



9SW Lions Newsletter

We Serve

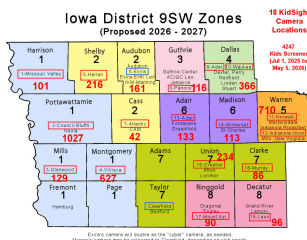


June 2026



Hi! It's Beverly Again

Greetings and Goodbyes



KidSight Camera Update: District Governor Beverly Fletcher received a letter from Lions International Foundation formally approving our \$66,600 9SW matching grant application to be used toward the purchase of new KidSight cameras.

- I have signed off on the paperwork.
- PDG Ardie Klemish will be the KidSight camera project share point person.
- Treasurer Dale Behrends will set up a separate account to receive and distribute the funds as the cameras are purchased and deployed.
- Ardie will work with Dale to transfer to him the checks she has collected toward the matching funds. We have 2 years to spend the money.

A special meeting of the 9SW cabinet was called on May 27 to decide distribution of the new KidSight cameras. Click [here](#) to see the 9SW Zone map which show the "home-club" locations.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW CAMERAS ARE OWNED BY KIDSIGHT AND THEY WILL BE SHARED AS NEEDED WITHIN THE DISTRICT/ZONE.

SO LONG, FAREWELL!!

As I look back over my year as your District Governor, I consider these as my TOP 10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

10. **Leadership and training are essential to a success for any organization.** I regret that I didn't have the opportunity for the Lions Leadership Training offered to the 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors. I had to learn as I served as 9SW District Governor and trained through experience.

9. Serving as the 9SW District Secretary for 11 years introduced me to names. As the 9SW District Governor, **I got the opportunity to tie a name to a face and to a club.**

8. Serving on the Council of Governors, **I began to know Lions serving in other districts in Iowa.** It was a wonderful experience to participate in a joint 9NW/9SW District Convention in Carroll, IA. DMACC had wonderful facilities. 9NW DG Steve Rehmann and I developed a friendship and tried new things from the Bad Portrait Artists, signing your Lions greeting card as you met other Lions from 9SW Clubs and our 9NW District, and the silent auctions to raise funds for LCIF.

7. **Getting to Know You through Constant Contact.** PDG Gary Glockhoff and Juanita Reynard developed the 9SW website--www.iowalions9sw.org in 2024-2025. Juanita and

I expanded it with developing the 9SW monthly newsletters. This is another way to learn the service projects around 9SW. You also get the early SCOOP on what is new and progressing throughout your district!

6. The July issue of the 9SW Newsletter **introduced Soles4Souls--** www.soles4souls.org thanks to PDG Allen Zobel. We now have expanded it across the state of Iowa and have 3 areas to store those shoes in Iowa with 2 being in 9SW—Indianola and Glenwood. It is a wonderful project and still expanding in 9SW to collect shoes. **“Together, we’re stepping up to fight poverty, provide relief, and protect the planet—one pair at a time.”** (Quote from S4S website.)

5. **New Lions Eyeglasses Recycle Center (LERC) in Exira.** Training for the Exira Lions Club, the Audubon Lions Club, and the Leo Club (Exira-EHK Leadership Leos) will be conducted to teach the teams how to successfully sort, clean and register the eyeglasses.

4. Tori’s Angels Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Panora, IA that helps Iowa families who have a child with a life-threatening illness. The foundation covers medical expenses that are not covered by insurance, such as deductibles and co-pays. **Tori’s Angels introduced you to children with illness in the August through December issues.** JoAnn Alumbaugh of Tori’s Angels Foundation was one of three main speakers at the 9NW/9SW District Convention.

3. **ALERT PROGRAM: We needed to get prepared to serve others during inclement weather** and to be able to respond to areas when a disaster might hit. As a result of past storms, **Iowa Lions now have two ALERT Trailers.** We have one trailer stored at Fort Dodge for the western part of Iowa. Let MD9 ALERT Chair Gary Glockhoff g.glockhoff@gmail.com know that you are interested in helping during a disaster by joining the statewide ALERT Lions Cyber Club and become a member of an ALERT Team.

2. **LCIF Vision Grant: 9SW worked as a team to raise funds to purchase 15 KidSight Cameras.** Clubs raised \$66,600 and we received the matching grant from LCIF for \$66,600. With over \$133,200 in funds, 9SW will be able to place 2 new iScreen cameras in the majority of the eight 9SW Zones for the 20 counties in Iowa. Cameras should be arriving this summer to 9SW Clubs. It is understood these cameras are owned by KidSight and will be shared as needed within the district/zone. Thank you again for working as a team and supporting the purchase of the cameras.

1. **My Number 1 accomplishment was service!** My passion is to help serve others through a number of organizational boards, local museums and church. This year my Lion’s focus was on service, club sustainability, and building club membership. It has been a successful year “Serving in the Loess Hills of Iowa”.

I have pride in 9SW Lions Clubs! We have a solid foundation as a district and will continue to:

- **Move forward and strengthen our relationships**
- **Expand our service activities**
- **Show Iowa what 9SW can accomplish.**

I will still be on the 9SW Cabinet and return to my 9SW District Secretary position along with helping expand the 9SW KidSight Programs.

Thank you for your support and help in the past. As we move forward into the future, it is time for all of us to step into July and support our new District Officers and Cabinet, as well as our new local Club Officers. Remember that we ALL SERVE.

DG Beverly Fletcher

Chris Wilkins, Our District Governor for 2026-2027



Let me introduce you to Christopher Wilkins. Chris joined the **Murray Lions Club** in September 2019. Lion Chris is **passionate about service and meeting other Lions**. Go back to earlier issues of our monthly newsletters and reread Chris' articles about attending his first **International Convention** in Orlando, FL in the October Newsletter. If you want to learn about the **USA/Canada Forum** in Atlantic City, NJ, go to the November Newsletter (www.iowalions9sw.org) and read what 1VDG Chris discovered about the Forum. DGE Chris is young and will be a great District Governor. Please watch for his newsletters in 2026-2027 and his articles in The Iowa Lion next year. **I'm passing "The Torch" to our younger Lion leaders** to move 9SW forward in both membership and service!!



[2025-2026 Peace Poster Finals](#)

The latest **Peace Poster Winners** have been selected and everyone is now able to see the wonderful artistic talents of our youth at home and across the world.

Be sure to read the **Peace Essay Winner** as well.

There are videos of both the **Poster Winner** and the **Essay Winner** acknowledging their LCI Peace awards.

This year's theme is "**Together As One**"

[Click the blue link above to see all the winners!](#)

Let's Celebrate!!! Meet Your NEW Lions!!! (And Service Awards)



The **Villisca Lions Club** presented Lion Paul Barker with his **25 year award**. He was extremely active in Kidsight within our club and as a trainer for other clubs.

He is now in the nursing home but was very excited to get the award and honored to be remembered.

(Contributed by Leanna Darnold)

Lions Doug and Marie Weddell rejoined the **Villisca Lions Club** in August, 2025. They were previous members but left the club for a time, continuing to support the club however they could. They were enthusiastically accepted back to the club. Sponsors were Lions Dennis and Pat Means.

(Contributed by Leanna Darnold)



(Note: If you want to read the 9SW flyer to help attract "Lost Lions" back into your club, you can read it by clicking the [here.](#))



Audubon Lions Club presented Darrell "Arch" Andersen with a special Lions pin commemorating his **45 years** of dedicated service to the community on June 3. Arch is seated in the front row with his brother, Harold "Bud" Andersen beside him. Behind them is Kathy Pozesny, Jackie Wahlert, President Mike Pozesny, Secretary Linda Keller, Bud's daughter Treasurer Kandi Tague (forgot her Lions shirt), Gary Keller, Ana Kauffman, and Juanita Reynard. An enlarged image of Arch's 45 year pin is inset into the front of the picture. (Contributed by Linda Keller)

Let's Celebrate!!!
Share Your Service

Greenfield Lions Club



Greenfield Lions Club hosted their **Monthly Bingo** at the **Gathering Place**. An **8AAU Softball Team** hosted a fundraiser meal for the public and bingo players. Funds raised during bingo will go back into the community and organizations. (Contributed by Jeffrey LaBarge)

Indianola Noon Lions Club



Indianola Noon Lions Dave Tanner and Nancy Slack volunteered their time at the Lutheran Church of Hope in Des Moines, packaging food for **Meals from the Heartland** to be distributed to Haiti. (Contributed by Carlisle Charlton)



Indianola Noon Lions volunteered at the **Indianola Fire Department**, assisting them with their pancake breakfast fundraiser. This raised funds for outfitting an Off-Road ATV that can be used for rescues and brush fires when the fire trucks are unable to access the area. (Contributed by Carlisle Charlton)

Audubon Lions Club



Saturday, May 9, **Audubon Lions Club** planted almost 150 red, purple, and white petunias into 18 pebble covered concrete planters in the City Square Park. Closer to the Fourth of July, small American flags will be placed into each planter. Pairs of Lion members will take turns weekly to water them during the summer. Front row: Jackie Wahlert and Ana Kauffman. Back row: Verneta Anderson, Gary Keller, and Barb Jacobsen. Linda Keller is taking the picture. (Contributed by Linda Keller)



Audubon's law enforcement held their **Annual Safety Bike Rodeo** for third graders on Monday, May 11. Since the rodeo's inception in 2005, **Audubon Lions Club** members have served as some of the volunteers. There are 8 stations that each group passes through to learn biking skills

and safety. **Audubon Farm Bureau** provides each rider with a brand new bike helmet. (Contributed by Linda Keller)

Audubon Lions 2030 Community Survey Update: Conducted by the **Audubon Lions Club**, this is a landmark civic initiative that gives the people of Audubon County, Iowa, a genuine voice in shaping the future of their community. What that data reveals is both encouraging and actionable. Rather than leaving the resident's concerns as abstract worries, the survey identifies exactly what residents want done about them. **Audubon 2030 is not just a report; it is a roadmap**, built by the community, by their Lions Club, for the community, so the club organizes around what really matters to those they serve. Read the [full survey results](#) and you may see similarities for how your Lions can step up to more community needs.

Norwalk Lions Club



In preparation of Memorial Day, the **Norwalk Lions** gathered at the Norwalk Cemetery on April 22nd to clean up the flower beds to prepare the cemetery for all the visiting families. (Contributed by Anita Grgurich)



May 27th, the **Norwalk Lions Club** joined the residents at Holland Farms to have a fun-filled night playing BINGO together. (Contributed by Anita Grgurich)



June 4th, the **Norwalk Lions Club** donated money to the Norwalk Easter Public Library. The library in turn, uses the money to buy food/snacks for members of the Boys Club when they have events at the Library.

We are serving our Community. (Contributed by Anita Grgurich)

Villisca Lions Club



Each year for Christmas, the **Villisca Lions Club** gives a Christmas Gift Bag to each client (approximately 40) in the Good Samaritan home in Villisca.

(Contributed by Leanna Darnold)

(Note: You could also make Fourth of July Bags or Harvest Bags or whatever fits the season.)



Throughout the summer months, the **Villisca Lions Club** provides a fun experience for children at various venues during the summer.

The kids love it and can't wait to get back in line for another turn!

(Contributed by Leanna Darnold)



Over the years, the **Villisca Lions Club** has participated in beautification of the city by acquiring and planting trees around the city.

Most recently the club has replaced some old trees in the cemetery.

(Contributed by Leanna Darnold)



Stay Strong to Serve

Dr. Jon Swanson, a physician in Family Health, has volunteered to write articles for our 9SW Newsletter to help us all maintain a better daily lifestyle so that we can better serve our communities longer.

Since June is Cataract Month, Dr. Swanson's article this month talks about symptoms and causes and types of cataracts ... and ways you can minimize getting them in your later years. Next month, Dr. Swanson's article will be about **Osteoporosis**.

Jon has been a member of the Audubon Lions Club for several years.

IN MEMORIAM:

Robert Hill, from Council Bluffs Lions Club passed away on May 21, 2026 with 32 years of dedicated service to his club. May he rest in peace.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **June 14, 2026 [Tori's Angels Summer Gala Breakfast](#) in Panora**
- **August 8, 2026 the Unite & Ignite the Road to MD9 Training Convention.**
Location to be decided.
- **September 26, 2026 Tori's Angels Fall Gala at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds**

NOTE: If you would like to reach out to me directly, just click the REPLY link on your email screen. I would love to hear your ideas on how to make Lions more vibrant and meaningful and inclusive of everyone. Looking forward to hearing from you. Beverly

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