

# District Governor Newsletter

July  
2020

DG Mike Collins  
1<sup>st</sup> VDG Michael Tobin  
2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Scott Dornfeld  
[www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org)



## Message from District Governor Mike Collins

**“Where there is a need, there is a Lion”**

**Dear Montana Lions,**

What a privilege to be the Governor for District 37. It is very humbling following the many great district governors who have led the way before me. I want every Lion to know I do not take this position lightly, it is a lofty responsibility, and I will work hard to meet expectations.

What a crazy, interesting year we have had so far. The challenges have been huge. Having to cancel our convention in April was a big blow to our district. Using technology to replace our regular

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meetings is a challenge. Finding ways to fundraise and still serve our communities is difficult. We

are Lions; we will overcome these challenges and become stronger Lions and clubs.

International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi's presidential message is "**United in Kindness and Diversity.**" My theme this year is "**Serving our communities with Kindness**".

The NAMI Team and District officers are working on forming one new traditional club, and one cyber/specialty club in the upcoming year. We want to continue to grow our clubs. I am asking that each club add a net of 2 new members this year.

We are currently planning on having a Mid-Winter Rally in January and hope to have details soon. This will be a gathering with the focus on fun, fellowship, and learning. The District 37 Convention will be held in Kalispell on April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We will continue to offer club officer training online and hope to have in-person sessions, by region, in May and June of 2021.

We have a great team of dedicated lions who will be your leaders this year, leaders striving to make this district the best it can be. The NAMI Team, Zone chairs, our

GMT, GLT, GST representatives, are there to listen to and support your club. NAMI Team Members, District Officers and guiding lions will visit your club upon your request and are also there to help you. I will always be available for guidance, questions, and concerns. Every club member is a part of the district team. I have faith in your dedication to serve your community, your participation in our district and your support of Lions International. Together we will be an outstanding district.

I would like to thank PDG Verna for her hard work and dedication in the last year. The tests have been tough and numerous, but you have met them and made Montana a better district.

So, let's go out and serve our communities with kindness by doing what lions do best... We Serve!

**Yours in Lionism,**  
**Mike Collins**  
**District Governor 2020-21**  
[mikeacollins@bresnan.net](mailto:mikeacollins@bresnan.net)  
406-871-4176

## **DG MIKE COLLINS 2020-2021 GOALS**

DG Mike Collins is in the planning process for his year as District Governor, 2020-2021. DG Mike has established several major goals for his year as District Governor: (1) continue work on NAMI, North American Membership Initiative, to increase club membership (2) start 1 or 2 new clubs (3) create teams that will work with clubs to help them retain club members, encourage clubs to conduct a Community Needs Assessment, encourage clubs to have at least one major service project (4) organize a major club officer training opportunity either through a Montana Forum or through regional training events.

DG Mike welcomes comments and suggestions from all Montana Lions. Contact DG Mike Collins, 40 Meadowlark Drive; Kalispell, MT 59901; H 406-752-3473; C: 406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net

## **ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS**

**This is the time of the year that each Montana Lions Club needs to complete the process of electing and reporting their 2020-2021 club officers.**

**There may be a delay in holding face to face meetings until new guidelines are established associated with the Coronavirus. There is an excellent article in this newsletter associated with “electronic conferencing” that provides useful information on using**

**this method to hold meetings. Read the article!**

**Club officers can be reported by your club secretary via MyLCI or my using the printable form PU 101.**

**Report your current club officers and make changes as elections are held. Starting July 1, 2020 new listings will be reported on MyLCI. Officers must be reported so that clubs will have access to MyLCI.**

## **2020 Club officer Training**

District 37 held online club officer training in May of 2020. There were 4 sessions and they were recorded. The recordings are available on YouTube.

Club officer General training -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCaISxxEzXo>

Treasurer Training -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2y2RSeRdA>

President Training -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlnF-ZkO2II>

Secretary Training -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8uCzwcxIQc>

The District is planning on repeating some of the online training classes in the future. We also hope to have 4 regional in-person training sessions in the Spring of 2021.

phone or video conferencing. The district has an account on Free Conference USA. This service supports up to 1000 people and has no time limits.



## DISTRICT VESTS

The district has a number of vests for sale in a wide variety of sizes. Contact PID Dave Hajny for more information on the vests. 406-596-4596; [whodat@3rivers.net](mailto:whodat@3rivers.net)

The vests are great looking and a great way to support our district and Lionism.

## Free Conference Calling and Video Conference Services for Lions Clubs

There are many services that are available to have your club meetings via



**Toll Dial-In:** +1 (774) 220-4000  
**Conference ID:** 291-5548  
**Host PIN:** 4811

To join as Host, press the star key (\*) instead of the pound sign (#) after you enter the Conference ID. You will then be prompted to enter your Host PIN.

*	0	Plays menu of Keypad Commands	
*	1	Record the conference (toggle on/off)	
*	2	Lock out new entrants (toggle on/off)	
*	3	Start conference (in "host confirms" mode)	
*	3	Promote to Host (after conference start)	
MODE	*	4 1	Switch to Presentation Mode
	*	4 2	Switch to Conversation Mode
	*	4 3	Switch to Question & Answer Mode
	*	4 4	Switch to Private Host Mode
*	5	Raise your hand (see User Guide)	
ENTRY	*	6	Mute yourself (toggle on/off)
	*	7 1	Play entry chime on caller arrival
	*	7 2	Announce name on caller arrival
EXIT	*	7 3	No notification on caller arrival
	*	8 1	Play exit chime on caller exit
	*	8 2	Announce name on caller exit
	*	8 3	No notification on caller exit
	*	9 1	Terminate in the conference
*	#	Private roll call of participants	
*	*	Mute music-on-hold (toggle on/off)	

Video Conference services are good ways to hold meetings but do have some limits. While they do allow dialing into a meeting as well as video, the meetings are more effective with video. This requires high speed internet or data services, video cameras and

microphones on a computer, laptop or mobile device. Most laptops and mobile devices have these built in.

[Zoom](#) is a very popular conference call service that offers both paid and free tiers of service. If [your business meetings](#) are mostly one-on-one or tend to be under 40 minutes, Zoom could be a great option for you. One-to-one meetings are free and can run for hours or days. Group meetings are limited to 100 participants and 40 minutes on the free tier. If your meetings fit into either of these categories, you'll never need to pay a penny to run all your meetings in Zoom.

Z

oom allows you to join or start a meeting from nearly anywhere in the world using a Mac, PC, or Linux computer, Android or iOS phone, H.323/SIP device, or a normal telephone through international dial-in toll-free numbers. Video calls tend to be crisp; Zoom allows the meeting owner to lock the room, mute/unmute participants, and record the meeting seamlessly during the call right from their admin dashboard.

The District has a GOTO Meeting account, but it is limited to one administrator. Because of the workload that would be required of one of the district officers we will only be offering this to zone or district meetings.

### **Meeting Etiquette:**

Good video conferencing etiquette is really just common courtesy and respect

for the people in your meeting. Read through these tips for successful conferencing.

- Introduce all conference participants when the meeting starts.
- Introduce yourself when you start speaking.
- Make sure that you can see and hear the far-site participants.
- Adjust your camera and microphone so that the far site can see and hear you.
- Avoid tapping on the microphone or rustling papers near the microphone and try to isolate yourself from household noise
- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

The usual principles of polite behavior required with any meeting apply for conferencing and collaboration — the trick is to understand how the use (or misuse) of technology can make meetings less effective. The ideal video conference should get as close as possible to the dynamics of a real, face-to face meeting from the participants' points of view, but of course it is not 'exactly' like a real meeting, since the system mediates communication between remote participants. Therefore, the role of everyone in the meeting (not just the chairperson) is to ensure that the system is not filtering out critical interactions, allowing discourtesy to sneak in.

Please feel free to contact either for help. DG Mike Collins, 406-871-4176;

[mikeacollins@bresnan.net](mailto:mikeacollins@bresnan.net) or Lion Jerry Leggate, 406-698-3186; [jnleggate@yahoo.com](mailto:jnleggate@yahoo.com)

## **NORTH AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE**

### **NAMI**

Montana District 37 has been selected, as a pilot district, to participate in the LCI North American Membership Initiative. NAMI is a pilot project to develop new ideas, concepts and programs to try and increase membership and retention of Lions in North America. The primary objectives include: (1) rejuvenate districts with new clubs (2) revitalize clubs with new members (3) re-motivate members with new fellowships and exciting service.

The process of involvement in NAMI includes: (1) establish a steering committee with a commitment to the project. The steering committee is composed of: DG Verna Love, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Mike Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Michael Tobin, Lion Scott Dornfeld, PDG Laura Dickerson, PDG George Chenoweth, PDG Lary Garrison, Lion Steve Melby. (2) analyze the district to determine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; (3) create and train leadership teams in each of the 14 districts. The teams will be composed of Lions dedicated to the goals of the NAMI project (4) provide 2-3 Membership Training Camps to teach skills in starting new clubs, recruiting new Lion members, and skills in retaining club members (5) provide compensation for room, board, mileage (6) a relevant curriculum will be created

(7) LCI will provide adequate funding for the entire NAMI process.

More information will be provided to clubs as the project progresses.

## **PLUSOPTIX**

Hello Fellow Lions:

With the overwhelmingly proven success of the PlusOptix Vision Screening machines the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation has decided to pre-purchase TWO machines to keep on hand for clubs looking to add a PlusOptix machine to their community. If your club is interested in purchasing a machine please contact Lion Dave Falcon, [lion.dfalcon@gmail.com](mailto:lion.dfalcon@gmail.com) or 406-253-1726 or 406-257-2258. The cost is \$7,235.00, included is the S-12 machine with printer and labels. For \$7015.00 you can just purchase the S-12 machine. The machines are available now and can be shipped or possibly delivered, in person, depending on location. Keep in mind, I am willing to provide personal training at a specific location and time that will work for the purchasing club. You will not have to fly blind using these machines.

REMINDER: PLEASE SEND IN YOUR TOTAL SCREENED AND TOTAL REFERRED EVERY MONTH. With this information we are able to purchase more machines and provide up-to-date statistics on the amazing work that Montana Lions are doing in their communities by helping to alleviate vision issues for the future leaders of tomorrow.

As of Mach 13, 2020; 26, 993 children have been screened in the State of Montana for fiscal year 2020 with 2789 referrals.



## **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Dear Montana Lions:

We have come to the end of another Lionistic year, and what a year it has been. A pandemic that has challenge our clubs in ways we never imagined. A loss of meetings, fundraisers, service projects and our annual convention.

The last report shows that only 46.3% of District 37 Lions Clubs supported the Lions Clubs International Foundation this Lionistic year. District 37 received over \$100,000 from LCIF for the Lions Park in Laurel for a handicap fishing dock and an Emergency Preparedness Grant during this Lionistic year.

There are several grants being worked on from around our district at this time. Is one of them for your community? Why not? We are District 37 and the former MD 37 have received over \$1,000,000 dollars during the past 50 years. Your Foundation is there for you, not just every other club around the world. At the time it needs your support to continue to meet humanitarian needs here in Montana as well as around the world.

Visit [lcif.org/donate](http://lcif.org/donate) to donate online and to learn about other ways to give.

Yours in Lionism  
PDG Lary Garrison, LCIF Chair



## **CAMPAIGN 100 – EXTENDED DUE TO COVID-19**

Every day Lions and Lions Clubs worldwide make donations to the International Foundation not knowing when or where that donation will be used. Every day our Lions Foundation receives those same donations not knowing where and when they will be needed. Where will the next fire, flood or earthquake occur? No one knows, but our Foundation is ready to quickly respond anywhere in the world. When will the next hurricane or tornado occur? No one knows, but our Foundation is ready to quickly respond anywhere in North America. Disasters don't make their needs known until they occur

Do we make a donation to the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association the Alzheimer's Association or any other charity with the expectation we or someone we know will be the beneficiary? Most of us are hopeful we or our relatives or friends will never need it, but we do know that someone somewhere will.

In the long run Lions in the United States will hopefully always donate more to our Foundation than we need, but it is a fact that the majority of our donations are used in the United States.

Because of COVID-19 the Campaign 100 has been extended for another year. Disasters have not taken a holiday because of COVID-19. You or your club can make a donation at [donorassistance@lionsclubs.org](mailto:donorassistance@lionsclubs.org) or by calling 1-630-203-3836. Remember individual donations are tax deductible.

**Yours in Lionism,  
PDG Lary Garrison, LCIF Dist. 37 Chair**



## **SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES**

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation is included among the 85 Montana groups that may lose their Specialty License Plate on July 1, 2020.

In January 2020, 85 specialty license plates were revoked for failing to reach the minimum of 400 active registrations as required under MCA 61-3-474. The sponsor organizations have been granted a one-time only grace period until July 1, 2020 to provide additional time to increase their sales. The plates are available for purchase or renewal during the extension period.

It costs an organization around \$4,000 to start a specialty plate. They then need to reach 400 sets with a current registration after 3 years to remain in the program. Each specialty plate is then reviewed yearly.

PDG Monte Weisser from the Kalispell Sunrisers club is encouraging all clubs to support the Specialty License Plate program for our foundation. He has indicated that if only 3 members from each of our 67 clubs would purchase the plates before June of this year, we would be able to continue to maintain our position. For each purchase of the Montana Lions specialty license plate, \$20 is donated to the foundation.

Our Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation, founded in 1980, provides Montanans who need financial assistance with hearing aids, cataract surgeries, cochlear implants, vision screening, detached retina procedures and other sight, hearing and speech impairments

**For more information, please contact:**

**PDG Monte Weisser**

**533 West Arizona**

**Kalispell, MT 59901**

**(406)890-9561**

**email: [monte014@gmail.com](mailto:monte014@gmail.com)**

## THANKS AND FAREWELL – IPDG VERNA LOVE

As I take my leave as your District Governor for 2019-2020, I would like to thank the 1,649 members within the 67 clubs of SD37 that allowed me the honor and privilege of serving you as District Governor.

This role has been a humbling, challenging, exuberant, and treasured experience that I shall reflect upon for a life time! As those of you who know me best, you know I love ROLLER COSTERS! And it's been that sort of ride. The highs and lows of leading a totally volunteer organization, has enhanced my professional and family life, and the way I view humanity – for that I will be forever grateful.

I've had to make difficult decisions; however, I had advisors around me that didn't tell me what to do, but gave sound advice. Ultimately, I had made some final decisions and take the heat or the applauds; no matter the outcome I was supported. For this I say THANK YOU!

I've met members around this state, that welcomed me with smiles and respect in 60 of the 67 clubs; members who were respectful to me regardless of my gender or ethnicity. Some of these members welcomed me into their homes, after miles of travel, and treated me like an old friend. A VERY special Thank you!

The District 37 Cabinet members, treated me as though they believed I knew what I was doing, when all I had to offer was all the Lions training I could muster and 11 years of being a Lion; that is much like a kid who makes up the bed and the parents say, "good job". I can't thank you enough.

There was a magnanimous convention planned for me by the Glendive lions Club Convention Committee. I was joking at a cabinet meeting and said, "I will probably be the first District Governor that doesn't get a convention". Thanks to Covid -19, my words were a prophecy, and I was! But the planning and effort would have put any other District Governor's convention to shame. Thank you Glendive Lions! I will never forget you.

Then there are the 2 Mikes. DG Mike Collins, and 1<sup>st</sup> DG Mike Tobin, who were more like brothers to me, and voiced their opinions (yea or nay) with respect and gave me the support that allowed me to go forth with confidence.

Lastly, but absolutely, unequivocally, not least, I give thanks to Past District Governor, Dennis Kopitzke, and our District Administrator. In a sense, I feel guilty for being the first governor to serve with such assistance. PDG Dennis kept me on point; relieved me of a lot of stress; kept me organized and would tactfully remind me when I was not

totally centered. Without him, I may have thrown up my hands when I was pulling out my hair.

I've told this story many times, but I would like to recount: When I was a club project chairperson, without even a thought of being a district governor, I got upset once when we were on a project and things weren't going my way. I told the committee that things would be my way or I would do it by myself! Well, that's the way it turned out. Later that evening I called a certain Past District Governor, and poured out my feelings. I've never forgotten his admonishment. He said to me, "Verna, this is a VOLUNTEER organization, not the corporate America that you came from!"

I've carried that advice with me ever since I became involved in Lions Leadership. You are a wonderful group. Thank you for such a RICH Life Learning Experience! As I close, please remember the motto on my governor's pin: "We Love the Privilege of Service"; and I have loved the privilege of serving you!

With heart felt gratitude, thanks for all you do for LIONS!  
IPDG, Verna D. Love

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

July 1 – Start of the 2020-2021 Lions Year – 2020-2021 Officers Assume their Roles

July 18 – Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, Quarterly Meeting, Ennis

July 18 – Cabinet Meeting, Ennis

July 18 – Friendship Committee - Ennis

October 9-10 – Leadership Retreat, Polson

January 8-9 - Mid-Winter Rally, Helena

April 23-24 – District Convention, Kalispell

## Websites

Visit the district website: [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) to find a wealth of valuable information regarding almost every aspect associated with the operation of the district.

LCI website, [lionsclubsinternational.org](http://lionsclubsinternational.org) Look for: general information, service projects, membership, club improvement, online training, media and news releases, and LCIF.

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation website: [www.mtlionsshfnd](http://www.mtlionsshfnd)  
Information regarding programs and sight, hearing and/or speech impairments

## Contact Information

DG Mike Collins, 40 Meadowlark Drive; Kalispell, MT 59901; H 406-752-3473;  
C 406-871-4176; [mikeacollins@bresnan.net](mailto:mikeacollins@bresnan.net)

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Michael Tobin, Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; H 406-397-1215; C 406-450-2780; [miket@northerntel.net](mailto:miket@northerntel.net)

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Scott Dornfeld, 744 Arbor Hills Drive, Billings, MT 59105; C, 406-489-1884;  
[Sdornfeld51@gmail.com](mailto:Sdornfeld51@gmail.com)

District Secretary/Administrator; PDG Dennis Kopitzke, Box 1266, Forsyth, 59327;  
406-346-1488; 406-853-8695; [djk\\_7491@rangeweb.net](mailto:djk_7491@rangeweb.net)

**Enjoy the 4th of July**

June 7, 2020

## Montana District 37 – Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Attendees: DG Verna Love, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Mike Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Michael Tobin, PID Tom Lehman, PID Dave Hajny, PCC Ben Apeland, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Dennis Kopitzke, PDG Melody Whitcher, Lion Scott Dornfeld, Lion Kathryn Yancey, Lion Peggy Tobin, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Jon Kimble, Lion Charlene Willett

### I. Call to Order by DG Verna Love at 11:00 AM

A quorum was present

DG Verna Love led the cabinet members in the Pledge of Allegiance

DG Verna Love provided an invocation

### II. Minutes – March 25, 2020; April 8, 2020; April 14, 2020; Motion by PCC Dan Krum, second by 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Michael Tobin to approve the minutes. Passed.

### III. Financial Reports – PCC Dan Krum provided the reports. Motion by PCC Ben Apeland, second by PDG Dennis Kopitzke to approve the reports. Passed.

### IV. Additions to the agenda

- a. Notifications
- b. Equipment Movement
- c. 2020-2021 Budget
- d. Mid-Winter Rally

### V. Old Business

- a. Lewistown Montana, Charter Night – The charter night is still on hold. The Club has 20 members. Funds (\$2000.00) eventually to be provided to the club will be held by the district until a charter night is held.
- b. Laurel Lions Grant – No response from the Laurel Lion Club; no funds have been disbursed
- c. Huntley Project Lions Grant – No new action has been taken; pending
- d. Hall of Fame Nominations – The cabinet has previously approved the awarding of 2 Hall of Fame awards for 2019-2020.

## VI. New Business

- a. Club Health Assessment – There are three priority clubs: Baker, Hot Springs and Lolo. The district leadership team is working to help these clubs
- b. Officer Training – Four training sessions were held for club presidents (11), secretaries (9), treasurers (9) and a general session (16). Additional training will be held during the 2020-2021 Lions year with an emphasis of holding the training in 4 regions in the State.
- c. District Convention – The Glendive Lions Club was provided \$2000.00 in seed money; income of \$2001.00; expenses of \$2334.76. Motion by PDG Melody Witcher, second by PCC Dan Krum that \$334.76 be provided to the 2021 district convention associated with the Glendive convention pin. Passed.
- d. Zone Reports (all reports affected by the Covid-19 pandemic)
  - i. Lion Jon Kimble – Few club meetings; Seeley Lake involved in Adopt a Highway and firewood raffle
  - ii. Lion Scott Dornfeld – No recent reports; few club meetings; Huntley Project is meeting, outside; Homesteader Days, July 10-11
  - iii. Lion Charlene Willett – No club meetings; Butte Copper City has been involved in collecting used eye glasses; Anaconda Lions Club needs help increasing club membership.
  - iv. Lion Peggy Tobin – Zone held a “virtual” meeting with 4 of 5 zone clubs attending
  - v. Lion Kathryn Yancey – Clubs are starting to meet again; Columbia Falls held a food drive and continues with its service projects; Evergreen Lions are working on a local ball field; nothing to report from Whitefish or Eureka
  - vi. Lion Dave Falcon – ATV raffle winner was Mike Hannula (Great Falls);
- e. Club Health Assessment (covered in new business)
- f. Leo Clubs – Winnett had a club with 6 members; 4 graduated; club may not continue; Seeley Lake has an active LEO club but needs new members to replace graduates.
- g. Leadership Training – Plans continue for the mid-October event to be held in Polson; letters to potential attendees will be mailed in early July; names of potential attendees can be emailed to Angie Wintrow

[mooses4ang@aol.com](mailto:mooses4ang@aol.com); efforts will be made to obtain an LCI grant to help defray costs of the retreat

- h. Website – The site has been updated and there will be additional changes to bring it up-to-date with the current social media
- i. NAMI (North American Membership Initiative) – The project leadership committee has been established; the SWOT survey will be reviewed and used as applicable; basic goals include establishing 2 new clubs (traditional and cyber); master plan will be available at the July 18 cabinet meeting.

#### VII. Additional Agenda Items

- a. Notifications – PIP Wayne Madden memorial; Motion by PCC Ben Apeland, second by PCC Dan Krum to refer the issue to the Friendship Committee for their consideration and recommendation. Passed.
- b. Equipment Movement – DG Verna Love will bring district equipment to Ennis and make transfer to DGE Mike Collins; other Lions with equipment should bring to Ennis and inform district secretary Dennis Kopitzke
- c. 2020-2021 Budget – Final 2020-2021 budget will be presented for cabinet review and approval at the July 18 cabinet meeting
- d. Mid-Winter Rally – Plans will move ahead to hold a rally this winter in Bozeman. PCC Ben Apeland and DGE Mike Collins are working on plans for the event. More information will be available at the July 18 cabinet meeting.
- e. DGE School – District leaders will give consideration to developing content for a DGE school patterned after the past MD 37 training.

#### VIII. Other

- a. Lion Dave Falcon is asking that clubs with PlusOptix machines to bring the machines to Ennis, July 18 and the machine software will be updated
- b. It is expected that a virtual ceremony will be held for the induction of DGE Mike Collins as our 2020-2021 District Governor.
- c. DG Verna thanked cabinet members for their support during the 2019-2020 Lions year and cabinet members expressed their appreciation for her efforts.
- d. PDG Lary Garrison submitted an LCIF report.

Next meeting to be held on July 18, Ennis Firehall, noon.

Adjournment: 12:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, PDG Dennis Kopitzke, District Secretary, June 7, 2020