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Three Hours Apart, One Mission: Champaign and Dixon, IL Podcast Hosts Mobilize Votes Ahead of Oct 15th Cut in National Top Host Competition

*Laughing with Lions hosts **Cheryl Weaver** and **Lisa Janes** connect mental health, laughter, and a national competition benefiting the **Ryan Seacrest Foundation**.*

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., October 8, 2026 — **Cheryl Weaver** and her Laughing with Lions co-host **Lisa Janes** are itching to climb to number one in their group in the national **Top Host** competition, and with rankings changing daily, they are asking Champaign, Dixon, and surrounding communities to **help push them to the top!** The next voting cut is **Thursday, October 15, at 9 p.m. Central**. Supporters can vote for Weaver at <https://tophost.org/2026/cheryl-weaver>.

Weaver lives in Champaign and Janes lives in Dixon; despite living three hours apart, they commute to record the podcast together. Known as “The Coach & The Comedian,” the pair combines coaching, storytelling, humor, and honest conversations about the beliefs and experiences that shape everyday life. Their message is straightforward: Your pain is not your identity, and your story isn’t over. “Having the ability to touch more lives and bring emotional stability, hope, and freedom to people who are suffering is what we live for and is our calling,” Weaver said.

“The need for mental-health support is enormous, and people are hurting. Winning this gives us the chance to reach more hearts,” Weaver states. The winner receives \$25,000, a six-episode podcast produced by **iHeartRadio**, and a guest appearance on *On Air with Ryan Seacrest*. The competition’s fundraising benefits the **Ryan Seacrest Foundation**.

The **Ryan Seacrest Foundation** builds and sustains Seacrest Studios in children’s hospitals, giving patients opportunities to explore broadcasting and experience moments of creativity, connection, and joy. That model resonates with Weaver and Janes, who hope to bring Laughing with Lions into local chapels and retail spaces where people can see the podcast in action. Supporting the competition’s fundraiser connects their bid for a larger audience with a mission that reflects their own hopes of bringing encouragement and laughter into public spaces.

“Sometimes people need a little laughter before they’re ready for a difficult conversation. That’s what I love about our show—we can talk about real pain and still make room for joy,” Janes said. She wants listeners to know they can find joy and freedom even in hard times.

During an appearance on Laughing with Lions, neurosurgeon Dr. Avery Jackson connected laughter with well-being, referencing MD Anderson Cancer Center. “When you laugh, it actually improves quality of life and length of life for people who have cancer and have cancer therapy,” Jackson said. He pointed to laughter classes for cancer patients—a connection that resonates with Weaver and Janes’ approach of bringing comedic relief to difficult conversations. “Laugh while you learn” is their invitation.

The Laughing with Lions partnership began when a friend encouraged Weaver, a former Champaign public-access television host, to start a podcast. Janes was ready to return after a break from her own podcast, *Undignified Joy*, and Weaver knew she wanted Janes beside her.

Their tagline captures the purpose behind the conversations: “Where Freedom Roars, Healing Rises, & Untold Truth Resides.”

At a recent bridal shower, Weaver encountered someone she hadn't seen in years—and learned he had been listening to the podcast. He told her that its series on betrayal helped him support a coworker experiencing a painful betrayal. According to Weaver, the coworker then listened to the series himself and found it helpful as he processed what had happened.

VOTE. WATCH. SHARE.

Help these local hosts reach more listeners: **cast one free vote every 24 hours** after verification, watch an episode, and share both links. Optional donations provide additional votes and support the competition's fundraising campaign benefiting the **Ryan Seacrest Foundation**.

Vote for Cheryl Weaver, co-host of Laughing with Lions:

<https://tophost.org/2026/cheryl-weaver>



Watch the show and discover The Coach & The Comedian:

<https://laughingwithlions.com>

Supporters are encouraged to share both links and invite a friend to watch an episode.

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Interviews available with **Cheryl Weaver** and **Lisa Janes**.

Cheryl Weaver is an AACC-certified Master Professional Mental Health & Life Coach, Church of God Chaplain, Minister, Speaker, and CEO of the nonprofit There's More Ministries, Inc., with 35 years of healing ministry experience. **Cheryl Weaver** is also the author of *Unbroken Promises*, available on Amazon.

Lisa Janes is a Comedian, Storyteller, Minister, and CEO of Image Keepers Media & Production Unlimited.

ABOUT LAUGHING WITH LIONS

Laughing with Lions is a coaching-meets-comedy podcast hosted by **Cheryl Weaver** and **Lisa Janes**. Known as "The Coach & The Comedian," the duo blends sharp storytelling, humor, and honest conversations about mental health and faith. Listeners are invited to **laugh while they learn** about leadership, emotional well-being, and finding hope in difficult seasons. Their message is clear: **Your pain is not your identity, and your story isn't over. There is more. Where Freedom Roars, Healing Rises, & Untold Truth Resides.**

Learn more at laughingwithlions.com.

If no one has told you today, YOU MATTER!

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