

June
2026

Ohio Lions Leadership

Council Chair:
Brad King

Governors:
1 - Faith Cataldo-Gauger
2 - ShirLee Eberle
3 - Gary Cerasi
4 - Brett Housley
5 - Carl Gass
6 - Rachelle Powers
7 - Kelvin Hite

Ex Officio:
IPCC Mike Kerek
PID Ron Keller
PID Steve Thornton
PID Jerry Smith
PID Steve Sherer

MD Secretary:
PDG Deb Luttrell

MD Treasurer:
PCC Jay Gray

MD Asst. Treas:
PDG Randy Goff

MD Webmaster:
PDG Jay
Deutschman

Newsletter Editor:
Lion Brian Fox

2025-26: Issue 4

ohiolions.org

A Message from the Council Chair

By CC Brad King



It is finally here, the end of the Lions year.

Wow, it has gone by fast.

As I wrap up my year as Council Chair, I just want to say it has been

an incredible journey.

I personally would like to thank **MDS Debbie** for all her assistance throughout the year. I don't think people realize the hard work and dedication she puts into _____ MD13.

I'd also like to thank the District Governors who have _____ been a great group of people to work with.

My thanks also go to all the Lions who continue to provide service to their communities, zones, districts and state.

I would like to congratulate **PCC Lydia Houser** for becoming Ohio's endorsed candidate for International Director. I am sure we can all support her with her campaign as she heads to International Convention in Washington D.C. in 2027 to run for International Director.

Congratulations also go to **Council**

Chair-elect Rachelle Powers from OH6. She will do an outstanding job in the position. She demonstrated great leadership in OH6 this year and will do the same for MD13 next year.

I would also like to welcome **DGe Nina Cleaver as Vice Council Chair and DGe Gary Likens as Chaplin.**

Congratulations to these Lions, along with **DGe's Pam Olachia, Michael Garber, Missy Harmon, Ben Dunn, and Tamarra Parker-Stephens**, who will take office July 1st. Good luck to the next leaders of MD13 and best wishes in the upcoming Lions year.

Finally, I would like to say that although the conventions have been completed, it doesn't mean

that our work stops.

There are still a few weeks left in the Lions year to complete service and add new members within our organization. Help us grow by asking a service-minded person to join our organization.

We also need to think about retention. Reach out with a phone call, text, a visit to those individuals who you have not seen at a meeting or service project in a while.

Remember, we are a Lions family, and we need to look out for each other.

Ohio Lions Convention Held in Wilmington May 15-16

The Ohio Lions State Convention was held at the Roberts Centre Holiday Inn in Wilmington, Ohio, May 15-16. Attendees included our **International 1st VP Mark Lyon**, his wife **Lion Lyn** along with 195 delegates, other Lions, Leos and guests.



Council Chair Brad King addresses crowd at Saturday Lunch

Friday was filled with various Committee Meetings, GAT Training, CST Training, the Council of Governor's Luncheon and the final Council of Governors Meeting of the 2025-26 Lions Year. Friday concluded with a very nice OSU-Themed opening celebration with a buffet of sliders, appetizers and frozen treats. Entertainment was provided by the **Buckeye Blend Quartet**.

During the afternoon CoG meeting, **CC Brad King** ably ran his final meeting cheerfully and with briskness.

Highlights from the CoG meeting include:

Audit: Auditors were present to give the CoG financials a clean bill of health!

LCIF: As of the CoG meeting, MD13 has donated \$217,418 to LCIF.

Building: Roof repairs are mostly done. No more leaking!

Membership/Extension: As of the CoG meeting, Ohio Lions membership is down by 149. However, Districts OH1, OH4, OH5 and OH7 are currently working on new club possibilities.

Global Service Team: Ohio has reached 100% reporting once again! Lions have reported 1.5 million people served by our projects.

Global Leadership Team: Super Weekend training for Vice District Governor-elects will take place on May 29-31. Plans are in place and we are ready to go.



At Left: 1st Vice President Mark S. Lyon delivers remarks at the Saturday evening Grand Banquet.

Memorial Service and Opening Session:

Saturday began with a memorial service to honor the 161 Ohio Lions who passed away since our last state convention. This was followed by the official opening session of the convention, Seminars and award presentations. One special award was the **Lion Catcher of the Year**, given to **Lion Rob Murry**, who sponsored seven new Lions!

Undoubtedly, the most important business of the weekend was the convention's endorsement of an Ohio candidate for International Director. Ohio is certainly blessed to have had two exceptionally well-qualified candidates from whom to choose: **Past Council Chair Lydia Houser of OH6 and Past District Governor Jackie Miller of OH5**. Each ran honorable campaigns over the last few months designed to inform and inspire the Lions of Ohio. Congratulations go to PCC Lydia who received the convention's endorsement.



PCC Lydia Houser and Council Chair-elect Rachell Powers with 1st VP Mark Lyon.

The Convention ended with a wonderful Grand Banquet featuring fantastic food, inspiring words by 1st VP Mark and the official passing of the gavel from Council Chair Brad to **CC-e Rachelle Powers of OH6**.

GST CORNEL!

**By PCC Dave Stockum
MD13 GST Coordinator**

Ohio Lions:

This has been an excellent year for MD13 Clubs in respect to service. **We have achieved 100% reporting by our clubs, and we have reported serving over 1.5 million folks at this time.**

As I hope I have emphasized, reporting is not our goal – Service is! 130 clubs have reported an average of one service project completed per month, and 24 clubs have reported completing a service project in each of the International's service causes in addition to that. However, the service we have provided goes well beyond these numbers, and it is humbling to be part of an organization that plays such a positive role in its communities, its state, and the world.

I believe the sub-district GST's have done a super job of coordinating the service in their respective districts. What a great group of Lions! **Lion Lisa Henthorne**, GST for OH4, put together a neat Diabetes Management Document. She will be pleased to email you a copy. Send your request to lisash06@hotmail.com or me at stocklaw72@gmail.com.

Keep the pedal to the metal -- we still have about five weeks in this Lions Year to push toward a goal of serving two million folk. **PDG Josie Prokop** is going to be the MD13 GST for the coming Lions Year. Her leadership four years ago initiated MD13's incredible run of 100% service reporting.

I have enjoyed the last two years in the position and encourage you all to plant trees and encourage folks to adopt healthy living practices, two of my favorite causes. Our foundations are doing great jobs of supporting vision issues and pediatric cancer support, as well as being at hand when disasters, large and small, plague our communities. **Best wishes this summer!**

Service Report: Hunger

By Lion Dr. Brenda Toler, OH5, 2025-26 MD13 Hunger Chair, drbktoler@gmail.com



Ohio Lions continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to address food insecurity throughout our state. Multiple District 13 has 100 percent of Clubs reporting as of May 2026. **MD13 Lions have completed 1,064 total Hunger Service Activities. These activities served a total of 283,885 people.**

Thank you to every club, district leader, and volunteer who has contributed to this important work. **Your compassion is feeding communities and strengthening Ohio one meal at a time.** It's not too late to report your hunger services into the Lions Portal. We know there are great services that have not yet been formally reported.

Among the seven Ohio Lions districts, kudos to **District OH4** for completing the highest number of hunger service activities, reporting 349 projects, which is an increase of 112 activities since February 2026.

I would also like to extend congratulations to **District OH6**, which served the largest number of individuals through hunger-related projects, reaching 85,169 people, which is an increase of 12,426 since February. Their efforts demonstrate the tremendous impact Lions can have when clubs collaborate with community organizations and expand their outreach to those most in need.

These accomplishments remind us that every food drive, pantry donation, meal service project, and volunteer hour contributes to a larger mission of alleviating hunger and improving lives. As Lions, we know that service is most powerful when it is shared. Together, Ohio Lions continue to prove that where there is a need, there is a Lion ready to serve,

These numbers represent more than statistics—they represent meals provided, families assisted, and hope delivered to our neighbors in need. Every reported service activity demonstrates the compassion, commitment, and dedication of Ohio Lions who continue to answer the call to serve!

OH1 has completed 46 Hunger Activities and served 7,154 people
OH2 has completed 179 Hunger Activities and served 46,794 people
OH3 has completed 76 Hunger Activities and served 24,793 people
OH4 has completed 349 Hunger Activities and served 48,751 people
OH5 has completed 152 Hunger Activities and served 45,134 people
OH6 has completed 158 Hunger Activities and served 85,169 people
OH7 has completed 104 Hunger Activities and served 26,090 people



Service Report: Pediatric Cancer

By PDG Sara Camacho, OH7, 2025-26 MD13 Pediatric Cancer Chair, sara.r.camacho@gmail.com



Thank you, thank you, thank you for the amazing support on our shoes campaign!

Together we collected over 10,000 pairs of shoes - I will make sure to share a final count and donation total!

Because we are Lions, we also used this campaign to help a sister organization - **Kids Get Cancer Too**. Their organization brought us almost 100 bags of shoes to help! They will be getting 50% off the total funds raised.

They pick up where we cannot, based upon our governing documents. OLPCF is able to help families with gas cards and hospitals with research, but KGCT helps Ohio families with day to day assistance and needs - their partnership has been invaluable!

We also want to welcome two new members to our board of directors - **CC Brad King in OH6** and **Matthew Rausenberg in OH7** were both elected this year to replace outgoing board members PDG John Bond and Lion Brad Childers. Thank you to both for having such a profound impact on all that you have done for us and all that you continue to do for Ohio youth!

This year, thanks to donations from Lions and Leos, we were able to donate over \$18,000 in gas cards to family undergoing treatment. We also made TWO \$25,000 research grant awards; one to ProMedica in Toledo and the other to Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

As we enter a new Lions year, all we can say is thank you for your continued generosity and support. Without our Lions, Leos and Clubs our Foundation couldn't step up for families in need like we are able to every year.

Upcoming Lions Events

July 3-7, 2026: International Convention, Hong Kong

Jan 15-17, 2027: Winter Retreat Salt Fork State Park

August 2, 2026: CoG Meeting, Lions HQ, Grove City

Feb 13, 2027: CoG Meeting, Lions HQ, Grove City

Sept 3-5, 2026: USA/Canada Forum Memphis, TN

May 21-23, 2027: State Conv. / CoG Meeting Embassy Suites, Dublin

Nov 7, 2026: CoG Meeting, Lions HQ, Grove City

July 2-6, 2027: International Convention, Washington, DC

Service Report: Diabetes



By Lion Ernie Richmann, OH4, 2025-26 MD13 Diabetes Chair, erichmann49@yahoo.com



Lion Ernie & grandson Aiden

A successful workday was held at **Camp Ho Mita Koda**, a camp for diabetic children located in Newbury Ohio. Nineteen Lions representing six Lions Clubs participated. Bunk beds were assembled and general cleaning helped prepare the camp for the summer camping experience.



Checks totaling \$10,318 was presented to the camp. The funds were provided by 33 clubs from OH4 from the Parade of Checks. Another club presented a check for over \$300 to the camp from a fundraiser they held. I also presented a \$50 gift card given by **DKG Educational Society** following a diabetes presentation that I gave.

My wife, **Lion Pam Richmann**, and I recently toured the **Ramakrishnam Lab at Case Western Reserve University** and learned about the research funded by Breakthrough T1D. The research involves acquiring insulin producing beta cells from stem cells for insertion into individuals unable to produce insulin. It was exciting to meet Dr. Ramakrishnam and other researchers.

I am inviting Lions and friends/family of Lions to join the **Breakthrough T1D Walk at the Cleveland Zoo on Sunday, October 18** to help support the research supported by Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF). To learn more go to <http://www2.breakthrough1d.org/goto/lions>



Lion Ernie and Dr. Ramakrishnam

Finally, I am requesting the name and contact information of each diabetes chair from districts in Ohio.

My email is erichmann49@yahoo.com





Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation, Inc.

Research Today . . . Vision Tomorrow

By PCC Lydia Houser, Executive Director

Half of all blindness is preventable!

OLERF research is serving all of Ohio since 1954 by conducting research to prevent vision issues. Do you know:

- One in every 20 preschool children has an eye problem that, if left uncorrected, can lead to permanent vision loss.
- More than 1.1 million Americans are legally blind and an additional 50,000 people lose their sight each year; half of all blindness can be prevented.
- Between 2 and 3 million people have glaucoma -- and half don't even know it.
- Blindness is the number one disabling complication of diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy is one of the leading causes of new cases of blindness.
- Nearly 2,000 potentially blinding workplace eye injuries happen each day.

The Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation (OLERF) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status organization. OLERF is committed to finding treatments and cures for blinding retinal diseases such as Diabetic Retinopathy. It takes your continued support by providing donations for our grants/fellowships to Ohio researchers. There is still much more work to be done in the fight against blindness, and we cannot do it without you. Now is the time to renew/continue your dedication to ending blindness and vision loss.

Each District in Ohio has an OLERF member. Contact them for more information, to speak at a club meeting, district meeting, etc., or to donate.

Did You Know?

In the late 1950s, early OLERF funding was used to examine the relation between oxygen use in premature infants and a blinding eye disease now known as [Retinopathy of Prematurity \(ROP\)](#).

The subsequent reduction of oxygen use in premature infants dramatically reduced ROP and saved the sight of thousands of infants.

GAT – GLT Contest

Lions Year 2026-2027

Runs 7/1 - 3/1

Leadership Contest runs yearly for all Lions in MD13. A Leadership award and pin will be awarded to all who successfully complete the contest. A total of **10** Leadership events per year must be attended and approved.

CLUB VISITATIONS

Club Visitations – not your own (excluding Zone Meetings) **5 Per Year**
 Must be confirmed by Club Officer – Sec’y/Treasurer or President (MUST sign off)

EVENTS

Leadership Training	Registered, District GLT will confirm
Attend Your Own Zone Meeting	Zone Chair Signs Off
Attend Another Zone Meeting	Zone Chair Signs Off
Other – District/State Event (Bowling Tournament, Muirfield, STEPS, etc. - Participant)	Committee Chair Sign Off
Winter Retreat	Registered, MD GLT will confirm
District Convention	Registered, District GLT will confirm
State Convention	Registered, email confirmation
USA/Canada Forum	Registered, email confirmation
International Convention	Registered, email confirmation

6 Per Year

LEADERSHIP (these will be confirmed by the GLT with appropriate DG or other representative)

District Officer or Cabinet Member
 District or State Philanthropic Board Member/Rep (Canine Companions, COLEB, OLERF, Pilot Dogs, Dogs Inc, Ohio Lions Foundation, etc.)
 Club Officer or Committee Chairperson

2 Per Year



Application for GLT Contest

Return to pdgjackie@gmail.com or take a photo and text to 614-530-1861
no later than 3/10 every year. Once all 10 are complete you can turn in.

Name: _____ Club: _____

	Club, Event, Leadership Position	Date	Sign off, Registration confirmation, etc.
Club Visit			
Club Visit			
Club Visit			
Club Visit			
Club Visit			
Event 1			
Event 2			
Event 3			
Event 4			
Event 5			
Event 6			
Leadership 1			
Leadership 2			

Thank You, OHIO LIONS!!!



A heartfelt thank you to my incredible campaign team, family, club, district, and every member of *Team Lydia* for your unwavering support throughout this journey.

A very special thank you to
♥ **PDG Jackie Miller** ♥
— *friends for life!*



I am truly honored and humbled to be part of MD13. As I begin this journey toward election as an International Director, I will continue to bring my **dedication, talents, passion for Lionism, and love for service** with me every step of the way.



I will continue to roll up my sleeves and work for the **Lions of Ohio and Lions everywhere.**



Thank you for your trust, encouragement, and support. Seeing so many of you show up meant more to me than words can express. I will do my very best to **make you proud!**

*Thank you again ♥
for this amazing honor!*



Lion Lydia ♥



WE SERVE • TOGETHER WE CAN • CHANGING LIVES

MD13 STRONG! ♥

♥ *Sharing Kindness – One Act At A Time* ♥