



# The LION'S DEN

A Publication of the Elk Grove Village Lions Club  
Serving the Community since 1958

Elk Grove Village, Illinois

February 2026

## President's Report

The New Year 2026 has brought changes to the Elk Grove Village Lions.

Due to a directive from Lions Clubs International, Katy Dolan Baumer has regrettably, transferred her Lion's membership to the Palatine Lions Club and has resigned as our President. She has requested and been approved to become an Associate Member of our club and will still be able to participate in our events.

The Board of Directors met and I assumed the duties of President for the remainder of Lion s Katy's term which ends on June 31, 2026. PCC Mike Baumer has assumed the duties of Secretary until June 31, 2026.

Going forward we need to develop new goals by revisiting older club traditions and creating new traditions, allowing us to grow as a club. Share your ideas, offer suggestions which will allow us to help others who need our help.

This is your club, get involved! Without your help we cannot succeed. Get involved, talk about the Lions with your friends, sponsor a new member, serve on a committee, help to arrange new service projects, and participate where you can.

Plan to attend the District 1F Convention March 14<sup>th</sup> to help support our Sabrina Swanson 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG as she continues on her lion's leadership journey to become District Governor and to show your support for Katy Dolan Baumer as she begins her journey. This event is also an opportunity to meet Lions from other clubs.

Together We Serve,

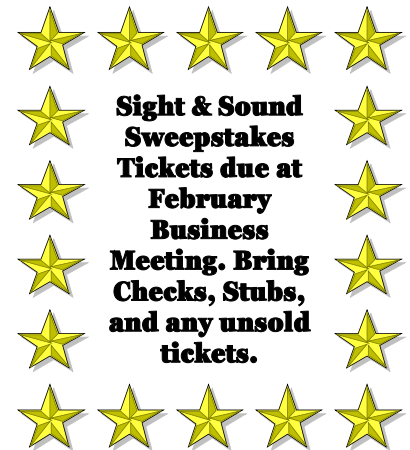
Barb Lahtinen, PDG  
President Elk Grove Village Lions Club



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**Village Board**  
**Meeting Date**  
**Change**  
**Tuesday, Feb 10**  
**6:45 p.m.**  
**Village Hall**


  
**Sight & Sound**  
**Sweepstakes**  
**Tickets due at**  
**February**  
**Business**  
**Meeting. Bring**  
**Checks, Stubs,**  
**and any unsold**  
**tickets.**

## **The Lion's Den**

A publication of the  
Elk Grove Village Lions Club  
Published monthly

### **2025-2026 Board of Directors**

#### *President*

Lion Barbara Lahtinen, PDG

#### *Secretary*

Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

#### *Treasurer*

Lion Chuck Burkot

#### *Immediate Past President*

Lion Katy Dolan Baumer

#### *1st Vice President*

Open

#### *2nd Vice President*

Open

#### *Tail Twister*

Mike Baumer, PCC

#### *Lion Tamer*

Open

#### *Directors*

PDG Pam Abrams, Life Director

PCC Mike Baumer, Life Director

PDG Barb Lahtinen, Life Director

Lion 2VDG Sabrina Swanson (2nd year)

Lion Leonore Shaffer (2nd year)

Lion Debbie Miller (1st year)

Lion Carol Shepardson (1st year)

**Please address questions or comments  
and send all articles to Lion Mike at**

**The Lion's Den**

**mbaumer@comcast.net**



# **We Serve**

**Dinner Meeting will be held**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

**Please mark your calendars today!**

**We will dine at**



**Pilot Pete's  
905 W Irving Park Rd  
Schaumburg, IL 60193  
(847) 891-5100**

**We will gather at 6 p.m.  
with the meeting starting at  
6:30 p.m.**

**RSVP to  
Lion Carol Shepardson  
(630) 660-2082  
dplion11@gmail.com**

### **Calendar of Events**

**February 4** EGV Board Mtg followed by the  
Business Mtg

7 Blood Drive @ EG Village Hall  
18EGV Dinner Mtg @ Pilot Pete's  
281-F Winter Forum

**March 4** EGV Board Mtg followed by the  
Business Mtg

14 District 1-F Convention

**vitalant**

Blood Donation

Blood Drive—Saturday, February 7, 2026

Elk Grove Village Hall—Room E

8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

### **February Birthdays**

**Lion Leonore Shaffer 2/6**

**Lion Jenna Kolcz 2/28**



# DISTRICT 1-F WINTER FORUM 2026



Saturday, February 28, 2026

Lake Villa Township Center  
37850 North Illinois Route 59 - Lake Villa  
8:30 AM - Noon



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current \_\_\_\_\_ Current \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by the Global Leadership Team - PDG Tom Lippert and PCC Mike Baumer



8:30 a.m.	Gather and Breakfast and coffee, water, juice
9:00 - 9:20 a.m.	Intro to the Winter Forum 2026
9:30 - 10:20 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
10:30 - 10:55 a.m.	Break, coffee, water
11:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions

**NOTE:** Breakfast will be brought in for this event; in order to provide enough food, please complete this form for each member attending and return it to PCC Mike. Please mark the two sessions you would like to attend so that the presenters can be prepared with enough handouts for all.

- Movin' On Up: Zone Chairperson** a first step into District leadership. Geared toward current and potential (you?) Zone Chairs. Led by PCC Mike Baumer
- Basic Cyber Security** keep your club and members safe from information theft. Led by DG Vince Leone
- All Things LIF: Lions of Illinois Foundation** from hearing and vision screenings to the latest technology for on-site exams, Camp Lions, much more. Led by Trustee Bill Stanley and Trustee Terry Sherman
- Leadership in Lions** whether for business, personal or Lions, Lionism offers training and opportunities to increase confidence and growth. PDG Barbara Lahtinen and ZC Katy Dolan Baumer
- Vision Impairments** discussion on visual impairments, what a vision teacher does, and how best to reach out to vision itinerants to form relationships, and a special program description from the Palatine Lions. Led by Lion Gianna Guskey and Lion Dawn Rodriguez

Send completed form via email to  
mbaumer@comcast.net  
no later than February 21, 2026. Call Lion Mike at 630-632-6365



**An excellent way to increase your Lions knowledge!  
Creating a strong base for growth and health of our District and Foundation.**

**Celebrating Hong Kong nights  
at District Hospitality!**



**Saturday, March 14, 2026**  
**Hilton Chicago/Northbrook**  
 2855 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook  
 847-480-7500

**2026 DISTRICT 1-F CONVENTION**  
**"A Celebration of Lions"**

New Lion?   
 First Convention?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark Highest office held:**

<input type="checkbox"/> ID	<input type="checkbox"/> PID	<input type="checkbox"/> Council Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> PCC
<input type="checkbox"/> District Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> PDG	<input type="checkbox"/> First Vice District Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Second Vice District Governor
<input type="checkbox"/> Zone Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Club President	<b>AND:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Melvin Jones Fellow	<input type="checkbox"/> LIF Fellow

<b>Convention Registration</b> Education Sessions, "Hong Kong Nights" Hospitality, Auction, and Voting		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$25.00</b>
Early Bird Registration before 02/15/26		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$30.00</b>
Registration after 02/15 to 03/07/26. <b>For On-site or Late Registration after 03/07, add \$5 (\$35.00)</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Convention Luncheon</b> District Awards and Recognitions, LIF Presentation, etc.	Deli Buffet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Governor's Banquet</b> District 1-F & International Awards, Keynote Speaker, etc. <i>Please select one entree:</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$60.00</b>
The <b>Governor's Reception</b> precedes the Banquet. Dinner includes Salad, Bread, Vegetable, Dessert, Coffee/Tea.	Chicken Marsala, wine sauce with Mushrooms, Garlic Smashed Caesar Salmon, dijon crusted with Garlic Sauce, Rice Pilaf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$60.00</b>
	Spinach & Cheese Ravioli with Red Pepper Ratatouille	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$55.00</b>
_____ Dietary/Special Meal Considerations			
<b>Total due to District 1-F Lions by Check or via Zelle</b>			_____

**NOTE:** Even if you are paying by electronic method, this form must be completed and submitted for each attendee included in the payment. Send this form, along with check payable to **District 1-F Lions**, OR send or email this form with the box marked "Payment Via Zelle" (make sure to make notation "D1F Conv") to:  
 Lionbarbara@comcast.net • 847-712-6797  
 PDG Barb Lahtinen  
 506 Exmoor Rd., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

**ELECTRONIC  
 PAYMENT OPTION  
 via Zelle:  
 LIONSD1F@YAHOO.COM**  
 (make sure to make notation "D1F Conv")

**Frequently asked questions and Hotel reservation information:**

- Complete one form per registrant, please. Form must accompany payment or marked "Payment Via Zelle."
- For hotel reservations (847-480-7500), make sure to mention the District 1-F Convention. The link to the hotel is [www.Hilton.com](http://www.Hilton.com).
- Hotel reservations must be made by February 17, 2026 to receive special Lions rate of \$129.00 per night.
- Please note dietary restrictions on this form so that proper accommodations can be made.
- Dress for the day and evening is appropriate Lions attire (no blue jeans, please).
- Regular Registration is after 02/16/26 (must be received by 03/07/26). Late Registration 03/08/26 through on-site registration day of convention (\$35.00).
- No guarantee of meal availability after 03/07/26 or on-site registration. Check with Registration or Convention Chair.



Official Business Meeting Minutes  
Elk Grove Village Lions Club  
Meeting held Wednesday, January 7, 2026



President Lahtinen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Lahtinen led the Lions in the pledge.

**Meeting Minutes** from the Business Meeting of Wednesday, December 3, 2025 were offered to be read by Secretary Baumer; Lion Shepardson moved to waive the reading of the minutes and accept them as written; motion was seconded by Lion Swanson. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Correspondence:** Lion Baumer summarized correspondence for the attendees and passed the folder around so the members could review it in detail if they so desired.

**Treasurer's Report:** There was no Treasurer's Report presented as Lion Treasurer Burkot is ill, but recovering.

**Committee Reports:**

Holiday Judging Committee: Lion President Lahtinen reported that we have been invited the Village Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 to help present the awards. Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. and wear appropriate Lions attire. Lion President Lahtinen thanked all the Lions that braved the cold to judge all of the entries.

Eye Glass/Hearing Aid Assistance: Lion Dolan Baumer reported that the Board has approved assistance for two elderly residents of the Village. They will be fitted as soon as possible.

Blood Drive: Lion Dolan Baumer reported that our first co-sponsored Blood Drive with the Village is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Village Hall in Room E. Lion Dolan Baumer requested Lions to help with registration and handing out snacks and refreshments to the donors. She passed around a sign up sheet to those in attendance.

Leos: Lion Swanson reported that the Leos were superb in their roles as elves at the Village Tree Lighting ceremony. They really impressed Mayor Johnson!

Senior Holiday Gifts: Lion Swanson passed around personalized thank you cards from all of the seniors that received gifts. They were very appreciative of our thoughtfulness.

Dine & Share Fundraisers: Lion Miller reported that our next fundraiser is scheduled for Good Tequila on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 all day. She also reported that she has received checks from Pilot Pete's and Real Time Sports. Collective thanks was expressed to Lion Miller for all of her efforts.

Membership: Lion President Lahtinen reported that there will be a Zoom meeting of the Membership Carnival Committee on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. A link will go out to all of the committee members.

Dinner Attendance & Alert: Lion Miller reported that the February dinner meeting will be at Pilot Pete's in Schaumburg. The April and June dinner meetings will be at Real Time Sports.

**Zone Chairman Report:** Lion Dolan Baumer reported that she is working on the next Zone Meeting to be held before the District Convention farther north so that Grayslake can participate. More information will be forthcoming for the upcoming District Convention.

**Old Business:** Lion President Lahtinen updated the members on the Sight & Sound Sweepstakes. She reported that she had three books remaining for purchase.

**New Business:** Lion Swanson is advertising quarterly in the Elk Grove Township newsletter on our behalf.

Lion Garcia suggested that we do gift baskets for spring for the seniors that we do Holiday baskets for.

Lion Matt Watts suggested that we do a large Bingo Fundraiser similar to Schaumburg/Hoffman. It was collectively agreed that we would explore this idea in depth.

Lion Matt Watts along with Lion Garcia suggested we conduct an internet survey to see what the community needs from our club. It was collectively decided that we would set aside 15 minutes during our February Business Meeting to completely flesh out this idea.

**Comments:** No comments.



With no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn was made by Lion Kreutzer and seconded by Lion Garcia; motion carried by unanimous voice vote at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lion Secretary Mike Baumer

**Congrats to Lion Debbie  
Miller**

**On all of her successful  
efforts spearheading our  
Dine & Share Program!!!**

**Official Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Elk Grove Village Lions Club  
Meeting held Wednesday, January 6, 2026**



The meeting was called to order by Lion President Lahtinen at 6:15 p.m. Roll was taken by Lion Secretary Baumer who advised that there was a quorum of the Board in attendance.

The pledge was led by Lion President Lahtinen.

A motion was made by Lion Shepardson to waive the reading of the minutes for the Board Meeting of December 3, 2025, and approve them as written. It was seconded by Lion Swanson and was passed by a majority vote.

A motion was made by Lion Shepardson to waive the reading of the minutes for the Special Board Meeting of December 27, 2025, and approve them as written. It was seconded by Lion Swanson and was passed by a majority vote.

Treasurer's Report- There was no Treasurer's report since Lion Burkot is ill, but recovering.

Bills were presented to the Board for payment as follows:

LCI (Dues).....\$512.50

A motion was made to pay the bills as presented by Lion Swanson. It was seconded by Lion Shepardson and it was passed by a majority vote.

Correspondence was summarized by Lion Secretary Baumer for the Board and was passed around so the Directors could review it in detail if they so desired.

Committee Reports:

Blood Drive: Lion Dolan Baumer informed the Board that the Village has scheduled our first co-sponsored Blood Drive for Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Village Hall in Room E in the old courtroom. It will run from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. She will solicit help during the Business Meeting.

Village Tree Lighting: Lion President Lahtinen thanked all the Lions and their friends that helped us on November 28. The Village was very pleased with our service.

Eyc Glass/Hearing Aid Assistance: Lion Dolan Baumer reported that met with two candidates for hearing aid assistance. The first was an elderly gentleman by the name of Adam Rzepka who lives on Wellington in the Village. After investigation Lion Dolan Baumer determined that he is qualified for assistance. Lion Swanson made a motion to approve the purchase and fitting of two hearings aids for Mr. Rzepka from the Lions of Illinois Foundation. The motion was seconded by Lion Miller and it was passed by a majority vote. The second was for an elderly lady by the name of Carol Leber who lives on Shadywood in the Village. After investigation Lion Dolan Baumer determined that she is qualified for assistance. Lion Swanson made a motion to approve the purchase and fitting of two hearings aids for Ms. Leber from the Lions of Illinois Foundation. The motion was seconded by Lion Miller and it was passed by a majority vote.

**Official Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Elk Grove Village Lions Club  
Meeting held Wednesday, January 6, 2026**



Old Business- Lion President Lahtinen announced that there will be a meeting of the Membership Carnival Committee via Zoom on January 22 at 8:00 p.m.

New Business: Lion President reported that an application has been made by Lion Katy Dolan Baumer to become an Associate Member of the Elk Grove Village Lions Club. Lion Swanson made a motion to approve the application of Lion Katy Dolan Baumer to become an Associate Member of the Elk Grove Village Lions Club. The motion was seconded by lion Shepardson and it was passed by a majority vote.

There were no President's comments.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lion Shepardson, seconded by Lion Miller and was passed by majority vote.

Lion President Lahtinen then declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Secretary Mike Baumer



**Sign up today for the  
February 28 Winter Forum  
using the form on page 3**

**Sign up today for the March  
14 1-F Convention using the  
form on page 4**

# Elk Grove Village Lions Club

## Committee List



### **Budget & Finance**

Chair: Lion Chuck Burkot

Members: Lion Matt Watts, Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

### **Donation Recommendations**

Chair: Lion Chuck Burkot

Members: Lion Matt Watts, Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

### **Nominations**

Chair: Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG

Members: All Club Officers

### **Constitution & By-Laws**

Chair: Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

Members: Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG

### **4th of July Food Tent**

Chair: Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG, Lion Mike Baumer, PCC, Lion Chuck Burkot

Members: Lion Suyapa Garcia, Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

### **Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Chair: Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG

Members: Lion Karen Hicks, Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

### **Memorial Day Service**

Chair: Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG

Members: Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

### **Halloween House Decorations Judging**

Chair: Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG

Members: Lion Karen Hicks, Lion Pam Abrams, PDG, Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

### **Holiday House Decorations Judging**

Chair: Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG

Members: Lion Kare Hicks, Lion Matt Watts, Lions Pam Abrams, PDG, Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

### **Hometown Float Committee**

Chair: Lion Katy Dolan Baumer, ZC

Members: Lions Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG, Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

### **Leo Club & CUB Program Liaison**

Chair: Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

Members: Lion Suyapa Garcia, Lion Matt Watts

### **Membership**

Chair: Lion Mike Baumer, PCC, Lion Barb Lahtinen, PDG

Members: All Lions Memebers

### **Public Relations**

Chair: Lion Alva Kreutzer

Members:

### **DARE Program**

Chair: Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

Members:

### **Ron Foster Awards**

Chair: Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

Members:

### **Christmas For Seniors**

Chair: Lion Matt Watts

Members: Lion Sabrina Swanson, 2VDG

### **Fundraisers**

Chair: All Lions Members

### **Poker**

Chair: Lion Chuck Burkot, Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

Members:

### **Dinner Attendance & Alert**

Chair: Lion Debbie Miller

Members: Lion Carol Shepardson

### **Club Chaplain**

Chair: Lion Carol Shepardson

Members:

### **Club Service Projects**

Chair:

Members: All Lions Members

### **Club Social Activities**

Chair:

Members: All Lions Members

### **Meeting Programs**

Chair:

Members: All Lions Members

### **District Convention**

Chair:

Members:

### **Candy Day**

Chair:

Members: All Lions Members

### **Lion's Den Editor**

Chair: Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

Members: All Lions Officers

### **Eye Glass/Hearing Aid Assistance**

Chair: Lion Katy Dolan Baumer

Members: Lion Priscilla Watts

### **Eye Glass/Hearing Aid Collections**

Chair: Lion Katy Dolan Baumer

Members:

### **Sight & Hearing Bus (LIF)**

Chair: Lion Katy Dolan Baumer

Members:

### **Memorial & Historical**

Chair: Lion Katy Dolan Baumer

Members:

### **Recognition/Awards**

Chair:

Members: All Lions Officers

### **Sunshine**

Chair: Lion Carol Shepardson

Members:

### **Webmaster/Technology**

Chair: Lion Mike Baumer, PCC

Members:



# Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

Dear D1F Lions, Lionesses, LEOs, & CUBs,

For everyone who still believes in helping those in need, caring for your fellow men and women, giving to those less fortunate and in need of assistance to get through the day, week, or the entire year; I wish you to again consider the Founder of our Lions Organization, Melvin Jones, as we celebrate his 147th, Birthday on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026.

Melvin Jones was born on January 13th, 1879 at Fort Thomas, Arizona, a remote U.S. Army cavalry post where his father was a scout for the Army. At age 7, Jones and his family moved east and settled in Illinois. Gifted with a fine tenor voice, he considered making a career in music, but instead he became an insurance salesman.

By 1913, he had formed his own insurance agency in Chicago, and joined a networking luncheon club for businessmen in Chicago called the Business Circle. Melvin, as the Business Club Secretary, along with his wife, championship golfer, Rose Amanda Freeman, saw a larger focus on these men improving their communities through service, and began writing letters to clubs nationwide inviting them to take up his idea for a service-centered organization. Businessmen convened in Chicago, Illinois, and on June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born.

Later that year, at Lions' inaugural convention in Dallas, Texas, Jones was elected Secretary-Treasurer, a title he would hold for many years. Eventually, the board bestowed on Jones the title of Secretary General for life.

Lions around the World are celebrating LCIF Week ( January 11-17th) by honoring our founder's enduring legacy of service.

To commemorate Melvin Jones' birthday, donors who make a minimum gift of US\$147 during the campaign are eligible to receive a limited -edition Mevin Jones Birthday lapel pin, created especially for this celebration. Please email [DonorAssistance@lionsclubs.org](mailto:DonorAssistance@lionsclubs.org) with receipt of your gift of a minimum of \$147 and request for the birthday pin through Jan 30th, 2026.

Donate today at [lionsclubs.org/donate](https://lionsclubs.org/donate) and check out some of the ways grant-funding is used here: [lcifpride.org/](https://lcifpride.org/).

Sincerely in Lionism,

PDG Lion Molly M. Penny

LCIF CoCoordinator

