're preparing for the Holidays, please remember to get the names of your winning Speech contestants to me by January 10th, 2026.

And if you have a nomination you would like to make for our 1st PID Jim Sullivan Award, I need that nomination by January 15th, 2026.

Team building exercise at the Cabinet meeting in Ok-



Miami, 104 year old club.



Pocola Trunk or Treat

Guidelines For Sorting Glasses

1. Sort by removing the glasses from the cases.
 2. Sort separately by; clear glasses, sunglasses (prescription or not), readers, and children's glasses.
 4. Discard broken cases and glasses.
 5. Cases: If they are good, bring in separate box.
 6. Bring sorted glasses in separate container.
 5. Please mark containers if they are sorted.
 6. Note: If your club brings the glasses in plastic tubs please mark your tubs if you want them back.
- Thank you to all the clubs who sort!



Eye Glass Recycling

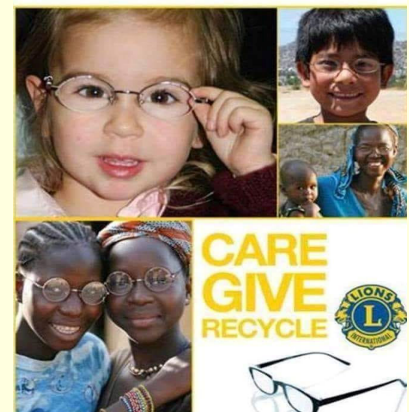


OC Northwest	200
The Village	173
Bartlesville	580
Union City	20
Durant	56
Midwest City	200
Edmond	1700

This makes a total of 2929 pairs of eyeglasses recycled from Oklahoma Lions for November as well as several hearing aids! Way to go!

Thank you to all the Lions who recycle Cell phones and Hearing Aids. Remember we have Eyeglass collection boxes for \$10.00 and Hearing Aid collection boxes for \$15.00! If your Club needs boxes and are unable to purchase them, please visit with the office to see if we can help.

Your used glasses can make a difference!



2024-2025



**District 3-NW
Governor
Sharyl Pickens
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hotdogs, chips, and drinks at the Fairview school's Not-so-Nightmare on Elm Street. October was busy! Nice job, Good Fairview Lions!

Stillwater Noon hosted their students of the month Aiden Kim and

DG Sharyl accepting check from Kingfisher President Michael Swisher for the District Food Packaging project at the 3 NW convention.



Hello NW District Lions!

Peace Poster deadline revealed a fantastic winner for our District! **Ponca City Noon**'s entry by Lily Hamilton came out on top. I believe they set a record with their 137 entries! Lion Katrina Sinor chaired the project and spent time with the art teacher. Thank you, Ponca City Noon! Our state winner will be determined December 13 at the LMOH Christmas Party.



Other projects from **Ponca City Noon** in-



clude working concessions at a high school football play off game and a blanket and coat drive. Thank you for your service, PCN!



Fairview Lions



cooked and served spaghetti dinner and desserts to the Fairview football team and then

Ally Aguilar pictured with Lion Ray Smith.

Stillwater Noon Lions are proud to honor students who go above and beyond in academics, attitude, and service.



North Enid had a food drive for the Salvation Army. I was honored to visit their



meeting and share about the importance of addressing the problem of hunger across our district.

DG Sharyl and North Enid presi-

dent Chuck Osgood.

Kingfisher Lions welcomed a Junior Lion to the meeting in November. Also, a guest who attended their



meeting most likely will join – thanks to a little pressure from the NW Dis-

trict Governor!

It pays to have a membership packet handy! They also

raised funds with a quilt raffle and donated \$250 to the local food bank. Also, Kingfisher contributed to the District service project!



Jet Lions sponsored an Alpha Leo Club! Congratulations on extending the offer of service to our youth. Club Advisor Megan Hickman is excited to see where this opportunity leads.

Laverne Lions continue to have monthly Bingo and are raising good amounts of money! They are planning a health screening, as well. They recently donated \$500 to the family of a local child who is fighting cancer. Thank you, Laverne Lions.

Watonga Lions will be hosting the annual tree lighting on December 5 at Lions Centennial Park. Thank you, Good Lions for spreading the Christmas cheer!

Goodwell Lions and **Perry Lion** John Anderson also contributed to the District service project. Thank you so much!

Our District Convention is February 20-21, 2026 in Stillwater at Meridian Technology Center. Friday the 20th is casual and we will just gather at a local restaurant for dinner.

Registration will be approximately \$55. per person. Holiday Inn WEST is our host hotel. Rooms are \$109. Registration forms will be out by the end of the month.

Saturday the 21st gets started at 9am with District business and workshops. Lunch will be a boxed sandwich lunch prepared by Meridian Culinary Arts Students. Our service project will be 2pm-4pm and we will assemble food packets. Every club participating in the packaging will be able to take food packets to their communities for distribution.

The project has a price tag – 10,000 individual meals are 45 cents each. That's \$4,500 we need to raise to pay for the packages. Clubs and individuals have been making donations to the cause – your contribution would be so greatly appreciated!

Our dinner begins at 5:30pm and features our International Director Debbie Cantrell. Please join us for a fantastic wrap up to a wonderful convention.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP: Lions Club International Foundation is the fundraising arm of LCI. It gives grants to help communities. Serving humanitarian need is our legacy – where there's a need, there's a Lion. Any contributions clubs and individuals can make to LCIF make a WORLD of difference.

PIE IN THE FACE COMPETITION: To encourage LCIF donations – the 3 District Governors have engaged in friendly competition. Between now and state convention in April, LCIF donations will be tallied. The DG with the least amount gets a pie in the face at convention! I AM BEGGING YOU – please donate to LCIF! □ I think DG Frances and DG Nancy look much better in PIE than I do!

MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP: What a fantastic way to honor your hardworking members. With a \$1,000 contribution to LCIF, a member can be memorialized in Lions history. Consider taking that extra step and bestowing this great honor.

As always, I look forward to visiting your club. Over these past 5 months I have met wonderful humans and have had delicious meals. Thank you for your hospitality.

May your Christmas season be blessed and meaningful. It's about peace, love, and joy.

I hope to see you on the road –

DG Sharyl



****2026 FDI AND GPLLI INFORMATION****

The Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) and Faculty Development Institute (FDI)

The Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) and the Faculty Development Institute (FDI) courses will be offered again next summer 2026. These will be returning to Baker University. This location is near Topeka, KS and is much closer to Oklahoma than Marysville, Mo.

GPLLI Event Description: "Training to prepare Lions for leadership positions throughout the organization. The GPLLI program is customized to best accommodate the needs of the area." Dynamic facilitators from across the Great Plains will provide emerging Lion leaders with modules on diversity; goal setting; Lions fundamentals; local issues; mission statement; motivation; public speaking; time management; and working in teams.

GPLLI Candidate Description: "Qualified candidates are Lions ready to pursue leadership roles within their Lions communities. Club Leaders would benefit from attending."

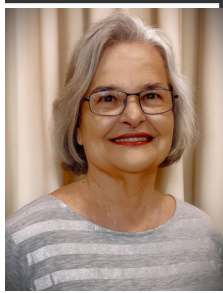
The Faculty Development Institute (FDI) will be limited to 20 students, (4) four from each Multiple District: Oklahoma, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. All FDI apps will be accepted and the GPLLI Board will review and select the attendees. The FDI applicants, not selected, will be notified and their payment returned. There are applications and further information online at

www.oklionsfoundation.org/ok-lions-leadership-news

If you need further information please contact the State office. If you are interested in attending either, of these please let us know and we will help you with forms. Information is also available at kansaslions.org. Please call us at 405-947-6540.



2025-2026



**District 3-SW
Governor
Frances Poindexter
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Hello Fellow Lions!!

What a wonderful month we have had in November. Several club visits and our Cabinet and Council Meetings.

On October 21st Diana Drummond, Zone Chair, and I visited **Purcell Lions Club**.

On November 4th I visited **Surrey Hill Lions Club** and talked about their many projects and events in their club. On November 15th they had their pancake breakfast for the community. The Club also have projects maintaining their park, collecting eyeglasses, and another project in February where they sell flowers for Valentine's Day.

OKC West Side had our pancake breakfast on the 15th with several participating.

We were honored by our past Council Chair, Verdana Adams and her husband, Cletus. Thank you both for attending. We had (8) eight members that helped set up, fix the meal, and serve. Our club will be collecting toys at our December meeting for children at the Roc House in Oklahoma.

West Side Vets
On December 3rd our club will ring

bells for Salvation Army. On November 5th I had another zone chair meeting with (6) six members present. Each of these meetings have been informative and helpful to all of us by getting ideas from each zone chair on what their clubs are doing.

On November 6th my Zone Chair Vicky Golightly and I visited **Oklahoma City Northwest Lions Club**. I had the honor to induct a

new member into their club, Larry Wilkinson with his sponsor being Dean Taylor. This club is a very active club with 25 members and many projects, such as, golf tournaments, flag raising at Lake Hefner, White Cane, Bell Ringing for the Salvation



Army and appreciation for the teachers meals and food for the children at Hillsdale School and many more.

On November 7th we had our 2nd District Cabinet meeting with about 10 in attendance. I reported on what is happening in the district, upcoming District Convention on March 27-28, 2026, with International Director Dave Wineman and his wife Lindy as our honored guest.

Each GAT chair that was in attendance gave a report along with the zone chairs and any club presidents present. I'm hoping that in

January we could have more presidents in attendance or call in through Zoom, to give their reports. It is always fun to find out what's happenings in your clubs and to give new ideas for projects or events that can be done.

On November 8th we had our Council Meeting with all districts represented.

We had a program honoring our Lion Veterans in the state of Oklahoma.

We also collected stocking hats and brown gloves and

monetary donation for the Norman Veterans Center for the 278 Veterans. I had the privilege of delivering the items and money to the Center and received a letter from the Administrator thanking our organization for the items and money saying *"We appreciate the help of organizations like yours who realize the value of giving time and resources to enrich the lives of Veterans. You are making a difference for these Oklahoma heroes."*

I and the other governors what to thank everyone that was thoughtful enough to donate for this good cause. We have some awesome Lions in the state of Oklahoma.

On November 12th I had the honor of visiting **Oklahoma City Capitol Hill Lions Club** and I presented a 25 yr. Chevron to Albert Lindley.

They have projects that they are doing by selling candy and nuts at different Nursing Homes. They do Christmas boxes for 25 families and scholarships for students. I went back on the 17th to help the President and secretary get into the portal and teach them how to input projects. If there are any clubs that need this help, please let me know.



On November 13th, I drove to **Tishomingo Lions Club** with 15 members in attendance. I was able to present 1 chevron to Mary Lokey for 15 yrs service and I left one chevron to be handed out later to Dean Wiles, that was not there, for 40 yrs service.

Robin, their secretary, gave out a pin for a membership advancement key for sponsoring 5 members to Tom Lokey their past president. They have projects coming up with angel tree, toys for tots, a blood drive, and a float for the Christmas Parade

On the same day, I attended the Hough Hearing Aid awards event



with SS Marie Burns, PDG Rick Drummond, and his wife Diana Drummond, also attended.

On to **Mustang Lions Club** to present an award to the club and to their President Rob Estes for Membership retention and growth.



On November 20th, I had the privilege of visiting the **Rush Springs Lions Club**. If you haven't been to the



Rush Springs Watermelon Festival then it sounds like you are missing a treat. This was their 80th year to have this event. They have a contest to get a queen for the festival and in their club house they had three walls with pictures of them lined up. Some of the projects that this club has are collecting glasses, sponsoring kids, helps with a car show, and has 5K and 10K runs. They start in January to get ready for their watermelon festival each year so they are pretty busy year-round.

We received update from **Shawnee Lions Club** with all the projects that they have been busy with. Vision screening at several local elementary schools, in December they will be participating in the bell ringing with the Salvation Army.

I hope each of you and your families have a great Thanksgiving. Say an extra prayer for those in need and our Country and Veterans.

DG Frances

Cache Red Ribbon Project

Cache Lions Club and had the privilege of visiting with Barbara



Parker to find out all the great things their doing for their city. Their big fund raiser will be at the



end of this month displaying over 200 wood ribbons with sponsors hanging on fences around the schools.

Altus Lions



Anadarko



Briggs Memorial Scholarship
Application online @
www.occf.org



JOIN US FOR A *Cozy Christmas*

Lions of Oklahoma-

As the holiday season approaches, we're filled with joy and gratitude as we invite you to the Annual Lions Meadows of Hope Parade of Checks & Christmas Party – a cherished tradition of generosity, fellowship, and festive fun!

 **Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 AM**

 **Stillwater Community Center, 315 W 8th Ave, Stillwater**

Come enjoy a delicious holiday luncheon, warm fellowship with Lions from across Oklahoma, and plenty of Christmas cheer as we celebrate the season and the incredible impact of your support.

This year, Lions Meadows of Hope is celebrating a remarkable milestone – 80 children are thriving in 44 loving foster homes, with 10 more families preparing to join our mission to keep siblings together in care. Your generosity makes this possible, helping bring hope, healing, and belonging to children experiencing foster care.

Please RSVP by November 29th to Elizabeth@lionsmoh.org with the number attending, so we can plan accordingly.

We can't wait to celebrate the magic of the season with you and honor the extraordinary ways the Lions of Oklahoma continue to make a lasting difference for children and families.

✨ Together, we shine brighter this Christmas! ✨





Recycling Matters !



RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT



Recycling is one of Lions International's core causes for service.

WHY?

Because Lions believe that the environment is our home!

The earth sustains human life. Our environment is more than a background: it's our home. And we're committed to caring for it!

Vision and Hearing

Oklahoma Lions Clubs have helped to recycle over 244 hearing aids. These are in partnership with the Hough Hearing Aid program.

These used hearing aids are recycled and fitted to distribute to

over 250 needy Oklahoman's!

This has provided a second chance at life for many Oklahomans. Thank you!

Recycling glasses and hearing aids not only provide those in need with a chance to hear and see again,



but also the program is clean for the environment.



Hearing Aid Recycling

Lions Hearing Aid Recycling enables Lions to provide affordable hearing aids for hard-of-hearing individuals who have limited financial resources.

I was honored to attend the Hough Awards Gala on November 13th, 2025. Oklahoma Lions, and the Service Foundation were honored to receive the Educate award for Lions

participation in the program.

On Behalf of the Oklahoma Lions--I Thanked them for the honor and reminded them of the Lions saying *"where there is a need, there is a Lion"*. The problem remains incredibly large because most people do not have the ability to purchase glasses or hearing aids. One Lion, **Pam Timmons**, from NW OKC LC, decided to take on the challenge and help start a program that meets desperate people where they are! Lion Pam worked tirelessly to visit clubs, screen individuals, and develop the team we have today!

If it were not for Pam, the program would not exist. While she could not attend, my heartfelt thanks goes out to her and all the love she put into this program. The Hough Aid and Vision program would not be as successful as it is if it were not for Pam Timmons. I am honored to be by her side.

While Lions helped with Hough Aid, we also helped meet the vision needs of others. Along with many clubs who help with glasses, we at OLSF have helped over 20 individuals with glasses just this year. By coming alongside the hearing program, Lions meet the challenge of a dream of Our hero, Helen Keller.

"Try to imagine how you would feel if you lost your sight tomorrow. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night, your work, your independence gone! In that dark hour, wouldn't your heart cry out for a friend to teach you how to live in the dark?"

While "Blindness cuts us off from things; deafness cuts us off from people ... to be cut off from hearing is to be isolated indeed."

"I appeal to you, Lions — you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in my crusade against darkness?"

It has truly been an honor to work alongside the Lions of Oklahoma and the staff at Hough Ear Institute. We look forward to many more years helping those in need together.

Marie Burns, OLSF E.D.

MD3 Service Project Challenge

The MD3 GST, Diana Drummond, has issued a challenge to all clubs to get on board and begin collecting plastic! Go to NexTrex.com and sign up. You have a year to collect 1000# of the plastic listed below,

drop it at any of the locations on the website and send a picture with the number of pounds you collected. When you send in 1000 pounds, Trex will issue your club a park bench. What an easy service project!



The Lions of Ada club have already collected and delivered almost 250# with an-



other 50# waiting to be delivered

since they began the challenge in October. There are boxes NexTrex will send you as well as flyers. Call grocery stores, manufacturing facilities, friends, neighbors- anyone who will help you collect plastic! We get bags from Walmart and Pruett's Grocery fills up our bin every week. Contact Diana Drummond at diana.lionsclubsada@gmail.com or call her at 580-399-2926. She will send you with a power point to get started!

An Eternal Memory...

...Until We Meet Again

Those special memories of you
will always bring a smile
if only I could have you back
for just a little while
Then we could sit and talk again
just like we used to do
you always meant so very much
and always will do too
The fact that you're no longer here
will always cause me pain
but you're forever in my heart
until we meet again

2025-2026 Memorials

In Memory of those who go before us, we acknowledge their accomplishments, service, and legacy. Mostly, we honor them with love. The love they had for their community and the services they provided through Oklahoma Lions. This is the legacy that lasts forever!

PID George Hazelbaker

- Deanna Carson

All Past District Governors

- Oklahoma Lions Boneyard

PID Pat Shurley

- Ferril and Phyllis Williamson
- Deanna Carson

PDG Linda Hughes

- PDGs Dollie and David Wooddell

Lions State Office MD3 Calendars, News, and Notes

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2025-2026 DIRECTORY is
now online

www.oklionsfoundation.org

Please call Office for Pass-
word

Upcoming Council Dates:

- January 24, 2026 Westside
- April 24, 2026 Lawton
- June 20, 2026 Westside

The Council has decided to only offer The Oklahoma Lion online or by email which saves a lot of money! If we do not have your correct email, please let us know!

Convention Dates:

3NW—2-20, 2026 Stillwater
3E— 3-13, 2026 Okmulgee
3SW—3-27, 2026 OKC
MD3—4-24,25 2026 Lawton



Lions Office also keeps Eye Glass Re- cycling Boxes

available
for those
clubs that
wish to
distribute
them
through-
out their

community. These are \$10. We
also now have Hearing Aid Re-
cycling Boxes that are \$15.



Lions Yard Signs are available
for \$20 each at the state office .
Please let us know if you will be
picking one or more up at the
Council Meetings!

Lions of Oklahoma State
Patches (6" diam.) are now
available at the state office for
\$10.00 each.