

**Aug–Sept
2026**

Ohio Lions Leadership

Council Chair:

Rachelle Powers

Governors:

- 1 - Pam Olachia
- 2 - Michael Garber
- 3 - Nina Cleaver
- 4 - Missy Harmon
- 5 - Gary Likens
- 6 - Ben Dunn
- 7 - Tamarra Parker-Stephens

Ex Officio:

IPCC Brad King
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:

2VDG Brian Fox

2026-27: Issue 1

ohiolions.org

A Message from the Council Chair

By CC Rachelle Powers



Welcome to another exciting Lions year!

As we begin this journey together, I encourage each of you to reflect on the incredible impact Lions make every day.

Every project completed, every life touched, and every act of kindness reminds us why we proudly say, ***We Serve***.

This year, our theme is ***Rooted in Service***, reminding us that strong roots create lasting growth. When we remain rooted in serving others, we strengthen our clubs, our communities and the future of Lions.

Service is the heart of Lionism, but our story doesn't end when a project is complete. We must share what we do. Invite your neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family to serve alongside you. Post your club's projects on social media, submit stories and photos, wear your Lions apparel with pride, and simply tell others why you became a Lion. People are inspired by seeing service in action, and your invitation may be exactly what someone needs to become our next member.

Membership growth and retention go hand in hand. People join because

they want to make a difference, but they stay because they feel welcomed, valued, and connected. Every member should have a meaningful role in your club, opportunities to grow as a leader, and the satisfaction of knowing their service matters. Let's continue mentoring new Lions, recognizing accomplishments, and creating clubs where everyone feels they belong.

This year, I challenge every club to ask themselves:

- Are we serving where our community needs us most?
- Are we telling our Lions story so others know who we are?
- Are we inviting people to serve with us?
- Are we creating an experience that encourages members to stay engaged and excited?

When we focus on meaningful service, we naturally strengthen our membership. When we share our story, our communities begin to see the difference Lions make. And when we invest in one another, we build clubs that thrive for generations.

As your Council Chair, I want you to know that I am here to support you.

CC Message continued on page 8



Council Chair Rachelle Powers takes the helm at the first CoG meeting of the Lions Year

Council of Governors Hold First Meeting

The 2026-27 Council of Governors officially came together for the first time in Grove City the weekend of August 1-2. Joined by Lions leaders from around the state, the weekend included a joint meeting between the Finance and Long Range Planning committee and members of the CoG to discuss and understand the Ohio Lions Budget on August 1. This was followed by a meeting at OLERF and a tour of the Eye Research Laboratory in downtown Columbus for the 2nd VDGs. Highlights of the CoG meeting on August 2nd include:

SIGHT & HEARING: A reminder to clubs that Newsreel and Columbus Speech & Hearing have ceased operations. All donations to Sight & Hearing will be divided between the Ohio Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, Prevent Blindness Ohio and Canine Companions.

LCIF: Ohio Lions raised \$248,901 for LCIF last year!

OLERF: 2026-27 grants and fellowships total \$130,000!

Continued on next page...

At right: PCC Lydia Houser speaks to the 2nd VDGs and other Lions assembled to learn more about OLERF



YOUTH: Clubs are encouraged to participate in the Peace Poster and Peace Essay contests. Theme is “Harmony in Humanity”. Peace Poster Kits are available on lionsclubs.org for purchase or download. There are at least FOUR Cub Clubs in Ohio.

INT. CONVENTION: At this point, the International Parade is scheduled to march down Pennsylvania Ave!



Lions toured the OLERF laboratory which happens to have a tremendous view of Buckeye Stadium

WINTER RETREAT: Scheduled for January 15-17 at Salt Fork State Lodge. Emphasis will be on “relaxation and fun.” Price TBA.

SIGHT & HEARING FOUNDATION: Currently working to help an Ohio resident with her 20% coinsurance for a needed cataract surgery

OLF Cody Fund is Meant to Help Legally Blind Ohioans

By OLF OH6 Trustee Lion Jim Faust

Several years ago, the Cody Family donated more than \$300,000 to the Ohio Lions Foundation through Mr. Cody’s will and estate. This money was happily accepted by the OLF Board and was named the Cody Fund and placed as a line item in the OLF Budget.

There was a requirement in the will that stated that any grants or financial assistance from this fund could be given only to individuals who were legally blind as defined by the US Government.

As a result, OLF has distributed numerous grants to individuals for various kinds of vision equipment. In addition, OLF has used the Cody Fund for purchasing Pilot Dogs, funding self-defense and specialty seminars for blind persons, and purchasing other types of visual aids for schools that use the equipment for blind students.

All the funding was given to legally blind persons who resided in Ohio and who had filed applications for the assistance. This application can be found at OhioLionsFoundation.org or from your OLF Trustees.

It is important to let all local clubs know that these funds are available. Any legally blind person who has a special need for vision assistance should contact the local Lions Club and also obtain an OLF application. The club should then contact the local OLF Trustee who will then assist in processing the application. Please note that there are financial standards that need to be met and the OLF Board will then act upon the application.

OLF also has funding available for vision-impaired persons who are not legally blind through the **Roberds, Oyer, and Shoaf funds**. The application process is basically the same.

Please pass this information on to District and club leaders!

Service Report: Hunger

By Lion Dr. Brenda Toler, OH5, 2026-27 MD13 Hunger Chair, drbktoler@gmail.com



As we begin another exciting Lions year, it is important that we take a moment to celebrate the tremendous impact Ohio Lions made in addressing hunger throughout Multiple District 13 last year when we completed **1,064 Hunger Activities and served 283,885 people**.

How many people can Ohio Lions serve THIS year? Let's challenge ourselves to go even further this club year by making a greater impact in 2026–2027. Together, our Ohio Lions goal is to continue to fight hunger, strengthen our communities and bring hope to our neighbors in need.

Our Lions continue to demonstrate that “Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion!” From collecting food and stocking community food pantries to preparing meals, supporting school food programs and providing monetary donations to hunger-relief organizations, Lions across Ohio are answering the call to serve.

This year’s beginning numbers tell an impressive story!

OH1 has completed	2	Hunger Activities and served	58	people
OH2 has completed	7	Hunger Activities and served	5,287	people
OH3 has completed	5	Hunger Activities and served	3,807	people
OH4 has completed	29	Hunger Activities and served	3,136	people
OH5 has completed	6	Hunger Activities and served	1,090	people
OH6 has completed	7	Hunger Activities and served	1,710	people
OH7 has completed	3	Hunger Activities and served	1,167	people

Congratulations to our Hunger Service Leaders for doing a total of 59 hunger activities and serving a total of 16,255 people to kick off this new Lion Year. A huge congrats to OH4, which earned the top spot in MD13 for Hunger Service Activities with 29 activities completed. I would like to recognize OH2, which served 5,287 people. Every district has contributed to our collective success.

Behind each of these 16,255 people served is a story—a child, senior citizen, veteran, individual or family who benefited because Lions cared enough to serve. **I am challenging every Lions Club throughout Multiple District 13 to participate in at least one new Hunger Service Project.** Imagine what we can accomplish if every Ohio Lions Club commits to making hunger service an ongoing part of its service calendar and developing a new hunger initiative that addresses a specific need in their community.

And remember... PLEASE REPORT YOUR SERVICE! Our Lions are doing phenomenal work throughout Ohio, but our collective impact can only be accurately measured when clubs report their activities in the Lions Portal. Every project counts, and every person served counts.

Throughout this Lions year, I look forward to sharing our MD13 Hunger Service progress, recognizing outstanding district and club efforts, and highlighting innovative hunger projects that may inspire other Lions Clubs.



Service Report: Pediatric Cancer

By PDG Sara Camacho, OH7, 2026-27 MD13 Pediatric Cancer Chair, sara.r.camacho@gmail.com



We had our first board meeting of the year and ensured that we are fully compliant with our policies and procedures.

September is Pediatric Cancer Awareness month, so we'd love your support for the smallest of fighters! We have all our STEPS walks set for the year - being a sponsor or participant is a great way to support!

OH1	Sept 12	Henry County Fairgrounds, 10 am
OH2	Sept 20	Fostoria Reservoir
	Sept 19	Mansfield
	August	North Ridgeville
OH3	Sept 26	Kinney Trail, Wooster, 9:30 am
OH4	Oct	Wingfoot Lake Park, Suffield, 9 am
OH5	Nov 7	Reynoldsburg HS Summit Campus, 9 am
OH6	Oct 24	Eastwood Metro Park, Dayton, 10 am
OH7	Sept 19	Muskingum Park, Marietta, 9 am

Thank you to the Alliance Lions for coming up with a new fun way to raise funds and get their community involved in pediatric cancer awareness! Their **Putt-Putt tournament** netted an amazing profit for the Foundation!

Also, thank you to the Lions of Southern Ohio (Zones 6-8 in OH7) who held their first **Jeep Ride** for pediatric cancer. We can't wait to see it grow next year!

Gas Cards and Journey of Hope Fellowships

Last year, we had record numbers of donations, both for our general fund and our Journey of Hope Fellowship fund, which specifically supports the Gas Card program.

As we start this Lions year, we have already approved 1 gas card application from OH2, a returning child whose leukemia has come back. Pediatric cancer doesn't care what date is on the calendar, but thanks to the Lions of MD13, we are here to help when there is a child/family in need.

If you have clubs that want to make a difference, our Journey of Hope (\$500 cumulative donation) or our new Journey of Hope Fellowship (\$300 cumulative donation) are both fantastic opportunities to make a difference for children in Ohio.

The JoH Fellowship specifically designates funds toward our Gas Card program. As a board, we are also investigating a "progressive" Journey of Hope. Help us fight for a cure, stand alongside afflicted families, and Serve like never before – **because after all, it is GREAT to be a Lion.**

Service Report: Diabetes

By Lion Ernie Richmann, OH4, 2026-27 MD13 Diabetes Chair, erichmann49@yahoo.com



Lion Ernie & grandson Aiden

Improvements at Camp Ho Mita Koda

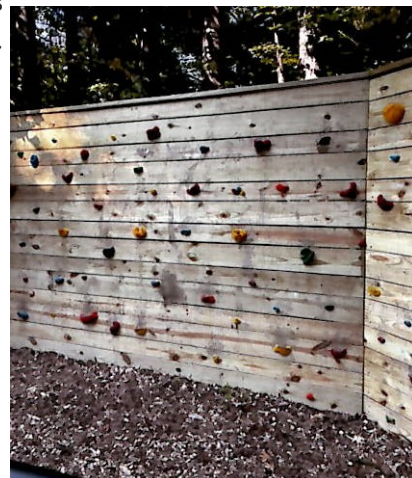
Two tour days were arranged at Camp Ho Mita Koda for Lions to see the improvements being made from the LCIF district diabetes grant funds. Tour dates were June 30th and July 9th. Here were a few sights from the tour:



Plaque in renovated kitchen



Jumping Pillow



Climbing Wall

Backpack Bivouac

Camp Ho Mita Koda is having their annual fundraiser, Backpack Bivouac on Saturday, September 12. Another opportunity to tour and support the camp. Go to <https://camphomitakoda.org/backpack-bivouac/>

Breakthrough T1D Walk

The Breakthrough T1D Walk at the Cleveland Zoo is Sunday, October 18. Go to <http://www2.breakthrough1d.org/goto/lions>

This is a casual walk. Come walk with other Lions and the resident lions. More information at the website.



Lions touring Camp Ho Mita Koda



Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation, Inc.

Research Today . . . Vision Tomorrow

By PCC Lydia Houser, Executive Director

OLERF provides funds to accomplish vision research by Ohio researchers. This article discusses Cataracts and the importance of understanding what Cataracts are.

What is a cataract? A cataract is a cloudy area in the clear lens inside the eye. The lens helps focus light so you can see clearly. When it becomes cloudy, vision may look blurry, dim, hazy. Cataracts usually do not cause pain, redness, or tearing.

Common Signs: Blurry, cloudy, or dim vision. Colors look faded or yellow. Trouble seeing at night. Glare or halos around lights. Needing brighter light to read. Frequent changes in glasses prescription.

Who is at Risk? Cataracts are very common as people get older. More than half of Americans age 80 or older either have cataracts or have had cataract surgery. Cataracts can happen in one or both eyes, but they do not spread from one eye to the other. Risk factors include aging, diabetes, smoking, long-term steroid use, too much ultraviolet sunlight exposure, eye injury or inflammation, certain eye diseases and family history. Most cataracts form because of normal aging changes in the eye. Over time, proteins in the lens can clump together and make the lens cloudy.

Types of Cataracts: Age-related: the most common type. Congenital: present at birth. Traumatic: caused by an eye injury. Secondary: related to medicines, eye disease, infection, diabetes, or other health problems.

How cataracts affect vision. Your eye works like a camera. It needs a clear lens to focus light on the retina at the back of the eye. When a cataract clouds the lens, light does not reach the retina clearly, so the brain receives a blurry or dim image.

When to call your eye doctor: Make an appointment if your vision becomes blurry, cloudy, dim, less colorful, or if glare and night driving become harder. Only an eye doctor can tell whether cataracts or another eye problem is causing your symptoms. Your eye doctor will ask about your health, eye history, and symptoms. Tests may include a vision test, eye pressure check, slit-lamp exam, dilated eye exam, and glare test.

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 Cataracts. There is much more work to be done in the fight against blindness, and we cannot do it without you. Now is the time to re-new/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. OLERF is proud of the research being accomplished and looks forward to continuing to be a leader for Ohio in eye research. **Go to OLERF.org for more information.**



Service Report: Sight & Hearing

PDG Bill Niejadlik (OH1) 2026-27 MD13 Sight & Hearing Chair, rugguy522@msn.com

The Sight and Hearing committee started the year by realigning our agency contributions. Our new contributions are as follows:

Sight & Hearing Foundation	40%
Prevent Blindness Ohio	40%
Canine companions	20%

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ohio Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation helps people who need financial assistance to obtain eye or ear medical care that may be out of reach financially due to

lack of insurance or to big out of pocket expenses.

We are a resource to help people who can not handle financial costs by themselves. Ask your DISTRICT FOUNDATION member for more information.

CCTV monitors.

District OH1 Eye Care Foundation has an overflow of CCTV monitors.

If any district or club needs one, please contact PCC Darlene Roll or PDG Bill Niejadlik for more information.



Lions Events

- Sept 3-5, 2026:** USA/Canada Forum
Memphis, TN
- Nov 7, 2026:** CoG Meeting,
Lions HQ, Grove City
- Jan 15-17, 2027:** Winter Retreat
Salt Fork State Park
- Feb 13, 2027:** CoG Meeting,
Lions HQ, Grove City
- May 21-23, 2027:** State Conv. / CoG
Embassy Suites, Dublin
- July 2-6, 2027:** International Convention,
Washington, DC

CC Message continued...

Whether you have a question, need guidance, want to share an idea, or simply need someone to listen, my door is always open. Please never hesitate to reach out. We are stronger when we work together, and I am always available to help in any way.

Phone: 937-478-3367

Email: rmpowers18@hotmail.com

Together, let's remain **Rooted in Service**, lead with compassion, grow our membership through meaningful service, and continue building clubs where every member feels welcomed, appreciated, and inspired to serve.

Thank you for your leadership, your friendship, and your unwavering commitment to Lionism. I look forward to serving alongside each of you as we continue changing lives—one act of kindness, one new member, and one community at a time.

Rooted in Service. Growing Through Service. Serving Together.



Ohio Lions Foundation is helping Flooded Areas

The Board of the Ohio Lions Foundation voted August 16 to award up to \$10,000 in gift cards to District OH7 to help residents with recovery from recent flooding. Lion Ed Gamble is spearheading the effort for the Roseville/Crooksville area, which has seen tremendous flooding and has resulted in evacuations.

OLF Trustee PDG Fred Boring and past OLF Trustee PDG Larry Roberts of the Thornville Lions applied on behalf of the New Lexington and southern Perry County areas, which are currently without clubs. Heads of households in the affected areas can apply for and receive \$50 gift cards and use these for the purchase of bedding, cleaning supplies and food.

This assistance would not be possible without the continuing support of Lions Clubs throughout Ohio. Once the grants have been disbursed, Lions will be notified concerning how many households were helped by your generous donations.



Pictured: Crooksville area, August 2026

THROUGH SEPTEMBER!



**GROW TOGETHER
SERVE TOGETHER**
Host an Event —
GROW YOUR CLUB!

**YOUR COMMUNITY.
YOUR CLUB.
MORE IMPACT.**



**CLUBS ACROSS OUR DISTRICT ARE HOSTING
MEMBERSHIP GROWTH EVENTS**
through September.

Now it's your turn! Plan an event, invite your community,
and share the impact of Lions.

EASY STEPS TO HOST YOUR EVENT!

1 PLAN YOUR EVENT



Choose a fun,
welcoming
activity that
fits your
community.

2 INVITE YOUR COMMUNITY



Spread the word!
Use flyers,
social media
and personal
invitations.

3 SHARE WHO WE ARE



Highlight your club's
service, impact,
and the joy of
volunteering.

4 WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Follow up, stay
connected, and
help them feel
right at home!

EVENT IDEAS:



TAILGATE
PARTY



COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST



CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT



ICE CREAM
SOCIAL



LIVE MUSIC
NIGHT

...AND
MORE!

Everyone Welcome!

**PLAN YOUR EVENT.
INVITE OUR COMMUNITY.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**