



Mitchell J. Fallis, Marketing Director, Lorain Lions Club

Post Office Box 298 ~ Lorain, Ohio 44052 (440) 225-0408 ~ MitchellFallis@Yahoo.com

For immediate release

Ohio Lions Celebrate Centennial of Helen Keller's "Knights of the Blind" Speech at 2025 State Convention

Lorain, Ohio – May 19, 2025 – The Ohio Lions gathered at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio, from May 16 to 18, 2025, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Helen Keller's historic "Knights of the Blind" speech. This pivotal moment in Lions Clubs International history continues to inspire the organization's dedication to vision-related causes.

The convention featured a range of events, including workshops, fellowship activities, and a special celebration held at Cedar Point, titled "Celebrating 100 years of our Lions Mission, Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

In 1925, Cedar Point hosted the 9th annual International Convention of Lions Clubs, where Helen Keller delivered a powerful speech urging Lions to become "Knights of the Blind." Subsequently, a motion was made and unanimously voted upon to accept that mission. This convention was a significant event in the Lions movement's history, launching an international effort to prevent blindness and promote eye care.

This weekend's special celebration, held at Cedar Point, was a stage production titled "A Voice for Change" presented at same convention hall, where on June 30, 1925, Helen Keller made a plea to support her \$2 million endowment fund drive for the benefit of the American Foundation for the Blind.

The production portrayed the life of Hellen Keller from an early age showing her struggles to overcome the loss of sight and hearing at 19 months old and included a reenactment of her inspirational plea to ask those who could see to help those with sight challenges.

The celebration included a keynote address by Immediate Past International President Patti Hill along with Past International President Frank Moore who shared their insights into the Lions' ongoing global vision impact and the enduring legacy of Keller's speech.

Douglas Krucinski, 2nd Vice President of Lorain Lions Club attended the convention and said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation that the actors gave illustrating Helen Keller's life. I was especially moved at the reenactment speech that Helen Keller originally presented at the 1925 Lions International Convention. Today, Lions worldwide continue to follow the vision that Helen Keller presented 100 years ago."

Also, the Sandusky Lions Club was honored for their 100th anniversary year of Lion service, having received their charter on May 7th, 1925. Proclamations were presented to the Sandusky Lions Club from the Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, U. S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, U. S. Senator Bernie Moreno, Erie County Commissioner Stephen Shaffer and Sandusky City Manager, John Orzech.

The Ohio Lions State Convention serves as a testament to the organization's commitment to service and community engagement. Looking ahead, Lions Clubs across Ohio will continue to honor Keller's vision by supporting initiatives that enhance the lives of those with vision impairments and other challenges.

Inspired to join a local Lions Club or to start one in your community? Contact Mitchell J. Fallis, marketing director of the Lorain Lions Club at 440.225.0408 or email LorainLionsOhio@gmail.com. Join the worldwide movement and answer the call presented by Helen Keller 100 years ago, "Will you not constitute yourselves **Knights of the Blind** in the crusade against darkness."

About the Ohio Lions Club

Ohio Lions is a division of Lions Clubs International and was founded in 1920. Ohio Lions were the 13th state to join the association and therefore known as Multiple District 13 Ohio Lions. There are 354 Lions Clubs in Ohio with 9,724 members. All Lions Club members are devoted men and women serving the specific needs of their communities.

Ohio Lions, Inc is located at 4074 Hoover Road, Grove City, Ohio 43212 and can be reached by telephone at 614.539.5060 or by email at info@OhioLions.org. For more information about the Ohio Lions and their initiatives, please visit www.ohiolions.org.



Helen Keller at 8 years old with her teacher Anne Sullivan

while on vacation in Brewster, Cape Cod, Massachusetts in

July 1888. (Photo Credit: [Wikimedia Commons. New England Historic Genealogical Society.](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Helen_Keller_and_Anne_Sullivan.jpg))

A black and white portrait of Helen Keller looking down, used as a background for a Lions Club appeal. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Will you not help me hasten the day
when there shall be
no preventable blindness;
no little deaf, blind child untaught;
no blind man or woman unaided?

I appeal to you Lions,
you who have your sight, your hearing,
you who are strong and brave and kind.

Will you not constitute yourselves
Knights of the Blind
in this crusade against darkness?

Helen Keller in her address to the
1925 Lions Clubs International Convention
Cedar Point, Ohio

#womenleaders
#makingadifference

(Photo from Lions Clubs New Zealand website, Submitted by Lorain Lions Club)