

LIONS DISTRICT 4-A1 NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2026 ~ VOLUME 69 – Number 3
Northern San Joaquin Valley & Sierra/Nevada Foothills - "WE SERVE"
501(c)(4) Organization - EIN 23-7426310



🌐 **WEBSITE:** lions4-a1.org ~ 📧 **DISTRICT EMAIL:** 4A1Lions@gmail.com

📘 **FACEBOOK:** [4A1LionsClub](https://www.facebook.com/4A1LionsClub) ~ 📺 **YOUTUBE:** [@lions4a1](https://www.youtube.com/@lions4a1) ~ 📷 **INSTAGRAM:** [4a1Lions](https://www.instagram.com/4a1Lions)

🌐 **DISTRICT NEWSLETTERS:** [LINK](#) ~ **EDITOR:** Lion Gail Cates ~ 📧 **NEWSLETTER EMAIL:** newsletter@lions4-a1.org

🌐 **2025-26 DISTRICT DIRECTORY:** [LINK](#) (Ask Zone Chairs for password & PDF file) ~ **HASHTAG:** #4A1Lions

SECTIONS IN EACH NEWSLETTER

- Calendar of Events
- Main Section
- Upcoming Events (in Date-Order)
- Alpha and Omega Leo News Section
- Club News Section (Lions & Leo-Lions)
- Directory

Invoices for District & Multiple District Dues (July-Dec) were recently sent out. **Club Treasurer:** Please review your email. If you did not get an Invoice from 4-A1 with your current dues, please contact Claudia Miller at ckay613cayucos@gmail.com.

~ CALENDAR of EVENTS ~

[DISTRICT 4-A1 ONLINE CALENDAR](#)
[MD4 GOOGLE CALENDAR](#)
[LIONS INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR](#)

Now thru Sep 29: City Pop Gourmet Popcorn/Snacks Fundraiser online – Stockton San Joaquin Lions – [FLIER](#) - [LINK](#)
Now thru Sep 30: California Lions Foundation Grants – see article in this newsletter - [LINK](#)
Now thru Dec 31: [Lions For Access](#) – Club Banner Patch
Now thru Feb 2027: California Lions' Move Be-Cause Campaign – see article in this newsletter - [LINK](#)
Now thru Jun 2027: "Bags for Benches, Round 10" kicks off – Stockton San Joaquin Lions - [LINK](#) - [FLIER](#)
Sep: Project Care – MD4 California Lions - [FLIER](#) - [LINK](#)
Sep 1: Deadline for parade entry – Mariposa Lions - [FLIER](#)
Sep 3-5: [USA/Canada Forum](#) – Memphis TN – [REGISTER](#)
Sep 5: Mariposa Labor Day Parade - Mariposa Lions - [FLIER](#)
Sep 5: MD4 Marketing Hours, 9:00-NOON [REGISTER HERE](#)
Sep 11: Blood Drive & Food Collection – Sutter Creek Lions – see article in Clubs News Section – [FLIER](#)
Sep 12: **Deadline** for registering for 9/19 District Meeting at the reduced rate. [REGISTER](#)
Sep 12: Sportsman Dinner – Linden Lions - [FLIER](#)
Sep 12: Casino Night – Merced Breakfast Lions - [FLIER](#)

Sep 12: Autumn Cruise Car Show – Escalon Lions - [FLIER](#)

Sep 12: Worship in the Park – Los Banos Lions

Sep 12: Raz' N Health Fitness Festival – Atwater Winton Lions - [FLIER](#)

Sep 16: Booth at Chamber Fall Fest & selling tickets for our Tri Tip fundraiser on October 16th – Los Banos Lions

Sep 16: [MD4 Marketing](#) Masterclass "CLF Grant Workshop" 7-9PM – see article

Sep 19: District Meeting – in Chowchilla CA – [UPDATED FLIER](#) – [AGENDA](#) – [REGISTER](#) - [LINK](#) – See article in Upcoming Events section

Sep 19: Relay for Life – Linden CA – See article in this newsletter – [LINK](#) - [FLIER](#)

Sep 19: Fundraiser with Senior Center – Sonora Lions

Sep 19: Fall Street Faire – Los Banos Lions

Sep 20: Bingo - benefiting American Cancer Society – Lathrop Lions - [FLIER](#)

Sep 22: New Member Orientation - 7-8 PM Meeting ID: 979 6176 5033 Passcode: 753675 [ZOOM LINK](#)

Sep 24: MD4 Lions' Workshop on Service Reporting – see article in this newsletter

Sep 25: Celebrate Pine Grove – co-hosted by Upcountry 88 Lions - [FLIER](#)

Sep 28: Student Speakers Contest Training - 7-8 PM Zoom training of what was covered at the District Meeting [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 975 8127 4800 Passcode: 203080

Oct 1: Deadline to order Peace Poster packets - [LINK](#)

Oct 3: Oktoberfest – Linden Lions - [TICKETS](#) - [FLIER](#)

Oct 8-18: Lions Int'l VISION Week of Service - [LINK](#)

Oct 10: LI's World Mental Health Day - [LINK](#) - [WEBPAGE](#)

Oct 10: White Cane Awareness 11 AM-2 PM – Stockton San Joaquin Lions - [FLIER](#)

Oct 15: New Teachers' Night – hosted by Ripon Lions – see article in this newsletter

Oct 16: Tri-Tip Fundraiser – Los Banos Lions

Oct 17: Pancake Breakfast – Ripon Lions - [FLIER](#)

Oct 18: Bunco – Lathrop Lions - [FLIER](#)

Oct 23: MD4 Council of Governors Meeting – see article

Oct 23: Surf & Turf Dinner – Sonora Lions - [FLIER](#)

Oct 24: Prime Rib Dinner – Hughson Lions - [FLIER](#)

Oct 31: Harvest Faire – West Point Lions - [FLIER](#)

Nov 7: District Meeting in Mountain Region

Nov 7: Turkey Shoot – Sierra Lions – [FLIER](#) – [REGISTRATION](#) - [CHART](#)

Nov 14: 5K Walk/Run – Stockton Healthy Leo Lions – see article in this newsletter - [FLIER](#)

Nov 15: Peace Poster Contest – deadline to submit - [LINK](#)

Dec 5: Winter Wonderland Craft Showcase – Westpoint Lions - [FLIER](#)

Dec 19, 26, 27: Lions Float Decorating - [LINK](#)

~ FUTURE EVENTS ~

Jan 9: District Meeting in San Joaquin Region

Feb 1: Deadline for entering Environment Photo Contest - [LINK](#) - [FLIER](#)

Feb 13-21: Lions Int'l YOUTH Week of Service - [LINK](#)

Feb 17-18: MD4 Mid-Winter COG in Rohnert Park CA

Feb 19-21: MD4 Convention in Rohnert Park CA

Feb 19: MD4 Student Speakers Contest - Club Contest to be held on or before today. [LINK](#) See article in this newsletter

Feb 27: 100th Anniversary – Jackson Lions – [LINK](#) - [FLIER](#)

May 15: District Meeting in Stanislaus Region

Apr 1-4: District 4-A1 Convention at Black Oak Casino/Resort - [LINK](#)

May 29-Jun 6: [Lions Int'l ENVIRONMENT Week of Service](#)

June 11-13: MD4 Joint COG in Modesto CA

Jul 2-6, 2027: [Lions Int'l Convention](#) – Washington DC

Sep 16-18, 2027: [USA/Canada Forum](#) – Huntsville AL

Jun 23-27, 2028: [Lions Int'l Convention](#) – Singapore

Jun 29-Jul 3, 2029: [Lions Int'l Convention](#) – Minneapolis MN

~ ONGOING EVENTS ~

(Some Zoom links can be found on the [District Calendar](#))

District 4-A1 Cabinet Zoom Meetings – 1st Wednesdays – monthly - at 5:45 PM. This meeting is open to all district Lions as listeners. The zoom meeting ID is 874 8047 7903 and the passcode is 144617. Link is on [District's Calendar](#).

District 4-A1 Membership Orientations – ALL LIONS ARE WELCOMED! 6:30pm - every 4th Tuesday on [Zoom](#) except November, December, June & July

District 4-A1 Club Officers' Town Hall Meetings – 6pm - 3rd Monday of the month

District 4-A1 Marketing Meetings – 7:30pm - 4th Mondays

District 4-A1 Newsletter Deadline – Fliers, articles & photos due 25th of the month – [GFCLION@GMAIL.COM](#)

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: [Pickleball Lessons](#) - Oakdale Lions

Training Opportunities -

GLT PCC Lion Claudia Miller recently conducted two days of **New Zone Chair Training in Modesto**, along with **New Club Officer Training in Linden**.

If you have not yet completed these important initial trainings, please check the **4-A1 District Calendar** for upcoming training dates. You may also contact GLT PCC Lion Claudia Miller at ckay613cayucos@gmail.com to be included in future training opportunities.

Our goal is to have **34 clubs, representing 70% of our Lions club officers, participating in officer training by October 1, 2026**. Your help in reaching this goal is greatly appreciated!

Club Websites -

During the New Officer Training, I shared that the District is currently reviewing how we provide web presence and website services for our clubs. The cost of maintaining the various website options currently being used by individual clubs continues to increase.

We are exploring options that would allow clubs to continue paying for enhanced websites and services if they choose to do so. At the same time, this review will most likely result in some changes to the web services the District can provide to clubs at no or limited cost in the future.

Please stay tuned for additional information as this process develops.

Staying Connected with Our Clubs -

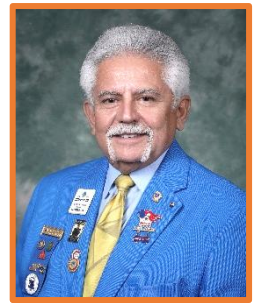
First VDG Lion Mike Bohl, Second VDG Lion José M. Aldaco, and I have begun making our monthly calls to District club presidents. Our goal is to strengthen communication and gain a better understanding of what each club is doing—and, more importantly, how the District can help.

Whether your club needs assistance with **membership, service projects, recruiting, or other challenges**, we want to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone who has taken or returned our calls. The conversations have been very encouraging, and we look forward to continuing this important connection with our clubs.

Council of Governors Meeting -

I attended the August **Council of Governors (C.O.G.) meeting in Ontario**, which was preceded by the Lions Float, Inc. inaugural Poker Tournament fundraiser. The event was very well organized, and everyone appeared to have a great time. Numerous participants purchased additional chips to continue playing, which helped make the fundraiser a success.



MESSAGE FROM DG STEVE MOORE

Greetings Fellow Lions of District 4-A1,

It has been a busy and productive month at the District 4-A1 level, and I'm excited to share a few updates with you!

Council Chair Lion Patrick Pothier did an outstanding job leading the meeting with confidence and courtesy. He kept the two-day meeting on schedule and was even able to conclude a little ahead of time—a wonderful accomplishment!

Council Co-Secretary DG Lion Mariane Allen expressed concern that registrations for the meeting were slower than in previous years, resulting in lower attendance. I encourage all Lions who are able to attend future C.O.G. meetings to do so. These are the business meetings of our Multiple District, and the decisions made there directly affect Lions throughout every district in Multiple District Four.

Club Visitations -

I have also begun my official club visitations, with my first visit being with the **Stockton Host Club**.

I will be reaching out to club secretaries to schedule additional visits. With **47 more club visitations to go**, I have a busy year ahead!

Information regarding the **District Governor's Visitation Protocol** and **Club President's Duties at the Governor's Official Visitation** is included in the District Directory and will also be sent to club presidents and secretaries before each visitation.

My goal is for every club visit to be informative, enjoyable, and beneficial to the club.

The 2026–2027 District Directory Is Coming!

Finally, I am very pleased to announce that the DG team, along with GLT PCC Lion Claudia, has completed the new **2026–2027 District Directory!** [FLIER](#)

The directory will be going to print shortly, and we hope to have copies available for distribution at our **September 19, 2026 District Meeting in Chowchilla**.

This year's directory will be slimmer and more cost-effective. We have included URL links and **QR codes** for the **District 4-A1 Constitution and By-Laws** and the **Membership Directory – District 4-A1**. This will allow us to reduce printing costs while making it easier to keep information current through updates on the District website.

We also had a very successful advertising campaign this year, resulting in **full-page, full-color advertisements throughout the publication**. These generous businesses are helping us cover the entire cost of this year's directory. I encourage all Lions to support the businesses that are supporting our District!

September District Meeting -

We hope to see you at our **District Meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2026, in Chowchilla**.

Please watch the District's newsletter and calendar for complete details, and look for the registration flier with information on how to sign up.

Our meeting theme is **"Football,"** so pull out your favorite team jersey and come ready to have some fun!

We are also excited to welcome our keynote speaker, **Lion John Posey, Executive Director of the Lions Eye Foundation**.

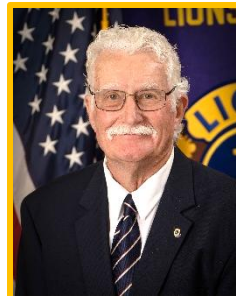
I am looking forward to seeing **at least one representative from every club in District 4-A1** at this important meeting!

Thank you for all you do for Lions and for your communities. I am excited about the year ahead and look forward to working together as we continue to make a difference through service.

"Solidarity Through Service"

~ District Governor 4-A1 Lion Steve Moore

MESSAGE FROM 1VDG MIKE BOHL



Hello fellow Lions,

District 4-A1 officers have been very busy this month as DG Steve, 2nd VDG Jose, and I have been trying to communicate with all our club presidents, vice presidents, or secretaries. We will be trying to contact each club monthly to make sure your needs are being met and

that the district is fulfilling its obligations. Making the phone calls and visiting with club officers has actually been very enjoyable!

Efforts have been made to obtain an emergency grant for Calaveras County clubs because of the recent Gann fire. The grant may take some time to complete; however, decisions must be made to determine how best to use the assistance.

Lion PCC Claudia Miller has been working hard to promote training for club officers and zone chairpersons, so it is hopeful that they will take advantage of these efforts. Lion PCC Claudia is a two-time district governor and a past council chair...hence, she has a wealth of information that we can all take advantage of.

From a membership standpoint, our district is making excellent progress in establishing new clubs as there is a new cyber club in the works, plus a couple of new Leo clubs. That will help greatly meet our goals for 2026-27. However, it is still very important that our existing clubs continue to grow. Personally, I am committed to helping our smaller clubs grow and maintain a membership of at least 20 members. These smaller clubs work very hard and do a tremendous amount of good in their communities. Thank you all for our hard work and efforts.

Yours in Lionism,

~ Mike Bohl

MESSAGE FROM 2VDG JOSÉ M. ALDACO



(NOTE: He's third from the righthand side.)

August 22: This weekend, I represented District 4-A1 as 2nd Vice [District] Governor and proudly repped the Waterford Lions Club at the Council of Governors for Multiple District Four - California - Lions. Over 100 Lions gathered, with great discussion on mental health and Veteran support. International President Mark Lyon delivered a powerful message on "Rooted in Service;" it was a great reminder of why we do this work. Proud to serve alongside so many dedicated Lions.

👨🏻‍🦺 We Serve 💙💛👨🏻‍🦺

SEPTEMBER'S VISION NEWS

Calling all Vision Champions and Accessibility Ambassadors!

In September, California Lions Project Care is focusing on Lions for Access.



In October, Lions International is highlighting International President Mark S. Lyons' "Week of Vision Service" from **October 8-18, 2026**. I knighted IP Mark as a "Knight of the Blind 2.0" and "Accessibility Ambassador" at the California Lions Convention on the Queen Mary in February,

and he has definitely carried our vision forward! [VIDEO LINK](#) Here are some great ways to participate! https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_kOEwXrfMzY4.jpg.pdf?v=1 (Link to download the .PDF document that lists ideas for doing Vision Service Projects)

I welcome as many Lions as can make it to take part in the "8th Annual White Cane Awareness Walk & Celebration" in Stockton October 10. I hope to see many of our clubs claiming a Lions for Access banner patch **before**

December 31st ([INSTRUCTIONS](#)) and creating quilt squares for the "Patchwork of Purpose" Project! [FLIER](#) and Website: <https://clubhouse.everythingcalions.org/> Please continue to **collect eyeglasses, reading glasses, sunglasses and hearing aids**; and bring them to the district meetings to recycle and help others in need! If anyone is interested in volunteering to **record yourself reading an article from the [LION Magazine](#)** as a service to the blind, please reach out and let me know so I can connect you with Lion Donna Rollins in Apple Valley, who is spearheading that project for my MD4 Lions for Access Committee. PSST! IP Mark Lyon recorded an article that he wrote as a service for us for this latest issue! Linden Lion/Lions Project for Canine Companions VP Kirk Noffsinger Knighted as an Accessibility Ambassador. See [VIDEO LINK](#) and Facebook [LINK](#).

Lions for Access is working with Lions International to get a more streamline and accessible, inclusive process for all. Just wanted to share that the new Service reporting structure is in place and this training video ([YOUTUBE LINK](#)) has taken a big step toward being more inclusive of all disabilities. We will continue fine-tuning the process and many others with them, and it's not perfect, but should be a lot easier with only a few mandatory fields to fill out and then the option to report, save or go to the next screen to add all those extra details!

~ Lion Jennifer Gass, 4-A1 Vision Chair & MD4 Lions for Access Chair LionsForAccess@gmail.com

PASSING OF PDG RON RAINES

(An email was sent to members about his Celebration of Life. If you didn't receive it, let Lion Gail know gflion@gmail.com)

Excerpt from DignityMemorial.com [LINK](#) -

"From the early 1980s until he could no longer attend functions, Ron was a member of the LeGrand Lions Club. When Barbara joined him in retirement, they traveled the world, finding new ways to contribute to society and serve others through Lions. Ron's greatest talent and hobby was creating club webpages and teaching others to build and maintain their own club webpages. He also helped Barbara raise 10 puppies for the Lions Project for Canine Companions. Ron was asked to run for district governor of his area, 4A1, for Lions Club and he served in this leadership capacity for the 2015-2016 term. He took his guitar, sound system, and infectious personality to every Lions function, always making laughter and fun a part of the event. Ron and Barbara made countless friends during their time in Lions and only stopped when Ron's Parkinson's made it impossible to continue. Even when dementia was setting in, he still helped set up the

sound system at his local club meeting, watched over by a younger fellow Lion, who claimed Ron could still do it better than him!"

Celebration of Life

in memory of

Ronald Stephen Raines

June 22, 1947 - August 12, 2026



Please join us on August 29, 2026 @ 11:00 am
Cornerstone Community Church
Faith Hall
208 Fig Tree Road, Chowchilla, CA
Celebrating a life of love, laughter & memories

We'll gather in the Faith Hall for a service and refreshments. You're welcome to bring a story or memory of Ron to share with everyone.

Questions? Text Michele @ 559-474-0469



DISTRICT DIRECTORIES OUT SOON!



WHERE ARE THE District Directories?

ACCURATE INFORMATION. STRONGER CONNECTIONS.
That's what we're all about!



We're excited to share that District Directories will be available for club officers at our **September 19 District Meeting in Chowchilla!**

Thank you for your patience as we worked to make sure the directory is as accurate and useful as possible.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP KEEP OUR INFORMATION ACCURATE?

Club secretaries play an important role in keeping our records up to date. Please take a few minutes to regularly review and update each member's contact information in the LCI Portal.

Keeping this information current helps ensure that important communications reach our Lions and makes our District Directory more useful to everyone.



Thank you FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND TEAMWORK!



Thank you for your help and for all you do to support your club and our District. Together, we can keep our information accurate and make sure our Lions stay connected!

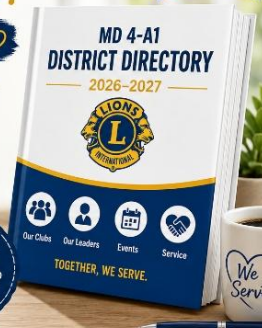


WITH APPRECIATION,

Cabinet Secretary

Debbi Hopman

2026-2027
Solidarity
Through Service



Where Are the District Directories? [\(ABOVE FLIER LINK\)](#)

This is a question I've been hearing quite a bit lately—and I'm happy to share an update!

Creating the most accurate District Directory takes a little time and teamwork. To make sure the information is as current and helpful as possible, we needed each club to enter its club officers into the Lions Portal and update important club information, including meeting days, times, and locations. We also needed to finalize our Cabinet and committee positions, calendar of events, and other details before sending the directory through multiple rounds of proofreading.

I'm very happy to report that we anticipate having the District Directories available for club officers at our **September 19** District Meeting in Chowchilla! Thank you for your patience as we worked to make sure the directory is as accurate and useful as possible.

What can you do to help keep our information accurate?

Club secretaries play an important role in keeping our records up to date. Please take a few minutes to regularly review and update each member's contact information in the Lion Portal. Keeping this information current helps ensure that important communications reach our Lions and makes our District Directory more useful to everyone. Thank you for your help and for all you do to support your club and our District. Together, we can keep our information accurate and make sure our Lions stay connected! ~ Cabinet Secretary Debbi Hopman

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

District Convention Chair

2028 to 2029 MD 4-A1 Convention

Multiple District 4-A1 is seeking a dedicated Lion to serve as Convention Chair for the 2028 to 2029 MD 4-A1 Convention. This is a hands-on leadership role responsible for planning, coordinating, and delivering one of our

District's premier annual gatherings, bringing together Lions from across the Multiple District to celebrate service, fellowship, and governance.

Start now. Grow into the role. While the Convention itself takes place during the 2028 to 2029 year, we are recruiting the Chair now so there is time to learn the full planning process, shadow current leadership, and be fully prepared to lead when the 2029 MD 4-A1 Convention arrives.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead overall planning and execution of the 2029 MD 4-A1 Convention
- Coordinate with the District Governor, Cabinet, and the host club's committee
- Manage venue selection, contracts, budget, and vendor relationships
- Oversee registration, program schedule, and delegate logistics
- Recruit and coordinate convention committee volunteers
- Ensure convention proceedings align with MD 4-A1 and Lions International guidelines

THE ONBOARDING RUNWAY

The Chair role begins immediately, well ahead of the 2028 to 2029 convention year. This lead time allows the incoming Chair to observe an active convention cycle, learn District processes and timelines firsthand, and build relationships with Cabinet leadership and past chairs, arriving at the 2029 Convention fully prepared rather than starting from scratch.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- An active Lion in good standing within MD 4-A1
- Strong organizational and event planning skills
- Comfortable coordinating volunteers and multiple moving parts
- Available to begin now and commit through the 2028 to 2029 convention year
- A collaborative spirit and genuine enthusiasm for Lions service

INTERESTED IN SERVING?

Contact the MD 4-A1 2nd Vice Governor José M. Aldaco, LionJoseAldaco@gmail.com.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Bags For Benches - Round #10 of plastic collections will kick off on **September 1**. If your club wants more information, contact Lion [Jennifer Gass](#). And I bet she'd take your donations for her Stockton San Joaquin Lions Club if your club isn't participating in it!!! Flier to follow... <https://nextrex.com/view/programs>

CALIFORNIA LIONS CAMP



GiftedLilOnes, a play and sensory center in Modesto, received a donation from California Lions Camp. This center is a safe, inclusive, and therapeutic environment designed to support children of all abilities. Barbara and Roy Lopez, owners, accepted the check from board members Bob Abraham, Debbi Hopman, Jill Loving, and Laura and Dave McCullough. ~ Debbi Hopman



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/environment>



50th Lions Allstar Football Game and Inaugural Girl's Flag Football Game

<https://www.lionsallstarfootball.com/>



The historic 50th annual Lions All-Star Football Game took place on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Wayne Schneider Stadium at Tracy High School dedicated to Wayne Schneider.

The inaugural Girls Flag Football all-star game kicked off the event at 5:00 p.m., with the North defeating the South 44-6. The traditional boys' game followed at 7:00 p.m., where the North team defeated the South 34-14, completing a North sweep of the 50th anniversary showcase. Special Honors: Halftime ceremonies honored Aaron Judge's All Rise Foundation alongside longtime Tracy High Coach Wayne Schneider, who has been involved with the game since its inception in 1974.

The Lions Allstar Football Committee would like to thank the clubs who cooked for both the boys' and girls' teams after their practices every day the week before the game, and to the clubs who support our game in many other ways.

We also would like to thank our corporate sponsors of Aaron Judge's ALL RISE Foundation, Chase Chevrolet, and Grizzly Nuts.

On to working for the next game! ~ Elizabeth Olson

MD4 YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

<https://md4lions.org/youth-protection>



Youth Protection Policy form(s) were due July 31st. We did it! District 4-A1 was the first district in Multiple District Four to assure that all clubs submitted their Youth Service Compliance Forms. Thank you! We are now waiting for MD-4 clearance for individuals working with Leos and youth. ~ John Foosum & Debbi Hopman District 4-A1 Youth Protection Officers

MD4 TRAVELLING YOUTH EXCHANGE

<https://sites.google.com/view/md4lions-yce>



Nelley Guzman, from the Madera Omega Leo Club, presented at the MD4 Council of Governors meeting on August 23, 2026 about her experiences, both as an Outgoing Student, 2025, and a member of the Incoming Traveling Team, 2026. She joined the traveling team in Long Beach and traveled to Oakdale during the month of July. Additionally, she led nine other students and members to the top of Half Dome as part of the activities in which students participated.

~ PDG Gabby McKechnie

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lbJ4Oyfw9g2ir7ELPHJly4et2chNlm0C/view?usp=drive_link

Editor's Note: See photos of this year's Youth Exchange Students under "Linden Lions" in the Clubs' News Section.

MD4 MARKETING NEWS

New website: <https://clubhouse.everythingcalions.org/>

Sept 5 MD4 Marketing Hours, 9:00-Noon [Register Here](#)

Sept 16 CLF Grant Workshop 7:00-9:00PM

MasterClass Presents CLF Grant Workshop :: Sept 16, 2026 7:00-9:00 (via zoom)

Thanks to overwhelming interest (almost 80 people signed up!!), we are following up the August 12 MasterClass session with a live two-hour workshop on Sept 9 from 7:00-9:00 PM. This is your opportunity to work with Lion David Williamson (from CLF) and PDG Stephanie Gwinn one-on-one, who will coach you through the grant writing process with the actual grants you are applying for. Attendees of the August 12 training will be automatically enrolled in the workshop. Because grant proposals are confidential, this meeting WILL NOT be recorded.

If you would like to attend but didn't attend the August 12 training, please contact Lion Diana Ringer at dianaringer@icloud.com to discuss the possibility.

New Marketing Office Hours

MD4 Marketing Office Hours have moved! For the 2026-2027 Lions year, Office Hours will occur on the first Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM–Noon. [Register](#) once, and you can drop in anytime during the year. Office Hours are your opportunity to brainstorm marketing ideas and work through challenges. These are drop-in sessions for Club's and District's Marketing Chairs, Cabinet Members, and Service Chairs. Ask questions, get feedback, and connect with the team.

~ Lion Diane Ringer

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following two updates are found in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter:

- **Environmental [Photo Contest](#) In Full Swing**
- **Move Be-Cause Campaign LIVE**

MD4 PROUD LION AWARD



<https://md4lions.org/proud-lion>

[DOWNLOAD THE PROUD LION FILLABLE FORM](#)

NOTE: Attendance at a 4-A1 District Meeting (and reporting back to your club) also completes one of the requirements for completion of the Proud Lion Award.
~ Tom Machado, 4-A1 Global Membership Team (GMT) Chair

LCIF GRANTS TOOLKIT

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/lcif-grants-toolkit>



"We encourage you to explore the different grant types and resources within this online toolkit to find out if there's a grant that's right for your club, district or multiple district now, or in the future!"

- [Best Practices Guide for LCIF Grants](#)
- [Grant Deadlines](#)
- [Guide to LCIF Grant Opportunities](#)
- [LCIF Grant Regulations](#)
- [LCIF Grant Compliance in Project Management](#)
- [Lifecycle of a Grant](#)
- [10 Tips for Applying for a LCIF Grant](#)

Excerpts from Lions International's AUGUST DISTRICT DIGEST

Grow Your Club Leadership Skills -

Club presidents, secretaries and treasurers, take this opportunity to sharpen your leadership skills. Learn more about your role, responsibilities and timelines for key tasks by completing the online club officer courses available in the Lions Learning Center, located under Learn in the Lion Portal. [GET STARTED](#)

Start Planning Now: **Oct 10** Is World Mental Health Day -

Now is the time to start planning a mental health and well-being service activity to recognize World Mental Health Day on October 10. Read more to learn how Lions and Leos around the world have been serving their communities and filling a growing need through impactful mental health and well-being service. [READ MORE](#)

DISTRICT 4-A1 TRAINING & OPPORTUNITIES

The District Global Action Team is here to help. We don't tell you what to do. We provide information and brainstorm with you. You make the decision(s) as to what is best for your club. We can come to you. **Clubs may request training** for their Club, Zone, or Region. Contact Global Leadership Coordinator Claudia Miller at ckay613cayucos@gmail.com and 209-596-1219.

Zoom links are on [District Google Calendar](#).
Member Orientation (Zoom) **2nd Monday of the month** 6-7PM, except for November & December and June & July [for new Lions and ALL Lions]
Town Hall Meetings (Zoom) **3rd Monday of the month** 6-7PM. Focus is on assisting officers and Lions with Lion Portal challenges, general questions, finding resources, and training on areas identified by district members. Ask questions - resolve challenges. Short trainings are provided throughout the year.
HELPFUL LINKS have been added to our District's website: <https://lions4-a1.org/contact-links/>

TRAINING OPTIONS:

- * Sign into the Lion Portal and research classes given in the "Lions Learning Center"
- * Lions International's YouTube has lots of training/available: <https://www.youtube.com/lionsclubs>
- * Lions International's website has training links – At this link, <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center>, go to the "TRAINING" tab.

EXAMPLE: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/leadership-development-institutes>

* MD4 (California) Lions website has this Training tab: <https://md4lions.org/training>

* Our District 4-A1 website has this webpage with training suggestions: <https://lions4-a1.org/training/>

CLUB WEBSITE ASSISTANCE?



WANT HELP WITH YOUR CLUB'S WEBSITE? DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE AN E-CLUBHOUSE WEBSITE? Questions, let me know. Any club wanting help updating their club's website,

OR if you have questions, contact Lion Gail gfcion@gmail.com, I.T. Chair for District 4-A1

UPCOMING EVENTS SECTION (in date-order)

CLF GRANTS AVAILABLE - now thru 9/30

Looking to make a difference for youth in your community? California Lions Foundation is offering grants to help Lions Clubs expand their impact through Back-to-School, Youth, and Childhood Cancer initiatives.

Grant Period: **July 1 – September 30, 2026**

Grant Highlights:

- Up to \$500 per Lions Club
 - Up to \$2,000 total available per MD4 Lions District
- Whether you're providing school supplies, supporting youth programs, or helping children battling cancer, this is a great opportunity to turn your ideas into action.

Learn more and apply at:

<https://californialionsfoundation.org/youth>




California Lions Foundation
BACK TO SCHOOL, YOUTH & CHILDHOOD CANCER GRANTS

Help make a difference with YOUTH in your community & apply for a CLF grant

- July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026
- Maximum aggregate grant is \$2,000 per Lions District in MD4
- Maximum grant per Lions Club is \$500

www.californialionsfoundation.org





MD4 CALIFORNIA PROJECT CARE now thru SEP 30

September = Lions for Access and Childhood Cancer

<https://clubhouse.everythingcalions.org/everything-calions-service/>

Accessible versions of all resources are available here:

<https://clubhouse.everythingcalions.org/accessibility-center/>

Project Care
1st Quarter Service Projects
2026/2027

July
Disaster Relief

August
Vision

September
Lions for Access and Childhood Cancer

Key Dates

July
Disaster Preparedness & Resilience Month- Prepare. Protect. Respond.
July is a great month for Disaster Relief service because it falls at the start of wildfire, hurricane, heat emergency, and storm seasons across many areas. Lions can focus on preparedness, response readiness, and community resilience before disasters happen.

August
For Lions Clubs, the biggest opportunity is to turn awareness into action before school starts. Here are six simple, visible, and impactful service projects for Children's Vision Eye Health and Safety Month. Service ideas [here](#)

September
Lions for Access, Inclusion & Advocacy. September offers a unique opportunity for Lions to raise awareness, remove barriers, and create more inclusive communities through service.
Every day, children and families face the challenges of Childhood Cancer. September is an opportunity for Lions to provide hope, comfort, awareness, and support while helping communities understand the importance of pediatric cancer research and family assistance.
Participate in the virtual **Move Be-Cause** health campaign! View the beneficiaries, choose your cause, and MOVE- Every minute qualifies as a reportable service opportunity

Adoptable, adaptable, accessible, & actionable Lions service project ideas
<https://i.callionsclubs.org/OwnIt/ServiceProjects>

California Lions **Move Be-Cause**

MOV E

Accessible version here
[Project Care Q1](#)

PEACE POSTER/ESSAY CONTEST – **now** **thru NOV 15**

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/marketing-events/events-programs/international-peace-contests/peace-poster-contest>

Happy New School Year LIONS! The 2026-2027 Peace Poster/Essay Contest is officially open.

Goal: Let's Double that number in 2025-2026.

THE 2026-2027 CONTEST

Theme: "Harmony in Humanity"

When we treat each other with respect and kindness, peace can flourish. This year, we invite young people to imagine a world where people of every culture and background live together peacefully — celebrating differences, finding common ground and creating true harmony in humanity.

How to sponsor a contest

1. Gather your team

- Sponsoring a Peace Poster Contest takes teamwork. Start by identifying club members who will help you plan and run your contest, and reach out to your district Peace Poster chairperson for additional guidance. Together, your team will help you identify

local schools and organized youth groups with which to participate and spread the word about the contest.

2. Connect with your community

- Peace Poster Contests can be sponsored in schools and organized youth groups. Work with your team to reach out to these schools or organizations and express your interest in sponsoring a contest with them. Please note you'll need to purchase a kit for each contest you sponsor.

3. Order a Peace Poster Contest Kit

- Lions clubs can order a contest kit for each contest they sponsor from January 15 to October 1. The kit is available in 12 of our official languages.

Order a Peace Poster Contest Kit

Lions clubs can order a contest kit for each contest they sponsor from January 15 to October 1. The kit is available in 12 of our official languages. (**Ages: 11, 12, and 13**).

Now available: Digital Peace Poster Kit. Get immediate access to all kit components via email, and download and print the digital kit to save shipping fees. (A video to learn more about the digital peace poster kit).

Digital kit (\$11.95)

Each kit contains:

- Downloadable Official Club Contest Guide & Rules
- Downloadable Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide and Rules
- Downloadable participant flier to print and give to participating students to take home
- Downloadable winner sticker (to attach to the back of the winning poster)
- Digital certificates to print for contest winner and school or youth group

Physical kit (\$11.95)

Each kit contains:

- Official Club Contest Guide and Rules
- Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide and Rules

Rules

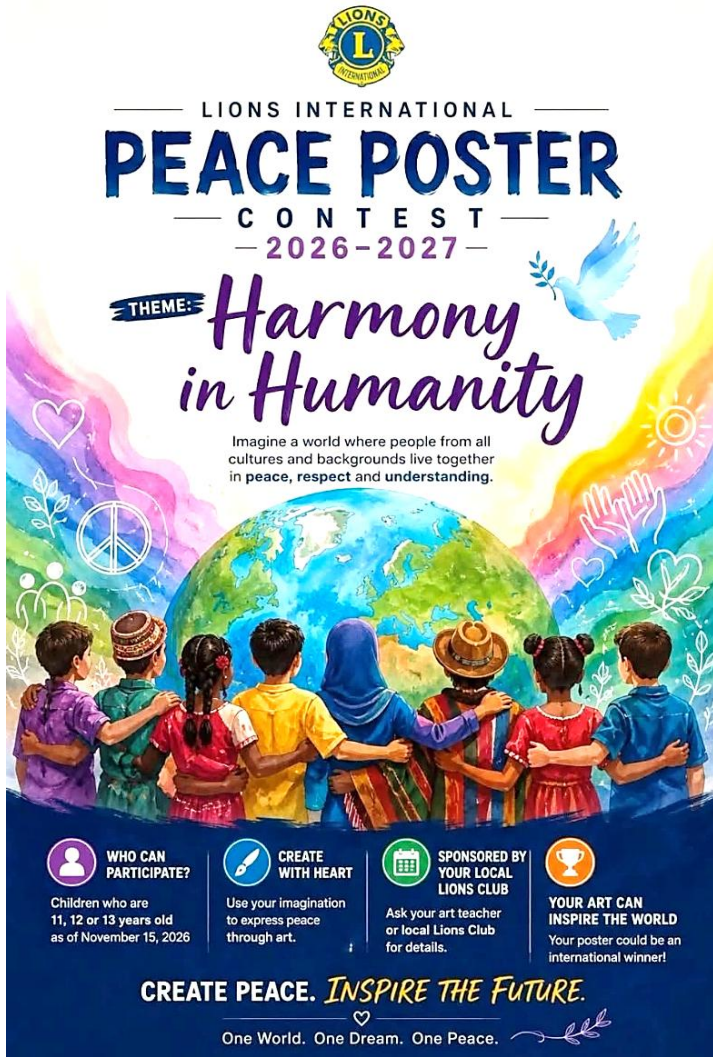
- Participant flier to duplicate and give to participating students to take home
- Winner sticker to place on back of winning poster
- Certificates for contest winner and school or youth group

Important deadlines

If you're planning to sponsor a contest, keep the following dates on top of mind so you don't miss any submission deadlines.

- January 15:** Kits went on sale in the Lions Shop online.
- October 1:** Deadline to purchase kits from the Lions Shop online.

- **November 15:** Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor.
 - **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a club not belonging to a district to send one winning entry to the Brand & Creative Department at Lions International Headquarters.
 - **February 1:** Club presidents of international winners will be notified on or before this date.
- ❖ **Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest. Entries not meeting the following deadlines will be disqualified.**



LIONS INTERNATIONAL
PEACE POSTER
CONTEST
— 2026-2027 —

THEME: Harmony in Humanity

Imagine a world where people from all cultures and backgrounds live together in peace, respect and understanding.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
Children who are 11, 12 or 13 years old as of November 15, 2026

CREATE WITH HEART
Use your imagination to express peace through art.

SPONSORED BY YOUR LOCAL LIONS CLUB
Ask your art teacher or local Lions Club for details.

YOUR ART CAN INSPIRE THE WORLD
Your poster could be an international winner!

CREATE PEACE. INSPIRE THE FUTURE.
One World. One Dream. One Peace.

LIONS FOR ACCESS CLUB BANNER PATCH — now thru DEC 31

Lions for Access Club Banner Patch, extended until **DECEMBER 31, 2026!** ~ Jennifer Gass



Calling All Accessibility Ambassadors!
An Exclusive Service Reward
Opportunity for California Lions & Leos
**Lions for Access
Club Banner Patch**

Accessible version here
[Lions for Access Banner Patch Criteria](#)

California Lions Clubs are invited to step forward, lead with purpose, and be recognized for meaningful accessibility service through the Lions for Access Club Banner Patch program.

About the Award: The Lions for Access Club Banner Patch will be awarded to:

- The first 45 California Lions Clubs, and
- The first 5 California Leo Clubs in MD4 that successfully meet all outlined criteria. *This is a first-come, first-recognized opportunity.*

Qualifying Projects: Service projects that:

- Serve people with disabilities, and/or
- Intentionally include individuals with disabilities as participants, leaders, or partners in service

Criteria for Earning the Patch

1. Service Activity Reporting

- Report a Lions for Access-branded service activity in the Lions Portal
- Activity title must begin with: "Lions for Access"
- Include a screenshot from the Lions Portal

2. Branded Marketing Evidence

- Submit a screenshot or photo of:
 - A social media post and/or
 - Photos from the service event
- Must include:
 - The Lions for Access logo and/or
 - #LionsForAccess

3. Application Submission Guidelines

- Only the primary sponsoring/organizing Lions or Leo Club may apply
- One application per club
- Continue sharing the Lions for Access-branded service throughout the year
- Include:
 - Club name, Contact person's information, District number
- All requirements must be completed and submitted by December 31, 2026

Submission Instructions: Send all required documentation to Lion Jennifer Gass LionsForAccess@gmail.com Subject Line: "Lions for Access Banner Patch"

This is more than a patch. It's leadership. It's visibility. It's service that opens doors.

Questions: Lion Jennifer Gass LionsForAccess@gmail.com

Lions for Access
Toolbox /resources



CaliforniaLions.org
#LionsForAccess

MD4 ENVIRONMENT PHOTO CONTEST — now thru Feb 1

Environmental Photo Contest is in Full Swing -

Lions and Leos — show California through YOUR lens! Get outside. Get creative. Show us California! This year's contest celebrates how we care for, connect with, and celebrate our natural world. Clubs can submit one 8x10 print per category (six categories total), of original photos taken during the current Lions year. Submit photos no later than February 1, 2027. Winners will be announced on February 20th at the MD4 Convention. For full details and rules, visit the "Totally California" Environment Experience [Facebook group](#).

California Lions and Leos are invited to showcase the beauty of our environment, the connection between people and nature, and the many ways Lions serve their communities through the 2026–2027 MD4 Environment Photo Contest. Contest categories include:

- Core Environment
- Human Connection
- Special Focus/Technical
- Wildlife
- Rooted in Service
- Move Be-Cause—Show Off Your Best Moves!

Entries are due **February 1, 2027.**

Scan the QR code to download and share the official contest flier. Please read the complete contest criteria before preparing and submitting your entry.

Capture the moment. Share your perspective. Celebrate our environment through photography!

Flier here: <https://clubhouse.everythingcalions.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-2027-Environ-Photo-Contest-official-1.pdf>

Accessible version on the Accessible Center

<https://clubhouse.everythingcalions.org/accessibility-center/> - **FLIER**



MD4 California LIONS CLUBS

ENVIRONMENT — PHOTO CONTEST —

CONTEST TOPICS

CORE ENVIRONMENT	HUMAN CONNECTION	SPECIAL FOCUS / TECHNICAL
WILDLIFE Scan to view contest details	ROOTED IN SERVICE	MOVE BE-CAUSE – SHOW OFF YOUR BEST MOVES! Selfies Encouraged!

DUE DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2027

EverythingCaLions.org

STUDENT SPEAKERS CONTEST

*** Club Contest held by Feb 19**

ATTENTION CLUBS – You can now order your packets on this website:

<https://md4lions.org/studentspeakers>

Multiple District 4 has announced the topic for the 2026-27 Student Speakers Contest--**Should We Return to Teaching "Life Skills" in the High School Experience?** More information regarding how to order club packets will be forthcoming. As you develop your club's calendar, please note the following due dates:
Club Contest to be held on or before **February 19, 2027**

Zone Contest to be held on or before **March 12, 2027**
Region Contest to be held on or before **March 31, 2027**
District Contest to be held on or before **April 26, 2027**
Area Contest to be held on or before **May 21, 2027**
Final Contest to be held on the **Saturday** of the June Council of Governors' Meeting. ~ Garrett Becker



2026-2027

MD4 STUDENT SPEAKERS CONTEST

SPEAK. INSPIRE. LEAD. SERVE.

THIS YEAR'S TOPIC:
Should We Return to Teaching "Life Skills" in the High School Experience?

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<https://md4lions.org/studentspeakers>

California Lions' MOVE BE-CAUSE CAMPAIGN LIVE – now thru Feb



California Lions Move Be-Cause

Move for a Cause. Make a Difference.

MD4 California LIONS CLUBS

Learn more and get involved at CaliforniaLions.org

♥ Move Your Body. ♥ Lift Your Community. ♥ Be the Reason Someone Thrives.

Move Be-Cause is a statewide invitation from California Lions to turn everyday movement into everyday impact. From **July through February***, you choose how you move and which of the eight Lions Global Causes you want to support — one, a few, or all eight.

Pick Your Cause | Pick Your Move | Pick Your Team (or build one) | Move It | Log It | Celebrate!

Local clubs host activities all season long, opening the door for family, friends, neighbors, co-workers — and everyone you know — to see what Lions' service looks like up close. No experience, no membership, no minimum mileage — just show up and move.

Start your journey here, at MoveBecause.org

~ Diane Ringer

*The event culminates in an in-person Move Be-Cause event at the annual MD4 Convention February 19-21.

USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM SEP 3-5

<https://lionsforum.org/>

Be Part of the
USA/CANADA
Lions
LEADERSHIP FORUM
Learn. Connect. Inspire.
The world's premier leadership training event for Lions Clubs!

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2026
RENASANT CONVENTION CENTER | MEMPHIS, TN

Memphis TENNESSEE

GAIN NEW SKILLS
70+ seminars and workshops

BUILD CONNECTIONS
Network with Lions from across North America

SHARE IDEAS
Bring fresh ideas back to your club & community

BE INSPIRED
Hear from dynamic leaders who motivate

Make Plans Today!
Don't miss this incredible opportunity to learn, connect, and grow with Lions!

LEARN MORE AT
lionsforum.org

MD4-A1 DISTRICT MEETING SEP 19

<https://lions4-a1.org/convention-district-meetings/>

District 4-A1 Meeting on Saturday, **September 19**

RSVP Deadline: **September 12, 2026**

Location: Merle L. Fuller School, 1101 Monterey Ave,
Chowchilla, CA 93610

[UPDATED FLIER](#) – [REGISTER](#) – [LINK](#)

"Solidarity through Service"

NEW OPTION: When registering for the District Meeting through Zeffy, you now have the option to indicate "pay at the door". Save \$5.00 when you register by Sept 12th!

DISTRICT 4-A1
DISTRICT MEETING
KICKOFF THE NEW LION YEAR... ROAR!

GAME DAY ★
Saturday,
September 19, 2026

KICKOFF ★
8:30 AM -
2:00 PM

HOME FIELD ★
Merle L. Fuller School
1101 Monterey St. | Chowchilla, California

SCAN ME!
Scan the QR code for more information!

REGISTRATION LINEUP ★

REGISTRATION FEE	RSVP DEADLINE:
Members & Guests - Advance Registration \$15	SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
Members & Guests - At-the-Door Registration \$20	✉ maderaeveningtreasurer@gmail.com
Leo-Alpha-Omega Members - RSVP Required \$10	✉ CHECKS: Mail to 3056 Hillcrest Ct., Madera, CA 93637
Alpha-Omega Members - At-the-Door Registration \$15	💰 PAYABLE TO: Lions - District 4-A1
Alpha Omega Members / Leo Alpha-Omega Members / Full Time High School or College Students \$0	

RAFFLE PRIZE ★ Each club is encouraged to bring one raffle prize.

ATTIRE: ★ CASUAL – WEAR YOUR FAVORITE FOOTBALL JERSEY!

Important Update!
DISTRICT MEETING

When registering for the District Meeting through Zeffy, you now have the option to indicate "pay at the door"

Save \$5.00

WHEN YOU REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 12TH!

AGENDA



District 4 – A1 Meeting Kick Off Yosemite Region

Game Day: September 19, 2026
Home Field: Merle L. Fuller School*
1101 Monterey St.
Chowchilla

*Park in Riverside St. Parking Lot
Wear your favorite football jersey and
bring to the huddle:
1 Raffle Prize per Club
Eyeglasses, Pull Tabs
Club Student Speakers Chair



Registration Fees by September 12th

Members & Guests	Advance Registration: \$15	At the door: \$20
Leo Alpha	Advance RSVP Required: Free	
Leo Omegas	Advance Registration: \$10	At the door: \$15
Leo Alpha & Leo Omegas that are full-time students—Cost to attend is \$0		

8:30 AM—9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast (Thank you to District Governor Steve Moore)
9:00 AM—9:15 AM	Welcome/Pledge/Song/Invocation/Honorary/Roll Call
9:15 AM—9:20 AM	Introduction of District Governor/Cabinet/Visiting Dignitaries
9:20 AM—10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker John Posey, Executive Director Lions Eye Foundation
10:00 AM—10:30 AM	Service Project—Sorting Eyeglasses GST Beth Estante
10:30 AM—10:45 AM	Break
10:45 AM—11:45 AM	Student Speakers Contest Training—ZC Shawn Monnin
11:45 AM—12:00 PM	Top Clubs Awards/Long Tail Short Tail—Maggie Stickler
12:00 PM—12:45 PM	Lunch & Raffle Thank you to Madera Evening Lions
12:45 PM—2:00 PM	Chairpersons/Committee Reporting
	Finance Committee—PDG Pat Casey-Gillum
	LCIF—PDGS Kent Christensen & Don Allen
	Proud Lion—GMT Tom Machado
	Peace Poster/Essay Contest—Jeff Hammar
	Youth Protection Policy—CS Debby Hopman
	2027 Convention—Mike Ostrom
	All Star Football—Elizabeth Gibbs Olsen
2:00 PM—2:15 PM	Dignitary Comment/Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Future Meeting Dates:	November 7, 2026	Mountain Region
	January 9, 2027	SJ Region
	May 15, 2027	Stanislaus Region

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/september-district-meeting>



SCAN TO REGISTER

Student Speakers Contest Training

Get ready for an interactive hour of learning! For our District Meeting on **September 19**, District Governor Steve has asked the Global Leadership Team to provide guidance on how clubs, zones, and regions can run an effective and compliant Student Speakers Contest. We'll cover who can participate, ideas for increasing student participation, common challenges clubs have faced when hosting a Student Speakers Contest, and several other important aspects of the contest. There will also be plenty of time at the end of the training for comments and questions.

Don't miss this opportunity to get prepared, ask questions, and help your club create a successful Student Speakers Contest experience for local students. For those not able to attend the district meeting, we will offer the training over Zoom later this fall.

~ Shawn Monnin, Global Leadership Team member and Zone Chair

Used Eyeglasses & Hearing Aids

We will still be collecting used eyeglasses at the district meeting and transporting them to the [Lions In Sight \(LIS\)](#) warehouse. Please bring the eyeglasses AND sunglasses

you collect to the meeting. **OKAY TO BRING CASES.** LIS is still collecting hearing aids - but not ink cartridges.

~ PDG Don Allen

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2549555412173494/>

----- Accessible Wording -----

Flier: Lions District 4-A1 District Meeting, "Kickoff the New Lion Year... Roar!" Saturday, September 19, 2026, 8:30 AM—2:00 PM, at Merle L. Fuller School, 1101 Monterey St., Chowchilla, CA. RSVP Deadline: **September 12**, 2026.

Event Hours: 8:30AM – 2:00PM

Attire: Casual — wear your favorite football jersey!

Each club is encouraged to bring one raffle prize.

Advanced Registration:

- Members & Guests – Advance Registration: \$15
- Leo-Alpha-Omega Members – RSVP Required: \$10

At-the-Door Registration:

- Members & Guests – At-the-Door Registration: \$20
- Alpha-Omega Members – At-the-Door Registration: \$15

Alpha Omega Members / Leo Alpha-Omega Members / Full-Time High School or College Students: \$0

Paying by Check? If you would prefer to pay by check, make it out to **Lions – District 4-A1** and mail it to 3056 Hillcrest Ct., Madera, CA 93637

Pay Online! QR code provided to reserve your tickets online. Got questions? Email:

maderaeveningtreasurer@gmail.com

SCAN ME!



Scan the QR code
for more information!

RELAY FOR LIFE - Sep 19

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=112352



I would like to thank all the clubs that have been involved in helping Relay for Life raise money for The American Cancer Society again this year. So far this year, the three Relays that already happened have raised over \$250,000!

Name	City	Goal 2026	Raised 2026
Relay For Life of Heart of California	Madera	\$50,000	\$66,119
Relay for Life of Greater Central Valley	Modesto	\$175,000	\$162,960
Relay for Life of Los Banos	Los Banos	\$30,000	\$24,605
TOTAL		\$255,000	\$253,684

There is still one Relay event happening this year, and that is Relay for Life of Linden on **September 19**. It is not a traditional Relay event. It is a community concert with DeJay & the OG's - and is a family-friendly evening. Let's support them and help push them over their fundraising goal of \$25,000 for the year!

Let's keep the remaining Relays in our area going for many years to come. If you or your club are interested in getting involved in one of our local Relays, feel free to reach out to me for information. If you would like to have someone from Relay For Life come talk at one of your club meetings, let me know. [FLIER](#) - [LINK](#)

~ Shawn Monnin shawnpmonnin@gmail.com

MD4 - CLUBS SERVICE REPORTING

Sep 24



LIONS CLUBS SERVICE REPORTING

Tips, Secrets & Easy Wins!

Learn the inside tips, time-saving secrets, and best practices to make reporting easier, faster, and more impactful!

SERVICE PORTAL REPORTING TRAINING DATES



TIPS

Smart ideas to make reporting simple.



SECRETS

Insider tricks that save you time.



BEST PRACTICES

Proven ways to strengthen your impact.



MORE IMPACT

Show the true power of your service!

TRAINING DATES



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026



7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (PST)



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026



7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (PST)

★ Lions Allen King and Craig Durand are your trainers. ★



MD4 Office is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.



REGISTER HERE



QUESTIONS?
Contact MD4 GST
Lion Craig Durand
lioncraig414@gmail.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89974190964?pwd=zC0teNb6aOKyYXBxYRlR49YctXH.1#success>

MD4 Lions' Workshop on Service Reporting in the Lion Portal is being put on to improve your service reporting skills. Join us for some great training.

All Lions Welcomed!!!

California Lions, we're moving the numbers in the right direction! Service reporting improved following last year's training sessions — now let's keep the momentum going and do even better this year!

Join Lions Allen King and Craig Durand, MD4 GST, for: Lions Clubs Service Reporting: Tips, Secrets & Easy Wins! Learn a few tricks, make reporting easier, and help make sure all that incredible Lions service gets counted.

September 24, 7:30–9:00 PM Pacific. Live on Zoom.

Better reporting = a better picture of our impact.

Keep learning. Keep reporting. Keep those numbers climbing! Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89974190964?pwd=zC0teNb6aOKyYXBxYRlR49YctXH.1> or scan the QR code on the flier to join us! Questions: contact Lion Craig Durand lioncraig414@gmail.com

Lions Int'l WEEKS OF SERVICE

Oct 8-18 - Feb 13-21 - May 29-Jun 6

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/service/global-causes-initiatives/weeks-of-service>

WEEKS OF SERVICE
THREE WEEKS. THREE POWERFUL CAUSES.
2026-2027

LIONS SERVE. COMMUNITIES THRIVE. ❤️ TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

VISION
OCTOBER 8-18, 2026
Opening eyes. Changing lives.
Promote eye health and support sight-saving initiatives in your community and around the world.

YOUTH
FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027
Empower today. Lead tomorrow.
Invest in our youth through service, mentorship, and programs that build brighter futures.

ENVIRONMENT
MAY 29-JUNE 6, 2027
Protect today. Preserve tomorrow.
Take action to care for our planet through sustainability, conservation, and clean community initiatives.

adoptable & adaptable service project ideas
<https://bit.ly/CALionsOwnIt>

accessible version [here](#)

"This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of vision, youth and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So, get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Oct 8-18: Weeks of Service – Vision

Feb 13-21: Weeks of Service – Youth

May 29-Jun 6: Weeks of Service – Environment

FALL COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS – VIRTUAL – OCT 23-25

<https://md4lions.org/cog>

February 17-18, 2027 Mid-Winter COG in Rohnert Park CA

February 19-21, 2027 MD4 Convention in Rohnert Park CA

June 11-13, 2027 Joint COG in Modesto CA

Save the Date!

FOR
**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 4**

LIONS YEAR
2026 - 2027

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS AND CONVENTION

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS

1ST MEETING – ORGANIZATIONAL COG
AUGUST 21 – 23, 2026
Ontario, CA
Host L5

2ND MEETING – FALL COG (VIRTUAL)
OCTOBER 23 – 25, 2026
Virtual

3RD MEETING – MID-WINTER COG
FEBRUARY 17 – 18, 2027
Rohnert Park, CA
Host C2

4TH MEETING – JOINT COG
JUNE 11 – 13, 2027
Modesto, CA
Host A1

MD4 CONVENTION 2027
FEBRUARY 19 – 21, 2027
Rohnert Park, CA
Host C2



**TOGETHER
WE
SERVE**

We Make a Difference

— LIONS GLOBAL CAUSES —

ENVIRONMENT

HUNGER

VISION

DIABETES

CHILDHOOD CANCER

DISASTER RELIEF

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

YOUTH

SERVING COMMUNITIES + CHANGING LIVES
United in Purpose. Guided by Service. Committed to Impact.

ROSE PARADE FLOAT DECORATION

Dec 19, 26, 27

<https://lionsfloat.org/>



**LIONS CLUB
INTERNATIONAL**

ROSE PARADE

presented by **HONDA**

Float Decoration OPPORTUNITIES

Be Part of Something Beautiful. VOLUNTEER. CREATE. CELEBRATE.

**Together,
WE SERVE.
TOGETHER,
WE BLOOM.**



Scan the QR code to email us.

DRY DECORATION

Saturday, December 19, 2026
Shift 1: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Shift 2: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

FLORAL DECORATION

December 26, 2026 – Saturday
Shift 1: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Shift 2: 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm

December 27, 2026 – Sunday
Shift 1: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Shift 2: 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm

MORE DATES AVAILABLE
Join the Yucaipa Valley Lions volunteers on one of these dates for the first shift.

CALL OR TEXT
Lion Michele with the Yucaipa Valley Lions Club
(909) 312-1363

No experience needed!
Must be 14 years or older to volunteer.

Make new friends.
Be part of tradition.
Help create magic!

Your time helps bring the Lions' vision to life on the world's stage.

SIGN UP TODAY! | A willing heart and helping hands appreciated ❤️

DISTRICT 4-A1 CONVENTION

at **Black Oak Casino Resort**

Apr 1-4

Check back later for details...

ALPHA & OMEGA LEO NEWS SECTION

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/discover-our-clubs/about-leos>



Accessible Version [HERE](#)

lions4-a1.org/district-projects/projects-youth/leo-clubs

Leo Club Name	Sponsoring Lions Club Name	Leo Club Type
Buhach Colony High School	Atwater Winton Lions	Alpha (School-based)
Chowchilla	Chowchilla Lions	Alpha (not specified)
El Capitan High School	Merced Breakfast	Alpha (School-based)
Golden Valley	Merced Breakfast	Alpha (School-based)
Madera	Madera Madera Evening Lions	Alpha (Community-based)
Madera II	Madera Madera Evening Lions	Omega (Community-based)
Merced	Merced Breakfast Lions	Alpha (School-based)
Merced County Law Enforcement – Senior	Merced County LE Lions	Omega (Community-based)
Merced County Law Enforcement – Junior	Merced County LE Lions	Alpha (Community-based)
Oakdale High School	Oakdale Lions	Alpha (not specified)
San Joaquin	Stockton Healthy Leo Lions	Omega (not specified)
Tokay HS Leo Club	Stockton Healthy Leo Lions	Alpha (Community-based)
Yosemite High School	Bass Lake Lions	Alpha (Community-based)

ATTENTION LEO CLUBS

Please send an email to gfcion@gmail.com with photos and an article updating us on what your club has been doing. **Or email a notification to Newsletter Editor Gail when you have social media posts to include in upcoming District's Newsletters!**

LEOS' INVITATION TO MD4 ENVIRONMENT PHOTO CONTEST

See flier and details in the Upcoming Events section. [FLIER](#)

CHECK OUT INSTAGRAM FOR LEOS' NEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several of our district's Leo Clubs post on Instagram. Click on the [blue](#) links in the above chart. (Note to Leo Clubs – email Lion Gail gfcion@gmail.com the information if you want it in this newsletter – it really helps! Thank you.)

MERCED ALPHA LEO CLUB

EDITOR'S NOTE: There's Merced Breakfast Lions' articles with updates on Merced Alpha Leos in the Club News section of this newsletter.

TOKAY ALPHA LEO CLUB

tokayalphaleos Meeting Recap: 8/24/26... more
stocktonhealthyleolionsclub Super proud of all of
you Alpha Leos club, M.e.ch.a club and Hispanic
Honor Society members 🍕❤️

Tokay High Alpha Leos, M.e.ch.a club, and Hispanic Honor Society members had a productive service meeting making motivational posters for the upcoming Diabetes Awareness [5K Walk or Run](#). Please consider signed up and support this meaningful service project. **#WeServe** Diabetes Awareness 5K (Stockton)
<https://share.google/l1jSnJk9XCEnZ738z>

CLUB NEWS SECTION

CLUBS – Please email a notification to Newsletter Editor Gail when you have social media posts to include in upcoming District's Newsletters!

STOCKTON SAN JOAQUIN LIONS

It was awesome to have VP of Lions Project for Canine Companions Kirk Noffsinger and his pup Walrus, and Lion Taylor Gamino from Camp Taylor, as our guest speakers at our August meeting. A visiting Lion from District 3232-F2 (India), Lion Himaanshu Desai, was another highlight.
[VIDEO LINK](#) and Facebook [LINK](#)



At our table on August 5th, we were able to help with 10 pairs of reading glasses, a first ham radio contact experience for seven kids, activities, and vision awareness at National Night Out.



It was so rewarding to dedicate a “Bags for Benches” bench at Tokay High School Library on August 13th in collaboration with the Tokay High School Leo Club! [LINK](#) Our members got a lot out of the Club Officer Training in Linden on August 15th.

We were so thrilled to rededicate the 4-A1 Helen Keller Centennial Mural & Bench at the Maya Angelou Library on August 29!

Please support our City Pop Gourmet Popcorn and snacks fundraiser online from **September 1-29**. [LINK](#) - [FLIER](#)

Our guest speaker on September 2nd will be representing Health Plan of San Joaquin. Join us at Round Table, 8010 Holman Rd., Stockton by 6:30 PM.

GotSneakers? The San Joaquin Lions continue to **recycle athletic sneakers and will happily accept them from you at the district meeting September 19!** [FLIER](#) - [LINK](#)

Please mark your calendars to join us for the 8th Annual White Cane Awareness Walk on Saturday, **October 10**, from 11 AM-2 PM in Stockton. [FLIER](#)

 **Bags For Benches** - Round #10 of plastic collections will kick off on **September 1 thru June 30**. [FLIER](#)
<https://nextrex.com/view/programs>
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/environment>

Rededication of the **Helen Keller Centennial Bench & Mural** was Saturday, August 29, 2026 | 12:00–12:45 PM Maya Angelou Library. Here's the newspaper article:

<https://www.recordnet.com/story/news/2026/08/27/helen-keller-bench-to-be-rededicated-stockton-library/91479567007/>

~ Lion [Jennifer Gass](#)

STOCKTON HEALTHY LEO LIONS



Thank you to everyone who donated and supported our New Toy Collection Project for the children at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Together, we bring smiles and hope!





One year of service, friendship, leadership, and making a difference in our community—and we are just getting started!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Stockton Healthy Leo-Lions Club throughout our first year. Here's to many more years of serving together! 💙💛🐾

"We Serve."

Tokay High Alpha Leos, M.e.ch.a club, and Hispanic Honor Society members had a productive service meeting making motivational posters for the upcoming Diabetes Awareness [5K Walk or run](#). Please consider signing up and support this meaningful service project. **#WeServe**

Diabetes Awareness 5K (Stockton) - FLIER

Dust off your running shoes! Registration is officially OPEN for the Stockton Healthy Leo-Lions Diabetes Awareness 5K Walk & Run!

On Saturday, **November 14, 2026**, we are taking over Michael Faklis Park to walk, run, and raise awareness for diabetes. Whether you are aiming for a personal record on our chip-timed course or taking a scenic morning walk with family, every step counts.

📢 Heads up: Only the first 100 registered participants get a custom finisher medal! Secure your spot and your shirt today at the link in our bio.

💡 Can't make it to Stockton? We have a \$30 virtual runner option so you can support the cause from anywhere!

Here's the Zeffy link that Past District Governor Eric Cheung is helping to advertise.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/eric-diabetes-awareness-5k-challenge>

Sign up – register HERE:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Stockton/DiabetesAwareness5KStockton> - [LINK](#)

~ Eugenia Hernandez



🎉🐾 Celebrating ONE Amazing Year of Service! 💙💛

The Stockton Healthy Leo-Lions Club proudly celebrated our 1st Anniversary surrounded by members, friends, and special guests! 🎂🎉

We were honored to welcome Lion Jennifer Gass, Director of the Stockton San Joaquin Lions Club, and Lion Rodrigo Acosta, San Joaquin County Zone 1 Chair. Thank you for joining us and making our celebration even more meaningful! 🐾💙

It was also a special day for our club as we celebrated:

- 🌟 The induction of our 2026–2027 officers
- 🐾 The induction of our newest member, Lucia Paniagua
- 🏆 Proud Lion and member recognition pins
- ☀️ Recognition of our members for their dedication and service
- 🎟️ A fun raffle

💙 Serving was also at the heart of our celebration! Our members came together to collect aluminum pull tabs, used prescription glasses, pet food, and new toys for children at Oakland Children's Hospital. 🐾👓🐾

WATERFORD LIONS



The Waterford Lions Club proudly served the community by grilling up 800 hotdogs for this year's National Night Out celebration in Waterford. The event, organized by [Love Waterford](#), in partnership with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, brought neighbors, families, and local law enforcement together for an evening focused on safety, connection, and community pride. Lions Club members spent the evening at the grill, making sure every attendee left with a full plate and a great meal. It was a wonderful display of what makes Waterford special: neighbors and local organizations coming together in service of one another. ~ José M. Aldaco

MURPHYS ANGELS LIONS



Thank you to our cooks for the delicious meals this month! Left Photo: July Board Meeting Dinner Cooks: Chris & Jolene Rinauro and Kent Brolio. Right Photo: July Family Dinner Cook: Jim Fraguero. Guest Speakers:



Sherry and Mia presented the many wonderful programs available to the public through the Resource Connection in San Andreas.

Volunteers hard at work during the Willie Nelson concert at Ironstone



~ Cathie Hollins

SUTTER CREEK LIONS

Thank you for your commitment in helping to save lives through blood donation. The next Sutter Creek Community blood drive is scheduled on Friday, **September 11** and the details are below. Please feel free to share this with friends and family!

Sutter Creek Community Blood Drive is hosted by Sutter Creek Lions. Friday, September 11 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sutter Creek Community Center, 33 Church Street, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

Please schedule an appointment at [Click here to schedule an appointment](#) or call Vitalant at 877-258-4825. Walk-ins are welcome and will be accommodated if space allows. Donors can schedule a Whole Blood or Power Red appointment and donate whole blood.

Donors will receive a Vitalant donor T-shirt through the online Vitalant donor rewards program! You must be opted into the rewards program to redeem the T-shirt. Donors will also be entered into a Vitalant drawing for a chance to win a \$10,000 gift card!

To prepare for your donation:

For eligibility questions call Vitalant at [800-289-4923](tel:800-289-4923) or go to vitalant.org/eligibility/blood-donation-requirements

- Donors must be 16 years old and there is no upper age limit.
- The blood donation process takes about one hour, and the actual blood donation takes about 10 minutes.
- Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be symptom free of COVID, cold and flu for five days.
- To learn more about making a Power Red donation click here - vitalant.org/donate/types-of-blood-donation/power-red
- Please bring a photo I.D., eat a hearty meal, and drink plenty of water prior to donation.
- Know the time you spend donating can help save a life!

Thank you for being a blood donor and helping to save lives with us! [FLIER](#)

~ Nancy Champlin & Patricia Tara, Blood Drive Coordinators

LINDEN LIONS

SPORTSMAN DINNER - Saturday, **September 12**, 2026

Hosted Bar 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM

Tickets \$75 per person

Sponsor Table of 8 for \$600. Includes: 8 dinner tickets, 50 raffle tickets, and 1 ticket for special drawing

Contact Danny Johnson (209)969-5720 – [FLIER](#)

October 3, 2026 OKTOBERFEST – [FLIER](#) - [TICKETS](#)

CALENDAR:

Sep 8th General Meeting - Ladies Night

Sep 15th [Sportsman](#) Dinner

Sep 15th Board Meeting (6:30PM)

Sep 22nd General Meeting

Oct 3rd [Oktoberfest](#) Dinner

Oct 13th General Meeting - Ladies Night

Oct 20th Board Meeting (6:30PM)



IPP Albert Dondero presented two Melvin Jones Awards. First one was presented to Lion Mark Diemunsch for all his hard work. Always volunteering, working the kitchen and many other projects. We Serve is his motto. The entire kitchen crew came out to honor him.



Next Melvin Jones Award was presented to 2nd VP Brian Castellou for his contributions to the Linden Lions Club.



Linden Youth Football & Cheer - Lion Paul Vaccarezza (L-R), Lion Johnny Sousa and Lion David Cross represented the LYFC. They raised and donated \$3000.00 to the Linden Lions Club.

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

P.P. Kirk Noffsinger gave a presentation on Canine Companions and was accompanied by Walrus.



PDG Doug Campbell and Gabby introduced this year's Youth Exchange Students.

MERCED BREAKFAST LIONS



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - The Merced Breakfast Lions cooking crew fired up the grill for the annual National Night Out - serving hot dogs, smiles, and plenty of community spirit! The evening was going smoothly until a few adventurous hot dogs attempted a daring escape from the grill. Fortunately, Lions Tim, Kent F., Kevin, President Vince, and Lion Ray sprang into action, proving that no hot dog gets left behind on their watch! Nearby, Lion Gary expertly supervised the Leos during the great hot dog wrapping operation, making sure every hot dog was safely tucked into its bun and ready for duty. Between the laughter, teamwork, and a little grill-side excitement, the Lions and Leos once again showed that serving the community is always better when shared with friends—and that even runaway hot dogs don't stand a chance against the Merced Breakfast Lions!



KIDDEILAND PARK - The Merced Breakfast Lions headed over to Applegate Park Kiddieland to team up with their friends in the Kiwanis Club, ready for an evening packed with teamwork, laughter, and just a sprinkle of amusement-park mischief. At first, everything looked calm—rides spinning gently, kids smiling wide, and Lions stepping in wherever an extra set of paws was needed. But Kiddieland has a special talent for turning even the simplest volunteer shift into a full-blown adventure. Anne Marie jumped right into action at the carousel, which seemed determined to spin at whatever speed it felt like that day. Lion Kent and DeeAnn F. held down the ticket booth, bravely negotiating with tiny customers who tried to trade Pokémon cards, stickers, and one half-eaten churro for ride tickets. Lion Vince Piro took charge of the train line, which somehow doubled in size every time he blinked—possibly due to children mastering teleportation. Meanwhile, Lion Vince, Tamela, Lion Bill Halpin, and Cathy H. became the unofficial Kiddieland traffic controllers, guiding excited kids, bewildered parents, and one rogue cotton candy cloud back to their proper destinations with the grace of a team that has seen it all. Nearby, Lion Gary and Cheryl Eno joined forces with the Leos for the Great Kiddieland Cleanup Mission, sweeping up popcorn, mystery crumbs, and the occasional glitter explosion with heroic enthusiasm. The [Merced Alpha] Leos were absolute super stars—not only did they keep the park sparkling with their sugar-fueled clean up energy, but they also showed off their artistic talents at the face painting station, raising a fantastic \$83.00 for the community! By the end of the night, the Lions, Kiwanis, and Leos proved once again that community service is always better when shared—especially when it involves rides, painted faces, endless laughter, and just a touch of Kiddieland chaos.

D STREET SHELTER - The Merced Breakfast Lions cooking crew came together once again to serve a comforting, creative meal for the residents of the D Street Shelter.

This time, the team crafted a delectable main dish featuring hot dogs and fried rice, a combination that brought smiles and full plates all evening long. Lions Ray, Louie, Nancy, Vince and Robyn, James and Andrea, Michael B, Kent and Barb, Mark and Marsha, and Michael and Denise gathered in true Lions fashion — sleeves rolled up, laughter flowing, and teamwork on full display. Alongside the main dish, the crew also prepared breakfast burritos to ensure the shelter staff had an easy start the next morning.

From the grill to the prep tables, every Lion played a part in turning simple ingredients into a meal made with care. It was another successful night of service, fellowship, and community support — the kind of evening that shows exactly what the Merced Breakfast Lions are all about.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION –



"Mr. Harrison has been a quiet force behind our troop's success. Almost single-handedly, Mr. Harrison has built our current inventory of backpacking packs, ensuring that when our Scouts hit the trail, they have the support they need—and that every Scout has the opportunity to be prepared for the adventure.

Beyond the packs, Mr. Harrison was the driving force—pun intended—behind a major milestone for our unit. Thanks to his instrumental efforts and his connection with the Merced Breakfast Lions Club, our troop was gifted a trailer, complete with brand-new tires, to store and haul our gear.

Mr. Harrison, your generosity has helped ensure that every Scout, regardless of their circumstances, has a seat at the campfire and a pack for the trail.

To honor this legacy of service and to ensure that outdoor adventure remains accessible to all, it is our honor to announce the official launch of the K. Harrison Gear Closet.

The K. Harrison Gear Closet will be the formalized program for gear donations to Scouting here in Merced. It will include a webpage where we can share our goal of making adventures accessible to all and express our gratitude for each donation.

Mr. Harrison, thank you for your generosity and for all you have done for our troop."

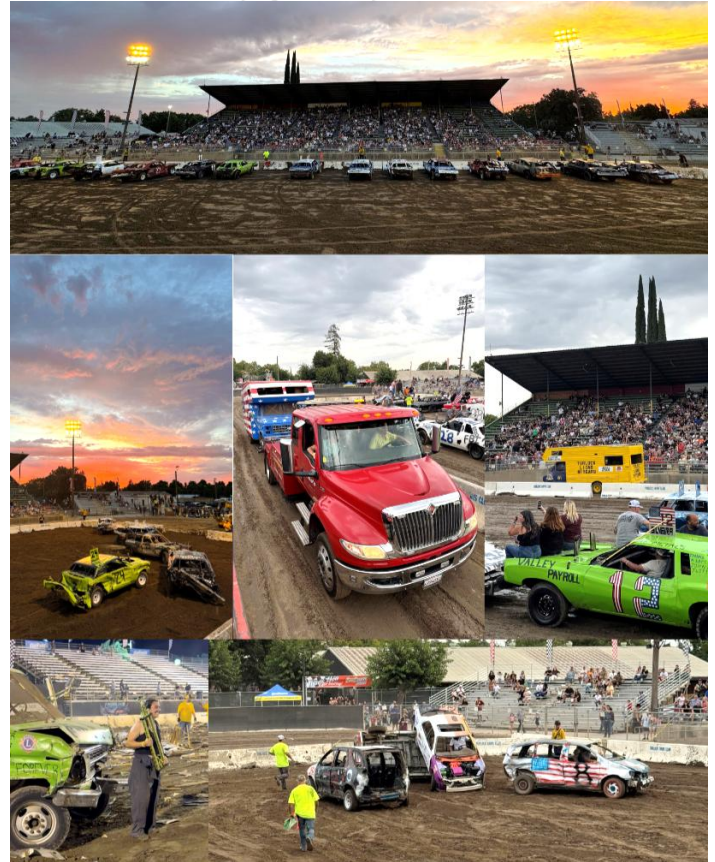
TURLOCK LIONS



Thank you, Lion Lee, for your 32 years of service to Lions International, and serving as our Club Treasurer for the next year. We appreciate your support and dedication!

Destruction Derby

Thank you to the Lions who volunteered their time to work the Destruction Derby nights! Thank you to Lion Kelso for the tows!



HUGHSON LIONS

PRIME RIB DINNER – **OCTOBER 24** - [FLIER](#)

WEST POINT LIONS

Harvest Faire - **Oct 31** – [FLIER](#)
Winter Wonderland Craft Showcase – **Dec 5** - [FLIER](#)

TRACY TANK TOWN LIONS



Three Club Officers from Tracy Tank Town Lions attended the Lion and Leo Club Officers Training at the Linden Lions Club on August 15. The presentation was very useful, and included a detailed outline of

the duties of Club officers. Time was given for us to meet and talk with other club members in our district. The outline helped each of us as Club President, Secretary, and Treasurer better understand our duties and how we can work together to support our club. PHOTO: Jane Williford, Treasurer; Rose Norwood, Secretary; and Lilia Ireland, President. ~ Rose Norwood

MADERA EVENING LIONS



Lion Gaylen Thelande received a Melvin Jones Fellowship for his service to Madera, the youth, and his family at our August 12th general meeting. Pictured around Gaylen is MEL's President Maggie Stickler and Director Mike Fitzgerald.



On August 12th, Lions Sharon Row, Mario Escoto, and Karla Gran participated in a park clean-up project - sponsored by the City of Madera. ~ Karla Gran

SONORA LIONS

Ray Baily and I recently attended a one-day training workshop for Club Officers sponsored by our District 4-A1

Officers in Linden, CA. District 4-A1 has many resources available to us and encourages sharing our successes and challenges with other clubs in our area. Our recruitment of new members is a challenge shared by other clubs, and we shared ideas on how to strengthen recruitment of new members. As we have discussed many times over the past several years, it is critical that we continue to outreach and recruit new members through our relevant community service projects. We need to do a better job of sharing the valuable work we are doing in Tuolumne County - which will help with recruitment.

I welcome any ideas that you may have to bring in new members and retain our current members.

The first distribution of tickets for our Surf & Turf Dinner on Friday, **October 23** was made at our last club meeting. For those of you who were not at that meeting, please see Ray Bailey for your tickets. As you know this is major fundraiser for our club, and is a great way to outreach to the Sonora community. But it depends on all of us to sell the tickets. [FLIER](#) ~ President Jerry Jensen

LATHROP LIONS



The Lathrop Lions Club recently collected clothing donations to support the Tracy Homeless Shelter and the individuals and families they serve.

We are incredibly thankful to everyone who donated and helped make this collection possible. Every bag of clothing represents a little extra comfort and support for someone in our community who needs it. ~ Anna Melissa Pascual

RIPON LIONS

Pancake Breakfast – **October 17** – [FLIER](#)

On Wednesday, August 19th, the Ripon Lions received a \$5,000 donation from Stockton District Attorney Ron Frietas for our Youth Programs (namely our high school scholarships) as part of their Asset Forfeiture Fund distribution.

For our upcoming events, we will host "New Teacher Night," which celebrates every new educator hired in Ripon for the upcoming year. On Thursday, **October 15th** at the Ripon American Legion Hall, we honor these important members of our community with dinner and gifts, including supplies and gift certificates, to help them in their coming year.

We have our fall fundraiser on Saturday, **October 17th** in the form of our Pancake Breakfast, which is in partnership with the Ripon Fire Department. The breakfast is from 7AM to 9AM at the Ripon Fire Station at 142 South Stockton Avenue in Ripon. It kicks off Ripon's Main Street Day celebration which runs from 9AM to 3PM.

~ Brian Shearon

ESCALON LIONS

30th Annual Autumn Cruise Car Show – **September 12** – [FLIER](#)

ATWATER WINTON LIONS

Raz' N Health Fitness Festival – **September 12** - [FLIER](#)

"The Merced River School District was proud to stuff more than 50 backpacks with a variety of essential school supplies for our students.

A special 'thank you' to Lions Barbara Dutra and Frank Dutra, as well as Lion Richard Lopez, Merced River School District Superintendent, for taking the time on August 19th to fill the backpacks and prepare them for our students.

We are incredibly grateful to the Atwater-Winton Lions Club and the California Lions Foundation for their generous donation and continued support of the Merced River School District Learning Community. As a single rural school district serving approximately 360 students, community partnerships like this make a meaningful difference. Because of the Lions Club's generosity, more than 50 of our students will begin the school year with the supplies they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you, Atwater-Winton Lions Club, for investing in our students and helping create brighter futures!

We are stronger when our community comes together for our children! On behalf of the Merced River School District Community, we thank you."

~ Submitted by Lion PDG Eric Cheung, Club Treasurer



Merced River Patriots is with Vanessa Lopez and 6 others at Merced River School D...
19h · Snelling · 📍

Thank you to the Atwater-Winton Lions Club for the wonderful school supplies. Over 50 backpacks were filled with composition books, notebooks, crayons, markers, scissors, pencils and other school supplies. We are grateful to have a partnership with the Lions. Thank you to Lion Barbara and Lion Frank for helping fill the backpacks. Our students will be excited for these school supplies.

#wearemrsl

#atwaterwintonlions

#schoolsups2026





sponsors

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

PROJECT Giveback

BACK TO SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Project Giveback is collecting donations to help provide BACKPACKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, FILLER, & OTHER NEEDED ITEMS for students in our local communities.

Every child deserves to walk into their first day of school feeling confident, prepared, and excited.

ANYTHING HELPS! Every donation makes a big impact!

NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL. Every dollar and every school supply makes a difference.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Backpacks
- Folders & Binders
- Notebooks
- Pencils, Pens & Highlighters
- Crayons & Colored Pencils
- Glue Sticks & Scissors
- Markers
- Pencil Boxes
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- And other classroom essentials!

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- DONATE SUPPLIES**
New school supplies make a huge impact!
- MAKE A DONATION**
Monetary donations help us purchase items in need.
- SHARE THIS POST**
Help us spread the word and reach more people!

Let's give our kids the tools they need to succeed!

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE— ONE BACKPACK AT A TIME.

📞 TO DONATE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE MESSAGE US. | 🌐 Project Giveback

TRACY BREAKFAST LIONS



Here are some from our first night of our football season at Tracy High School. PHOTO: Football season has begun.



Cooks - Lion Dave and Lion John



Kitchen helpers



Past District Governor Lion Don Allen stopped by to have breakfast with us. Thank you Don. ~ Jack Guzman

UPCOUNTRY 88 LIONS (Pine Grove area)

We're having a Fundraiser at Groovin' in the Grove on **September 12**. Stop by our information table! - [FLIER](#)
September 25: Celebrate Pine Grove – co-hosted by Upcountry 88 Lions - [FLIER](#)

SIERRA LIONS (Oakhurst area)

GOBBLERS & GRADS Turkey Shoot – November 7 - [FLIER](#)
 – [REGISTRATION](#) – [CHART](#)
<https://www.gobblersandgrads.com/>

The Bird is the Word - Join us for a great day of friendly competition at our Annual Turkey Shoot! Whether you're a seasoned marksman or a first-time shooter, everyone's welcome to step up to the line and take their best shot.

What to expect

- Fun, relaxed atmosphere perfect for meeting new friends
- Prizes and awards (including Thanksgiving turkeys and giveaways)
- Food, music, and plenty of good-natured ribbing

Event details

- Date: **November 7, 2026 RAIN OR SHINE**
- Time: 8AM - 2PM
- Location: Sun Mountain Gun Club
- Registration: \$150 Per Shooter; \$50 Spectator only
- Must be 18 or older
- Safety briefing required for all participants

Bring

- Valid ID
- Your firearm and ammo (Ammo will be sold on site)
 - Shotguns must be 24in in length or greater; No Tactical shotguns; No Magazine-fed; no Drum-fed
 - Ammo must be LEAD ONLY; 7 ½ or 8 shot; 1300FPS MAX
- Comfortable clothing and weather-appropriate gear
- Eye and ear protection required
- A sense of sportsmanship and a big appetite for fun

DIRECTORY

To contact these Lions, ask your Zone Chair for the District Directory (PDF or hardcopy)

2026-2027 DISTRICT 4-A1**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

Steve Moore

IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Matt Stickler

1ST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Mike Bohl

2ND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

José M. Aldaco

CABINET SECRETARY

Debbi Hopman

CABINET TREASURER

PDG Patricia Casey-Gillum

LEO-LION ADVISOR

Asia Joaquim

GLOBAL ACTION TEAM (GAT)

Matthew Stickler – District Chair

Global Leadership Team Coordinator (GLT) Claudia Miller

Global Membership Team Coordinator (GMT) Tom Machado

Global Service Team Coordinator (GST) Beth Estante

MOUNTAIN REGION**Mountain Zone 1 Chair – Rich Ferro**

[JACKSON](#) (2263)
[MOKELUMNE HILL](#) (39671)
[SUTTER CREEK](#) (111484)
[TRI DAMS LC](#) (2303)
[UPCOUNTRY 88](#) (37207)

Mountain Zone 2 Chair – contact ZC

Rich Ferro or DG Steve Moore –

jh5@msn.com

[COPPEROPOLIS LAKE TULLOCH](#) (47759)
[MURPHYS ANGELS](#) (2282)
[SONORA](#) (2292)
[WEST POINT](#) (2307)

SAN JOAQUIN REGION**San Joaquin Zone 1 Chair – Rodrigo Acosta Jr**

[CLEMENTS-LOCKEFORD](#) (2252)
[ESCALON](#) (2258)
[LINDEN](#) (2266)
[LODI](#) (2268)
[LODI MEXICAN AMERICAN](#) (46183)
[RIPON](#) (2288)
[STOCKTON HEALTHY LEO-LIONS](#)
 (181676)

San Joaquin Zone 2 Chair – Ronald Cutler

[LATHROP](#) (105237)
[STOCKTON DELTA PACIFICA](#) (47862)
[STOCKTON SAN JOAQUIN](#) (2298)
[STOCKTON HOST](#) (2294)
[TRACY BREAKFAST](#) (2302)
[TRACY TANK TOWN](#) (67535)

STANISLAUS REGION**Stanislaus Zone 1 Chair – Pedro**

“Rick” Hernandez Jr

[CERES](#) (2250)
[CROWS LANDING](#) (2253)
[GUSTINE](#) (2259)
[HUGHSON](#) (135129)
[LOS BANOS](#) (2270)
[MODESTO 500](#) (2279)
[PATTERSON](#) (2286)

Stanislaus Zone 2 Chair - Shawn Monnin

[ATWATER-WINTON](#) (2248)
[DENAIR](#) (2255)
[HILMAR-IRWIN-STEVINSON](#) (2260)
[LIVINGSTON](#) (2267)
[OAKDALE](#) (2285)
[TURLOCK](#) (2304)
[WATERFORD](#) (2306)

YOSEMITE REGION**Yosemite Zone 1 Chair – Karla Gran**

[CHOWCHILLA](#) (2251)
[CHOWCHILLA LIONESS](#) (98271)
[DOS PALOS](#) (2256)
[LE GRAND](#) (2265)
[MADERA MADERA EVENING](#) (61592)
[MERCED BREAKFAST](#) (2276)
 MERCED COUNTY LE (143071)
[MERCED HEALTHY LEO LIONS](#)
 (182692)

Yosemite Zone 2 Chair – Vacant Position. Contact Karla Gran or DG

Steve Moore jh5@msn.com

[BASS LAKE](#) (2249)
[MARIPOSA](#) (2274)
[NORTH FORK](#) (2284)
[SIERRA](#) (2291)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Any changes, additions, or corrections, please let Lion Gail know!