

The LIONS That **ROAR**

Volume 18 Issue 4

District 26-M2

February 2026



**District
Governor**

Lion Wally Brumfield

**1st Vice District
Governor**

Lion Kelly Rackovan

**2nd Vice District
Governor**

Lion Phillip Karrer

Cabinet Secretary

PDG Lion Sandee
Marshall

Cabinet Treasurer

Lion Joseph
Schroeder

District 26-M2 Governor Wally's Message

Fellow Lions,

I generally don't like to talk about the past because there is so much coming to us in the future, but the Mid Winter Form that was just held in Jefferson City was well worth the time and money. Good information was dispersed and hopefully absorbed. To those that planned and put this program on, many thanks.

February is the month District Conventions have started. Our District Convention is coming up at the end of March. Please plan to attend. Our District must maintain the reputation for having the best pre-convention party in the state. Good food, good music, and good people to have fun with. Bring a friend and show them how much fun being a LION can be.

Club Presidents, please check with you club Secretary and make sure your club is up to date with dues. If not in good standing, your club will not be able to vote at the District or state convention. Reminder, LCI will only send electronic dues notices. No paper notice will be sent.

Remember, pulling together will get us through the deepest snow and mud. The end of this Lion's year is fast approaching with attending meetings and planning for the upcoming Lion's year. Do not forget our fellow Lions that are ill or have recently passed. Keep them in your hearts and prayers.

ONE WORLD ---- ONE PEOPLE --- WE SERVE

*Lion Wallace Brumfield,
District Governor*

District 26-M2 – 1st VDG Kelly's Message

Fellow Lions,

I would like to reach out to each and every one of you and say thank you for supporting me in this great endeavor of being your First Vice District Governor.

It is a big honor, and I will not let you down. Looking forward to leading our District 26-M2 this coming year.

Let's keep helping and serving our community. We have many opportunities for service to our communities, and I am so very proud to be a part of a Lions club and District that has the Heart for Service. Whether it be with KidSight, Eye Missions, Pancake Breakfasts, Trivia Nights and much, much more. Please support your fellow clubs.

I'd like to continue to thank everyone for all the effort and hard work they are doing. As we are moving forward, I would like to encourage all clubs to continue to report their service into the portal. Just remember, even club meetings and committee meetings are considered service. If you need help with anything, please let me know.

Coming up in April/May I will be setting up some training sessions for Club Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretary's, Treasurers, Zone Chairs and Club Administration positions.

Be looking for more information to be coming out in the near future.

Would love to get our District plus membership. Let's help Governor Wally achieve that goal with Mission 1.5. All you have to do is ASK!! Just ASK a neighbor, ASK a friend, ASK a coworker, if they would like to be a Lion and invite them to your club to have fun. Invite them to a hands-on activity your club is doing. Get them involved. That's the best way to show them what Lions do. Work together, have fun and support the community.

"Bee the Difference"

*Lion Kelly Rackovan,
1st Vice District Governor*

District 26-M2 – 2nd VDG Phil's Message

Fellow Lions of 26M2,

I thank you for the welcome you have given me at your club visits this year. With convention season directly ahead of us I would love to have your continued support with a vote for pretty in PINK. Speaking of conventions, I hope to see everyone there for fun and fellowship. It is an amazing opportunity to connect with lions from other clubs and maybe get some ideas for fundraisers that may work in your club or even make a combined effort on the same fundraiser. Remember many hands make light work. I hope to see everyone at the convention.

*Lion Phil Karrer,
2nd Vice District Governor*



Welcome These New Members

Have you done your part? Bring in a new member, help us grow!
Thanks to all Lions who have brought in new members this past year.
Continue to work towards increasing our membership.
(December 2025 – January 2026)

CONCORD VILLAGE LIONS CLUB

THEODORE F GUSTAFSON

DE SOTO LIONS CLUB

JOE DILLARD

EUREKA LIONS CLUB

ROBERT ANTHONY

MICHAEL FLOOD

BRAD GOULD

BRAD VANCIL

CHARLES WADDELL

FERGUSON LIONS CLUB

LAMIKA S.D. COVINGTON

CHARLES LOWERY

HOUSE SPRINGS LIONS CLUB

ROBIN E HEINEMANN

MEHLVILLE LIONS CLUB

CHELSEA A MEES

MERAMEC HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB

CHERYL D PILLOW

NEW HAVEN LIONS CLUB

DONALD RUZICKA

OVERLAND LIONS CLUB

SARAH A GILLIAM

TODD B GILLIAM

ST LOUIS SOUTH SIDE LIONS CLUB

ROBERT M GAIA

UNION LIONS CLUB

KRIS M PIESKE

NATHAN W PIESKE

VALLEY PARK LIONS CLUB

CARLA S DUERKSEN

MICHAEL C JESSEN

DALLAS A MCBETH

LISA N MCFARLAND

KIRK D SOUTHARD

District 26-M2
2025-2026 Calendar of Events
DG Lion Wally Brumfield

Updated 02/09/2026 (denotes additions or changes)*
www.Lions26m2.org/calendar.html

March 2026

2nd, Monday: District 26-M2 GAT Meeting @ Pacific Lions Club, 319 W. Meramec St, Pacific, MO 63069.

*14th, Saturday: Hillsboro Lions Trivia Night @ Hillsboro Civic Center, 10348 Hwy 21, Hillsboro, MO. Doors open at 6pm. Trivia starts at 7pm. \$160 table of 8 before March 1st. \$200 table of 8 after March 1st. Visit Hillsborolions.org or call 636-208-2878 for more information.

*22nd, Sunday: A Celebration of Life for 1st Vice District Governor Lion Jeff Rackovan will be held @ the Salvation Army, 3740 Telegraph Rd., Arnold, MO 63010 at 3pm. Rose ceremony at 3:30pm. All Lions are welcome to attend.

27th – 29th, Friday – Sunday: TODAY IS THE DAY TO SIGN UP FOR FUN & EXCITEMENT!!!!
District 26-M2 Annual Convention @ Doubletree Hotel, 1973 Craigshire Rd, St. Louis, MO 63146. lions26m2.org/convention.html.

April 2026

*4th, Saturday: Kirkwood Lions Easter Egg Hunt @ Kirkwood Park.

6th, Monday: District 26-M2 GAT Meeting @ Pacific Lions Club, 319 W. Meramec St, Pacific, MO 63069.

10th – 11th, Friday – Saturday: Mid-South Lions Visiting Lions Weekend @ The Hamilton Eye Institute. 930 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103. More details to come soon.

18th, Saturday: Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments 75th Anniversary Shining Light Gala @ Ameristar Resort, 1 Ameristar Blvd., St. Charles, MO 63301. Every sponsorship, ticket purchased, and story shared helps DGCKids continue to provide life-changing services, empowering children to thrive. Let's make this evening unforgettable—because every child deserves to shine! Ticket and table purchases will be available soon! For details on tickets and tables, connect with Lauren Sanders, Development Manager, at lsanders@dgckids.org or call 314-776-1300. <https://www.dgckids.org/support-us/shining-light-gala/>.

23rd, Thursday: MD26 Council of Governors Meeting @ St. Joseph, MO

24th – 26th, Friday – Sunday: Missouri Lions State Convention @ St. Joseph, MO

(Continued on next page)

District 26-M2
2025-2026 Calendar of Events

(Continued)

May 2026

*3rd, Sunday: Missouri School for the Blind “Lions Night” from 4-8PM.

4th, Monday: District 26-M2 Cabinet Meeting @ Eureka Elks Lodge, 19 West 1st Street, Eureka, MO 63025. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Dinner @ 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to Cabinet Secretary Kelly Rackovan 314-808-7638.

June 2026

5th, Friday: Mid-South Annual Golf Tournament @ Cherokee Valley Golf Club. 6635 Crumpler Blvd. Olive Branch, MS 38654. More details coming soon.

6th, Saturday: Mid-South Annual Board and Membership Meeting @ The Hamilton Eye Institute. 930 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103. More details coming soon.

7th, Sunday: District 26-M2 Picnic. More information to come!

July 2026

2nd – 6th, Tuesday – Monday: Lions Clubs International Convention @ Hong Kong, China

*4th, Saturday: Kirkwood Lions are selling beverages @ Freedom Festival at Kirkwood Park.



M2 Eye Foundation to Match New Club Donations to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

We're excited to announce that the M2 Eye Foundation has once again agreed to donate to Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) in your club's name. It's a simple proposal. The M2 Foundation will match up to a total of \$7,500 for the entire district, in new donations to LCIF.

As an example: If your club donated \$500 to LCIF during the last Lion's Year, and then this year your club adds an additional amount, say \$100 for a total of \$600. The M2 Eye Foundation will make an additional donation in your club's name for \$100, making the total donations to LCIF in your club's name of \$700.

These additional donations help your club to make awarding a well-deserving Lion with a Melvin Jones Fellowship happen sooner.

Please consider an additional amount to Lions Clubs International Foundation this year.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

A CALL FOR THE
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL DISTRICT 26-M2 CONVENTION
To Be Held MARCH 27th – 29th, 2026

Attention Lions!!

As the 18th annual District M2 Convention approaches, now is the time to make your plans to be there and participate in the weekend events.

The Convention will be March 27th – 29th, 2026.

The entire Convention will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel St. Louis at Westport. The Friday night Hospitality will be held in the Grand Ballroom. We are planning on being able to accommodate as many Clubs' hospitality booths in one large area as we have in past years, including entertainment and a dance floor.

The DoubleTree Hotel St. Louis at Westport, 1973 Craigshire, St. Louis, MO 63146 is holding a block of rooms and is taking reservations at a discounted price of \$110 + tax for a standard room.

Please contact them directly at (314) 434-0100 to make your room reservations at the DoubleTree Hotel and mention that you are with the District 26-M2 Lions Convention.

You can also make room reservations on line: <https://group.doubletree.com/1I93hf>

After March 5, 2026 the room block will be released, and the discounted price will no longer be available.

Make your plans now so that you don't miss any of the fun and fellowship.

Send in your registration form early! Today would be a great time to do that!!

Or bring your registration form to the Cabinet meeting tomorrow (Monday) night at Eureka Elks Lodge at 6:30pm

You can find this and more information on our website <http://www.lions26m2.org/convention.html>

2026 District 26-M2 Convention Committee

A CALL FOR THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL DISTRICT 26-M2 CONVENTION

To Be Held March 27th - 29th, 2026

DoubleTree Hotel St. Louis at Westport, 1973 Craigshire, St. Louis, MO 63146



Our international guest for the weekend will be International Director Lion David Wentworth.

Director David W. Wentworth from Omaha, Nebraska was elected to serve a two-year term as an International Director of Lions Clubs International at the Association's 107th International Convention in Orlando, Florida in 2025. Director Wentworth is currently Vice President of sales for CFM Global, a filtration manufacturing company with locations in Nebraska, Wisconsin and Ohio.

Director Wentworth and his wife, Valerie, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have two daughters who are both Lions.

Tentative Schedule of Events - ***Subject to Change***

| FRIDAY, March 27th | SATURDAY, March 28th | SUNDAY, March 29th |
|--|---|--|
| Registration..... 3 PM – 5 PM Hospitality 5:30 PM – 11 PM Parade of Banners 6:30 PM Music & Dancing & Party Time..... 7 PM – 11 PM | Registration 8 AM – 10 AM Q/A with ID Wentworth..... 8:30 AM Morning Business Session..... 9:00 AM Luncheon..... Noon – 1:15 PM Afternoon Business Session 1:30 PM Voting <i>Immediately following session</i> Dinner Banquet..... 7 PM | Breakfast..... 8:15 AM Closing Business Session & Memorial Service 9:00 AM |

The DoubleTree Hotel St. Louis at Westport, 1973 Craigshire, St. Louis, MO 63146 is holding a block of rooms and is taking reservations at a discounted price of \$110+ tax for a standard room. Please contact them directly at (314) 434-0100 to make your room reservations at the **DoubleTree Hotel** and mention that you are with the District 26-M2 Lions Convention. Online link: <https://group.doubletree.com/1193hf>
After **March 5, 2026** the room block will be released, and the discounted price will no longer be available.

2026 District 26-M2 Convention Registration Form March 27th – 29th, 2026

Name: _____ Club: _____ Club Position: _____

Email address: _____

Full Convention Package:

(Hospitality, Luncheon, Dinner Banquet, Breakfast & Wrist Band)

Number attending _____ X \$110 = \$ _____

*** OR ***

Luncheon Only:

Number attending _____ X \$32 = \$ _____

Dinner Banquet Only:

Number attending _____ X \$55 = \$ _____

Breakfast Only:

Number attending _____ X \$30 = \$ _____

After February 27, 2026 - ADD \$10

Number attending _____ X \$10 = \$ _____

TOTAL:

\$ _____

Please indicate how many of each meal choice for DINNER so we can make sure to give an accurate count to the hotel.

Dinner Banquet - *Beef* _____ Dinner Banquet - *Chicken* _____ Dinner Banquet - *Salmon* _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Make checks payable to: 26-M2 Convention Fund

Mail to: PDG Devin Struttman
770 Oakmont Lane
Union, MO 63084

No refunds after March 17th, 2026
No reservations guaranteed (may not be able to accept)
after March 14, 2026.

At the District 26-M2 Convention on March 28, 2026, the certified Club delegates will be voting on the following proposition.

PROPOSITION NO. 1

In the beginning of fiscal year 2025-2026, the District Administration Account balance was \$61,887.50. A **one-time** excusal of the first half State/District/Convention dues of fiscal year 2026-2027 is proposed.

State dues, Convention dues and District expenses would be covered by funds in reserve with a total District cost of approximately \$16,000. Clubs can utilize the savings at their discretion but are encouraged to use the funds to promote Membership, provide additional Service, contribute to LCIF or other worthy endeavors.

Shall the first semi-annual billing in July 2026 for the per capita tax (dues) be waived for each Club in District 26-M2 and that the 2nd semi-annual billing resume in January 2027 at the regular, official rate?

This requires a majority affirmative vote for adoption.



Missouri Lions Eye Mission Foundation

Calendar of Events

- February 27 – M6 Eye Mission in Joplin (Joplin Assoc. for the Blind) – 10 AM-2 PM
- February 28 – M2 Eye Mission in St Clair (City Hall) – 10 AM-2 PM
- March 5 – M6 Eye Mission in Kimberling City (4 Ozark Seniors)
- March 12 – M6 Eye Mission in Branson (Our Lady of the Lake)
- March 14 – M5 Eye Mission in Liberty (Liberty Community Center) – 9 AM-1 PM
- March 21 – M4 Eye Mission in Maryville (St. Gregory)
- March 27-28 – MD26 International Eye Mission in Monterrey, Mexico
- April 7 – M2 Eye Mission in Bonne Terre (Rural Parish Clinic)
- April 11 – M2 Eye Mission in St Louis (SLU)
- April 18 – M5 Eye Mission in Nevada – 9 AM-1 PM
- April 20 – M4 Eye Mission in Keytesville
- April 21 – M5 Eye Mission in Raytown
- April 24 – M4 Eye Mission in St Joseph – 10 AM-2 PM (during Lions State Convention)
- May 23 – M5 Eye Mission in Lee's Summit
- May 30 – M4 Eye Mission in Kearney (M4 Cabinet Meeting)
- August 2 – M5 Eye Mission in Lexington
- August 29 – M5 Eye Mission in Kansas City (34th Street Festival)
- September 12 – M1 Eye Mission in Charleston (MS County Health Dept.) – 10 AM-2 PM
- November 7 – M1 Eye Mission in Waynesville (Waypoint United Methodist) – 10 AM-2 PM



Trivia Night



**WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD.
JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF WICKED FUN FOR GOOD!**

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

DOORS OPEN 6 PM - TRIVIA BEGINS 7 PM

**HILLSBORO CIVIC CENTER
10348 HWY 21, HILLSBORO, MO**

**\$160 TABLE OF 8
BEFORE MARCH 1**

**\$200 TABLE OF 8
AFTER MARCH 1**

Proceeds from this event will fund college scholarships given in memory of Lion Frank Roland and Lion Troy Brody.

Visit HILLSBOROLIONS.org or call (636) 208-2878 for more info.

Save the Date!

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

**UNION LIONS ANNUAL
ST. PATTY'S PUB CRAWL**

REGISTER TODAY!



TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED!

\$35 ENTRY

**INCLUDES TSHIRT, MUG & WRISTBAND!
FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS, TOO!**



**DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN AS WE
CRAWL ALL YOUR FAVORITE UNION
BARS & RESTAURANTS!
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
LOCAL CHARITIES.
LOCATIONS & TIMES TO FOLLOW!
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
FOR DETAILS!**



UNION MO LIONS CLUB



Mark your calendars for a milestone celebration! On *April 18, 2026*, join us in the beautiful Discovery Ballroom at Ameristar Resort and Spa for the **2nd Annual Shining Light Gala**—a spectacular evening honoring **75 years of DGCKids**.

Together, under the glow of celebration and purpose, we'll reflect on a legacy of service, resilience, and possibility, while raising critical support for children who are blind or visually impaired.

Every sponsorship, ticket purchased, and story shared helps DGCKids continue to provide life-changing services, empowering children to thrive. Let's make this evening unforgettable—because every child deserves to shine!

Ticket and table purchases will be available soon!

For details on tickets and tables, connect with **Lauren Sanders**, Development Manager, at lsanders@dgckids.org or call **314-776-1300**.



The 104th Missouri Lions State Convention is fast approaching.

On Friday Night, April 24th, a silent auction will be held.

It is your opportunity to showcase to other Lions your talents and generosity.

We know there are painters, woodworkers, metal artists in our midst. And don't forget the wine makers and chefs. Are you talented in creating a basket of goodies to entice interest?

District Challenge? Maybe!

If you are not attending the convention, but have ideas and items, perhaps your district governor or another attendee might deliver for you.

Show the other districts what you are proud of from your own!

We look forward to your creativity!



Miracle League Baseball

- Saturday, May 2, 2026 • 8:30 AM- Noon
- Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex
- Miracle Field • 17925 N Outer 40 Road
- Chesterfield, MO 63005

We're forming a team of volunteers to help support youth athletes with a disability by serving as Miracle League baseball buddies! Miracle leagues and adaptive sports teams help support the inclusion of children and young adults with disabilities into sports by providing a welcoming and encouraging team environment.

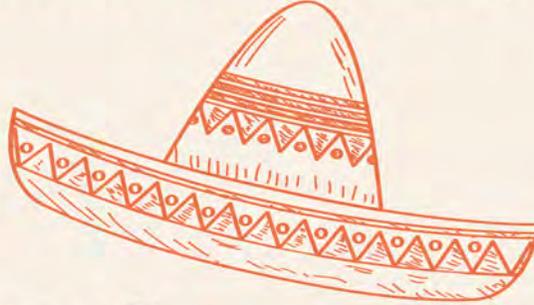
This volunteer opportunity is through the Gateway Region YMCA and brought to you by Missouri Lions District 26-M2 and the Wildwood Area Lions Club.

For more information, contact Lion Devin Struttmann
at (314) 277-8292 or devin@admr.com

**MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
LIONS NIGHT 2026**

Sunday, May 3rd, 4-8 PM

3815 MAGNOLIA AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MO 63110



Cinco De Mayo

LIVE MUSIC . FOOD . TOURS

**FUNDRAISER DINNER: \$10 ADULTS, \$5 CHILDREN AGES 10 AND YOUNGER
(CASH, CHECK, AND PAYPAL)**



RSVP online!

[SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/LIONSNIGHT2026](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LIONSNIGHT2026)



**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT 314-776-4320 OR
CARLIE.LEE@MSB.DESE.MO.GOV**



DISTRICT 26-M2 EYE WRAP

**Hosted by
Used Eye Glasses Committee**

Saturday, May 16, 2026

**Wildwood Anniversary Park
16511 Clayton Road
Wildwood, MO 63011**

10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donuts Provided

If you need glasses picked up - Call or Email:

Lion Ed Marshall at (314) 498-0655 or elmwildwood@charter.net

Lion Scott Sinn at (618) 719-6403 or sscurley@att.net

PDG Lion Elmer Weinrich at (314) 378-4758 or eljanwein@aol.com

**PLEASE BRING USED EYE GLASSES
AND HEARING AIDS**



BINGO IN **BEAUFORT** *Every Friday Night*

THE GAMES BEGIN AT **6:30 PM**

FULL BAR & FULL MEAL AVAILABLE
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
COFFEE & SOFT DRINKS
AND FINGER FOODS TO ORDER

BINGO
PULL TABS
PROGRESSIVE
QUEEN OF HEARTS



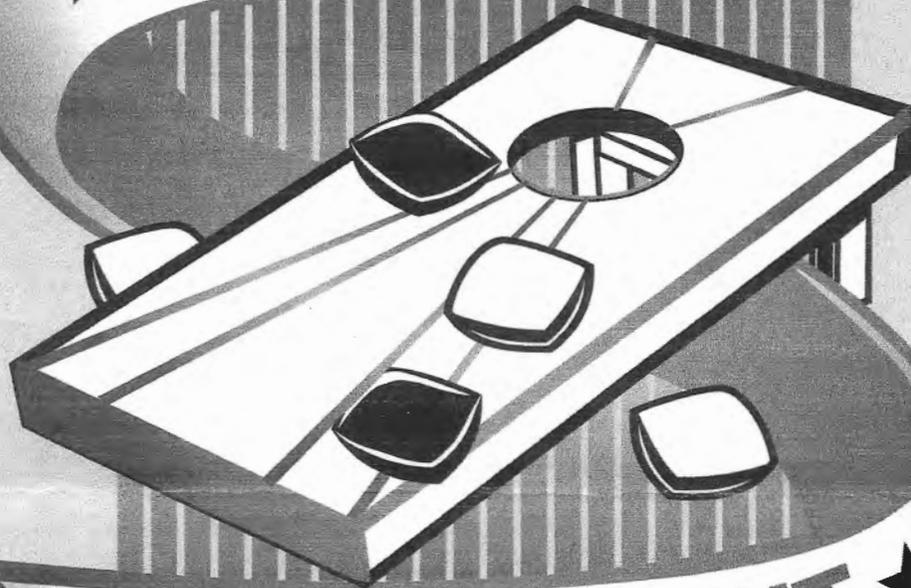
BEAUFORT LIONS CLUB

2041 Lutheran Church Rd., Beaufort, MO 63013
(573) 484-3790

BEAUFORT LIONS CLUB 2041 Lutheran Church Rd, Beaufort, MO
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT



★ **CORNHOLE** ★



★ **TOURNAMENT** ★

DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM
PLAY STARTS AT 7PM



BRING YOUR OWN BAGS
ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!
\$5 LAST MAN STANDING
6 GAME GUARANTEE
AIRMAIL TICKETS TO BE SOLD

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SCOREHOLIO APP - TOURNAMENT WILL BE RUN OFF THIS APP.
FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL OR TEXT SETH PURSCHKE AT 314-852-4753

Lions District 26-M2

Lions Assistance and Service (LAS)

Lion Kelly Rackovan

Correct Operating Procedures for this year for processing requests. The Correct Operating Procedure is noted as follows:

1. The call comes in to the Hot Line and the requestor is directed to the 26M2 Lions website <https://lions26m2.org/resources.html> for eye care and hearing resources.
2. The requestor completes the required form and sends it to the address noted on the form.
3. Request is received at the LAS Post Office Box.
4. The request is reviewed for completeness.
5. The reviewed request is logged and forwarded to the LAS to be assigned to a local club.
6. The LAS chair forwards the request to the club or club closest to the geographical location.
7. The assigned club reviews and accepts the request to be processed (or denies due to budgetary issues)
 - a. If denied by the Local Club the LAS will direct to the closest club in that geographical area.
8. The assigned club reports back to the LAS regarding the status of the request.
 - a. Assigned
 - b. In progress
 - c. Forwarded
 - d. Closed (Complete)
9. If ANY Lions club receives an independent request OUTSIDE of the LAS line, please contact the LAS chair with the following information.
 - a. Date received
 - b. Requestors Name
 - c. ZIP CODE
 - d. Club Name assisting
 - e. Date of completion

We would like to hear from everyone and to recognize the great work that you are doing in your community.

Lion Kelly Rackovan

Chair – Lions Assistance and Services (LAS)

Las@lions26M2.org

Please Remember These Lions

(December 2025 – January 2026)

BEAUFORT LIONS CLUB

JANET STORY

ROCK COMMUNITY LIONS CLUB

1st VDG JEFF A. RACKOVAN

CONCORD VILLAGE LIONS CLUB

NICHOLAS A CAROSELLO

ST LOUIS SOUTH SIDE LIONS CLUB

BEN HESSELBERG

EUREKA LIONS CLUB

BRYAN N KIEFER

WASHINGTON LIONS CLUB

GERALD L BAYLESS

WILLIAM C HUBER

PACIFIC LIONS CLUB

NANCY LOMER

Please Continue to Keep These Lions and All Who Have Passed Before In Your Prayers

Deadline for the next scheduled issue of “The Lions That Roar” is **April 12, 2026**. Now is the time for you to get an article in spotlighting your club or a special event. Do you have a “Did You Know” article? Pictures will be used whenever possible. Do you want to share why you became a Lion? Maybe you can inspire others.

Send to Lion Dave Kinkade, editor, at:

editor@lions26m2.org

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, the District 26-M2 “The Lions That Roar” newsletter is published bimonthly. The following is the “ROAR” schedule for the Lion year of 2025 – 2026. Unless otherwise **noted above**, please send articles for publication by the 12th of the month of publication.

April 2026

June 2026

Thank you,
Lion Dave, Editor