

Written Testimony to the House Emergency Management and Veterans Committee

Submitted by Edward Glad on 1/12/2026

My name is Edward Glad and I am a Past District Governor for Lions District 36=O of Northwest Oregon here to today to talk about Lions Clubs in Oregon working in our communities to become prepared to respond to Emergence Disasters.

The 120 Lions Clubs throughout Oregon are proud of the work we are doing to participate in community emergency management and preparedness. The examples below are just a few examples of how Lions locally and our connection to Lions International is part of the fabric of the largest volunteer humanitarian service organization in the world. Lions International is a worldwide network of clubs of volunteers in local communities set up to serve at the Local level. 1.4 million members make up the extent Lionism has spread over the past 112 years in nearly every country throughout the world. Lions' clubs are made up of compassionate community members, Business people, Doctors, Lawyers, Optometrists and Opticians all volunteer their time. Carpenters and tradesmen find a place to go outside of their work. Faith communities join with Lions Clubs. Politicians of every stripe and office make up Lions Clubs. We are a non-Religious, non-sectarian, non-political bunch of local do-gooders working to support our neighbors. We, Lions live to our motto – WE SERVE.

COMMITTEE TESTIMONY LIONS DISTRICT 36R DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (DPP) JANUARY 14, 2026

My name is Jim Origliosso and I am the Chair of the Lions 36R Disaster Preparedness Committee (DPP). District 36R geographically is from the Cascades to coast and from roughly Woodburn to Drain.

The mission of the DPP is to mobilize Lions to assist in preparing for and responding to disasters. Initial efforts centered on creating a network of some 100 volunteers to assemble, transport and distribute 300 emergency kits. The contents of these kits were obtained through grants from the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the Home Depot Foundation. Each kit at this point is a 5-gallon bucket containing an assortment of supplies intended to sustain an individual in the first hours of a disaster. These kits are being held in Dry Boxes at the “Hubs” in Silverton School and at the Creswell Airport. The kits are available for deployment by ground utilizing Lions volunteers and vehicles or by air through a partnership with the Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team (ODART).

Both the Silverton Lions Club and ODART were awarded State grants to site Type 1 Resilience Hubs at the Silverton High School and the Creswell Airport. The grants are administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services – Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM). Each hub consists of 3 – 40 ft. Connex dry boxes containing

generators, communications equipment, and sufficient food/water to sustain up to 150 people for 3-10 days. The emergency kits, the equipment and supplies contained in the Hubs are available not only to the local communities of Silverton and Creswell but anywhere throughout Oregon as may be needed.

The DPP Committee is currently working to acquire several freeze-dryer machines to convert rescued food donations into long shelf-life emergency food.

The Oregon Lions Clubs have proven to be a reliable partner with State and local emergency management to provide relief to those suffering from disaster events. Both the Lions Clubs and ODART are 100% volunteer organizations providing a for an efficient and low-cost response to maximizes the leverage of donated and governmental support.

Easter Oregon Lions in Action

During the recent Rowena wildfire in Oregon and the Burdoin Fire in Washington, the Dalles Lions Club joined forces with local nonprofit organizations, Wasco County Emergency Services, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, the Dalles Police Department, and countless local volunteers to help ease the losses caused by these devastating wildfires.

The Dalles Lions Club applied for and received grant funding to help offset the financial hardships faced by many residents. In addition, our club coordinated the collection and distribution of donated clothing, food, and other essential items during the height of the emergency. One of the greatest challenges we encountered was organizing and unifying the efforts of numerous faith-based organizations, nonprofit groups, donation centers, and individual volunteers. Once all available programs and resources were identified, the Lions Club played a central role in coordinating and managing the overwhelming volume of donated goods.

The strength of our community was on full display. What would our community be without the Dalles Lions Club? It is truly unimaginable.

Lions 36-G District Governor Timothy McGlothlin is a City of the Dalles Councilor

During the Silvies River Flood in Burns this past Year, Lions applied for and within days received a \$15,000 grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation, alongside a \$5,000 donation from the Burns Lions themselves and an additional \$1,000 from the Crooked River Ranch Lions, vital resources were delivered to families in need. The collaboration extended to Parr Lumber, which provided discounted building materials such as sheetrock, subflooring, and insulation.

Past District 36G Governor Pete Runnels is a former County Judge

Western Oregon

The Carlton-Yamhill Lions in spring 2025 organized a community event including the Yamhill County office of Emergency Management, the Yamhill Community Neighborhood Association, YC School Superintendent and several other speakers for an Emergency Preparedness presentation. The new Carlton Community Center was filled to standing room only for a two-hour discussion on being personally ready for a possible disaster. This included “Go bags,” resources and evacuation routes. A lively Q&A discussion ensued on what resources would be available in the event of a disaster and what public entities would be involved and to what capacity.