

District 38-I May 2022 Newsletter



Motto: WE SERVE

International President's Theme: Service from the Heart

My Theme: Experience the Joy of Service

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Ainsworth, Amherst, Atkinson, Bartlett, Bertrand, Broken Bow, Burwell Area, Callaway, Clay Center, Edgar, Elm Creek, Grand Island, Harvard, Hastings Noon, Hastings Evening, Heartwell, Hildreth, Holdrege, Kearney, Macon, Minden, North Loup, O'Neill, Ong, Orleans, Pleasanton, Ravenna, Red Cloud, Shelton Area, Sutton, Taylor, Valentine, Wilcox, Wilcox Lioness

Greetings District 38-I!

This year's Nebraska Lions pin was dedicated to the 100 year anniversaries of the early Lions Clubs in Nebraska. There were 11 clubs chartered in Nebraska during the years of 1920-22. Those clubs were Kimball in 1920, Omaha, Inc in 1920, Bayard in 1921, Columbus in 1921, Hastings in 1921, Norfolk in 1921, Lincoln in 1921, Scottsbluff/Gering in 1921, Bridgeport in 1922, Tekamah in 1922, and Wahoo in 1922. I was able to attend the Scottsbluff/Gering 100 year anniversary last summer during the MD38 State Convention and then the Columbus Noon Lions 100 year anniversary in October. I never thought too much about it at the time. But last week I attended the Tekamah Lions 100 year anniversary and it finally struck home. Their program included a lot of information about the time their club was formed and the people involved. But think about the fact that Lions Clubs International was initially formed in 1917. Just 3-4 years after that there was a major appearance of clubs in our state. That heritage is something that should make us very proud. There were many more clubs added in the years after that and many of the clubs quite often had over a hundred members during those growth years.

So it makes you wonder what happened in the more recent years. We have gradually been losing clubs for various reasons for at least the last 20 years. Quite often the clubs have been down to just a few remaining members and just not able to continue providing service to their communities. During this time we have seen a steady decline in membership in many of the clubs and our 4 districts have all been steadily declining in membership with 2 or 3 clubs lost across the state each year. This is a very serious situation and certainly does not pay tribute to our great start in the 1920s.

The question is what we are going to do about it. At the current rate of decline, we cannot be a viable organization but for maybe 20 more years. If we have any hope of continuing to serve our communities for the long term, we have to get this decline stopped soon and turned around to start growing our membership. You probably are not aware of it, but we are in a situation called transition. That means that we don't have enough clubs or members in our districts to be able to have anyone run for an international office to represent our state. I don't know about you, but I am very passionate about what we do and why we are doing it. I feel that service to our communities is not just something nice to do, but it is our obligation to do everything that we can to help our neighbors in need and provide "Service from the Heart"! So we must get this situation corrected. Start reaching out to the people you already know as well as others in your community and ask them to help in some of your service projects. Once they do, they will "Experience the Joy of Service" and want to become part of your Lions Club. As the saying goes, Just Ask and if they say no, then Ask Again when the time is right. You are a part of an

organization that is one of a kind and very certainly worth saving. Do your part, ask your family members, your extended family, your neighbors, the people you work with, the leaders in your community, your clergy members, your school administrators & teachers, your medical staff and anyone else that you can think of to join our great organization. We must preserve and strengthen our Lions Clubs to provide the service our communities and the world needs. As I was reminded at the recent memorial service for the great Lion PDG Leland Thomas, "A living is made by what you make, but a life is made by what you give and do"! Let's meet this challenge head on and show that we deserve to be called Lions & Knights for the Blind in the greatest service organization this world has ever known!

Reminders:

April was your club election month. Please make sure your new officers are **Reported** in MyLCI right now. They were due on May 1st. If they are not in MyLCI now, I will be contacting you to get it done! Send all District Assistance Raffle checks for prizes & the sale of raffle tickets and stubs to me right away. They were due May 1st and I will start contacting those that haven't turned them in yet. Step up & become a leader in our District and send in your application for the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) to arrive before May 1 or you will have to pay a higher registration fee. I am finishing up visiting clubs around our District and if I haven't already contacted you, I will be soon. Plan to attend our State Convention in Columbus on June 3-5. There will be lots of good information and a visit from 1st VP Brian Sheehan just a month before he takes office as Our International President!

Don't forget about the preschools & daycares in your community & surrounding communities. Plan to check out one of the KidSight cameras to screen those children to identify problems at an early age. The KidSight vision cameras are available for check-out and are hosted at the following clubs:
Hastings Evening Lions – Contact me Wayne Hinerman 402-613-7872 w_hinerman@hotmail.com
Bartlett Lions – Contact Kimmie Reed 308-750-1336 kimberly_99@hotmail.com
Broken Bow Lions – Contact Don Wolford 308-870-2426 liondonwolford@hotmail.com
Ainsworth Lions – Contact Dr. Evan Evans 402-760-2142 ecech@threeriver.net
Now is the time to start using them again! Contact your daycares & preschools to get them screened.

Special Dates Coming Up:

May 20 Opening Eyes for the Special Olympics athletes at Creighton University in Omaha, NE
June 3-5 MD38 Nebraska State Convention in Columbus, NE
June 19-25 Camp Floyd Rogers Diabetic Camp at Comeca Camp near Cozad, NE
June 24-28 Lions Clubs International Convention LCIcon 2022 in Montreal, Canada
June 27-28 Lions High School All Star Golf Tournament at Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney
July 29-31 Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) in Maryville, MO
September 15-17 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Calgary, Alberta Canada

District 38-I Club Activities:

Bartlett: Put on an Easter Egg Hunt, planted a tree and bought trees for kids to take home. Helped with the school Literacy Event by providing bingo & donated to the Accelerated Reader Program.
Broken Bow: Held a Cornhole Tournament benefit for a family with major medical expenses.
Harvard: Paid for eye exams & glasses for a couple students.
Heartwell: Provided some glasses to an individual. Made a donation to FFA for helping park cars at the fair. Made donations to Food Pantry, Goodfellows, Caring Tree and Make-A-Wish.
Kearney: Attended the Winter NLF meeting.
Ravenna: Held a Pancake Feed benefit for a family with major medical expenses

Please use MyLion and get your service activity reporting up to date. If you are having some problems accessing the MyLion application, you can call me at my contacts above, our District Global Leadership Coordinator Joanna Faber by phone at 402-469-0232 or by email joannaf@gtmc.net or our District Administrator Pat Smith by phone at 308-237-2900 or email lionslvhere@charter.net and we will help.