



We Serve

Leawood Lions Club

New Member Information Book

Meetings:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Social Hour 6:00 PM

Dinner Meeting 6:45 PM

Leawood City Hall
Oak Room, Lower Level
4800 Town Center Dr
(117th & Roe)
Leawood, KS

E-mail: www.leawoodlions.org

Introduction

Welcome to the Leawood Lions Club!

The Leawood Lions have served our community for over 50 years as a member of the largest and oldest service clubs in the world. Lions International was formed in 1917, the first Kansas Lions Club in 1919 and the Leawood Lions in 1954.

Lions International's Mission Statement is *"To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation."* Our slogan is **Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety**. The Leawood Lions are dedicated to humanitarian service, developing leadership skills and enjoying fellowship.

We hope as you review the many projects shown in this booklet, that one of them will peak your interest and you will become involved. If you have a project that you have an interest in and do not see it our book, we hope you will bring your project to the attention of the Board of Directors.

The Leawood Lions take great pride in serving our community, helping those in need, having fun and promoting our motto--
We Serve.

Congratulations, you have joined an organization with over 1.3 million Lions in 200 countries worldwide who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world.

Table of Contents

	Page
Alphapointe Partnership.....	3
Aluminum Can Tabbie Collection.....	3
Benevolent Committee.....	3
Candy Days.....	4
City of Leawood Partnership.....	4
College Scholarship Program.....	4
Donations.....	5
Election Polling Volunteers.....	5
Eye Care Program.....	5
Eyeglass Collection.....	6
Fun Activities.....	6
Habitat for Humanity.....	6
Hearing Aid Collection.....	6
Johnson County Library Foundation.....	7
Kansas Lions Sight Foundation.....	7
Labor Day Pancake Breakfast.....	8
Leawood Lions Civic Center LTD.....	8
Leawood Lions Memorial Fountain.....	8
Linwood Pioneer Cemetery.....	8
Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF).....	9
Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.....	9
Pancake Days.....	9
Salvation Army Bell Ringing.....	10
Texas Hold 'Em Poker	10
Woody Edgington Memorial Award.....	10

Alphapointe Partnership

AlphaPointe employs the visually impaired to produce goods for resale such as pens, water bottles, etc.

The Leawood Lions sponsor a 4-person team in the annual Alphapointe fund raising golf tournament. In addition to the golf outing, we have purchased chairs, a pottery wheel, made monetary donations and in return, we have received a Lion's head crafted with the pottery wheel by Alphapointe associates. The sculpture is kept at City Hall in our display case in the lower level.

Aluminum Can Tabbie Collection

Members of the Leawood Lions Club collect tabbies and bring them to our membership meetings. Since the project was started in April 2003, the Club has collected over 150 pounds of tabbies.

The tabbies are sold to the automakers in Detroit, MI and all profits are sent to the Ronald McDonald Houses in the Kansas City Metro Area. They provide rooms for families that have children undergoing medical treatment.

Benevolent Committee

A formal benevolent committee was formed in 2002 with the chairman rotating through one year terms. In 2007, a blueprint was designed to help review donation requests to make sure they fit the Lion's core values. The blue print uses 4 categories, annual & dedicated commitments (College Scholarship Funds), Community Partnerships (Children's Center for the Visually Impaired, Johnson County Library Foundation), Annual giving earmarked for sight related diseases (Diabetes walks, eye exams & glasses) and Optional giving (donation requests received by the committee). The Committee's mission statement is *"To effectively distribute funds consistent with the goals of the Leawood Lions Club and Lions International, which include sight and diabetes related projects and needs of the community."*

Candy Days

One weekend out of every year, the Leawood Lions solicit donations in “exchange for candy” at local Hy-Vee, Price Chopper and Wal-Mart stores. All proceeds are donated to the Kansas Sight Foundation, which uses the donations for research, specialized equipment at the KU Medical Ophthalmology Center and operation of the Kansas Sight Bus. We have donated over \$50,000 to the Kansas Sight Foundation with Candy Days.

City of Leawood Partnership

The Leawood Lions and City of Leawood have partnered many times over the years. We have donated money to build the Lions Shelter and Lion’s Memorial Fountain in Leawood City Park.

In 2003, we donated \$1,500 to the Police Department to purchase their mascot costume which is named Copper and baseball cards that Copper provides when he is out in public.

We have partnered with Parks & Recreation activities such as Labor Day Fun Run and Halloween’s Trunk or Treat, both held at City Park.

In April 2004, The Leawood Lions celebrated our 50th Anniversary at the then new Lodge at Ironwoods Park. The City donated the room for us and Mayor Peggy Dunn proclaimed April 23, 2004 as Leawood Lions Day. We have also been recognized by the Mayor and Common Council for our work with the Salvation Army.

College Scholarship Program

In 2002, we initiated our College Scholarship Program. We donate \$500 to at least 3 High School seniors that will attend an accredited 2, 3 or 4 year college. The scholarship is based on community service, leadership skills and scholastic achievement. The winner must be a resident of Leawood or Overland Park.

The \$500 is awarded after the recipient completes their 1st semester of college. They may be eligible for a matching \$500 scholarship through the President’s Student Service Challenge Program, for more information, please go to www.learnandserve.org.

Donations

The Leawood Lions Club have supported many worthwhile charities within our community. Here is a partial list of groups receiving donations from our Benevolent Fund.

Adventure Fitness for the Blind	Kansas Sight Dog School
Boy Scout Eagle Projects	Kansas Lion's State Band
Braille Music Camp	American Diabetes Assoc.
AlphaPointe	Audio Reader Program
KS Specialty Dogs	
Junior Diabetes Research Foundation	
Camp Fire USA Adventure Fitness	
Children's Center for the Visually Impaired	

Election Polling Volunteers

Many Leawood Lions donate their time to staff election polls and also donate their wages back to the Club. These dedicated citizens give both of their time & money.

Lion's Eye Care Program

The Leawood Lions help provide eye exams and glasses for the uninsured and underinsured. With the help of LensCrafters and the KU Medical Ophthalmology Dept., we have streamlined a referral system to meet the needs the visually impaired.

Eye Glass Collection

The Leawood Lions collect eyeglasses from over 75 locations in the metro area. Over the past several years, we have average 1,000 pair of eyeglasses collected per month.

The eyeglasses are boxed and taken to the Lansing, KS Correctional Center where the glasses are sorted and calibrated. They are then shipped to the Texas Lions Regional Recycling Center in Midland, TX. Each year eye glasses are supplied for 60-80 mission trips to third world countries. The most recent figures indicate the recycling center receives more than 1.1 million pair of eyeglasses per year.

Fun Activities

Leawood Lions enjoy the many projects and donations we participate in; however, we also know how to have a good time. Some of our social activities include the following:

- Valentine's Day Party which include our spouses
- Christmas Party with musical entertainment
- Taking in a T-Bones game
- Tours of KU Med Ophthalmology & KU Eye Centers
- Members getting together to play cards & socialize

Habitat for Humanity

Several Leawood Lions regularly volunteer building homes for Habitat for Humanity. The helped "blitz build" a home in Kansas City, KS and the Club also donated \$1,000 to help build a home in Lawrence, KS.

Hearing Aid Collection

The Club recently started collecting hearing aids. There are over 20 Lions hearing aids banks in the world that collect, recondition and distribute hearing aids to the hearing impaired

Johnson County Library Foundation

We have formed a partnership with the Foundation to upgrade their technology and specifically equipment for the visually impaired.

The Club donated a CTV reader, which takes printed materials and enlarges the print, to the Pioneer & Corinth Branch Libraries. We have set aside benevolent funds over the next several years to be earmarked for additional pieces of equipment for the local library branches.

Kansas Lions Sight Foundation

The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation is a 501c 3 non-profit tax exempt corporation that has 5 objectives:

- Service for the visually impaired
- Screening for vision, blood pressure, diabetes & hearing
- Treatment for eye injuries and disease
- Education
- Research

Programs included in the Foundation are the Audio Reader Network which provides a radio reading service, dial up newspaper service, Lions telephone reader and braile program guide, the Kansas Specialty Dog Service, which provides guide service and companion dogs, the Kansas Mobile Screening Bus, which travels the state providing free screenings and the KU Medical Ophthalmology Dept, which provides training and equipment. Over \$3 million of sight related equipment has been donated to the department. The Foundation offers Optometry scholarships and eyeglass distribution thru Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (VOSH).

Leawood Lions pick up and deliver corneal tissue for transplants at KU Medical. The Kansas Lions Eye Bank works with the Missouri and Central Illinois Lion's Eye Banks to share costs and cornea tissue availability to provide lower costs and better treatment for our community.

Labor Day Fun Run Pancake Breakfast

The Leawood Lions and City of Leawood partner on Labor Day to provide a fun run through City Park and along Tomahawk Creek Parkway with the Lions providing pancakes for the runners after the race. 2003 was the first year we participated with all the pancake proceeds going to our benevolent fund. Occasionally, we will earmark the funds for a specific cause, such as the Katrina relief effort. Our challenge is to serve 300 hungry runners in about 2 hours.

Leawood Lions Civic Center Ltd.

This organization is the Leawood Lions charitable 501c 3 tax exempt entity of the Club. The original intent of this fund was to build a Lion's meeting place. Currently, the organization partners with our benevolent committee to provide charitable and civic aid to our community.

All contributions made to the Civic Center Ltd. are fully tax deductible to the maximum extent possible for charitable contributions. This organization is an excellent way to bequeath proceeds of loved ones and estate planning charitable donations.

Leawood Lions Memorial Fountain

In 2002, the Leawood Lions donated \$25,000 for the construction of the Lions Memorial Fountain adjacent to the Aquatic Center in City Park. The fountain honors past, present & future Lions. The family of Lion Iva Groebe donated two park benches in her memory that provide a place to sit and reflect. In addition, the Leawood Lions buried a 25-year time capsule next to the flagpole.

Linwood Pioneer Cemetery

The Linwood Pioneer Cemetery is located near the intersection of 95th & Mission on the north side of Ranchmart Shopping Center in front of the National Bank of Kansas City. The cemetery was established in 1989 and was founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church and is currently owned by the Regnier family.

The Leawood Lions assumed care for the cemetery in 1994 from the Linwood Garden Club. We maintain the lawn, plant flowers and care for the trees. National Bank of Kansas City donated the money to provide electricity to keep our American flag lighted. RanchMart Hardware donates flags, grass seed and fertilizer for the cemetery.

Lions Club International Foundation

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the international grant providing organization for Lion's Clubs throughout the world. Donations provide funding in the form of grants to financially assist Lions districts with large-scale humanitarian projects that are too extensive for Lions to finance on their own. Grants provide both immediate assistance following natural disasters and long-term disaster relief for reconstruction efforts. Grants help preserve sight, combat disability, promote health or serve youth. Every dollar donated to LCIF goes toward a grant. LCIF receives a small amount of funding from foundations and corporations but it receives no club dues. Since LCIF's inception in 1968, it has awarded nearly 8,300 grants totaling \$588 million. LCIF is truly Lions helping Lions.

Melvin Jones Fellowships

The Melvin Jones Fellowship is Lions Club International Foundation's highest honor and was named for the founder of Lions Club International. The award was started in 1973 and represents 70% of the donations made to LCIF. A recognition of humanitarian work, a Melvin Jones Fellowship is awarded to those that have \$1,000 donated to LCIF in their name.

The Club has presented 21 Leawood Lions with this award since our inception and that number will increase every year as we continue to reward deserving Lions.

Pancake Days

Pancake Days is held the 3rd weekend in October at Leawood City Hall and is the Club's primary fundraiser. We serve over 1,000 people during the 2 day event and are always looking for new ways to increase our donations as we have tried bake sales and silent auctions in the past.

This event is well staffed by our members and is the highlight of our year as it puts our Club in front of the public and the press. We are continually working with the business community to get involved as well by buying groups of pancake tickets.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Leawood Lions partner with the Salvation Army from November through December for their annual Bell Ringing Campaign. Over the years the Leawood Lions have raised over \$530,000 for the Salvation Army. Annually, the Club rings bells for over 350 hours and has partnered with our groups, like Boy Scout Troop 10 to fill out the schedule. The past couple of years, donations have topped the \$30,000 mark.

The Leawood Lions have received several Crystal Bell Awards from the Salvation Army by increasing donations by over \$500 from the prior year. The Club is always one of the top organizations in the Herb Ryan Division.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Party

The Club periodically holds Texas Hold 'Em Poker Parties to benefit the Kansas Lions Sight Bus and encourage fellowship with the members and the community. The events are held at Leawood City Hall and include appetizers, drinks and prizes.

Woody Edgington Memorial Award

Woody Edgington was a long time member of the Leawood Lions Club, a Melvin Jones Fellow, former District Governor and one of the founders of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation. Two of Woody's strongest passions in Lionism were sight activities and membership, he recruited more than 50 members. After Lion Woody died in January 2000, many of his friends contributed funds to the benevolent fund and the Club created the Woody Edgington Memorial Membership Award to benefit the Kansas Lion's Sight Foundation.

The award is a contribution of \$500 to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation in the name of the Lion plus a plaque. The award recognizes the recipient's efforts to promote Lions membership in the District. Past winners are Lions Sylvia Bostick, Jim Rochel, Gerald Fischer, Jim Burkett, Chuck Diaz And Ernie Young.