

GST 24-L Cabinet Report September 2025

The 2025-2026 Lions Year has gotten off to a great start! Zone Chairs have been responsive and eager to help the clubs in their zones to achieve success and fulfillment in providing assistance to the communities they serve.

Two Kindness Matters applications were submitted, and though they are entirely different, they fill a need in the community.

Montclair Lions Club has provided comfort items for patients in the Palliative Care program at Georgetown Hospital for the past three years, serving approximately 500 patients. Unlike traditional healthcare donations that focus on clinical needs, this partnership initiative centers around “the creature comforts” that offer emotional relief, warmth, and dignity during some of life’s most difficult moments. These include comfort items such as plush blankets, soothing music players, journals, small hand-held fans, and personal care kits that support both physical and emotional well-being of patients facing serious illness. As a Comfort and Compassion collaboration under the Humanitarian Focus of Lions internationally, Montclair Lions Club is allowed to make a meaningful difference not only in the care setting, but also in how patients and families feel supported and seen.

Park West Lions Club has joined the Fraternal Order of Police – Battlefield Lodge 43’s annual “Santa Cops” event held every December. In this event, the police officers take 50+ “at risk” Children, chosen by local schools and based on their financial needs, to Walmart to Christmas shop. The children have a \$200 spending limit, using money donated from within the community. Many of the children choose blankets, socks, gloves, and coats to keep warm. They then bring the children, with lights and sirens blaring, to the Park West Lions Club. The Lions members have decorated the room, and cooked, and prepared breakfast for approximately 200 people, including the children, police officers, and volunteers. Police from multiple county, city and federal agencies unite to support this project. With this Youth Focus of Lions internationally, everyone has a heart-warming good time, watching the smiles on the faces of these needy children, while establishing positive bonds between these children and law enforcement.

The Kindness Matters Award submitted by the Park West Lions Club was chosen by the District 24-L committee to advance to the State Level.

I highly recommend that both Lions Clubs be recognized in some way for applying for the Kindness Matters Award.

Zones Chairs are encouraged to communicate with every club president and secretary in their zone and to encourage clubs to participate in the Three Service Weeks as stipulated by the International President A.P. Singh. An additional 10 days has been allowed either before or after the Service Week dates. This is a call to action for Lions and Leos around the world to serve three dedicated focus areas during three special weeks of service:

Mental Health and Well-Being – October 4-12, 2025

Hunger – January 3-11, 2026

Environment – April 18-26, 2026

It is important that all clubs report service hours on the Lions Portal as quickly as possible. Without following the Weeks of Service specified above during the allotted dates, your club will **not** qualify for the Club Excellence Award. There is access to the portal available on the District Website if needed. If any club has problems with accessing the portal and reporting their service hours, please do not hesitate to contact me.

(At one zone meeting that I attended, there was one club president who said he would never report service hours as it wasn't important to him, not that he had any difficulty doing it. It was explained to him that LCI needed clubs to report service hours so that LCI could approach large corporations for donations, grants, etc., and had the documented reports of how we are putting monies and service hours to work in communities, local and around the world. Despite the gentle encouragement of the other club members and even a PDG on Zoom, he could not be persuaded).

Clubs are encouraged to get the news out to other clubs as to what you are doing. We can all learn from each other's Best Practices – exactly what is working for you, your club and your community. Whether by Zoom, Facebook, Websites, PAWS articles, email, or club visits, it is important to keep the lines of communication open with one another. Together we grow, and “the more we grow, the more we can give.”

The Fall conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025. I hope clubs will make an effort to attend. There is a lot to learn about what's going on in our District! The time to register is now!

YIS,

Lion Evelyn Marr
District 24-L GST

