



The Kansas Lions News

Vol. 58 No. 2 • December 2012 • Kansas Lions online: www.kansaslions.org

2012-13 Calendar

State Council Meetings

Jan. 18-20 Salina
May 30-June 1 Wichita

2013 Mid-Winter Rally

Jan. 18-20 Salina

2013 State Convention

May 30-June 1 Wichita

2013 USA/Canada Forum

Sept. 19-21 Overland Park

2013 District Conventions

L: Feb. 15, ID Dave Hajny
I: Feb. 22, ID Mark Hintzman
O: March 1, ID Bob Corlew
N: March 8, ID Brian Sheehan
S: March 15, ID Ted Reiver

Council of Governors

Council Chair

PDG Helen LeBlanc (George)
222 N. Meridian
Valley Center 67147
C 316.644.0168
H 316.755.2224
hleblanc33@cox.net

District Governors

17-L Sheryl Brenn (Larry)

892 County Road O
Levant 67743
H 785.586.2384
lrbrenn@st-tel.net

Web: <http://lions17-L.org> (New)

17-I Bill Sanderson (Lucille)

313 S. Simpson Road
Salina 67401
H 785.823.2156
blsanderson@cox.net

Web: www.lionsdistrict17-i.com

17-O Beverly Nichols (Neal)

6116 West 85th Terrace
Overland Park 66207
C 816.260.6253
H 913.642.7520
Fax 913.383.9672
taximath@aol.com

Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/md17olions/>

17-N Mel Barnett (Elizabeth)

215 South Park Drive
Hutchinson 67502
H 620.665.0995
C 316.644.0168
mbarnett17@cox.net

Web: www.kansaslions17n.com

17-S William "Bill" Kincaid (Sherry)

910 East Kelly Ave.
Augusta 67010
H 316.775.2456
billsherkincaid@cox.net

Web: www.kslions.com

Governors OK redistricting plan

Faced with a continuing decline in membership and a firm commitment to Kansas Lionism, a proposal to redistrict MD-17 has been approved by the Council of Governors.

The proposal would establish three new sub-districts in western, northeastern and southeastern Kansas named "K", "A" and "N". If approved, it would take effect in July 2014.

The 2012-13 Council of Governors established a Redistricting Committee and tasked it with finding a way to strengthen Kansas Lions for the future. The hard facts considered by the committee are as follows.

The number of Lions in each of MD-17's five sub-districts has declined since 2008. Sub-district L's membership has had the smallest decline, dropping from 1,631 Lions in 2008 to 1,445 in September 2012. Sub-district I has had the largest decline, from 1,468 in 2008 to 1,186 in 2012. Sub-district O has dropped from 1,500 to 1,273; sub-district N from 1,417 to 1,181, and sub-district S from 1,280 to 1,003.

The Redistricting Committee considered travel corridors, population areas and geography; specifically, the potential for

growth or loss by looking at areas that have shown the least decline as a sub-district versus areas that have had the largest decline in membership.

The three new sub-districts would be created as follows. Sub-district K (western Kansas) would expand the current sub-district L by adding four counties from sub-district I (Jewell, Mitchell, Lincoln and Ellsworth) and five counties from sub-district N (Rice, Reno, Kingman, Barber and Harper). This could constitute an increase of 19 clubs and 421 members. The sub-district would consist of 85 clubs and a new membership of 1,863 as of Sept. 1, 2012.

Sub-district A (northeastern Kansas) would combine current sub-districts I and O (minus the four I counties moving to new sub-district K). Additionally, three counties from I and O – Morris, Osage and Franklin – would move into the proposed N sub-district (southeastern Kansas). New sub-district A would consist of 88 clubs with a total membership of 2,085 as of Sept. 1.

Sub-district N (southeastern Kansas) would combine current sub-districts N and S (with the exception of the five counties from N moving to new sub-district K

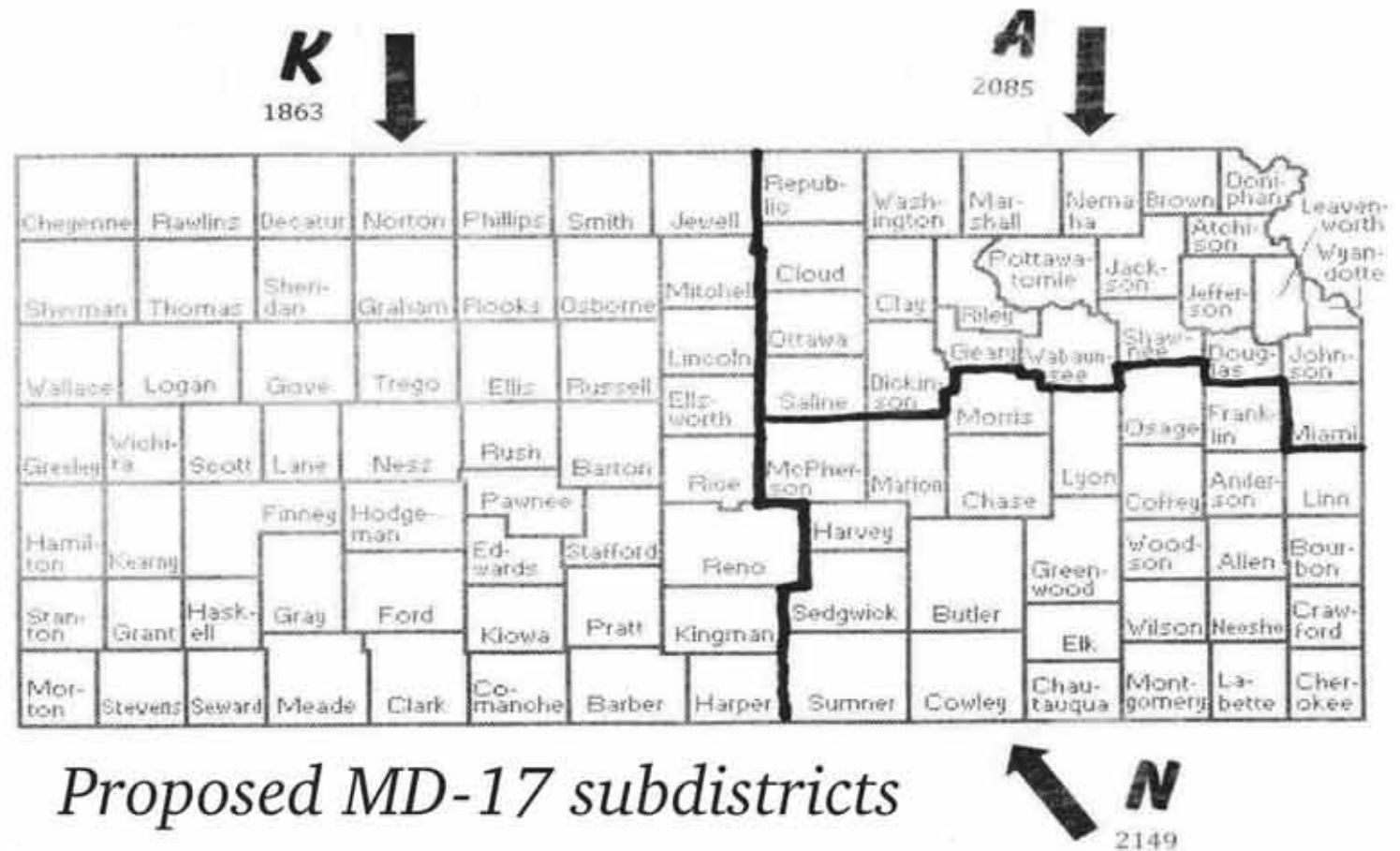
Redistricting at a glance

- MD-17 would go from five sub-districts (L,I,O,N,S) to three (K,A,N).
- The new districts would effectively be western Kansas, northeastern Kansas and southeastern Kansas.
- The change would take effect in July 2014 if all approvals are made.

and three counties from O and I moving to new sub-district N). The new sub-district would have 91 clubs with a total membership of 2,149 as of Sept. 1.

These changes were necessitated because three of the current five sub-districts in MD-17 have fewer than 1,250 members in good standing, the minimum required by LCI. The Redistricting Committee worked to keep the membership of each new sub-district as close to 2,000 members as possible.

The Council of Governors approved
See REDISTRICTING on Page 2



Lion Hank Rasmussen endows vision fund



Lion Hank Rasmussen

By Hank Blase

"Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit."

This comment was made by Conrad Hilton, an American hotelier and founder of the Hilton Hotel chain, and it aptly describes Lion Hank Rasmussen of the Wichita West Lions Club.

Rasmussen is a successful person. He is an entrepreneur who has started, managed and sold several businesses in his lifetime of 94 years, and along the

way, he was presented the Ambassador of Good Will Award by the International Association of Lions Clubs in recognition of his outstanding achievements in service to humanity.

He made mistakes, but he did not quit. Last year, Rasmussen founded and endowed the Lions Vision Care Fund with the Wichita Community Foundation for the express purpose of providing eyeglasses for indigent patients in Wichita and Sedgwick County through the Medical Service Bureau, 1530 S. Oliver, Suite

See RASMUSSEN on Page 3

2013 Mid-Winter Rally details on Page 4

From the Council Chair

Hello Fellow Lions! The past few months seem to have zoomed past us and the holidays are fast approaching.

As you all know, we have been losing membership over the past years and now we have to address that issue. I had put together a group (representatives from each district including GMT/GLT leaders) to talk about redistricting. We met and have come up with a resolution to redistrict our state into three districts.

This resolution was presented to the five district governors at the October State Council Meeting. We then presented this resolution to the general audience of state Lions at that meeting.

With the approval of the governors the resolution for changing from five to three districts will be presented in January 2013 at Mid-Winter Rally. If this resolution is accepted by the current districts which have at least 1,250 members, then it will be put on the ballot to be voted on at the State Convention in June 2013.

We also must get the approval of Lions Clubs International to make this change. If the resolution is passed, the redistricting would become effective July 1, 2014.

This is not a popular issue, but it is one that must be addressed at this time. We continue to lose membership and unless each one of us brings in new members or clubs, we will continue to face this problem of declining membership.

In the past 20 years we have lost almost 6,000 Lions in our State – today we have less than 6,100 members. I encourage each of you to visit with your fellow club members on ways in which you might be able to bring in new members and/or new clubs, and retain the members you



Council Chair PDG Helen LeBlanc

currently have.

Our GMT/GLT leaders (Bill Phillipi and Tom Badger) are available if you would like some assistance with addressing membership and retention. I ask that each of you Lions keep an open mind when thinking about redistricting – we need to leave our personal issues at the door and do what is best for our Kansas Lions as a whole.

We will continue to keep you informed as we work through this process and encourage your input. Let us look forward and enjoy the joys of the holidays and company of Lions!

CC PDG Helen LeBlanc
222 N. Meridian
Valley Center, KS 67147
Home 316-755-2224
Cell 316-644-0168
Hleblanc33@cox.net

Redistricting

Continued from Page 1

the plan at its Second Meeting on Oct. 21 at McPherson.

“We have had very little opposition on this issue – each of us knows that we continue to lose membership and we must pay the price for that,” said Council Chair PDG Helen LeBlanc. “I am very proud of our State Lions for their support in this and as we continue addressing redistricting, let us remember we need to do what is best for ALL of our State Lions.”

The next step is for the Council of Governors to approve the redistricting resolution at its meeting during Mid-Winter Rally in January. That approval would place the proposal on the ballot at the 2013 State Convention.

Lions in sub-districts L and O will vote on the proposal at their district conventions. Only sub-districts with a membership of 1,250 or higher are required to vote on the proposal. Sub-districts whose membership does not meet that threshold also may vote but their votes are not required for the proposal to advance to Lions Clubs

International.

If approved by sub-districts L and O, the proposal will formally be published in the spring 2013 issue of The Kansas Lions News. All Kansas Lions club delegates will vote on the redistricting proposal at the MD-17 State Convention on Saturday, June 1, 2013. If all of the above approvals take place, the proposal then would go to the LCI Board for approval and would go into effect in July 2014.

Members of the Redistricting Committee are: PCC Bill Phillipi, chair, state GMT chair and sub-district I representative; PDG Craig Donecker, sub-district L representative; PDG Bernard Lee, sub-district O representative; PDG Dan Funke, sub-district N representative; PDG Mel Greene, sub-district S representative; PDG Chris Bauer, constitution and by-laws; PCC Tom Badger, state GLT chair, and CC Helen LeBlanc, state council chair. State Secretary Linda McCormick provided statistical and historical resources.

Resolution to Redistrict MD-17

Whereas, a Redistricting Committee was formed by the 2012-13 Council of Governors;

Whereas, 3 of the 5 sub-districts are below 1,250 members in good standing;

Whereas, the Redistricting Committee has developed a plan with 3 sub-districts replacing L, I, O, N, and S with K, A, and N.

Whereas, the Redistricting Committee kept each sub-district as close to 2,000 members as possible;

Whereas, the Redistricting Committee presented the plan at the Second MD-17 Council Meeting in McPherson, KS held October 20-21, 2012;

Whereas, Lions club delegates in Districts “L” and “O” will vote on the redistricting proposal at their respective district conventions;

Whereas, all Kansas Lions clubs delegates will vote on the redistricting proposal at the MD-17 State Convention on Saturday, June 1, 2013;

Whereas, the redistricting proposal, if approved by Lions Clubs International board, will take effect in July 2014,

Now, Therefore,
Be It Resolved, the 2012-13 MD-17 Council of Governors, do hereby request that all Lions of Kansas support the redistricting proposal plan and vote in favor to adopt the Redistricting Plan for Multiple District 17.

Approved by the unanimous vote of the MD-17 Council of Governors on this 21st Day of October, 2012.

Remembering Taylor

Mulvane teen leaves legacy to Kansas Lions, Leos

By Nancy D. Borst

The Kansas Lion and Leo family suffered a tremendous loss in October with the death of Taylor Heersche of Mulvane. Taylor lost her battle with cancer at age 15.

Her absence will be keenly felt for many reasons. She possessed the attributes essential in one who seeks to serve others; so much so that it was only fitting she was born into a Lions family, which includes her parents, Dan and PCC DeAnne, and sister, Connor.

Many of us followed Taylor’s story, thanks to regular e-mails and postings by DeAnne. We laughed and smiled with Taylor, who never met a stranger. We prayed for her and we cried for her and her family. Now we mourn.

Taylor became a Leo in August 2008, just three months after being diagnosed with ALL. DeAnne says her daughter actually had helped with Leo activities

since 2005, when the Mulvane Leo Club was chartered. Taylor and Connor, too young to be Leos at the time, attended almost every Leo meeting and activity, accompanying DeAnne, a club co-sponsor.



Taylor singing a solo

Taylor was president of the club in 2009-10 as a seventh grader. She organized service projects. She also helped start a CUB Club at Mulvane Grade School for 3rd-5th graders.

She attended the Global Leo Conference in 2011 and was planning to go to Hamburg, Germany in 2013 for the LCI convention.

Taylor Heersche packed a lot of living into her 15 years. But it was her last few months that I will remember. Taylor became my hero, displaying a courage that belied her youth.

And when it became clear she would leave this world far too soon, Taylor set aside her fear and summoned a mountain of faith that gently carried her to God.

She in turn inspired all of us to be better people and better Lions.

Taylor asked that memorials be established for the Mulvane Leo Club as its members raise money to go to Germany. Other memorials are with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in Wichita, the Mulvane United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, the Mulvane High School Thespian Club, and the Taylor Heersche Cancer Fund at Carson Bank in Mulvane.

Taylor’s legacy is a gift that will be treasured by anyone lucky enough to have met her. We will miss you, Taylor. Godspeed.

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Have questions? Contact: Angela 913.638.8415 or angela@kansasdrugcard.com

The Kansas Lions News is published quarterly by the Kansas Lions Foundation.
Publisher: Kansas Lions Foundation, 231 S. Tyler Road, Wichita, KS. 67209
Editor: Nancy D. Borst, P.O. Box 127, Goddard, KS. 67052
(316) 644-5430; ndbdesk@cox.net
POSTMASTER Send address changes to: Kansas Lions State Office, 231 S. Tyler Road, Wichita, KS. 67209.