



# Lions District 2-A2 Newsletter



Issue 8 – February 2026

Service From the  of Texas!

## District 2-A2 Cabinet

**District Governor  
Nanette Patton**

[GJade.1ea@gmail.com](mailto:GJade.1ea@gmail.com)

SA Windcrest Lions Club  
210.593.8794

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-District Governor**

**Jeffrey Almoney**

[dqjeffreymoney2026@gmail.com](mailto:dqjeffreymoney2026@gmail.com)

SA Alamo Ranch Lions Club

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-District Governor**

**Joseph Guerra**

[joemg3@yahoo.com](mailto:joemg3@yahoo.com)

SA Edgewood Lions Club

**Immediate Past District  
Governor**

**Rose Ann Barajas**

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SA Edgewood Lions Club  
210.216.2340

## Lions of District 2-A2:

As we move into February, our Lions year continues to gain momentum across District 2-A2. From innovative club operations and impactful service projects to candid conversations about membership and leadership



at our Mid-Winter Conference, it is clear that Lions in our district are leaning into purposeful service and thoughtful growth. This edition highlights the many ways our clubs are showing up for their communities while keeping an eye on sustainability, leadership development, and the future of Lionism in 2-A2.

## Club Visits

On January 7, I had the pleasure of visiting the **Bexar Necessities Lions Club**, and I was thoroughly impressed by the way Boss Lion Martin Padron ran an ultra-modern, highly efficient meeting. Using a projected laptop screen, he walked the club through a mid-year review directly from the Lions Portal, focusing on service activities. He then seamlessly transitioned to QuickBooks to review the club's income statement and balance sheet—transparent, efficient, and effective.

Notably, there was only one hard-copy handout: a forward-looking document outlining upcoming service activities through October. After the business meeting concluded, the Lions immediately got to work—completing not one, but two service projects. Members assembled bean and rice bags in support of the Week of Hunger and then sorted donated eyeglasses for collection. It's clear this club is intentionally working toward the **Club Excellence Award**.

During the meeting, Lion Ann Islas provided a tour of the Cardinal Closet, which supplies clothing to financially struggling University of the Incarnate Word students and their families. If your club has members considering a closet purge, donating to the Cardinal Closet may be a more impactful alternative than a general donation to Goodwill.



On January 13, I visited the **La Vernia Lions Club**. Their guest speaker was Michele Jupe Ploch, daughter of Lion Dennis Jupe, who delivered an informative presentation on how the **San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo** supports Texas youth through agricultural and educational programs. Clubs looking to support youth development may want to explore donation opportunities through these programs.



Boss Lion Heather Bard also proudly unveiled the club's **2025 La Vernia Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award**—a well-earned recognition. I also enjoyed listening as club members debated themes for the upcoming **La Vernia Bluebonnet Parade**.

## **Mid-Winter Conference Highlights**

For those who were unable to attend, here's what you missed:

- A **Parade of Candidates**, featuring Lion Jeffrey Almoney for District Governor, Lion Joe Guerra for First Vice District Governor, and **Lion Robert Landrum** for International Director.
- A candid **State of the District Address**, celebrating progress while confronting challenges head-on—with a clear message that membership growth must be intentional.
- The unveiling of the **Moon Landing Award** (also known as the “Damned Near Club Excellence Award”), with more attainable eligibility criteria for clubs.
- A hands-on pop-up service project assembling weekend food bags for elementary students facing food insecurity.
- A **membership growth roundtable** featuring clubs that are seeing success—Kerrville Host Lions Club and Northside Lions Club—sharing practical, proven best practices.

It was a weekend of honest conversations, meaningful service, and renewed commitment to sustainable growth. My thanks to the **Fredericksburg Lions Club** for their hospitality and outstanding hosting.



## What's Coming Next

The **Lions Sight Research Foundation** is preparing for **Save Our Sight Month**. Their annual **Valentine Games Night** will be held on **Friday, February 14th**, and it's not too late to secure tickets. That evening will also feature the drawing for the **Sweetheart Raffle**, including a \$5,000 grand prize. Looking ahead, the **Lions Stride for Sight** will take place on **March 28** at **Comanche Park**.

For clubs pursuing the **Club Excellence Award** or the **Moon Landing Award**, please mark your calendars for a **District 2-A2 Service Day** at the **Arboretum San Antonio** from 10-2 on **April 18**—the first day of LCI's **Week of Service for the Environment** (April 18–26). Activities may include brush and debris removal, trail and site clean-up, gardening and planting, assembling birdhouses and pollinator habitats, and other stewardship projects that enhance this new community asset. Thank you to the **West Side Lions Club** for helping coordinate this district-wide event.

Also, a reminder that **Hyatt Place, Microtel, and Hampton Inn & Suites in Eagle Pass** are now accepting reservations for the District Convention at our negotiated rates. Convention registration will be opening soon.

## **National Cancer Prevention Month**

February is **National Cancer Prevention Month**, a timely reminder that many cancers are preventable through education, early detection, and healthy lifestyle choices. This observance aligns squarely with Lions' long-standing commitment to health and wellness, including our global causes supporting childhood cancer, diabetes, vision, and overall community well-being.

According to the National Institutes of Health, nearly 1.9 million people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year. Almost half of those cases involve breast, prostate, lung, pancreatic, or colorectal cancers. Importantly, **more than 40 percent of cancer diagnoses are linked to preventable causes.**

National Cancer Prevention Month emphasizes the actions we can take to reduce risk, including:

- Engaging in regular physical activity
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Eating a balanced, nutritious diet
- Quitting—or never starting—smoking
- Limiting alcohol consumption

As Lions, we do not simply respond to illness—we work to prevent it. February provides every club in District 2-A2 with an opportunity to educate, advocate, and serve in ways that help our communities reduce cancer risk and improve long-term health outcomes.

Thank you for the energy, creativity, and commitment you bring to your clubs and communities every day. Whether through hands-on service, intentional membership efforts, or stepping forward as a leader, each Lion plays a role in strengthening our district's impact. As we look ahead to upcoming service opportunities, Save Our Sight Month, and our District Convention in Eagle Pass, I encourage you to stay engaged, stay connected, and continue leading with purpose. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant District 2-A2.

Happy Valentine's Day!

*Lion Nanette*

District Governor  
Nanette Patton  
[GJade.1ea@gmail.com](mailto:GJade.1ea@gmail.com)  
210.593.8794

# District 2-A2 2025-2026 Mission 1.5 Dashboard

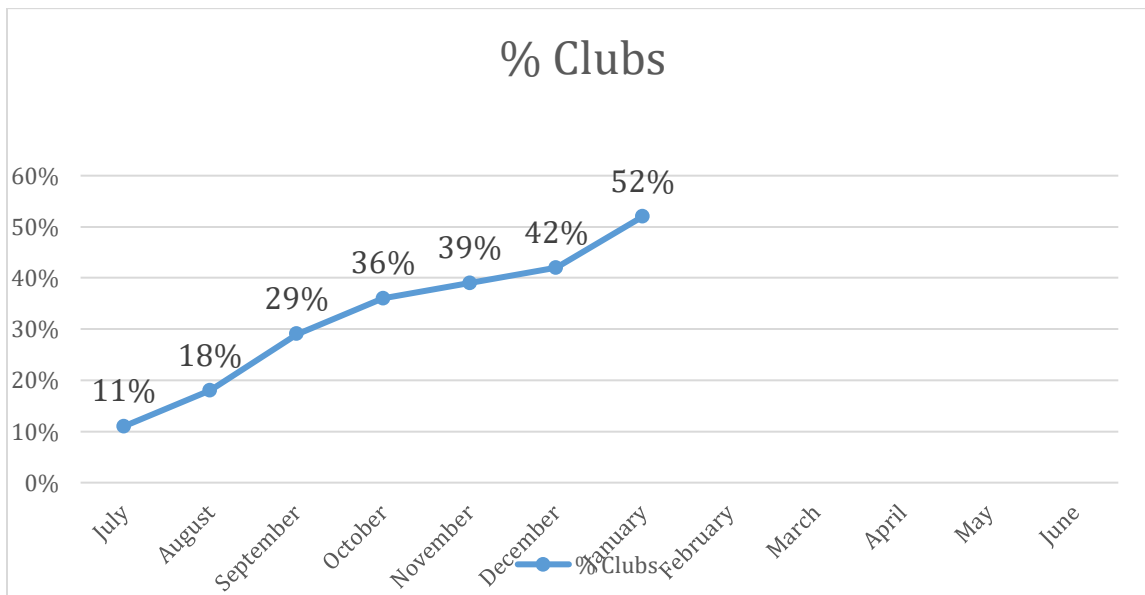
## EOM January 2026

### Service

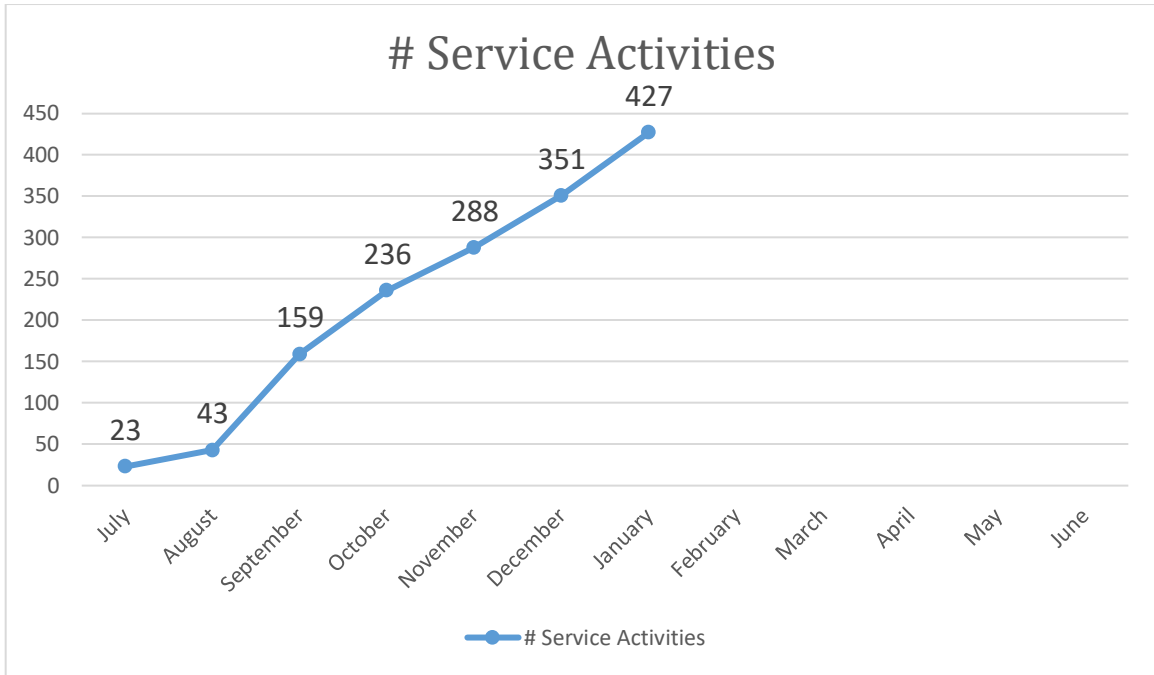
**Percentage of Clubs Reporting Service Activities Since 7/1/25:  
52% (30 of 57 clubs)**

- Bandera
- China Grove
- Boerne
- Converse
- Crystal City
- Del Rio Host
- Del Rio Lady Educators
- Del Rio San Felipe
- Devine
- Eagle Pass Border
- Eagle Pass Evening
- Floresville
- Fredericksburg
- Helotes
- Kerrville Heart o' the Hills
- Kerrville Host
- Kerrville Sunrise
- La Vernia
- Leakey
- San Antonio Alamo Ranch
- San Antonio Area Family
- San Antonio Autism
- San Antonio Bexar Necessities
- San Antonio Edgewood
- San Antonio First Ladies
- San Antonio Founder
- San Antonio North SA Hills
- San Antonio Northside
- San Antonio West Side
- San Antonio Windcrest

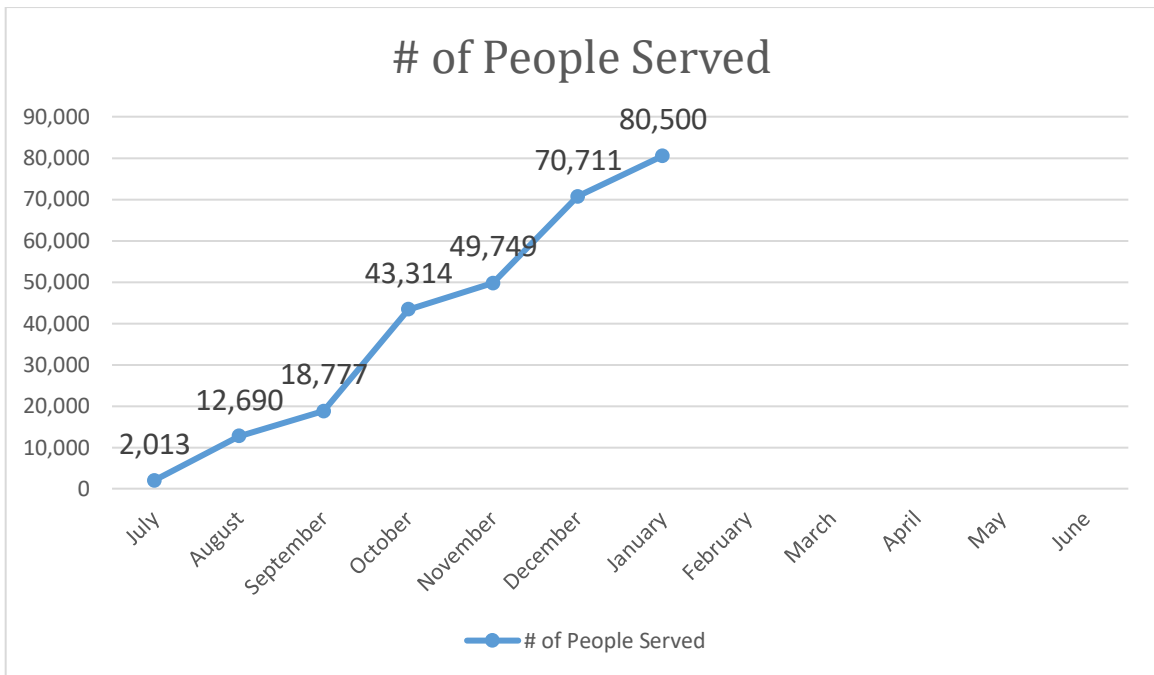
Goal: 90%



## Number of Service Activities Reported Since 7/1/25: 427



## Number of People Served Since 7/1/25: 80,500



## Membership

Goal: +166 new members with a net gain of +25

Stretch Goal: +25 new members/month

<b>Month</b>	<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>Members Added Since 7/1/25</b>	<b>Members Dropped Since 7/1/25</b>	<b>Net Gain Since 7/1/25</b>
<b>July</b>	1440	13	9	4
<b>August</b>	1450	29	15	14
<b>September</b>	1449	36	23	13
<b>October</b>	1455	44	25	19
<b>November</b>	1455	66	47	19
<b>December</b>	1411	71	96	-25
<b>January</b>	1416	84	104	-20
<b>February</b>				
<b>March</b>				
<b>April</b>				
<b>May</b>				
<b>June</b>				

### Clubs with Net Gain since 7/1/2025:

- Bandera +1
- Boerne +1
- Converse +1
- Devine +7
- Eagle Pass Border +1
- Helotes +3
- Kerrville Host +7
- Leakey +2
- SA Area Family +1
- SA Autism +2
- SA Edgewood +1
- San Antonio First Ladies +2
- SA Founder +2
- SA Highland Hills +5
- SA Windcrest +5
- Utopia +1

- **Extensions (New Clubs)**

	Goal	Stretch Goal	Actuals to Date
Regular Club	3		0
Campus Club			0
Leo Club			0
Branch Club		2	0

New Clubs:

- None to date
- Potential new clubs: Korean Specialty, Harper, UTSA, Ingram
- Cancelled clubs: Bruni, Laredo Noon, SA Yellow Rose
- Total Clubs: 57

- **Leadership Training**

- Zone Chairs Trained: 100%
- Club Officers Trained: 28%
  - Club President: 22 (42%)
  - Club Secretaries: 10 (19%)
  - Club Treasurers: 13 (24%)

- **LCIF Donations**

- \$13,595
- 10 clubs donating
  - Del Rio San Felipe
  - Helotes
  - Kerrville Host
  - Leakey
  - SA Alamo City
  - SA Alamo Ranch
  - SA Central Park
  - SA First Ladies
  - SA Northside
  - SA Windcrest

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

### Cabinet and Convention Dates:

District Convention	April 10-11th	Eagle Pass, Texas
MD-2 Texas State Convention	May 28th-30th	Odessa, Texas

### Club and Other Events:

LSRF Valentine's Game Night	February 14th	St. Gregory's Catholic San Antonio, Texas
SAFLC 2nd Annual Purse Bingo	February 28th	Petroleum Club San Antonio, Texas
Texas Lions Camp Work Day	March 7th	Kerrville, Texas
LSRF Stride for Sight	March 28th	Commanche Park San Antonio, Texas
Texas Lions Camp Work Day	March 29th	Kerrville, Texas
District 2A-2 Service Day	April 18th	Arboretum San Antonio, Texas
Texas Lions Camp Work Day	May 2nd	Kerrville, Texas

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### Tell Us What You Are Doing

We want our District newsletter to feature more of the wonderful work being done by each of the Lions Clubs in District 2-A2. Please send in articles about your service projects, fundraisers, installations, and member recognitions for inclusion in the monthly newsletter to [newsletter@district2a2.org](mailto:newsletter@district2a2.org). Articles must be submitted by the 28th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

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**ALAMO HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB & TEXAS LIONS EYEGLOSS RECYCLING CTR**  
**Free Postage to Mail Eyeglasses to the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center**  
by Lion Norman Fulkerson

The USPS Publication 347 dated October 2015 spells out how to mail glasses for recycling to the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Midland, Texas.

The publication states that individuals and noncommercial organizations which serve eligible persons (i.e., those who require glasses). No advertising is allowed.

The box or envelope must NOT be sealed. The boxes must have the words "FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR THE HANDICAPPED" in the upper right corner of the address side of the envelope or parcel where postage is normally placed. The words may be printed, rubber stamped or handwritten. See the form below.

The mail is not considered a specific class of mail. If you wish to insure the item, you may pay the required insurance fee.

The Postmaster at my Post Office says they will accept boxes up to the size of a Banker's box or the size of the box that comes with 10 reams of paper. I have found the 10-ream paper box weighs about 20pounds when full of eyeglasses.

You may use the form below by cutting off the bottom of this page to use as the required label.

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FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR HANDICAPPED MAILING

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR  
THE HANDICAPPED

To: Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center  
2550 Flynt Ave.  
Midland, TX 79701

2025-2026 District 2-A2 District Convention – April 10th and 11th



**Nanette Patton**  
District Governor

Service from the  of Texas

**67<sup>th</sup>** Annual Convention  
District 2-A2

**Hosted By** **April**  
**Eagle Pass Border Lions** **10-11**  
**Club** **2026**

**International Center for Trade**  
**3295 Bob Rogers Dr.**  
**Eagle Pass, TX**

**Hotel Host**



**830-498-0600**  
Rate \$149 + Tax  
1060 Patsy Winn Blvd.



**830-312-4806**  
Rate \$95 + Tax  
2352 El Indio Hwy.



**830-757-5565**  
Rate \$129 + Tax  
3301 E. Main St.

## Note From Lion Jeffrey Almoney, Our First Vice District Governor:

Fellow Lions,

February is a wonderful time to reflect on what makes our Lions family so special—service, fellowship, and care for one another. District 2A2 has certainly been full of all three! Our District Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg was a great success. It was truly inspiring to see so many familiar faces gathered together, sharing ideas, laughter, and a strong commitment to serving our communities. Working side by side on the service project, including efforts focused on food and other community needs, was a powerful reminder of why we are Lions: when we come together, we can make a meaningful difference.

I also had the pleasure of a fantastic visit and meeting with the Founder Lions Club. The warm welcome, meaningful conversations, and dedication to service I witnessed truly reflected the spirit of Lionism.

Thank you to everyone who continues to lead with dedication. Your passion and commitment are what make District 2A2 strong.

In service and friendship,

*Lion Jeffrey*

First Vice District Governor  
Jeffrey Almoney  
Alamo Ranch Lions Club  
[dgjeffreyalmoney2026@gmail.com](mailto:dgjeffreyalmoney2026@gmail.com)

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## Note From Lion Joseph Guerra, Our Second Vice District Governor:

Hello Fellow Lions and Happy New Year,

The Holiday season is behind us and time to head into the final months of our Lions Year. Although we had a great year of service, so far our numbers have fallen due to the loss of three clubs. In looking at the numbers, this time last year we had 1,429 members in District 2-A2, now we have 1,408 members. It's my hope we can recover those members and clubs that we have lost. Lion Chris Lloyd and I are planning to do club and membership rebuild in Laredo sometime next month, this being one of the clubs we lost over the holiday period.

We just attended the Governors cabinet meeting in Fredericksburg - it was well attended and some valuable information was given about building new membership. One item that stuck me as novel was what well in small rural communities where everyone knows everyone, by seeking out the busy and community leadership and involving them in the process of club growth and membership. Doing these types of activities can assist you in your membership goals.



Service Activity in Kerrville

In closing, keep the service going. Show off your Lions Clubs and wear your colors proudly at all activities, large and small. When asked, be willing to talk about Lionism. One small discussion can lead to a new member becoming involved in your club.

Yours in service,

*Lion Joe*

Second Vice District Governor  
Joseph Guerra  
[joemg3@yahoo.com](mailto:joemg3@yahoo.com)

## **Note From Lion Josh Overfelt – District 2-A2 LCIF Coordinator:**

I hope your summer was good and you are looking forward to real fall weather, not “False Fall” we are getting ready to experience.

This Lion Year, I am serving as the District 2-A2 LCIF Coordinator. My job is to let clubs know about the importance of LCIF and what it has to offer our organization. A brief history and description of the Foundation is as follows:

“The story of LCIF is epic filled with unlimited compassion and tireless support of Lions service. Founded in 1968, the mission of LCIF is to:

**"Empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding."**

**“For more than 50 years, we’ve dedicated our energies to increasing the ability of Lions everywhere, helping them empower the communities they serve. With every grant we give, our history grows, along with the impact of Lions. Today, we couldn’t be more proud of where we stand, or more excited about the future of our work.”** – LCIF Website

When a Lion thinks of LCIF we tend to think of disaster response and aid. This is a major part of the LCIF mission. On July 4, 2025, the Guadalupe River went on a historic flash flood rise in the early morning hours, devastating communities along the river from Hunt, Kerrville, Center Point, and Comfort. The rain system also inundated San Angelo and the area of Leander and its surrounding area. Within hours of the waters receding LCIF Area leaders and Coordinators for 3 districts began applying for emergency grants. MD2 was awarded a \$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant, and 2-A2 was awarded an immediate emergency grant for \$15,000. The governors from the affected areas will manage these grants as the rebuilding effort begins.

These grants are made possible via your donations to LCIF. You can make personal donations, or your club can make one in the club's name. Personal donations will also earn you credits towards a Melvin Jones Fellowship or a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship. Clubs that donate and accrue over \$1,000 in donations will be eligible to give those fellowships as well. Any amount helps, as every dollar goes back to those in need. Not to a CEO or advertising but to those who need it. That is what makes our Foundation unique. If interested in donating, you can donate here:

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/donate>

I am available to come speak to your clubs about LCIF if you have any questions. Please get ahold of me at the info below.

*Lion Josh*

LCIF Coordinator

Josh Overfelt

[josh.overfelt@gmail.com](mailto:josh.overfelt@gmail.com)

## Note From Lion Marlene Patton – Global Service Team:

### SERVICE FROM THE OF TEXAS

#### Meeting the Challenge:

What an amazing month of service from the Lions of 2-A2! As a District, we accepted IP Singh's challenge to fight hunger in January. We purchased 48 cans of chunky chicken soup; 80 Fritos snack gas; 72 cups of applesauce; 48 fruit cups; 232 granola bars; 100 Welch's fruit snack bags; 72 bags of trail mix; 72 large jars of peanut butter; 48 cans of tuna; 48 cans of chunk white chicken; 54 packets of mac & cheese; 96 packets of instant oatmeal; 108 Lance's cracker packs; 60 Capri Sun fruit punch pouches; 120 cans of SpaghettiOs and 64 pairs of winter gloves - all from the Amazon Wish List. By the way, every single item on the Wish List was purchased! And that doesn't count the donations that Lions brought directly to the event. Roar!

During the Mid-Winter Cabinet meeting, the Fredericksburg Lions prepared a room where we could assemble Blessing Bags for kids in need in their community. Led by Lion Beth, we formed a team of Lions to fill bags and a relay line of Lions to pass filled bags down the hallway, down the steps, and into the waiting trailer. I'm not sure of the exact count, but I believe we packed close to 200 bags of food for kids and their families!

Well done, Fredericksburg Lions! Especially Lion Beth, who stored all those boxes in her house through the holiday season and the Lion team that worked after the event to deliver the Blessing Bags to the food pantry. And congratulations to our District Lions who participated through food donations and/or helping at the event. I think we met our International President's challenge to fight hunger.

#### **January postings to the Lions Portal:**

I want to recognize the club that posted service to the Lions Portal in January:

Boerne Lions Club	Converse Lions	Del Rio San Felipe Lions
Devine Lions	Helotes Lions	Kerrville Sunrise Lions
SA- Autism Lions	SA – Westside	SA – Area Family Lions
Windcrest Lions	There is still time to post your service!	

## **Social Media:**

One of the things I enjoy most is following our Lions Clubs on Facebook. Here are some of my favorite quotes from January –

“For the last two years the **Kerrville Host Lions Club** has delivered bags to the Methodist Children's Hospital. Every year we partner with "Chicks with Sticks" who makes the blankets for us. Here are just some of the items we've included in the past. Help us make our Care Bags extra fun this year by looking up the "Kerrville Host Lions Cancer Care Bags" registry on [Amazon.com!](https://www.amazon.com)”

“On this day, our Lions Club, the **San Antonio Area Family Lions Club**, fed the homeless by Haven for Hope. We teamed up with Lion Elizabeth Agnew and her ministry, Men and Women of Salt Ministries. Together we handed out ~+125 bags. The bags had 2 tacos, chips, snacks, oatmeal, and a bottle water. We had extra taco's and Lion Jesse Flores went to the bus station nearby and handed them out there. Lion Elizabeth also brought clothes and shoes for them to go thru. As the President of our club, I want to say thank you to the Lion Members and volunteers for making this Service Project a success - Lions Club International Hunger Week of Service from January 3rd-11th.”

“**West Side Lions** volunteered at St.Stevens Care Center which is part of Catholic Charities, cleaning and stocking shelves in their food bank. They told us they feed 60 families and 70 homeless every day. They are a blessing to the city.”

“Another successful morning at Mobility Worldwide building personal energy transport (PET) units! Lions - we serve! Interested in being part of this project (no experience needed)? We're happy to send you details on how to join the **Windcrest Lions Club!** 🙌”

“Building Bridges - Family Engagement Event\*\* Join the **San Antonio Autism Lions** Foundation for our first family engagement event of 2026! We are excited to partner with Jamie's Ranch to provide the autism community with a day of fun and recreation on the ranch.” *(I can't wait to hear more about this and see the photos – it sounds like an amazing event. Lion Marlene)*

**“Eagle Pass Lions Club** - Life Is Good. Attention Eagle Pass community, prepare your fishing gear and join us this Saturday, January 31st, at Maverick County Lake for a complimentary day of fishing. Arrive early to register and secure a prime spot to cast your lines. This event is hosted by the Eagle Pass Evening Lions Club and Texas Parks & Wildlife.” *(This is great - love to see Lions teaming with other organizations to provide fun and educational experiences for kids! Please send photos of the wonderful event. Lion Marlene)*

***ROAR from Lion Marlene, proudly serving as District 2-A2 GST***

*Lion Marlene*

Lion Marlene Patton

District 2-A2 GST

210-393-7383

[marpatton@aol.com](mailto:marpatton@aol.com)



**Week of Service - HUNGER**



***DISTRICT 2-A2 WE SERVE!***





# FEEDING THE HOMELESS OUTSIDE HAVEN FOR HOME.



*We serve! District 2-A2, I'm proud to serve as your GST coordinator. Please send me photos and info about your service! I'd love to share it here. Lion Marlene*



## Texas Lions Camp – Ways to Serve TLC – Lion Ann Ward:

Registration for summer camp 2026 opened on Jan. 5, and some 155 registrations were received within the first 24 hours! Woohoo! As of Jan. 26, TLC now has 350 applications. Let's keep up the momentum on recruitment!

It's time to register for service activities at TLC. Work Days are scheduled for these Saturdays: **March 5, March 28** (due to Easter weekend falling on April 4) and **May 2**. Register online at [www.lionscamp.com](http://www.lionscamp.com) – under Get Involved! In addition to helping prepare TLC for summer camp, Lions will have the opportunity to “see” the changes resulting from the demolition of six structures this fall.

On **Feb. 7**, registration opens for picnics and other special events during summer camp. Participating in these activities gives club members the opportunity to experience the magic of TLC in person, interacting with the children we serve and connecting with the outstanding staff members that make the TLC experience so special. Service opportunities available include:

- Picnic sponsorships (lunch and dinner)
- Refreshment stand support on opening days
- Watermelon parties
- Luggage crew for opening and closing sessions
- Awards Night hosts for our camper awards program

Register online at [lionscamp.com](http://lionscamp.com). From the top menu, select **Get Involved**; then scroll down to **Picnics and Special Events**.



**Feb. 7** also is the date of the TLC's **Semi-Annual Board Meeting** in Kerrville. The TLC Breakfast begins at 7 a.m. in the camp dining hall, and will include the always popular "Parade of Checks," to be followed by committee meetings at 9 a.m. The board meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Rec Hall. The Harry Wickersham Golf Committee will meet on Friday, Feb. 6 at 7:15 a.m. at the YO Hotel prior to the Council of Governors' meeting. Plan to shop at the camp store – it's a tax-free day!

Our very own **President/CEO Stephen Mabry** will be the speaker at the **Past District Governors Fellowship Banquet** on Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the YO Hotel. Stephen will share exciting news about the implementation of the next phase of our master plan and kick off our new capital campaign! These are exciting times for TLC, and Lions are "Gonna Leave a Mark"!

Finally, I want to say "thank you" to all the clubs who have paid their assessments to TLC this year. This is your camp, and I hope you will come to Kerrville this spring and summer and see how your investment is being used. I also want to say "thank you" to all the Lions who are Century Club members, and recognize those who have "stepped up" to the next membership level and/or "caught up" on missed years of participation. If you aren't already a Century Club member, please join!

Thank you for everything you do for TLC! I look forward to seeing you in Kerrville.

*Lion Ann*

Lion Ann Ward  
2025-26 Chair, Texas Lions Camp Board  
[lionannward@gmail.com](mailto:lionannward@gmail.com)

February 2026

# LEADING THE WAY

Leader Dogs for the Blind – Lions Newsletter



Each year, we set a fundraising goal for our partnership with Lions. Reaching this goal helps continue the Lions legacy of supporting vision through Leader Dogs for the Blind. We reached the midpoint of the fiscal year, and the months ahead are critical. Together, we have a real opportunity to accelerate toward our \$2.5 million goal.

**Can you help us reach our goal?** Giving options are on the [Ways to Give page of our website](#), which you can access with the QR code to the right. If you would like to make a personal gift, please include your Lions Club so we can recognize your gift as a Lions gift.



## Vision Activity for Convention Season

Convention season is here! Between February and May, the Lions team and a few Leader Dog clients will join you at dozens of Lions conventions across North America. Conventions are an important opportunity for Lions to gather, celebrate our impact in our communities, and educate each other on the causes we support.

We outlined an activity you may be interested in bringing to your convention or your club meeting. It allows participants to **experience first-hand the importance of vision for orientation in space**, and how quickly those with low vision can become disoriented without support like Leader Dog's Orientation & Mobility program.



Lion Christie Boyer of New Mexico serves as Leader Dog Chair in District 40, and she designed this activity for district leadership with great feedback.

**Participants said, "It was fast, furious, and fun."** Get an activity guide for this activity and order blindfolds with the QR code to the right or on the [Lions](#)



[Club Resources page of our website.](#)



[LeaderDog.org](http://LeaderDog.org) | [LionsSupport@leaderdog.org](mailto:LionsSupport@leaderdog.org)



Lions International

## Lion Melissa Weisse Honored as a Melvin Jones Fellow



In December, the Royal Oak Lions Club of Michigan recognized Lion Melissa Weisse, President and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind, with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. They presented the award in front of an audience of more than 200 Lions from Michigan and Ontario, underscoring how deeply Melissa's leadership and mission-driven dedication resonate across the Lions

community.

For more than 20 years, Lion Melissa has been a fierce advocate for the blind and low vision community. "Melissa exemplifies the heart of Lionism and demonstrates a commitment to dedicated humanitarian service—the basic principle of being a Melvin Jones Fellow," said Lion Laura Mastracci, President of the Royal Oak Lions Club. "We were privileged to bestow this honor on Melissa for the compassionate, hard-working Lion that she is."

Lion Karen Burke, a Leader Dog client, shared her perspective: "Melissa knows what she stands for, which is to serve. Not only is she a Lion, but she's also very persistent in making sure that clients are served at Leader Dog. She listens to what we share and looks for ideas to improve our experience when we come for a program."

Melissa expressed her deep appreciation for the recognition, saying, "To be awarded this by Lions who do so much good in this world is incredibly meaningful to me. I am proud to be a longtime Lion and to partner with Lions every day to advocate for people who are blind and to support the critical work of Lions globally."

## Mission Moment

“When you lose your vision, you lose your independence, and that was the hardest thing. Leader Dog Timber will make it a little easier to keep going.

I've never been a very emotional person, but meeting Leader Dog Timber was emotional. **It was this overwhelming happiness and feeling that this is going to work out.** It's a hard feeling to describe. It's not just having a companion but thinking about our life together.”



Rich, Guide Dog Client from Michigan, pictured with Leader Dog Timber



# VALENTINE Games Night

## Saturday, February 14, 2026

St Gregory the Great Catholic Church Parish Hall

709 Beryl Dr. San Antonio, Texas 78213

**FUN STARTS at 5:00pm**



**A Fundraising Event of the District 2-A2 Lions Sight Research Foundation**

Your Reservation entitles you to be a **PLAYER** in our **VALENTINE CASINO** where you can

**WIN** at **BLACKJACK TEXAS HOLD 'EM CRAPS ROULETTE** or the **MONEY WHEEL**

and there's our **ADULT BEVERAGE RING TOSS HEADS & TAILS 50/50 RAFFLE**

A Fun Evening with **Great Food and Lots of Door Prizes**



**All Seating - \$50.00 per attendee**

Open Bar—Beer and Wine, Set Ups for BYOB

Checks payable to the Lions Sight Research Foundation

For Online Reservations: [www.lionsightresearch.org](http://www.lionsightresearch.org) - "DONATIONS" Tab

For Other Reservations or information: PDG Sam Pantusa call: 210 326 3915 or email: [lsrf.sam@gmail.com](mailto:lsrf.sam@gmail.com)

We'll also be Drawing the Names of **ALL** the **WINNERS** of our



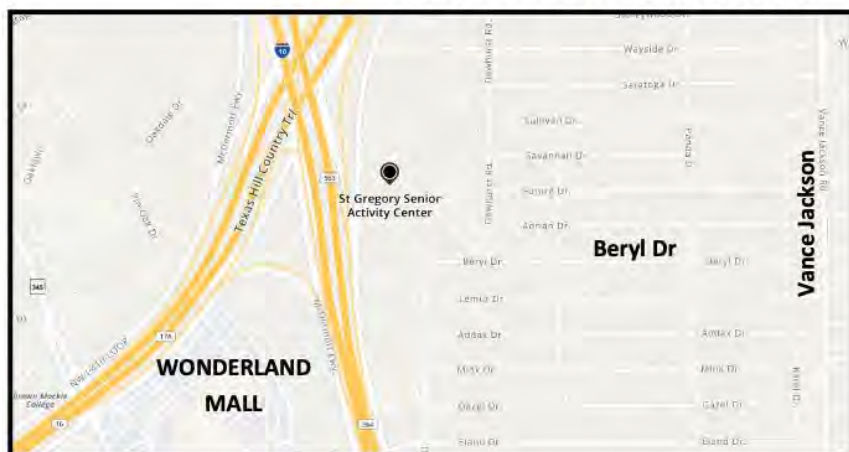
# Sweetheart Raffle

gift card giveaway

**5 Chances to WIN \$50 Donation or 3 for \$100**

**1st Prize \$ 5,000 - 2nd Prize \$ 1,000 - 3rd Prize \$ 500**

**4th & 5th Prizes \$ 250/each**



Valentine Games Night and the Sweetheart Raffle are fundraising elements of the 2026 Save Our Sight / Stride for Sight Campaign with net proceeds directed toward LSRF Special Projects and other needs of the Lions Eye Health Program.

**St. Gregory the Great Parish Hall**  
**709 Beryl Dr. San Antonio, Texas 78213**  
**Just off IH 10 W and NW Loop 410 near Wonderland Mall**

*Announcing the Kick off of the*  
**2026 Save Our Sight / Stride for Sight Campaign**  
*to Benefit the Projects of your*  
**Lions Sight Research Foundation**



*Sweetheart Raffle*

gift card giveaway

**5 Chances to WIN**

**1st Prize \$ 5,000** - 2nd Prize **\$ 1,000**

3rd Prize **\$ 500** - 4th & 5th Prizes **\$ 250** /each

**\$50.00 donation or 3 for \$100.00**

For online tickets & payment go to [www.lionssightresearch.org](http://www.lionssightresearch.org)

See "Donations" tab: "Raffle"

Checks made payable to: Lions Sight Research Foundation

For information: Lion Sam at [lsrf.sam@gmail.com](mailto:lsrf.sam@gmail.com) or (210) 326 3915

Proceeds benefit the Lions Sight Research Foundation

**Drawing Feb 14, 2026 at "Valentine Games Night"**

need not be present to win

**SPECIAL  
OFFER  
FOR YOU**

**EARN ONE FREE RAFFLE TICKET**

*For Every 5 That You Help Us Distribute*

Contact Lion Sam for details



**SAN ANTONIO FOUNDER LIONS CLUB**  
THE OLDEST LIONS CLUB IN THE WORLD



**COME JOIN US!**  
**FOR OUR**  
**DESIGNER PURSE**  
**BINGO**



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026**  
**PETROLEUM CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**8620 N NEW BRAUNFELS AVE. STE 700**

Doors open at 8:00 a.m. for **VIP SPONSORS**  
8:30 A.M. – **GENERAL ADMISSION**  
9:30 A.M. – **BINGO**

**BUY A TABLE FOR \$500**

- RESERVED TABLE FOR 8 GUESTS
- INCLUDES A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE FOR THE TABLE
- GUARANTEES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SIT TOGETHER

**\$50 INDIVIDUAL TICKET INCLUDES:**

- FULL BREAKFAST AT PETROLEUM CLUB
- ONE BINGO CARD TO PLAY 10 GAMES (EVERY GAME PRIZE WORTH \$200)

**\*FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE A  
TICKET, PLEASE CONTACT: [SAFLC@SAFLC.ORG](mailto:SAFLC@SAFLC.ORG)  
OR  
CALL (210)225-1164**

# STRIDE FOR SIGHT 5K

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

REGISTER  
ONLINE

[bit.ly/2026SFS](https://bit.ly/2026SFS)  
or  
[SolersSports.com](https://SolersSports.com)

FREE Breakfast Tacos  
FREE Kid's Fun Run  
AND MORE!

\$50 Virtual Runner/Walker  
\$35 5K Runner/Walker  
\$25 Sleep Walker  
Team\*: \$25 Team Walker  
(\*Teams should have 5 or more members)  
(\*Discount code available for  
donor family walking teams)

Comanche County Park  
Pavilion 2  
2600 Rigsby Avenue  
San Antonio, TX

8 a.m. - Race Day Registration Opens  
9 a.m. - Opening Ceremony



For additional information  
or questions, contact  
Sam Pantusa (210) 326-3915  
or [lsrf.sam@gmail.com](mailto:lsrf.sam@gmail.com)



**SA West Side Lions Club – We Serve!**

West Side Lions volunteered at St. Stevens Care Center, which is part of Catholic Charities, cleaning and stocking shelves in their Food Bank. They told us they are feeding 60 families and 70 homeless every day.

They are a true blessing to our city.



## San Antonio Hosts LCICON 2030 – Host Committee Chair Lion Josh Overfelt



<https://sanantonio2030.org/>

Fellow Lions of 2-A2,

Hopefully, you know by now that in less than 5 years, 2-A2 will become the epicenter of all things Lions Clubs International when San Antonio hosts LCICON 2030! That's right, for the first time in 40 years, the International Convention will return to Texas and be in our backyard!

I am serving as the Chair for the LCICON 2030 Host Committee, the group in charge of organizing and pulling off this monumental task. Over the next 5 years, our committee will be fundraising, bringing awareness of the event, and signing up volunteers for the convention. At this time, we are kicking off our fundraising sales with some very unique collector items.

Every Lion year, beginning in July, we will release a new collector pin. When the set is complete, it will spell TEXAS. Each pin will be \$25, or if you don't want to wait, you can purchase the entire set at once for \$100 now and proudly show off your support.

For our clubs, we will be selling a Sponsor/Supporter Banner Patch that your club can purchase. Every Lion year, beginning in July, we will release a new section of the patch. When the set is complete, it will create a full image. Each patch piece will be \$250, or if your club wants to purchase the entire set, it will be \$1000. Several clubs around the state have purchased the entire at once. These patches are limited.

We also have sponsor pins for those who also wish to make a financial donation to the Convention. Depending on your donation, you will receive a Bronze, Silver, or Gold pin that you can proudly wear to show your support of LCICON 2030 San Antonio.

Our website is slowly coming online, so check back for more info.

I am including the order forms for the three items talked about above. Please return an order form digitally to [lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com](mailto:lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com) or mail the form along with a check or cashier's check made out to LCICON 2030 Host Committee to the following address:

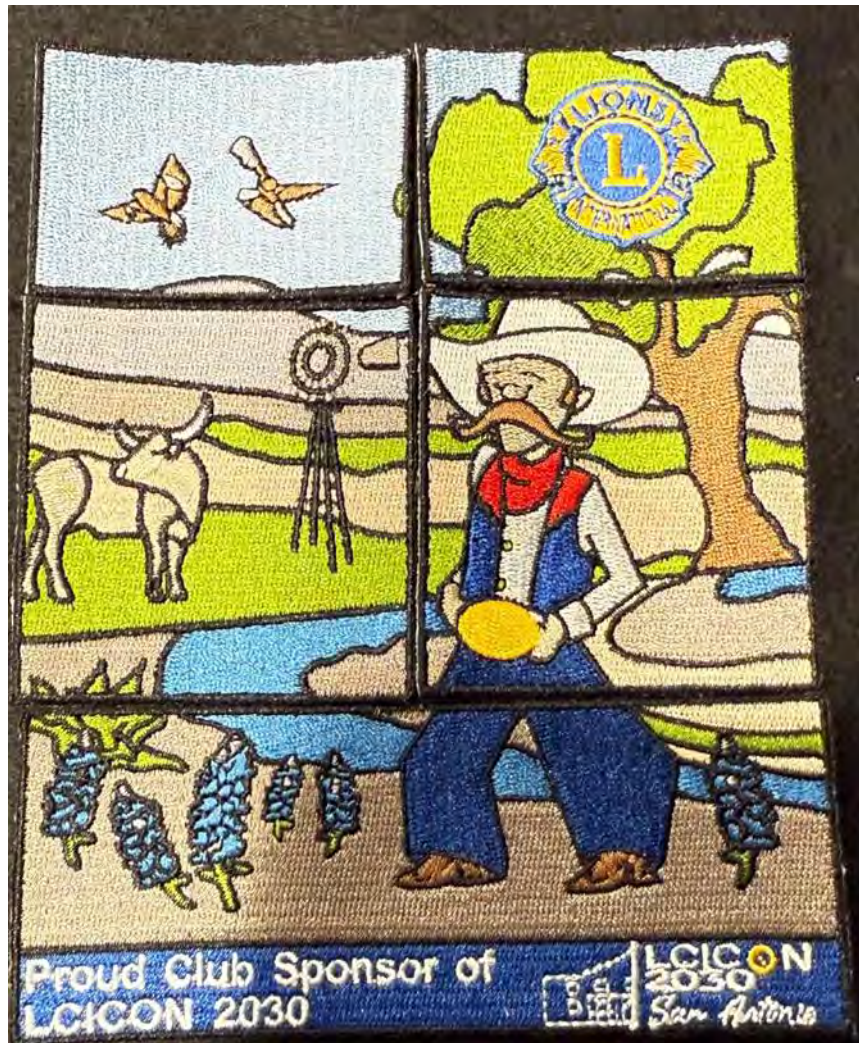
LCICON 2030 Host Committee  
c/o Josh Overfelt  
101 Lilac Lane  
Del Rio, Texas 78840

I am including some pictures of the pins and patches so you can get a visual of what they look like.

A huge thank you for supporting LCICON 2030 San Antonio

*Lion Josh*

LCICON Host Committee Chair  
Josh Overfelt  
[josh.overfelt@gmail.com](mailto:josh.overfelt@gmail.com)



## LCICON 2030 San Antonio Commemorative Pin Set Pre-Order Form



T E X A S Pin Set	QTY	<input type="text"/>	X	\$100.00	=	<input type="text"/>
"T" Pin (1 of 5)	QTY	<input type="text"/>	X	\$25.00	=	<input type="text"/>
"E" Pin (2 of 5)	QTY	<input type="text"/>	X	\$25.00	=	<input type="text"/>
"X" Pin (3 of 5)	QTY	<input type="text"/>	X	\$25.00	=	<input type="text"/>
"A" Pin (4 of 5)	QTY	<input type="text"/>	X	\$25.00	=	<input type="text"/>
"S" Pin (5 of 5)	QTY	<input type="text"/>	X	\$25.00	=	<input type="text"/>
SHIPPING (YES OR NO)				\$5.00	=	<input type="text"/>
				TOTAL	=	<input type="text"/>

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ST / ZIP

EMAIL

PHONE #

Return a digital image of the completed form to [lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com](mailto:lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com)



## LCICON 2030 San Antonio Individual Lion Sponsorship Form



### BRONZE SPONSORS

Individual Sponsors Contributing Up To \$250.00

- Recognition on Convention Website being developed
- Recognition on MD2 produced convention materials
- Recognition at convention in 2030
- Bronze Commemorative Pin
- 



### SILVER SPONSORS

Individual Sponsors Contributing Up To \$500.00

- Recognition on Convention Website being developed
- Recognition on MD2 produced convention materials
- Recognition at convention in 2030
- Silver Commemorative Pin
- 



### GOLD SPONSORS

Individual Sponsors Contributing Over \$500.00

- Recognition on Convention Website being developed
- Recognition on MD2 produced convention materials
- Recognition at convention in 2030
- Gold Commemorative Pin
- 

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / ST / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Return a digital image of the completed form to [lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com](mailto:lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com)



## LCICON 2030 San Antonio MD2 Lions Club Sponsorship Form

Cowboy Patch Set	\$1,000.00	_____
Patch 1 of 5	\$250.00	_____
Patch 2 of 5	\$250.00	_____
Patch 3 of 5	\$250.00	_____
Patch 4 of 5	\$250.00	_____
Patch 5 of 5	\$250.00	_____
SHIPPING (YES OR NO)	\$5.00	_____
	TOTAL	_____

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB # \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / ST / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Return a digital image of the completed form to [lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com](mailto:lcicon2030sanantonio@gmail.com)



# Sign Up, Step Up, Catch Up



## For Century Club - It's "Service from the Heart"

If you aren't a member of the TLC Century Club, please "Sign Up"; if you are a member, consider "Stepping Up" to the next level; and if you were a member but dropped out, consider "Catching Up" (i.e., come back in).

**What is Texas Lions Camp Century Club?** It's an individual annual giving program, and as such, it is giving from your own heart, independent of Club budgets or fund raisers. It is one of the lifebloods of our operating budget, that in normal times sends up to 1500 children with special needs to Texas Lions Camp each summer, and yet less than 5% of Texas Lions are members.

**Who can be a Century Club Member?** Anyone can be a member. You don't have to be a Lion. It can be family or friends. You can even be a non-Texan, but it is our Texas Lions who are the backbone of the Century Club.

**What does it cost to be a member?** You can give your gift annually, or you can give monthly. A Bronze member is \$100 (\$10 if monthly); Silver is \$250; Gold \$500; Diamond is \$1,000; & Ambassador is \$5,000. Membership automatically renews each year, so members should join with the intention of making their same gift each year or even increasing their level.

**How do I enroll or Step Up?** Go to [www.lionscamp.com](http://www.lionscamp.com), click on "Get Involved" and go to "Donate Now". There you will find "Ways to Give". Click that open and select "Century Club". If you scroll down, you will see the option to enroll online or to download and print out the form to send to the Camp directly.

**Sign Up, Step Up, Catch Up** is a drive to beef up our Century Club membership for the Texas Lions Camp, as a birthday present to Texas Lions Camp on its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024. Today we have half the number of Texas Lions, supporting twice the number of campers at over twice the cost, as we did some 30 years ago. If we reach our goal of an increase of **\$60/mo. among the members of EACH club in Texas**, we will generate an additional of **\$575,000 ANNUALLY**, which would generate 15% of our operating budget, and help us keep serving our special children into the future.

A \$60 increase from the members of each Texas Club is doable. "Signing Up" as a new Bronze member is a \$10/mo. increase (\$100 if pd. ann.); a new Silver is \$21/mo. (\$250/yr.); a Gold is \$42/mo.(\$500); etc. Likewise, "Stepping Up" from Bronze to Silver is an \$11/mo. increase; Bronze to Gold is a \$32/mo. increase; going from Silver to Gold is a \$21/mo. increase, etc.

**\$575,000/year - now that's some 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday present!**

**There's a saying at TLC that "ALL CAN DO". Yes, Texas Lions, \$60/mo./club. WE CAN DO IT.**



# A COUPLE OF TIPS FOR WORKING WITH THE LION PORTAL

To Begin take a look at the Home Page of Lions International at:

[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org), [Lions Clubs Membership](#) | [Lions Clubs International](#)

And click on “Member Log In” 



## THEN How do I register for Lion Portal?

If you have an existing account, all your data has already been transferred and the email address you'll use to login has not changed. You will only need to setup a new Lion Portal password.

Follow the steps below to begin accessing the new Lion Portal:

1. Go to the Lion Account login page and sign in using your existing credentials, this will transfer you to the new Lion Portal
2. Here, you can either enter your current password or create a new one
3. From there, you'll be able access and begin using the new Lion Portal

Still not able to access your new Lion Portal account? Get in touch with the Member Service Center.

**Member Service Center phone number:**

+1 630-468-6900

**Member Service Center email:**

[lionsupport@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionsupport@lionsclubs.org)

**Then Check Out**

**TRAINING VIDEOS to  
get a good start**



**TWO OF THE FIRST THAT YOU WANT TO LOOK AT ARE:**

[Navigating Lion Portal as a Lion or Leo \(youtube.com\)](#) and

[Navigating Lion Portal as a Leader \(youtube.com\)](#)

## •GUIDELINES FOR EVERY *LIONS CLUB PRESIDENT*

•The beginning of learning about the role of Lions Club Vice President and President can be found at LCI - lionsclubs.org in the e-Book at

[md\\_glEW1O9UElw3.jpg.pdf \(webdamdb.com\)](#) OR at the District 2-A2 website - [District2a2.org](#) at the Menu Choice called "DOCUMENTS" >> "TRAINING DOCUMENTS" At the same page at the District Website are e-Books for guidance in working as CLUB SECRETARY and CLUB TREASURER as well as guidance for several other key positions.

## BEYOND THE BASICS

Lions Clubs International also provides a wide range of educational resources to help in specific topic areas which are located at the LIONS PORTAL under the Tab heading called "LEARN". At "LEARN", LCI offers a host of resources and tracks each Lion's coursework which enables all of us and, especially, our District Leadership, to know the extent and level of training received. 'LEARN' looks like:



All of the topics are online and self-taught at whatever pace works for you. From the headings in the picture, you can see that there are multi-levels of learning from basic to institutional.

## LOCAL RESOURCES

If, however, you as a Club Officer are looking for guidance at a more local level, know that your District Global Leadership Team is here to assist. Your first call should be to your Zone Chair who serves as your immediate connection to the GLT.

For further information contact PDG Sam Pantusa at [lsrf.sam@gmail.com](mailto:lsrf.sam@gmail.com) or call 210 326 3915