

The Oklahoma Lion



January, 2026



Upcoming Council Dates

- January 24, 2026, OKC West Side
- April 25, 2026, Lawton, Ok
- June 20, 2026, OKC WestSide

*January 31 Snow Day



Hello Oklahoma Lions!

Valerie and I had a great time attending the Meadows of Hope Christmas party. We heard from Bryan Larson, CEO of Meadows of Hope. The Boys Ranch was founded in 1938. Ten years ago, they became

the Meadows of Hope. Meadows of Hope serves both foster boys and girls and keeps siblings together when possible. They have served 160 children this year. A Meadows of Hope family shared their experiences. Lions Clubs from around the state submitted their donations in the Parade of Checks. Thank you to all the Lions who have supported this wonderful organization.

The Oklahoma Peace poster winner was selected from District 3E. Everyone attending had fun. The food and fellowship were great!

Since the 2026 new year is upon us, it is time to talk about one of our favorite topics, fundraising. For many years, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has considered Oklahoma a recipient state. This means that we receive more funds from LCIF through grants and disaster relief than we donate to the foundation.

The Oklahoma Lions receive grants for KidSight and the Meadows of Hope. In the past year, we received a \$10,000 emergency grant for relief aid for the fires in District 3NW.

In November, our MD3 LCIF Coordinator, Dee Carson, was contacted by a representative of Lions Club International Foundation. Oklahoma is not giving enough donations to LCIF. Oklahoma is in Area F with Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri. The other states in area F are doing well with fundraising, and Oklahoma is not.

LCIF wants each member in Oklahoma to give \$5 a month, or \$60 a year. The foundation wants each club to

give a yearly donation. As a state, Oklahoma must raise the bar to increase giving to LCIF. The Lions Club International Foundation has supported Oklahoma throughout the years, and it is **essential** that we support LCIF.

NW governor Sharly Pickens has suggested that we hold a contest among the 3 districts to see which district can raise the most money for LCIF. The governor who raises the least amount of money for LCIF will get a pie in the face at the state convention. This is being done in good faith and in a humorous way to draw attention to the need to raise funds for LCIF.



PCC Debbie Woodruff with the Ponca City Noon Lions Club had a great idea for raising funds. Each member of the club was given a jar to collect change. The jars will be returned, and a name will be drawn. The money raised will be donated, in the winner's name, to LCIF for a Melvin Jones or Progressive Melvin Jones.

In other news, Lions International has gone paperless. LCI dues statements will no longer be mailed to the clubs. To access your club dues, you must log into the Lion Portal. Navigate to My Club, then to Club Statements, to check your club's balance. If you have a question regarding your club's statement, please contact Membership Billing at membershipbilling@lionsclub.org

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy, and abundant 2026!

**CC Mark
Adain**



2025-2026



**District 3 E
Governor
Nancy Wood
918-465-7652
Nancy@mcalesterink.com**

Happy New Year 3-E Lions !!

Hope this finds everyone doing well and ready for the New Year!

Now that the Holidays are over, it's time to concentrate on the last half of our Lions Year. Conventions are coming up, and it's time to begin thinking about your officers for next year. Both for your club and the District.

Our District Convention is scheduled for March 14th at the Elks Club in Okmulgee. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Best Western Hotel in Okmulgee (under LIONS) for Friday night, March 13th. We have the party room reserved at the Hotel's Mexican restaurant for Friday evening for those that will be there on Friday, where we will be eating, playing some games, and having some fun! More details, along with the registration form, will be coming out later this month, so stay tuned.

Our District had three Peace Poster entries. One from the Pocola Lions Club, one from the McAlester Lions Club, and one from the Vinita Lions Club. The Peace Poster submitted by the McAlester Lions



Club was our District winner, which then went on to become the State Winner, and has now been sent

on to Chicago to represent the Lions of Oklahoma in the Lions International Contest.

I have visited most all of the Clubs in our District at least once and am

amazed at all you are doing in your clubs. Now we just need to work on reporting it in the Lions Portal! I still have 4 clubs, out of our 38 clubs, that I have not been able to coordinate with to set up a visit. But I'm hoping to be able to set up visits with them by the end of this month.

Remember LCI is going paperless. So clubs will need to Log in to the Lion Portal and navigate to My Club - Club Statements to check your Club's balance, make payments, and see outstanding balances.

In closing, I'd like to ask for prayers for the families of PDG Gene Redford, 51 year Lion from Tulsa Metro-McCullough and Broken Arrow's long time Lion Larry Johnson. PDG Gene passed away on December 26th and Lion Larry passed away on November 20th. Also, please keep VCC David Wooddell in your prayers as he is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.

Best Wishes for a Great 2026 Year!!

DG Nancy Wood

Bartlesville Lions: Held their Annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale



fundraiser where they sold 220 trees and 24 wreaths, selling out in 15 days!

Bokoshe Lions: Prepared and held a free Holiday Meal for their entire



community.



Broken Arrow

Lions: Donated

\$500 to Leader Dogs, \$550 to the LMOH, and \$200 in gift cards for the LMOH giving tree.

Clayton Lions: Purchased and made up 450 bags of goodies for all of the area school kids (funded by their Annual Chili Cook-Off & donations). They also held a toy giveaway and participated in their local Christmas Parade.

Fairland Lions: Partnered with Oklahoma Farm Bureau to collect winter coats for

Kids in Ottawa County & donated \$500 to help. They helped with the Fairland Angel Tree, provided hot dogs & cookies for Fair-



land's 1st Annual Tree Lighting, and participated in their local Christmas Parade. They also screened 500 children's eyes and donated to LMOH

Heavener Lions: Voted to set up and stock a Hygiene Closet at their local

school with supplies and some



spare clothes. They participated in their local Christmas Parade and donated blankets for everyone at the

Heavener Nursing Home. They also maintain a deer preserve which has a rare albino deer at this time!



Henryetta Lions: Gave out 326 Christmas Baskets in their Annual Christmas Basket Project. This project started in 1951 and has continued ever since to ensure that no



Henryetta is forgotten at Christmas. They participated in their

familiy in Hen-

ryetta is forgotten at Christmas. They participated in their local Christmas Parade

and provided gift bags for the residents at all three

Nursing Homes. They have a wonderful booklet with the history and pictures of the Christmas Basket Project which we have at the State Office if anyone would like to see it. It is very impressive!



McAlester Lions: Held a Christmas Luncheon which featured the McAlester High School Choir. They



also held a pillow drive for the McAlester Hope House.



Okmulgee Lions: Participated in their local Christmas Parade (including one vehi-



cle with a giant stuffed Lion on top) and held their Annual Pie Bingo with the local Rotary Club. 2nd VDG Monica Medley visited and handed out chevrons to Duaine Janzen and Morgan Alexander.

Pocola Lions:



Donated to the LMOH Christmas Party. President Rickey Brown was presented with his 15 year Chevron.

Poteau Lions: Donated \$1500 to the LeFlore County Youth Services for Angel Tree Gifts and \$1500 to the Band Boosters Club from their Funnel Cake Sales.

Sallisaw Lions: Participated in their local Christmas Parade.

Tahlequah Lions: Presented a check to the LMOH at the Meadows of Hope Christmas Party.

Talihina Lions: held a toy giveaway for Christmas.

Tulsa Downtown Lions: Have been busy with Kid-Sight Eye Screenings, doing 57 events with over 2800 screenings for 2025! They presented a check to the LMOH at the Meadows of Hope Christmas Party and held a Christmas Party Luncheon.



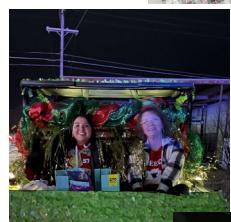
Vinita Lions: Held a gun raffle to help fund their Scholarships and participated in "Shaking the Tambourine for Funds" in support of Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Wagoner Lions: Donated to their local "Shop with a Cop" Program and sent Christmas cards to all their sponsors.

Wilburton Lions: Provided a Christmas Cookie Decorating Sta-



tion at the Community Tree Lighting, passed out candy in the Christmas Parade and had a Christmas Dinner Party.



Wyandotte Lions held their annual Christmas party.



2024-2025



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

Hello NW District Lions!
Happy 2026!

Resolutions and goals are popular this time of year. For Lions, adding new members and retaining existing members are goals we all face.

The clubs of our district are doing remarkable things! Service is in the forefront and fundraisers add to our impact. Thank you for all the outstanding work you're doing. Our communities are better because you have chosen to serve.

DISTRICT CONVENTION in Stillwater is February 20-21. Please see the registration form in this newsletter. We will have a **SILENT AUCTION** to raise funds for LCIF. Please bring items to donate! Think of Lions-related items, housewares, quilts, etc. Bring things of value and interest - we can raise quite a bit of money this way!

Our Lion King, John Calavan of Perkins, will be Lion Tamer for the convention. Please bring a few dollars to play his games and participate in some fun!

Room block at Holiday Inn and Suites WEST is open until January 20, 2026.

Convention registration is due February 15, 2026. NO LATE FEE - but we still need your registration ASAP!

Our district service project is a **FOOD PACKAGING EVENT**. Our goal is to package 10,000 meals - and each meal costs 45 cents. That's quite a value! But we need \$4,500. to purchase the meals and packaging supplies. Many clubs and members have donated - we are still accepting

monetary contributions for this project. You can mail your check to 3NW District, PO Box 804 Perkins 74059. Let me know if you have questions.

Oklahoma Community Credit Union and G&M

Body Shop West have signed on as sponsors for our convention! Thank you to Lions Daniel Thrasher and Derek McCubbin for connecting us to these generous donors. We still need a little assistance to cover expenses of the convention. Food costs are passed on through registration fees, but additional needs arise. Please consider helping. Thank you in advance!

Our clubs are serving in so many ways! Here are a few examples:

PRAGUE Lions Club presented a check for \$1000 to the Haynie Public



Library's 'Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program' serving children in Prague, Paden, Sparks, and Boley. When parents or grandparents sign up for the program, the children, from birth to 5 years of age receive a free book every month mailed to their home. They al-



so supported the local fire department by generously contributing \$5,000 toward the restoration of a 1928 firetruck.

PONCA CITY NOON donated \$200. to The Mission to help with food. They also worked the gate at



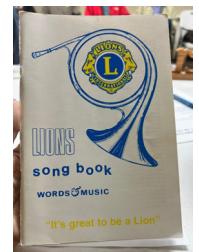
the Festival of Angels in December and Santa, Mrs. Claus, a Gingerbread Man and an ornery Elf were there with our gingerbread-



house decorated KidSight Trailer. They accepted donations and raised

funds for service projects. They had a coat drive and 39 coats, hats, scarfs, gloves and socks were donated to The Mission. They had an Angel Tree at RCB Bank for the Ponca City Nursing Home Residents with a total of 75 Angels. And they donated toys to Marland's Place to help with 15 new children.

It was great to **join the BURLINGTON LIONS** - they incorporate singing into their meetings and use the classic Lions song book!



Lion Charlie Hanger introduced Captain Mark Reynolds of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) Troop Commander of Troop K during a recent

PERRY LIONS

Club meeting. Troop K, headquartered in Perry, is responsible for serving Osage,



Pawnee, Payne, Kay, and Noble counties. They will also be celebrating their 100th anniversary on January 14! (

GUYMON LIONS operate the

Christmas Train at Thompson Park. I was thrilled to catch a ride and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate this year! I was joined by Lion Charles Michael.



LOMEGA LIONS hosted the high school ag students as they filled candy sacks for the local Christmas gathering at the elementary school. (photo with president)

KREMLIN LIONS shown here with



Gini Zaloudek, Cheri Gannon, Sharyl Pickens, and Brent Dittmeyer

LAVERNE LIONS proudly display their banner at each meeting.



PERKINS LIONS

rec-
ognized the monthly Fine Upstanding Young American by presenting a gift card and certificate. So glad to honor those youth! (photo with Lu Calavan, Sharyl Pickens, Olivia Hiler, Rhonda Hover, John Calavan.

MULHALL-ORLANDO LIONS

sacked 215 treat sacks for the school Christmas concert! 190 were given out and the rest were



take to Lions Meadows of Hope. What a service to the community!

FAIRVIEW LIONS honored Joe Houck and Clint McEachern as



Lions of the Year for their outstanding service, dedication, and leadership. Congratulations, gentlemen!

CUSHING LIONS hosted a select high school choir that performed Christmas selections at a recent meeting.



STILLWATER NOON LIONS enjoyed a program from Stillwater High School Chorale to celebrate the holiday season. They had a gift exchange and made donations to Weekend Food Sacks, Rang bells for



the Salvation Army, and presented donations to the Lion Meadows of Hope. They continue KidSight Vision Screenings.

LIONS MEADOWS OF HOPE had its annual Christmas party and Parade of Checks. The generosity was amazing! A total of \$28,500 was raised through our local clubs and

good Lions members.



Our district PEACE POSTER winner is from the PONCA NOON club! Lilly Hamilton will receive her award at our convention in February. PCN had 137 entries on the local level - that has to be some kind of record! We appreciate the effort by Chairperson Katrina Sinor.

CONGRATULATIONS to East District and their Peace Poster entry by Taylor Davis. It received the most votes in the state competition. It is on its way to LCI to represent MD-3.

May your new year be blessed and your heart be full. Thank you for everything you do for your communities,

Serving Together,

DG Sharyl :)



2025-2026



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

Hello SW Lions!!

What a festive month we had in December. I know that most of the clubs had Christmas celebrations and served many people in their areas.

OKC West Side Lions Club rang the bells for Salvation Army on December 3. This is always a blessing to see the many people that support this cause. It was a little cold but we had 9 of our members that braved the cold to help others.

On December 9th we had our regular meeting and then had a small celebration with snack food and dirty Santa gift exchanging.

On December 13th we celebrated at Meadows of Hope Christmas party. This was a nice event and great food. Each district brought a Peace Poster for us to vote on for entry into



International. District East won for the State. This entry was sent off to International on the 15th to compete with international entries. Good luck Oklahoma!

Thank you to our Peace Poster entry from Shawnee, Kima Tiscareno.

Altus Lions Club, collecting donations for senior citizens that are “shut ins” living at home.



Pocasset Lions fixed 6 Christmas Food Baskets for families in their community. They donated \$100 to MHSU Challenge.

Seminole Lions donated \$500 to the MHSU Challenge.

On December 13th, **Mustang Lions Club** Donations drive for, coats, gloves, scarves, gloves and can goods.

Tishomingo Lions handed out awards at a recent meeting



Oklahoma City Capitol Hill Had their annual Christmas Party recently.

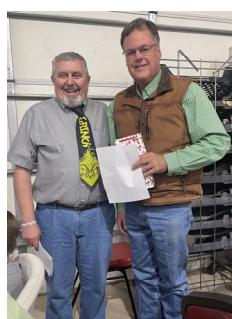


On December 14th I went to **Canyon** and celebrated with them at the annual Christmas party. We had a great time, eating, exchanging dirty



Santa gifts, and visiting. I gave out 3 Chevrons to Lana Mertz – 25 years, Lisa Welsh – 25 years and Pat Riner – 10 years. I left two chevrons for Jason Gunter and Marcie Gunter for 10 years each. Congratulations for your years' service as a lion.

On December 19th their club furnished Christmas baskets to 20 families in the community. Their other guest speaker was the Sheriff talking about fallen officers and the memorial being built in Cordell. Their club donated \$500 toward this memorial. Any club that wants to donate to this memorial can do so by sending a donation to the Washita County Justice Center, 400 North McClary, Cordell, OK 73632. Please note “Memorial” on the lower left corner of the envelope. They also bought two payers for the state office for members that have passed away this year.

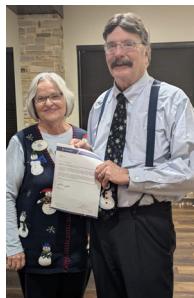




Ada Club Members

I presented chevrons to 1 club member, Dr. John Garber for 45 years as a lion. I gave him his wife's chevron, Mary Garber for 25 years. There were two more chevrons for Garmon Smith, Jr for 35 years and Joshua Edwards for 10 years, both were unable to attend.

Ada had three generations of Lions present at their meeting. PDG Rick Drummond, Sean Freeland and



Michael Freeland.



Ada also had their annual widow's banquet

I have several chevrons to hand out to each of your clubs and will be notifying you next month to set up a time to come and see you.

Hope each of you had a Merry

Christmas and Happy Year! Stay safe and warm during this season.

Next year will bring us more fun and exciting things to do and celebrate. Don't forget to

save the date for our District Convention on March 27-28, 2026 at OKC West Side Lions Club, 4135 NW 10th Street. I will have the registration form in next months newsletter. We have contracted the Embassy Suite as our hotel if you want to stay over.

Also our next Council Meeting is January 24th at OKC West Side Lions Club with the Cabinet Meeting the night before on January 23rd. At 6 p.m. Hope to see some of you in January. Send pictures and stories for the newsletter for February.

Also remember to donate to LCIF so I won't get a pie in the face at the State Convention. The donations will be tallied and the DG with the least amount gets a pie in the face at state convention!

DG Frances Poindexter

Applications due for State Posts

The Governors-Elect for 2026-2027 will accept applications for the posts of Council Chair, Vice Council Chair, State Secretary, State Treasurer and Parliamentarian from all eligible Oklahoma Lions until April 14. Send applications to the state office at 4123 N.W.10th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 Candidates will be interviewed at the state convention. (MD 3 Constitution Article IV Section 2)

Eye Glass Recycling



Chickasha	554
Midwest City	100
Shawnee	610
Anonymous	500

This makes a total of 1764 pairs of eyeglasses recycled from Oklahoma Lions for December as well as several hearing aids! A little down this month but I'm sure we will have more in the New Year!

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.

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

PID Pat Shurley

- Ferril and Phyllis Williamson
- Deanna Carson

All Past District Governors

- Oklahoma Lions Boneyard

Larry D Graham

- Duncan Lions Club

PDG Linda Hughes

- PDGs Dollie and David Wooddell

Lions State Office MD3 Calendars, News, and Notes

Contact Us:

Mailing Address:
4123 NW 10th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73107
Office Phone: 405-947-6540

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:

- 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 Recycling 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.



DISTRICT 3NW MID-WINTER CONVENTION FEBRUARY 21, 2026

Meridian Technology Center
1312 S Sangre Rd.
Stillwater, OK

LODGING INFORMATION

Holiday Inn - West

715 S Country Club Rd.

Stillwater, OK

(405) 372-2445

\$109.00/night

Rate Good Until: January 20, 2026



PICK UP CONVENTION PACKETS AND REGISTRATION DELEGATES: 8AM - 9AM

A detailed agenda will be sent to all
registered participants

Guest: ID Debbie Cantrell

SERVICE PROJECT: No One Should Go Hungry

SILENT AUCTION: Remember to bring your items!

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Lion Leo Cub

Club Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Name of Guest _____ Lion Leo Cub

This is my **first** District Convention:

Speech Contestant: Peace Poster Winner:

Name _____

Sponsor Club _____ # of Guest(s) _____

Registration (on or before February 15, 2026)

NOTE: All attendees **MUST** register. All attendees will pay the registration fee.

Except Leos, Cubs, Speech Contestants (and their guest(s) and Peace Poster Winners
(and their guest(s).

_____ @ \$15.00 = _____

Friday Night: Dinner at Bad Brad's BBQ (5302 W. 6th Ave. - Stillwater OK) - 6pm

*Attendees will pay at the restaurant at the time of the meal

Attending _____

Saturday Box Lunch: Sandwich, Fruit Cup, Brownie & Drink

_____ @ \$15.00 = _____

Saturday Dinner: Chicken Fried Steak, Potatoes, Veggie and Drink

_____ @ \$20.00 = _____

Registration and Saturday's Meal(s) Total: _____

PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO:

DISTRICT 3NW OKLAHOMA LIONS' CONVENTION

ATTN: DISTRICT TREASURER, PO BOX 804 PERKINS OK 74059

CONTACT: LU CALAVAN (405) 612-9597



Learn how to grow Lions & our impact

Join Lions & Leos across the U.S. & its Affiliates for **Let's Grow**, a 4-part interactive workshop designed to help you start new clubs, rebuild existing ones & ignite unstoppable momentum in your community.

You'll learn proven strategies, share ideas & leave each session ready to grow your pride.

BONUS: All new success stories, inspiration & interaction!

Our Focus:

- January 6: Process & Club Types
- January 20: Recruiting
- February 3: Marketing & PR
- February 17: New Club Application & Keep Growing

Perfect for:

- GAT Coordinators & Team Members
- Lions & Leos hungry for growth & impact



January 6 - February 17

(Every Other Week)

8 pm EST / 7 pm CST

/ 6 pm MST / 5 pm PST

Register Now: <https://bit.ly/GrowthWkshp26>

?s membership@lionsusa.org

2026 Oklahoma Lions State Convention Registration



April 24-25, 2026
FISTA Convention Center 200 SW C Ave.,
Lawton, OK 73501



Hotel: Fairfield Inn & Suites
201 SE 7th St. 580-248-5500



Cowboy Cash
Drawing

Friday at 7:00pm

Our Guest: **PIP Douglas Alexander**

Name _____, (Title) _____ 1st Timer Yes No

Spouse/Guest _____, (Title) _____ 1st Timer: Yes No

Phone _____ Email _____

Club _____ District: (Circle one) E NW SW

Complete and mail this form with check payable to: Lions of Oklahoma, 4123 NW 10th St. OKC, OK 73107

**Fill in below for: Leo / Peace Poster / Speech Contestant / Teacher / Parent
(Sponsoring Club responsible for meals. No registration fee for these guest**

Name _____ Sponsoring Club Name _____

Name _____ Sponsoring Club Name _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Early registration (RECEIVED on or before April 1, 2025) # _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

Late Registration (RECEIVED after April 1st) # _____ @ \$40.00 = \$ _____

MEALS (Deadline April 1, 2025)

Friday Noon: (Boneyard) Chicken Fried Steak # _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

Friday Evening: Sandwiches, Soup and Salads # _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Noon: Grilled Chicken Sandwich and Salad # _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet: Brisket and Chicken Sliders # _____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

*Alternative Meal Selection- Please indicate: Vegan _____ Gluten-free _____ Other _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Any Questions Call the Oklahoma Lions State Office: 405-947-6540