#### The Oklahoma Lion



October, 2025



#### **Upcoming Council Dates**

- November 8, 2025 OKC WestSide
- January 24, 2026 OKC WestSide
- April 25, 2026 Lawton
- June 20,2026 OKC West Side

\*January 31 Snow Day

#### Hello Oklahoma Lions!

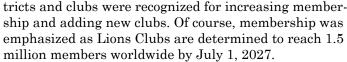


Valerie and I have just returned from the <u>USA-Canada Lions Leader-ship Forum</u> in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The central theme was Su-

perman is not coming, therefore we should all

become Servant Heros. There were over 60 different training seminars to meet the needs of everyone. Our very own Kathy Donahue taught a class on creative adult learning styles.

Sixteen hundred delegates attended the forum and top dis-



Lion President AP Singh and his Partner-in-Service, PID Sangeeta Jatia gave a tag team keynote presentation on Saturday. He discussed how leaders develop leaders by exhibiting assertiveness, grace, and compassion. Leadership is getting the work done so the world becomes a better place.

They discussed Lions and how they relate to gambling in a casino. The Lions play together and share the hand. Every bet is good. Our currency is kindness and compassion and our jackpot is service. Trust your heart and bet on service with chips of kindness and cards of compassion. We need more members and clubs for service, so the jackpot of service is worth every deal!

Some may not appreciate the connection between the Lions Club and gambling. However, President AP Singh and PID Sangeeta did a masterful job of tying gambling at Harrah's Casino to the goals of Lions Club International. This was one of the most clever and creative talks given by an LCI President that I have heard.

The Saturday night talk was given by BJ Blahnik. BJ was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa at the age of 10. He spoke about his life and how it all changed after he received his first leader dog in 2008. After his first leader dog, he went from being depressed and feeling lost to having a new outlook on life. Today, Lion BJ has

a business called Reach Forward to assist special needs individuals. He is married, has three children, and is on his fifth leader dog, Jackson. BJ's message was truly inspirational. He told the audience that he had strived to speak at the USA-Canada Lions Forum for 10 years, and it was a dream of his. Now, it had finally come true! BJ also reminded us why Lions accepted the challenge from Helen Keller to become "Knights of the Blind" over 100 years ago. Our own Lion Patty Bryant was privileged to meet BJ on her visit to Leader Dog earlier this year. She said he was not to be missed, and she was right!

The Oklahoma delegation met at Margaritaville on the Atlantic City Boardwalk on Friday night. Twelve of us got together for food and fellowship. There was live

music by a loud reggae band. Fun was had by all!

The USA-Canada Lions Leadership Forum is one of my favorite events in Lionism. Next year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the forum. The forum will take place in Memphis, Tennessee, from September 3rd to 5th. 2026. I encourage all Oklahoma Lions to attend at least one forum. Future forum dates are: 2027, Huntsville, Alabama; 2028, Grand Rapids, Michigan; 2029, Shreve-



port, Louisi-

ana. Remember what PID Russ Wright says, "It is well worth your time and money to attend the Forum."
Russ and I were fortunate enough to meet PIP Doug Alexander who will be the guest at our State Convention April 24-25, 2026 in Lawton.

Valerie and I look forward

to seeing you at the USA-Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis in 2026. It would be nice to have a large Oklahoma delegation in Memphis to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forum.

CC Mark Adair



#### **Greetings MD 3-E Lions!**

PCC Neal Wood, PDG Kathy Donahue, and I just came back from the USA/Canada Lions Leadership

Forum in Atlantic City, New Jersey. We started off with a speed learning class, then the



got inspired by some great speakers, and of course had lots of good food! ID Debbie Cantrell and



her HHBL who will be our guest at District 3NW Convention on Feb. 20 in Stillwater (photo above).

Next year the Forum will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, September 3 -5, 2026. So mark your calendars and make plans to go - it's a great learning experience!

Our District will be presenting a new District Award at our District Convention on March 14, 2026. It will be the <u>PID Jim Sullivan Lionism Award</u>, honoring Past International Director Jim Sullivan. This award is to be given to a Lion in 3-E that reflects true Lionism. A

Lion that has a Heart of service and volunteerism, with a commitment to carry these forward. One who attends meetings, helps with service projects, and inspires others to become Lions. This Lions should be a Lion with 5 or more years of service. If you

know a Lion that fits this description and would like to nominate that person for this award, please send that nomination to me by January 15, 2026.

Please remember to help your club do a Service Project on Mental Health and Wellness, preferably the week of October 4th-12th.

There are over 7 million individuals with Alzheimer's, and 1 in 3 elderly adults dying with it. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is on the rise. We are seeing a lot more bullying with our kids in our schools! We need to raise awareness regarding these issues!

Remember our next District Cabinet meeting will be on Saturday, November 1st, at the First Baptist Church in Okmulgee at 10:00 am. Bring your eye glasses and old hearing aids for recycling. We will also be doing a service project that morning, so plan to come and join us.

DG Nancy Wood

#### Club News!

The Fairland Lions and our District GAT Team will be setting up a booth at the Pelican Festival in Grove on October 3rd and 4th. We will be doing KidSight eye screenings and handing out information about Lions. Come out and see us and enjoy the Pelican Festival. The Fairland Lions also held their 26th Annual Golf Tournament recently.

<u>The Wagoner Lions</u> are working on plans for their upcoming Golf Tournament.

The Jay Lions held their annual Mum Fundraiser event. The proceeds from the sale enable the Jay

Lions to give a scholarship in each of the high schools in their County!



#### **The Bristow**

<u>Lions</u> have come off of their summer hiatus and are trying to get their Leo Club started back up.

The Tulsa Downtown Lions have been busy doing KidSight eye screenings and getting ready to help with the Tulsa Octoberfest. Our Lions are on the move!



Nancy and Frances with ID Hans and Sherri Neidhart who were our guests last year.

#### **Servant Heroes!**



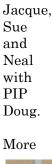


# The USA-Canada Forum 2025-Atlantic City

DGs Nancy and Frances hanging



out with IP AP Singh and 1st VP Mark Lyon after the Strides Walk.





More Lions

in At-

lantic

City.

Oklahoma Delegation



Lions Dinner At Margaritaville!

PID Gary Anderson and his wife from Michigan – Our table hosts Saturday night. Some of our delegation.

PCC Derek and Lion Kelly on the Boardwalk.



#### **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	<b>543</b>
Shawnee	616
Edmond	1658
Durant	213
Midwest City	275
Pocasset	10

This makes a total of 3315 pairs of eyeglasses recycled from Oklahoma Lions for September 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.

\*Please consider setting aside one day a month to sort glasses at your club so they will be sorted when they reach our office. Please mark the number in each box. Many Thanks to those clubs who have come to sort glasses.



Lions Clubs have helped recycle over 244 hearing aids to distribute to needy Oklahoman's! Thank you!

# 2024-2025

**District 3-NW** Governor **Sharyl Pickens** 405-314-5437 sharylpickens@ sbcglobal.net

#### Hello 3 NW Lions!

Greetings, Good Lions!

Fall brings sweaters, boots, and SERVICE! Our NW District Lions have been out and about, as usual.

Continue to put your service proiects into the Lions Portal! This data is what our international organization uses to claim the title of THE WORLD'S LARGEST SERVICE OR-GANIZATION! We need every hour entered to maintain this distinction. If you are having difficulty with the portal, please just email your project details to me at sharylpickens@sbcglobal.net and I will make sure it gets entered.

Peace Poster and Essay contests are in full swing! If you are interested in offering this to your 11, 12, and 13 year olds, it's not too late! It's a great way to meet young parents and engage with the teachers and staff at the schools. Please let me know if you would like a packet. I have everything digitally and can email you immediately. Club winners must be submitted to me by November 15, 2025.

Our State Speech contest is ramping up, as well. This is for students in grades 9-12. The district winners will compete at the state convention in Lawton in April. Let's get those packets into the high schools as soon as possible!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Mark your calendar for our district convention February 20-21 in Stillwater at Meridian Technology Center. Friday evening is just an informal time of visiting and maybe going out for dinner. Saturday will be our district awards, lunch, a service project, and our evening banquet. Our special guest speaker at the banquet will be International **Director Debbie** Cantrell. She has a great story to share and it will be nice to hear about her world wide

travels.

Our district service project will be packaging meals! To stay with my theme of "No One Should Go Hungry", we will package 10,000 meals. I need your help! Also, I am asking for donations to cover the cost of the meals. Each meal is forty-five cents. That's an amazing price. Multiply that by 10,000 - we need \$4,500.! Clubs and individuals may make contributions starting now. The QR code is here in this article. You can also go to-Oklahoma Lions Fight Hunger | Meals of Hope.

Please reach out to me if you would like to contribute to helping the hungry!

Each club who helps with the meal packaging project will get to take a few hundred packages back to their community for distribution. This is a great way to remind your neighbors of the wonderful work we Lions do every day.

It is an honor to serve as your District Governor. If I have visited your club this year - thank you for the hospitality! If I haven't seen you yet - I'm on my way! See you soon.

> In service, DG Sharyl:)

Also, mark vour calendars for the next USA -Canada Forum in Memphis, September 3-5, 2026! See you there!

Crescent Lions celebrated 90 years and have been busy. They served Lunch on Grand to commemorate this milestone. They continue to support the community with high school scholarships, FFA contributions, and Teacher of the Year Banquet. We appreciate all they do!



Laverne Lions will host the MHSU for the Annual Health Fair October 7th. They will be sponsoring a Peace Poster Contest and made a donation to the Laverne Splash Pad.

Ponca City After 5 turns 60! They support their community with Kindness for Kids (snacks), scholarships for nursing students, and Adopt an Alley. We are grateful for their commitment to Ponca City.

Ponca City Noon Lions had DG Sharyl Pickens visit on September 10. They are gearing up for the OU vs OSU canned Food Drive. They have done

KidSight eye screenings in Newkirk and in OKC and Yukon and have several more sched-



uled. They will be painting bird feeders for the local nursing homes next



month. They had a huge garage sale September 27. All proceeds go back to the community. Ponca City Lions are ON FIRE!

<u>The Kingfisher Lions</u> fed the Yellowjackets football team before Homecoming. They won 42-0! Good job Lions and Yellowjackets!



<u>Fairview Lions</u> hosted a Chicken noodle dinner before Homecoming and made a donation to the Scouts for their help with a cookout.



Perkins Lions are hosting their second annual car show October 25! Sponsorships have exceeded last year's and the excitement is growing. They also participated in the Old Settlers Day parade. That chicken looks familiar! Thank you for supporting other organizations in Perkins with the funds you raise!



Stillwater Lions are celebrating the 10th year for their Pumpkin Patch! They were on TV 31!



<u>Stroud Lions</u> host the Meriwether Culpepper Circus for the community!



Along with other efforts supporting the schools and community.
Thanks,
Stroud Lions!

Lead to serve, serve to lead



### **Perkins Car Show**



OCTOBER 25, 2025 REGISTRATION: 8AM-10AM, SHOW TIME: 8AM-2PM

**VENUE: PERKINS-TRYON HIGH SCHOOL JUST OFF HWY 33** 



### Perkins Lions Club @Perkins-LionsClub



venmo

#### TOP 20 ENTRIES WILL BE CHOSEN BY PEOPLES CHOICE

CLUB TROPHY and \$100.00 for the largest number of entries, PRE-REGISTRATION \$15, day of show registration \$20. PRE-REGISTRATION DRAWING OF \$25 & \$50, AWARDS & 50/50 POT Drawing @ 1PM inside the Commons Area, CONCESSION PROVIDED BY PERKINS-TRYON SCHOOL ATHLETICS. REST ROOMS LOCATED INSIDE THE COMMONS AREA. This Event will occur RAIN OR SHINE. ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO PERKINS LIONS CLUB community service projects and the Perkins-Tryon School Athletics.

#### Please Print:

NAME:MA		MAKE OF	_MAKE OF CAR:	
ADDRESS:		MODEL &	YEAR:	:
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	PHONE:	
EMAIL:	CLUB AFFILIATION:			

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SIGNED. EXECUTION OF ENTRIES WILL RELEASE THE PERKINS-TRYON SCHOOL, AND PERKINS LIONS CLUB, CITY OF PERKINS, AND ANY OTHER REPRESENTITIVE OF THE AFORMENTIONED GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL KNOWN CLAIMS, UNKNOWN DAMAGES, AND INJURIES SUFFERED BY THE ENTRANT AND/OR THEIR REPRESENTITIVE OR THEIR PROPERTY.

SIGNATURE: DATE:

REGISTRATION INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS: John Calavan 405-612-5739 email: <a href="mailto:perkinslionsclub74059@gmail.com">perkinslionsclub74059@gmail.com</a>, Mail To: Perkins Lions Club #B 980 8804 Perkins, Oklahoma 74059 Facebook: Perkins Lions Club #1918, WEBSITE: "Cimarron Starlight Cruisers" http://slauener.tripod.com

#### 2025-2026



District 3-SW
Governor
Frances Poindexter
405-642-1068
lion.frances.poindexter@
gmail.com

### Greetings 3SW!

What a great month I've had! I'm writing this newsletter in Atlantic City, New Jersey at the USA/ Canada Lions Leadership Forum. What a great week we've had meeting up with old friends and making new ones.

We started the Forum with the Strides Walk supporting Diabetes and enjoying the morning breeze as we walked outside. DG Nancy Wood from District E and I made the walk together, meeting up with International President A.P. Singh and Vice President Mark Lyon. (see page 3)

There were over 100 seminars that we were able to choose from to get more education. How to start a Specially Club and Marketing Skills to AI. I also went to Mental Health and Aging seminar to get Ideas for next months Mental Health. Some of the suggestions for your clubs were:

- Write cards to Veterans or Senior Citizens
- Clean yards for Seniors, go grocery shopping, or just call them up during the week to check up on them.
- Interview a senior and video their interest
- Contact the members that are tech savvy to those that need help with technology.
- Contact the Lions members in your club that haven't been to a meeting and make sure they are ok
- Gives rides to fellow lions to meetings if they are unable to drive

So much we as lions can do for our neighbors, family or nursing home residents. Be kind at all times and help where needed. Remember to post your service projects in the Portal for all to see what we as Lions can do.

My visits to the clubs are going so well! I've enjoyed visiting Chickasha Lions

<u>Club</u> and inducting 5 of their new members. I moved on to the <u>Duncan</u> <u>Lions</u> to visit



with them and got to see two of their students of the month recognized.

On to <u>Cache Lions club</u> 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. I will have pictures next article for this.

I then got to visit the <u>Atoka Lions</u> <u>Club</u> to talk about their club and possibilities of growing. While in their town I went downtown and visited REBA'S.

On to the  $\underline{Frederick\ Lions\ Club}$ 

and was honored to present a Builders Award to Vinson Orr.

OKC West Side Lions Club went to Baptist Village and visited one of



our members Pat Davidson and had our regular meeting with her.

Moving on to
Seminole Lions
to present chev-

and help where needed. rons from last year to their members

and I had the privilege to present a 55 year chevron to Les Walker. We had several more to hand out but members were unable to attend. They also had two students of the



month that were presented with awards.

This week I went to **Lawton Noon** 

<u>Club</u> to welcome their new members



from the Lawton Patriots. Also a new member was inducted into the club.

On Tuesday I visited the **Wewoka Lions club** and inducted one of
their two new

members.
The last club to visit this month

visit this month was <u>Marlow Li-</u> <u>ons Club</u>. President Sonya

Cummins presented a certificate to the Student of the Week – Gatlin Greer who is in the 28 plus club for ACT scores. He is a senior and plans to attend OU majoring in Accounting and Law.







(3SW Continued)

<u>Mustang Lions</u> will be having their



annual Haunted House from now till Halloween. Flier attached.

More to come next month. If I haven't been in con-

tact with your club, please give me a call or email and let me know when your club in available. My goal is to visit all 46 clubs before June 30, 2026..

Now that the USA/Canada Forum id over I'm back to my travels and more adventures. Our state is such a great state from the West to the East and down South. We have every kind of environment that you can hope for from prairie land to lush green trees and mountains. You have to love Oklahoma.!

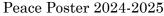
Until the next newsletter have a great month and enjoy the pictures of your fellow Lions. Let's continue to grow and serve people all over the state. If you need to contact me my number is above. Email if you have a special project you want help with or have questions. Also, don't forget your projects in the portal and send pictures to me.

DG Frances











## Oklahoma Lions Carry on the Unstoppable Spirit!

A Little over two years ago, Lions of Oklahoma had a problem! We had received many donated hearing aids and didn't know what to do with them. We began asking around and then found a team of hearing specialists at Hough Ear Institute to help solve this problem.

Around the same time Hough Ear Institute had received several calls from individuals needing hearing aids but could not afford to buy hem.

Oklahoma Lions stepped up to help solve the problem. What if we could find another non-for-profit to help restore them so we could meet this need?

Through our team efforts, **Hough** was able to find Sertoma (another non-for-profit) in Kansas who were willing to help restore the hearing aids. The Team then worked to find Ok audiologists to prescribe and fit hearing aids, all while providing care for one year.

Lion Pam Timmons worked tirelessly to visit clubs, ask for help to get the program started and to provide hearing screening to those that desired it. Pam's leadership helped Lions of Oklahoma combine our vision programs (eye sight conservation and restoration) with Hough's Hearing Aid program to truly fulfil a dream of Helen Keller.

Oklahoma Lions have always strived to serve those in need and especially those with vision and hearing impairments. Lions International published the following from an article in February 2025 that summarized the work of Helen Keller and Lions International.

Helen lost her hearing and vision at the age of 18 months to an un-

known illness. At that time there was limited care or treatment for vision and hearing loss. At age seven she met her teacher Anne



Sullivan who helped her navigate through her disabilities and overcome insurmountable odds.

Helen later learned how to read and write braille and eventually to speak. She went on to become the first deafblind graduate of Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts



Keller's break-through came when she realized that the motions her teacher was making on the palm of her hand, while running cool

water over her other hand, symbolized the idea of "water". Writing in her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, Keller recalled the moment:

"I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten—a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that w-a-t-e-r meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. The living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, set it free!"

Helen appealed to Lions at the Lions Clubs International Convention June 30th, 2025 when she was 45 years of age.

"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?"

"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?" Valerie Adair posted on Facebook a beautiful message about Helen Keller. She talked about wanting to go

to Washington, DC and see the memorial. Helen Keller also has a beautiful statue in the capital (Alabama) and her remains are with Anne Sullivan Macy in the National Cathedral. For those planning on attending



the Lions International Convention in Washington, DC in 2027, this is something you might want to see.

Lions all over the world took Helen's challenge and have continued to do great things including Oklahoma Lions!

Lions in the U.S. were attributed to the introduction of the white cane in 1930, by a Lion, George A. Bonham, President of the Peoria Lions Club (Illinois). He introduced the idea of using the white cane with a

red band as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility. In 1931, the Lion's Club International began a national program promoting the



use of white canes for persons who are blind.

Oklahoma Lions recycle eyeglasses, hearing aids, and help people with vision correcting procedures. Last year, Lions recycled over 54K glasses and OLSF helped over 20 receive glasses. Ok Lions have helped 244 individuals with hearing aids alongside our team at Hough.

Oklahoma Lions are one of the oldest Multiple Districts and have been active in this endeavor since it's inception. Please think about giving to White Cane this year! We have matching grants to help people with vision loss receive glasses and also for Hough Aid, but we need your matching gift. We can not do this without you!

Marie F. Burns OLSF E.D.

An Eternal Memory...

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

# ... 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

#### PID Pat Shurley

- Ferril and Phyllis Williamson
- Deanna Carson

#### All Past District Governors

Oklahoma Lions Boneyard

### Lions State Office MD3 Calendars, News, and Notes

#### **Contact Us:**

#### **Mailing Address:**

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#### **Office Hours:**

Mon - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Sat-Sun Closed Federal Holidays-Office Closed OK Lion Newspaper online:

State Secretary Email: mburnsolsf@gmail.com

**Sue Thompson Email:** sueok@swbell.net.

**2025-2026 DIRECTORY is** now online

Www.oklionsfoundation.org

Please call Office for Password

#### **Upcoming Council Dates:**

November 8, 2025 Westside

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 Recvcling Boxes available for those clubs that wish to distribute them throughout their



community. These are \$10. We also now have Hearing Aid Recycling 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.