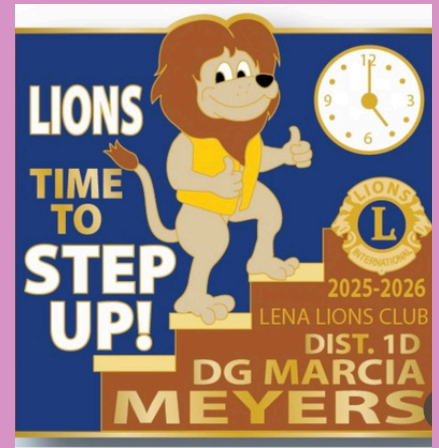


# Lions Roar 1D Newsletter

MAY 2026



## Welcome from the Governor

### What a Year It Has Been!

What an incredible year it has been. When I look back at the countless acts of kindness, the laughter shared at club visits, the teamwork at service events, and the friendships made along the way, I am filled with gratitude.

District 1-D stepped up—again and again—for your communities and for each other. You delivered meals, collected eyeglasses, supported youth, planted trees, and responded to needs as they arose. I especially want to thank the other Clubs and individuals who helped with the relief, money and clean up efforts for the Lena Community following the recent tornado. You lived the Lions motto, “We Serve,” with sincerity and heart.

I want to thank the Cabinet, club officers, project chairs, and every Lion who stepped up to lead. Your efforts made this year successful and meaningful. I also want to recognize our new members—you brought fresh energy and ideas to our district.

As I look forward to the new Lions year, let’s continue building on the relationships, momentum, and spirit of service that made this year so special. Our work is far from finished, and I know that together, we will continue to make a difference.

I realize that I still have a few weeks to serve as Governor – but I will be “on the job” finishing up what needs to be done. I will also be working with Lions Barb Sager, Tim Svihlik and Sara Burbank as they “Step Up” into new leadership roles.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as District 1-D Governor. I visited all but 3 clubs and have so many memories and stories to remember for years to come. Thank you! I am proud of what we accomplished, and even more excited for what lies ahead.

District Governor Marcia Meyers

# Introducing District Governor Elect Barb Sager

Lions of District 1D,

The past two years have flown by as I've embarked on this journey of preparation to serve as your District Governor. Through trainings, in person meetings, zoom meetings and guidance from those before me, I've gained valuable insight, and I'm grateful to the Past District Governors whose leadership and changes have strengthened our District. Let's keep that momentum going. One of my main goals is to bring new faces into leadership. I can feel the energy growing as Lions answered by call for District positions with Yes, I will Step Up! New leaders bring new energy, fresh ideas, and more hands to serve our communities—and we are truly getting the secret out!

Communication is key—just like in any family, and Lions is a family. Communication with my GAT Team: I'm proud of my GAT Team. We've already been meeting regularly and will continue to do so to focus on membership growth, club development, service, and leadership training. We're also planning new opportunities: such as a Growing Leaders and Strengthening Communities Forum—so stay tuned. Communication with my Zone Chairs: Our Zone Chairs are an incredible, energetic group. We will stay connected through monthly meetings, and they will communicate regularly with clubs through Zone meetings, club visits, and fun gatherings to help build relationships across clubs. The goal is simple: stronger connections make a stronger District.

I'm also introducing a monthly "Coming Events" email blast. This will share upcoming events across the District—from fundraisers to service projects—so we can support each other and participate more. No more hearing about great events after they've already happened. Clubs, please send your flyers & event information to our Cabinet Secretary Jody, so she can include it in the "COMING EVENT" email blast that will go to every member in the District who has email. Club Secretaries, please make sure member emails are up to date in the Portal—you won't want to miss a single blast.

We'll also be approaching club visits differently, as other Districts have been doing for a few years. Working as a team with VDG Tim Svihlek and 2nd VDG Sara Burbank, we will divide club visits so that each year each of us will visit a third of the clubs in the District, so over time each of us connects with every club. It's all about teamwork—because teamwork truly makes the dream work.

As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Together, every member has the power to energize our clubs and expand our service. I am committed to building on the momentum Past District Governors have created and will continue to Serve with Passion.

In closing, I want to thank ● DG Marcia Meyers for your leadership ● My MD 1 incoming Council for your collaboration as we work together to accomplish great things at the State Level, ● IPDG Lonna for your constant support, late night phone calls and accepting the position of Partner in Service. ● Lions Ron and Nicole Fruit for planting the seed which started this journey ● VDGE Tim and 2nd VDGE Sara, my GAT Team, Zone Chairs, and Cabinet for Stepping Up ● my home club, Capron Lions, for your continued support throughout this journey. ● And most importantly, thank you—all of you—for your encouragement and trust. I vow to do my absolute best for you and this District. It is truly my honor to accept the office of 2026–2027 District Governor.

# District 1-D Convention

On April 24 & 25<sup>th</sup>, District 1-D Convention was held at the Farm Bureau Center in Freeport, IL. Our international guest was International Director Chris Carlone and his wife Lion Kathy from New Orleans, Louisiana. For Friday night, we had a lot of fun at the talent show. Many enjoyed showing their musical talents to karaoke.

On Saturday, we started with our business meeting and enjoyed the nominating and seconding speeches for Trustee Richard Delp, SVDGE Sara Burbank, FVDGE Tim Svihlik, and DGE Barb Sager. LIF Executive Director Ron Fruit presented, but International Director Chris Carlone grabbed everyone's attention with a Q&A and then his presentation. ID Chris even inducted the newest member to Rockford 815 Lions Club. The Amboy Leos club did a wonderful job explaining the importance of having a Leo club and all the activities they can do for their community. DG Denise Lowe from 1-BK presented a great presentation about Membership. FVDGE Tim even died his beard orange! For those that were there, please let people know how much fun we all had. Saturday ended after the DGE reception. We did not have a banquet. DG Marcia also passed out a ton of awards to various people throughout the day.



# District 1-D Convention (cont)



District 1-D was pleased to announce Sierra Evans as this year's Peace Poster winner. Lion Lynn Meyers, chairman, was pleased to present this award to her.



# Amboy Lions Club



Lion Barb Harrison, for the second year in a row, traveled to Pasadena, California to help decorate the Lions Club International Rose Day Parade float. She is pictured with Lions International President, A.J. Singh.



Amboy Lions Club members were awarded service awards by Amboy Lions Club President Patty Ohlendorf at the January 12, 2026 meeting. Awards were presented to Lion Curtis Harrison-35 years. Lion Roger Wittenauer-10 years, and Lion Jim Travi-25 years. Lions not present but present but receiving an award were Lion Larry Gene Clayton-10 years, and Lion Greg Ohlendorf-10 years.



The first fundraiser of the year was a Chili and Soup Luncheon held on Sunday, January 18, at the Amboy Community Center. The Amboy Clipper Leo Club, with Lion Membership Chair and SE Zone Chair Jim Travi, helped with set-up and service for the event. Some of these members will be attending and participation in the 1-D Convention in Freeport in April.

# Capron Lions Club



North Boone Leo Club members Paola Rodriguez, Kendra Pierce and Dakotah Winters are joined by VDG Barb Sager as they are setting up Student Orientation where students sign up for clubs/teams they are interested in joining next year.



VDG Barb Sager inducted 2 new members into Capron Lions Club on February 4, Chad and Jamie Cunningham and sponsored by Norm Stimes. Assisted with pinning is President Dave Krieg



In March, VDG Barb Sager inducted Greg Hirsch (sponsored by Lion Rosie Pierce) and Chip Stennerson (sponsor Lion Barb Sager) as new members in Capron Lions.



April 1 VDG Barb Sager inducted Brian and Brenda Schneider as new members of Capron Lions. (Sponsored by Lion Barb Sager). President Dave Krieg assisted.



Capron Lions's host a Chili Cook-off as a fundraiser for Empower Boone Food Pantry.



Capron Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt



North Boone Leos presented a check to the Center for Sight & Hearing.



# Lena Lions Club



Members of the Lena Lions Club, and students from the Le-Win elementary school, joined to learn about the origins and history of Arbor Day. This is a worldwide celebration of trees. A very attentive and knowledgeable group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a question and answer session about the event. Each student left the event with an Oak tree sapling and instructions on how to plant and care for it.

A big thank you to teachers Holly Chrisman, Lindsay Killian and Jamie Woodley for allowing the Lions time with the students. Additionally, thank you to Lena resident Scott Olberding, Zurn Elkay Manufacturing of Lanark and Living Lands and Waters of East Moline for the supply of the saplings. Doing the presentation was Lion Glenn Harman and Lion Jim Meyers.



# German Valley Lions Club

Preschool & K principal & Carlene Downs, secretary were at our school building here in German Valley. The school was updating their library, so our club sent them a donation to help.

# Morrison Lions Club



A very busy month of April. Highway Cleanup crew for Highway 30.

The Lions Recycle--showing collection boxes for glasses, cell phones, etc. was staffed by Nancy Countryman (wife of our secretary) and volunteer JoAnn Snodgrass and another unidentified volunteer.



Recycle Day was held on April 18, 2026 this year and was a very successful service project.



# Service Carnival

District Governor Marcia Meyers

District 1-D

Spotlight on Service: Our First District-Wide Service Carnival a Success

Several months ago, I set out to bring a fresh idea to our district: a Service Carnival. While this concept isn't new to Lions International, it was something our area – and even our state – hadn't yet experienced. My goal was simple: create an event that celebrated service, strengthened community connections, and showcased the incredible work happening all around us.

There are two common approaches to a Service Carnival. Some clubs use it as a platform to highlight their own service projects. Others open the event to a wide range of community service organizations and nonprofits. I chose the second option, and it proved to be the perfect fit for our district.

Planning the Event

The first step was securing a venue. I reached out to the manager of a local mall in a city of about 23,000 residents. The mall offered a spacious, high-visibility location that could comfortably host 20–25 vendors. Since we needed to rent tables, we capped participation at 25.

We were fortunate to have the Executive Director of United Way as a member of our club. She enthusiastically supported the project and provided a list of about 30 local organizations, complete with contact information. She also created the registration form that was sent out with a cover letter and a colorful promotional poster.

If you don't have a personal connection like this, LionsServe2Grow is an excellent starting point for building your outreach list.

Registrations came in quickly – and word of mouth spread even faster. We reached our vendor limit with ease.

Getting the Word Out (cont.)



# Service Carnival (cont.)

## Getting the Word Out

To promote the event, we used a mix of communication channels:

- Facebook posts
  - Local newspaper announcements
  - A podcast interview with a community organization
- This combination helped us reach a broad and diverse audience.

## Engaging the Community

To make the event even more interactive, we offered:

- Gift basket drawings
- A sign-up sheet for those interested in learning more about Lions and Leo Clubs
- Handout bags filled with general Lions information

These small touches helped create a welcoming, informative experience for attendees.

## A Day to Remember

The day of the event arrived with bright skies and a perfect 75-degree breeze – ideal weather for a community gathering. Attendees were impressed by the variety and enthusiasm of the vendors, and the vendors themselves were thrilled to have a platform to showcase their work.

What stood out most was how smoothly everything came together. Many Lions stepped up to help in countless ways, making the event not only successful but truly enjoyable.

## Looking Ahead

Hosting a Service Carnival turned out to be a rewarding and surprisingly simple project – one that brought together organizations, strengthened community ties, and highlighted the spirit of service that defines Lions.

I would be happy to share additional details, templates, or guidance with anyone interested in organizing a similar event. Let's keep the momentum going and continue finding new ways to serve together.

District Governor Marcia Meyers

District 1-D





## Attention District 1-D Lions

Come and enjoy this new service project hosted by the Rockford 815 Lions Club.

Spread the word and have fun with your kids and grandkids. We will have various tables set up with vendors. You can also participate by advertising your own Lions Club or business while doing some fun game or treat for the kids.



**ROCKFORD 815 LIONS CLUB**  
♥ Childhood Cancer Specialty Club  
**WE SERVE**

### Rockford 815 Lions Family Fun Fair

Monday, June 8, 2026, 2 pm - 5 pm

Location: GPS Faith Community Church

11189 Forest Hills Rd, Machesney Park, IL 61115

Contact PDG Nicole Fruit at 815-529-5008 or email her at  
[lion1d.nicolefruit@gmail.com](mailto:lion1d.nicolefruit@gmail.com)

if you would like to join us by having your own booth.

Vendors are responsible for bringing their own tables, chairs, tents, and supplies.

*District 1-D*  
**NEWSLETTER**

Submissions:

Send all pictures and articles to  
PDG Nicole Fruit at

**[1dlioneditor@gmail.com](mailto:1dlioneditor@gmail.com)**

I will post what I have gathered and create a newsletter by the end of the month. Please send everything to this new email address.