

OHIO LIONS

News & Events of MD13 Lions

**June
2025**

Ohio Lions Leadership

Council Chair:

Mike Kerek

Governors:

- 1 - Susan Davis
- 2 - Patty Moorman
- 3 - Mary Ellen Sherer
- 4 - Bill Humphrey
- 5 - Toni Gray
- 6 - Brad King
- 7 - Lilane Fox

Ex Officio:

IPCC Dave Stockum
PID Ron Keller
PID Steve Thornton
PID Jerry Smith
PID Steve Sherer

MD Secretary:

PDG Deb Luttrell

MD Treasurer:

PCC Jay Gray

MD Asst. Treas:

PDG Randy Goff

MD Webmaster:

PDG Jay
Deutschman

Newsletter Editor:

Lion Brian Fox

2024-25: Issue 4

ohiolions.org

A Message from the Council Chair

By CC Mike Kerek



I wrap up my tenure as Council Chair at the end of the International Convention in Orlando, and it has been one heck of a ride. Too many people to thank for so much invaluable assistance, and I don't want to miss anyone, so I will limit myself to MDS Debbie, who I could not have gotten through the year without; to the DGs, who gave me the chance and have been a wonderful group to work with; and the Three Stooges – you know who you are. I'm a better person for your friendship and guidance.

I will gladly turn the keys over to incoming CC Brad King. He'll do an outstanding job, and I encourage everyone to work with him to make MD13 strong again. He demonstrated his leadership this year in OH6, and I know he'll do the same on the state level.

If I were to summarize my year in two words, they'd be "perspective" & "passion." If I chose a third, it would be "persistence."

Perspective: This has so many applications. First, how each community perceives their Lions Club. It pains me to hear someone say, "I didn't know we had a Lions Club." By contrast, other clubs receive awards from their cities, newspaper articles, and other accolades, because when something needs to be done, the Lions are there.

Or how Lions perceive their clubs and LCI in general. Are you part of a club that serves others, as we agreed to do when we joined, or are you part of a social club that gets together with no real purpose other than it is the 2nd Tuesday of the month?

But most important is how the Lions see themselves. I hope I never get to the point where helping others is not a driving force in my heart and actions. Yes, I am getting older. Things that were easy for me 30 years

ago may not be feasible now. But there are always ways, and if I ask, there is always assistance. To paraphrase a well-known saying, "If you can't take Mohamed to the mountain, take the mountain to Mohamed." I can't shoulder that mountain on my own anymore, but I still get it there...with help. Our organization is aging, but there are so many things we can do if we WANT to. Please don't make excuses. Make alternative paths. Never be afraid to ask for help!

Passion: I wish I could bottle the passion and energy of Lions like 1VDG Missy Harmon, President Tom Grote, Lion Jane Jarow, President Stu Koble or President Robert Borger, to name a notable few. I would take that passion and spread it liberally throughout the state. These Lions, like others not named but who share the passion for service and the fulfillment they gain personally as a result, represent who we can be. We all started with a Lion's heart. Some have allowed theirs to wither, but it's still there. Those individuals and clubs, who allow the passion of others to grow and who actively help each other achieve their goals, are the ones growing in size and strength.

Persistence: We didn't come even close to breaking even this year in membership, but that doesn't mean we can't next year. We can grow membership. We can improve our service numbers, our leadership training, our dollars to LCIF and other foundations & charities. But I disagree with the mentality of trying to do it all in the first few months.

Like the story the tortoise and the hare, Lions have to find a way of pacing themselves upward, for sure, but at a sustainable rate.

If you put all your effort in the first few months and achieve some nominal success, you are much more likely to stand on your achievements to date and stop trying. Reality is 10 new members for the entire year.

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State Convention Rocked!

By PCC Kerry Parker and PCC Kevin Reidy



Taylor Hicks wowed the Lions at a great Friday Kickoff Concert.

The MD13 Ohio Lions 105th State Convention, held May 16-18, 2025, provided a weekend of fellowship, learning, service, and celebration for all of the nearly 300 Lions attending. The Convention kickoff concert featured Nashville recording artist, native Alabaman and former **American Idol** champion, **Taylor Hicks**.



Past International Presidents Brian Stevenson, Brian Sheehan, and Dr. Patti Hill, joined Alabaman **J. Frank Moore** to celebrate the Sandusky Lions Club's 100th Charter and a presentation of Helen Keller vignettes of her life stages, on the site of the 9th International Convention at Cedar Point. The ceremonies were held in the 1925 International Convention meeting site, where video congratulations were also shared from **IP Fabricio**

Oliveira and International Vice President Mark Lyon.

Lions learning was provided by Lion Jodi Burmester, whose workshop enabled Ohio Lions to engage their communities for new and existing club development. PCC Mechele Moseley of Alabama led a virtual tour of **Helen Keller's childhood home, Ivy Green.**

Ohio Lions Convention attendees were energized through the reports of progress made with macular degeneration treatments through research funded through Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation.

Ohio Lions proudly pledged resources for humanitarian assistance with 30 Ohio Lions joining LCIF's Legacy Society. Ohio's leadership committed to a new century of service - to engaging others to join the service movement underway with Mission 1.5.



Above right: PDG Jackie Miller portrays Helen Keller delivering the 1925 speech. Above: CC Mike Kerek praises the actors involved in the Helen Keller vignettes.

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“Seeing the Sandusky Lions Charter, with the signatures of **International Secretary-Treasurer Melvin Jones** and **International President Harry Newman** from Toronto, Canada, filled me with a sense of pride and gratitude for a Lions presence having been established in our community,” stated **Sandusky Lions President John Straziuso**.



At Left: During the Grand Banquet, a special honor was presented to PDG Rob Murry of OH3. He received the **Ambassador of Goodwill medal**, THE HIGHEST honor in Lionism for his many years of service in Lions at all levels, including his many years as the financial guru of MD13.



At Right: Ohio Lions were honored to have FOUR Past International presidents at this year's state convention. Here PIPs Stevenson, Moore, Hill and Sheehan give commendations to Sandusky Lions President John Straziuso.

A Thank You Note from Ron & Kitty Keller

On Sunday morning of the State Convention, Ohio Lions held a special breakfast in honor of Past International Director Ron Keller and his wife Kitty for their service to Lionism for the past two years as ID and Partner in Service. They wrote this note:

We are humbled by the tremendous turnout at the reception given in our honor at the 2025 MD-13 Ohio Lions State Convention. We greatly appreciate the heart-warming gift of a Trex Bench with a special plaque affixed for our front porch in Millersport.

It was a tremendous privilege for us to serve globally on the Lions International Board as a Director and Partner in Service during 2022-2024. Ohio Lions and Leos are AWESOME! As Dorothy kept saying in the Wizard of Oz, "there is no place like home."

— PID Ron & 2VDGe Kitty Keller

GST Corner!

By IPCC Dave Stockum
MD13 GST Coordinator

As we approach the end of the 2024-2025 Lions Year, on behalf of the Global Service Team, I can say we have had an excellent year.

We set a goal of fostering 1,000 trees via personal planting, sponsoring or volunteer planting and are currently over 1,430 trees in addition to a New Albany Lion leasing acreage for an additional 6,000 trees.

We forwarded 64 letters to serving Air Force members during the Memorial Day Weekend thanking them for their service and wishing them well in the coming days.

We reached the 100% service reporting level for the fourth straight year. We recognized 19 clubs as Ace of Clubs for reporting 50 or more service activities and another 19 as King of Clubs for reporting 40-49 service activities or serving at least 10,000 people.

As of this writing we have served over 1.3 million people with over 7,300 activities reported. The banners pictured at right (from the state convention) show our emphasis on hunger relief last year, the environment this year, and the many ways we follow the mission given us by Helen Keller to be “knights of the blind.”

We are grateful for the service of **Josie Prokop, Debbie Reidy** and **Brett Housley** as they move off the state committee, but are thrilled **Carol Collins, Dr. Brenda Toler, Ric Houser** and **Jennifer Davies** will be back to serve in the coming year. We are also grateful for the guidance and support of **PCC Kerry Parker**. Most of all, though, we are grateful that MD13 Lions Clubs’ embrace the LCI motto, ***We Serve***.



Message from the CC, continued from front page... That’s much better than an all-out blitz at the beginning. You aren’t proving yourself at that point – you are just wearing people out. If you can do it, great. But keep the long-term picture in mind!

Engage your club members. Do visible activities in the community, even if it is partnering with other organizations. Get the Lions name out there and ask people to step up. Most importantly, NEVER give up. Setbacks sting and are discouraging, but they are a reality. Keep asking, keep trying.

My final message to all of you as Council Chair is something I have said many times, practice it in my own life, and believe in my core: We = You and Me. “We Serve” means that ALL of us have to step up to truly make the difference Lions can offer our communities.

I’ll be moving from this position to the state GMT. With your help, we will strengthen MD13 and turn the downward spiral into a tornado of activity with fresh people and fresh ideas. I look forward to continuing working with you!

Service Report: Diabetes

By Lion Ernie Richmann, OH4, 2024-25 MD13 Diabetes Chair, erichmann49@yahoo.com



*Lion Ernie Richmann and
grandson Aiden*

LCIF Community Recovery Grants

A \$20,000 disaster relief grant was used to replace bathhouse flooring damaged during the storm last August at camp Ho Mita Koda.

An additional \$145,000 grant has been submitted for projects at camp Ho Mita Koda. OH4 has raised the necessary matching amount required for the grant. The trustees at LCIF meet in August to approve grants.

To learn more about Camp Ho Mita Koda, a camp for diabetic children, go to camphomitakoda.org

Breakthrough T1D Walk: (formerly JDRF Walk) - Sunday, October 19, at the Cleveland Zoo. To learn more, donate and register at www2.breakthroughT1D.org/goto/MD13Lions

Year End Review:

- **OH3 CLUBS:** Several clubs donated to our diabetes causes during the Parade of Checks at the District Convention in March. Lions participated in the Breakthrough Walk in October. Looking to do a service project this year for Camp Ho Mita Koda.
- **OH4 CLUBS:** Contributed \$18,450 for Camp Ho Mita Koda, \$1,025 for the American Diabetes Association, and \$1900 for Breakthrough T1D.
- **OH5 CLUBS:** We started a District fundraiser to help pay the cost of a Diabetic Alert Dog for Marilee Scott. To date, we have sent \$3,375 toward a \$13,000 training cost. Send checks payable to Providing Pawsable to Kelly Hogrell, 6661 Diley Rd., Canal Winchester, OH 43110.

We have also donated a total of \$2,750 to Central Ohio Diabetes Foundation and \$500 to the American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Vice Chair Kenny Spafford raised over \$1,400 for Breakthrough T1D.

- **OH6 CLUBS:** Among other Diabetes projects, eleven clubs have sent checks for W.R. Bryan Diabetes Research in the amount of \$3,500. We work with Dayton Diabetes Office on occasion.

2025 Lions Events

July 13-17: International Convention,
Orlando, FL

August 3: COG Meeting
State Office Building

Sept 24: RLLI Registration deadline

Oct 24-26: RLLI, Deer Creek State Park
Lodge

Service Report: Pediatric Cancer

By PDG Deb & Lion Doc Mosier, OH3, 2024-25 MD13 LCIF Coordinators, sara.r.camacho@gmail.com

LCIF Year-End Review

We Are So Close to our Goal: As of today (June 4), we currently are sitting at **\$275,929.46 in donations or 94% of our goal for the year.** Our MD13 goal is \$292,074.00. We are so close and the need is so great. I'm sure you've seen all the devastating tornados the past several weeks. We need your help now more than ever to make sure we can provide the needed help to all of the affected areas. Also, hurricane season has just begun and we're bracing for another active year! Please consider sending your check today or better yet donate online at the LCIF website. Consider doing a recurring donation and you will automatically give your support each month to LCIF. We will be glad to help you set that up.



As our recent MD13 convention came to an end, so too did our 2-year Helen Keller ornament LCIF Fundraiser. Many thanks to all who supported this project and now have an ornament depicting a true piece of Lions history.

There were 1,845 ornaments sold for a total net profit of \$21,000 donated to LCIF!

A big thanks to all the LCIF district coordinators, PID Ron Keller, PID Ken Ibarra, DG Mary Ellen Sherer, DGe Gary Cerasi, PIP Brian Sheehan, PCC Kevin Reidy and Wendell August

Forge who all put forth extra effort to make this project a success. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

At the state Convention, we held a seminar on the **LCIF Legacy Society** to raise awareness. It was hosted by Chairperson IPIP Dr. Patti Hill, area leader John Knepper, MDC PDG Deb Mosier and LCIF CA1 staff member Lora Snow. We were thrilled with the outcome of this event.

As of today, we had 37 new commitments for the Legacy Society! I've been notified of two more that are on the way. All 37 received their Legacy Society Pin from the four PIPs at the Grand Banquet. Eight of those signing up were from out of state guests who felt moved to sign up during our convention. That's great!

The 29 Ohio Lions commitments that day totaled \$849,000! All I can say is WOW and thank you for your show of confidence in your foundation so it will continue on after you're gone. Lion Doc and I both became Legacy Society members that day as we should always lead by example. Lion Greg Randolph, our OH7 coordinator, has already been a society member for over a year! Again, leading by example.



All of us were blown away by the show of support received by the Ohio Lions that day. Chairperson Patti is already using our MD13 event as a success story in her travels to promote the Legacy Society. Let me know if you'd like to know more about becoming a legacy society member. We're happy to help.

Thank You! Lion Doc and I have been honored to represent MD13 as the multiple district coordinators for LCIF. Our three year term ends on June 30. We have chosen not to continue and have nominated PCC Dave Risen to take the reins for the next three years. We are confident he will do a great job. **Thank you for the leadership opportunity.**



Service Report: Pediatric Cancer

By IPDG Sara Camacho, OH7, 2024-25 MD13 Pediatric Cancer Chair,



Humbled by What Our Lions Do!

Just like our Lions Clubs, pediatric cancer doesn't sleep! As we wrap up this Lions year, I want to share information from a very full heart, as this year's interim director and next year's Executive Director, I am humbled by what our Lions do for those in need.

Financial Milestones: This year, our Foundation has hit new milestones that will forever change our direction - but our mission will hold steadfast. This year, your monies are growing little by little in our Money Market, and along with our general fund, OLPCF has amassed \$100,000! Those donations come on the backs of our volunteers and individual Lions all over Ohio. Our mission remains: to support Ohio based research for pediatric cancer and individual assistance.

Individual Assistance: In terms of individual assistance, I think of a mom in OH2, who is pleading to her maker that her child is NOT rare. Her son fought bravely, longer than most, against neuroblastoma, but unfortunately succumbed to his disease. His 6-month old sister, whom he never met, has also been diagnosed with the same disease that took her brother - but through surgery today, may possibly have two genetically different cancers that are causing rapid tumor growth and chemo-resistance - a rare and dangerous case for any human, let alone a 6-month old. Together, we lift up this child, and those currently in active cases with our gas card program, as they face an unfathomable diagnosis.

Research: Which brings us to the rest of our mission - research. This year, our board unanimously voted to gift a \$25,000 grant to Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. Their project, STING, is targeting neuroblastomas in children. "A new treatment, chemo-immunotherapy (CIT) with the anti-GD2 antibody dinutuximab, has improved outcomes in high-risk patients. However, relapse remains a major cause of treatment failure. Natural killer (NK) cells are key mediators of dinutuximab's effect; however their function and availability are significantly compromised in heavily treated children."

The Reason: For many of us, that paragraph is way beyond our knowledge, but for parents of children fighting neuroblastoma, this possible treatment to generate Natural Killer cells to help them fight their disease, could mean the world quite literally as they may be able to prevent a return of disease.

Every dollar our Foundation receives from clubs and individuals, is earmarked to fund research here in Ohio, or provide direct assistance through our gas card program. 50 families have been directly impacted, and over \$100,000 in research monies have been donated to fund cures and increase a child's chances at the rest of their life.

Together, we Serve for many reasons in our communities and abroad. To OLPCF, every dollar donated is a chance at life for children within our state - so from the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a super hero for service - thank you for being a Lion.

Service Report: Hunger

By Lion Dr. Brenda Toler, OH5, 2024-25 MD13 Hunger Chair, drbktoler@gmail.com



Ohio Lions Serve Almost 243,000 People with Hunger Service Projects

Dear Ohio Lions Club Members....I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your dedication and service over the past Lions Year. Your commitment to addressing hunger and assisting those affected by food insecurity has made a significant impact on our communities across the state.

The activities you have organized and the efforts you have put forth are truly commendable. It is inspiring to see how your collective actions help uplift those in need, and your hard work has not gone unnoticed and made a significant difference in the lives of so many. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful initiatives you will undertake in the future during the new club year.

Ohio Lions have definitely met the goal of this year's LCI theme of "Making a Mark" on the world. I am thrilled to report that our MD13 has 100% of clubs reporting as of June 4, 2025. When drilling down into the metrics, **our Ohio Lions reported completing 985 Hunger Service Activities and serving 242,901 people.**

The most common Hunger Service Activities across clubs throughout the state consistently remained food drives and monetary donations to Food Pantries. This is impactful because predicted federal cuts to programs that support food assistance will have a significant impact on food insecurity in the future. Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school meal programs, and food pantry funding are crucial for many individuals and families who rely on these resources to access nutritious food in food deserts across the state. As federal funding is reduced, we will most likely see a decrease in benefits for recipients or fewer resources available for food distribution, which could lead to an increase in food insecurity among our most vulnerable populations. Additionally, it is reported that our communities are experiencing a greater strain on local food banks and social services as they have tried to fill the gaps left by decreased federal support. Overall, the impact of federal cuts will depend on various factors, including the response from local organizations like our Lions Clubs.

Kudos to OH4 for earning the "top Hunger Service Activity spot" by completing 227 Hunger Service Activities to date. Congratulations are also in order for OH6 for serving 45,270 persons, which is the most amount of persons served this current club year. Here is the breakdown of the hunger metrics by district:

District	# of Hunger Projects Completed	# of People Served
OH1	61 Hunger Activities	5,927 people
OH2	190 Hunger Activities	44,320 people
OH3	106 Hunger Activities	43,473 people
OH4	227 Hunger Activities	30,812 people
OH5	122 Hunger Activities	39,303 people
OH6	139 Hunger Activities	45,270 people
OH7	140 Hunger Activities	33,796 people

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Hunger Service Report

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I'm happy to report that after an updated review of the metrics, those clubs that previously had limited data reported on the new Lion Portal in February, have since reported their activities! We realize clubs are still learning how to navigate the new Lion Portal but it has become easier with time and more experience. Don't forget...it's NOT too late to still report your hunger service activities and the amount of persons served before the new club year starts in July.

As you plan for the new club year be mindful that non-profit organizations like ours may face increased demand for services as more individuals and families struggle to secure enough food. This situation can lead to several outcomes:

1. Increased Demand: Food banks, community organizations and local government programs may experience a higher volume of requests for assistance, potentially overwhelming their capacity to provide support.

2. Resource Allocation: Local agencies may need to reallocate resources or seek additional funding to meet the rising demand, which could divert funds from other critical services.

3. Operational Challenges: Local organizations may face logistical challenges, such as sourcing food, managing volunteers, and distributing resources efficiently, especially in high-demand areas.

4. Community Collaboration: The strain may also encourage greater collaboration among local organizations, governments, and community members to develop innovative solutions to food insecurity, including community gardens or local food initiatives.

Overall, while the reduction of federal support is predicted to create challenges for addressing food scarcity on a local level, it may also prompt a response that fosters community engagement and resourcefulness. I know all of our clubs across the state will be up for the challenge, as you always have been, as indicated in the updated hunger metrics.

Service Report: Sight & Hearing

**PDG Bill Niejadlik (OH1)
2024-25 MD13 Sight & Hearing Chair**

The remodeling at Pilot Dogs is nearing completion. August 25th is the planned completion date.

The dorm rooms are updated, kennels are complete and they will be raising their own dogs.

Over the past year - even with limited space - Pilot Dogs still graduated 25 students.

There still has been no approval of vision machines, but with the Ohio Strike Force becoming more active, Lions will be asked to provide more assistance in the future.

It looks like vision vans will become more common with an ophthalmologist on board to examine referrals that Lions find. Lions will be using vision machines that the doctor prefers. We can examine the children and send referrals to the doctor. This will be a great step forward as right now only about 22% of referrals actually go to a doctor.

We will be starting this fall in OH 4. They have many vision machines and this will be a great trial to work out the kinks.

PlusOptix has introduced a new vision machine that will be smaller and easier to use. It runs around \$7,000. This would be a great addition to all Districts. Even clubs can get together to purchase and share.

Thanks to everyone for their contributions and help in bringing sight to Ohioans.



RLLI to be Presented October 24-26, 2025

<p>MD13 GLT Coordinator PDG Jackie Miller pdgjackie@gmail.com</p> <p>District Coordinators for 2024-2025</p> <p>Lion Anne Deutschman – OH1 jakgs@dacor.net</p> <p>Lion Ann Miller – OH2 babba4ajm@gmail.com</p> <p>Lion Tammy Cruise – OH3 Tammy.cruise@sayrehospitalitygroup.com</p> <p>PCC Dave Gauch – OH4 pccdave1213@gmail.com</p> <p>PDG Jackie Miller – OH5 pdgjackie@gmail.com</p> <p>Lion Mary Bookman - OH6 mbookman82@gmail.com</p> <p>IPDG Sara Camacho – OH7 Sara.r.camacho@gmail.com</p>	<p>Dear Aspiring Lion Leader,</p> <p>We are pleased to inform you that MD13 GLT will be offering a Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) to the Lions of Ohio! All three levels will be offered this year. All Levels will be limited to twenty-five participants each Level, so you'll want to get registered ASAP since class size is limited!!</p> <p>The Lions Institutes are indeed the "Ivy League" of leadership training. The institute at all levels will be a two-and-a-half-day immersion into developing and improving your leadership skills. This training will help you in your work life, your Lions career, and in your personal life as well. If you've ever thought about taking on a Leadership role in your club and beyond, this is the Institute for you!!</p> <p>The institute is specifically designed to enhance your leadership skills. It will not be about fundraising, membership, or service projects. It will be about Leadership! This will be held at Deer Creek State Park, Mt Sterling, Ohio on October 24 - 26 and attendance is required for the entire event.</p> <p>The cost to participants is \$185.00. The total institute cost per participant amounts to over \$300. Thanks to Grants from LCI and funds from the MD13 GLT committee you can attend for much less than the institute cost. Your only other expenses will be your breakfast and transportation to and from. Your hotel bill, 2 lunches and 1 dinner will be paid in full by MD13 GLT.</p> <p>Below you will find the list of criteria and qualifications for all levels. Remember, space is limited to 25 participants for each level so make sure you get signed up before space runs out! We MUST have at least 15 Lions per level to hold this RLLI, so make sure you get the word out to all Lions.</p> <p>We are proud to be able to offer this opportunity to the Lions of Ohio and look forward to receiving your application. If you have questions feel free to contact any committee member listed on the side column.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p><i>PDG Jackie Miller</i> MD13 GLT Coordinator</p>
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ELIGIBILITY: In order to attend, you must have basic computer literacy, be interested in learning about Lions leadership opportunities and be willing to attend the entire RLLI. To attend Levels 2 or 3, you must have attended a previous RLLI or Emerging Lions Leadership Institute.

CRITERIA:

- Your member and club number are available on your membership card, from your club secretary, or on your membership information on LCI's website.
- DO NOT send money with this application process. If your application is accepted, payment instructions will be sent with your acceptance notification.
- All applications must be completed online AND received NO LATER THAN September 24, 2025.
- Participants will share a room at Deer Creek State Park Lodge. A single room is available by paying a higher fee.
- Go to **ohiolions.org**, click **News & Events**, find and click **Regional Lions Leadership Institute** and click the **docs.google** link to complete the application process and, if accepted, you will be notified by GLT Chair, PDG Jackie Miller, of your acceptance.