

District Governor Newsletter

June
2021

DG Mike Collins
1st VDG Michael Tobin
2nd VDG Scott Dornfeld
www.montanalions.org

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Message from District Governor Mike Collins

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

Hello Montana Lions,

This will be my last newsletter message as District Governor for District 37. It has been a difficult but rewarding year. I have had the pleasure of meeting many Lions around the state and seeing the great work Lions Clubs are doing in Montana. We

had a wonderful convention in Kalispell. The Great Falls Clubs are already busy planning next year's convention.

It appears that we are seeing a decline in Covid-19 and we can return to providing much needed service to Montana cities and towns. I encourage clubs that are just getting started again to begin with small projects to engage your members. This has proved to be successful in multiple clubs.

District 37 applied for a LCIF grant to help operate the new Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance camp that is being held at the Lutheran Camp on Flathead Lake on August 16-20th. The grant has been approved and now we need help raising funds from Lions in Montana to meet our match. Donations can be made directly to MYDA at:

<https://diabetescamps.harnessapp.com/wv2/campaign/3742>

Registration for the camp is now available online at:

<https://app.campdoc.com/!/home/auth/login?r=myda%20camper2021>

I want to thank the Cabinet members for keeping Lions in Montana moving forward this year. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the district officers, zone and region chairs, the district advisors and district chairpersons. I want to extend my personal thanks and admiration to my home club, the Kalispell Lions, for supporting me through this journey. Lastly, I want to thank my wife, Lion Kari for her support and encouragement.

I wish the best to incoming District Governor Mike Tobin and will continue to support lions of District 37.

Kindness Matters,
District Governor Mike

Remember!
Memorial Day
2021

PID TOM LEHMAN
February 4, 1937 – April 3, 2021



Thomas “Tom” Strauss Lehman, 84, of Missoula, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, April 3, 2021.

Tom married Judy Comstock in 1996, then moved to their retirement home in Seeley Lake in 1998 and later to Missoula in 2006. He and Judy enjoyed 27 years of traveling the world, golfing, visiting family and friends and chasing grandkids around. They loved snowmobiling, 4-wheeling and spending time at the cabin. Tom loved his cigars, Crown Royal, his country, patriotic flag ceremonies around the campfire, old country music and a good cribbage game.

Tom is survived by his wife Judy Lehman, kids Randy Lehman (Cindy) of Myakka City, Florida; Mike Lehman (Sally) of Lexington, Massachusetts, Lori Kerr (Pete) Seattle, Washington and three step daughters Sandi Sandry (Mike) of Missoula; Kim Herzog (Courtney) of Rapelje and Stacie Cline (Travis) of Drummond. He had ten grandchildren and countless friends that were like family.

PID Tom Lehman was a charter member of the Bozeman Gallatin Empire Lions Club and a senior statesman to the world of Lionism. Knowledgeable in all aspects of Lions, Tom was a respected mentor, advisor and friend to all around him. Lion Tom tirelessly gave of himself at the club, district, multiple district and international level to the very end. Beginning in 1961 Lion Tom served at all club positions and on the District 37A cabinet. During Lions year 1971-1972 he served as District 37A governor. His fellow governors on the MD37 Council of Governors were Angus Murray, 37B; Michael Bolokoski, 37C; Frank Kops, 37D; Gerry Cammaert, 37E and Arnold Fredlund, 37F. During the Lions year of 1979-1980 Lion Tom rose to the occasion referring to himself as a retread and again served as District 37A governor This time his fellow governors

on the MD#& Council of Governors were P.W. (Bill Jones), 37B; E. Roy Hadington, 37C; H. Winston Sproule, 37D; David Dietz, 37E; Bob Brandt, 37F; Barry Golberg, 37G; and Paul Lefebure, 37H. During the 75th International Convention held in Hong Kong, June 23-26, 192, Lion Tom was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of the International Association of Lions Clubs. Committee assignments on the International Board included Finance, Nominations and elections and International Parade of Nations. Lion Tom also served one year as an International Board appointee and two years as a member of the USA/Canada Leadership Forum Planning Committee.

It was rare for Lion Tom to miss a club meeting, cabinet meetings, district or multiple district conventions, USA/Canada Leadership Forums or International Conventions. His attendance and participation was an inspiration to all. He loved being a Lion and being with his fellow Lions. In addition to his many accomplishments as a Lion, he was especially proud of his involvement in the formation of the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation and the Gallatin Empire Lions Foundation. He is already missed but will remain in the hearts and souls of all who had the privilege of being a part of his legacy.

The celebration of Tom's life will be held on Friday, June 11, 2021 at 3:00 PM at the Garden City Funeral Home, 1705 West Broadway Street, Missoula.

In lieu of flowers please consider sending a memorial to Gallatin Empire Lions Foundation, Box 504, Bozeman 59771 or Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, Box 1925, Columbia Falls, 59912.

Cards of sympathy and condolence may be sent to Lion Judy Lehman, 1045 Anglers Bend Way, Missoula, 59802. Judy's email address: tjlehman@q.com.

Tom's obituary may be found at the Garden City Funeral Home web page: www.gardencityfh.com

The logo features the text "Lions: We Serve" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is a different color: 'L' is purple, 'i' is pink, 'o' is red, 'n' is orange, 's' is yellow, ':' is green, 'W' is blue, 'e' is teal, 'S' is dark blue, 'e' is light blue, and 'r' is purple. The text has a slight 3D effect with shadows underneath.

**PDG CRAIG PRICE
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
SIDNEY, MONTANA**



Being a past educator Lion Craig Price has played a special part in helping the Sidney Lions Club with their programs that include high school students. Lion Craig has been a member of the Sidney Lions Club for the past 46 years. He enjoys helping with the LEO Club for high school students. He is very passionate about participating in the plusoptix program that the club does each year to screen school age children for eyesight problems. His kindness also carries him in other volunteer opportunities. He helps with Meals on Wheels as well as participating in the MDOT Adopt a Highway program with the LEO Club.

He has a special place in his heart for the youth of our community, as he was a teacher for 18 years and at one point a guidance counselor. It was when his father was taken ill and Craig gave up his teaching career to help his father, putting others needs before his own. Rather than going back to teaching he became involved with the Sidney Tax Service and landed himself as a partner for the next 24 years before retiring in 2013.

Craig has always had a charitable and courteous nature, making friends throughout his life. For those in the community who know Craig know his humorous personality and that he is the type of person to give you the shirt off his back.

Lion Craig was inducted into the Montana Lions District 37 hall of fame in April 2019.

Some of the Information for this article was copied from the Sidney Herald Media article “Progress 2021 Edition”, Rebecca Papineau.

PU 101 CLUB OFFICER REPORTING FORM

This is the time of the year that clubs need to select their club officers for the new Lions year. The 2021-2022 Club Officer reporting form is available for download on the LCI website: www.LionsClubInternational.org; search for 2021-2022 PU 101. The form has been emailed to current club presidents, first vice presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. If there are questions contact a district leadership team member or the district administrator. Reports are due at LCI prior to May 15, 2021.

UNITED IN KINDNESS AND DIVERSITY – DR. JUNG-YUL CHOI JUNE 2021

You know the value of a job well done. Because whether you’re breaking ground in a community garden or on a new addition to a local school, you know that your impact grows far beyond the work of your helping hands.

Our service has always been hands on—and so much more. Our work raises awareness about the issues that matter most and helps build partnerships we need to make an even greater impact. So, let’s continue to give back and celebrate our service, because what we accomplish today will continue to make a difference for years to come.

CLUB NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Any Lions club member can submit information associated with any type of Lions project or general club information. Please send in “word” format and/or photos in JPEG format to: PDG Dennis Kopitzke; djk_7491@rangeweb.net

WINNETT LIONS CLUB

In March, April and May the Winnett Lions completed 490 Vision Health Screenings where 52 students were recognized for further exams by a professional. We traveled close to 1500 miles to 15 communities, as far east as Jordan, North to Denton, West to Geysers, south to Lavina/Ryegate.

ROUNDUP LIONS CLUB

This week the Roundup Lions Club inducted Murry Lou McElveen into the growing club. Pictured, from left to right, Lion Marc Blum, Lion Chris Larsen, sponsor Lion Rose Emily Blum, Lion Murry Lou McElveen, Zone Chair PDG Melody Whitcher (Winnett Lions) and Lion John Parrella.



District 37 HELP WANTED

Webmaster: Are you looking for a fun way to contribute to your Montana Lions District? Or maybe your resume needs a bit of a boost? You could be the District 37 Lions next volunteer web admin! Webmaster administers the District website. Site is a WordPress blog on a commercial server. Webmaster assigns roles (permissions) for others to add, edit, and post items and to create, edit, or send emails to established lists. Using WordPress is similar to using Microsoft Word.

Webmaster is responsible for maintaining the appearance and functionality of the site using WordPress while working with others to provide content. May require about 2 hours per week on no fixed schedule. Basic writing and organizational skills are needed. HTML coding knowledge is a plus. Training and technical support from existing webmaster is available.

NAMI Team: The North American Membership Initiative is a program to revitalize Lions Clubs in our district. We need Lions who are willing to start new clubs and increase membership for existing clubs in Montana. This will require attending meetings (zoom for now) and making plans to increase membership. This will include travel once Covid-19 has subsided.

Zone Chairperson: The Zone Chairperson is the link between the clubs and the District Leadership Team. The Zone Chairperson is a full member of the District Cabinet. Develop & grow new members Identify and develop future and clubs. leaders at all levels. You will get to know the clubs in your area by visiting them and holding three zone meetings throughout the year.

If you are interested in learning more about these roles, email me at mikeacollins@bresnan.net or 406-871-4176

MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF & BLIND FOUNDATION LIONS CLUB PARTNERSHIP

MSDB set a goal to provide all low-vision students in the state with updated technology – saving students from having to push a cumbersome cart with a magnifier down the hall with them to each class. With the help of Lions Clubs throughout Montana, they met that goal before the pandemic hit – equipping students with the technology they need to succeed at both home and school.

Lions Clubs often support projects providing vision support, so Clayton-Bye reached out and was invited to attend their conference.

They set a goal to raise \$300,000 and purchase 100 devices for Montana’s low vision students.

“We said if we can meet that goal in two years it would be a dream come true and we met it in eight months with the Lions,” Clayton-Bye said, “We want to continue to dream big to open the doors to Montana’s deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision and deafblind.”

LCI CHARTER AND ENTRANCE FEES WAIVER FLEXIBLE PAYMENTS

The LCI Board of Directors has passed another resolution to help our clubs:
Charter and Entrance Fees Waiver – The LCI board has waived all charter and entrance fees from January 1 through June 30, 2021.

Flexible Payments – No clubs in good standing on December 31, 2020 will be suspended or canceled through June 30, 2021 for late payment of dues. Full payment is required to be received before June 20, 2021 to avoid suspension or cancellation.

Please note – Clubs placed on financial suspension on December 31, 2020 will remain on suspension until the full balance is paid. Those clubs will still need to address their outstanding dues or make arrangements for repayment with the Accounts Receivable Department at LCI to avoid cancellation scheduled for March 1, 2021.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP BILLING

This past year has been unlike any other as the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our world in so many ways. To support our Lions during these challenging times, the Board of Directors approved a resolution stating that no clubs will be suspended or canceled through December 31, 2020 for late payment of dues.

Currently, there are a record number of clubs that have not yet paid their balances. We want to make sure you are aware of some important dates and action items that will impact our clubs so we can all work together to support them during this difficult time.

October 25, 2020 – The District Team will be advised on clubs that have not paid their balances within the suspension parameters.

October, November and December Statements – The statements will include a suspension warning to inform clubs of their past due status.

January 1, 2021 – Clubs will be placed on Financial Suspension if balances over 120 days are in excess of US\$20/member or over \$1,000. Clubs released from Financial Suspension can expect to be billed for dues for January-June 2021.

March 1, 2021 – Clubs previously suspended will automatically be canceled if their balances are not paid in full.

March-June 2021 – Canceled clubs may be reactivated to Active Status upon receipt of their payment and approval from the district governor.

May 8, 2021 – The suspension cycle will again review clubs for balances unpaid over 120 days with cancellation following on June 29 if payment has not yet been received.

DG RECAPS will be mailed regularly each month. The District Team should review the report and communicate with clubs to encourage payment prior to the end of this calendar year.

We will be sending the list of clubs in suspension to our District Team and Global Action Team leadership each month to support the districts.

Please let us know if you have questions about the process or the timeline. LCI can then ensure that our clubs stay in good standing and continue their great work in time when Lions are needed more than ever.

membershipbilling@roar.lionsclubs.org

2021 LCI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Virtual Convention

Due to the continuing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, the board of directors voted to transition the 2021 Montreal Lions Clubs International Convention to a virtual event that will be delivered totally online. LCI is still finalizing the details of the new convention experience, and will share those with all Lions as soon as they are ready.

Everyone's Invited – The 2021 convention will be a virtual event that's open to all Lions and Leos around the world: June 25-29.

Registrations Fees – The registration fee will be US\$50.00 until March 31, the US\$75.00 beginning April 1. The registration fee for LEOS will be US\$30.00 regardless of date. Convention is currently scheduled for June 25-29. Additional event and registration details will be provided soon.

Elections – Executive officer and international director elections will be conducted electronically, and voting procedures will be forth coming.

Convention Registration and Updates – Check our convention website: www.lionsclubs.org and click on the LCIcon tab to register and to get convention updates and details as they become available.

We appreciate your understanding during this challenging time for our organization and the world, and thank all Lions for your incredible service as a Lion.

PCC Ben Apeland (Gallatin Empire Lions Club) will be running for a position as an International Director. There is a need for your support: Register for the convention; have your club secretary register you as a voting delegate; vote for PCC Ben Apeland for a position as an LCI International Director.

USA/CANADA FORUM

The 2021 USA/Canada Forum will be held in Des Moines, IA on September 9-11, 2021. The forum will be conducted "in person". For more information and to register for the forum contact: USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Box 723, Rapid City, SD 57709; 605-723-4007 or access the forum website at: www.lionsforum.org or to register on line at: register@lionforum.org

WEBSITES

Visit the district website: 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 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.org
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

1st VDG Michael Tobin, Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; H 406-397-1215; C 406-450-2780; miket@northerntel.net

2nd VDG Scott Dornfeld, 744 Arbor Hills Drive, Billings, MT 59105; C, 406-489-1884;
Sdornfeld51@gmail.com

District Secretary/Administrator; PDG Dennis Kopitzke, Box 1266, Forsyth, 59327;
406-346-1488; 406-853-8695; djk_7491@rangeweb.net

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Turner/Hogeland Lions – 1985 – 36 years
Whitefish Lions – 2009 – 12 years
White Sulphur Springs Lions – 1985 – 36 years
Winnett Lions– 1991 – 30 years

IMPORTANT DATES

June 1	Helen Keller Day
June 7	Lions Clubs International Birthday
June 20-24	International Board of Directors Meeting, Montreal
June 25	First Vice District Governor/District Governor Elect Seminar
June 25-29	103 rd International Convention, Virtual Convention, Montreal
June 30	Last Day of the 2020-2021 Lions Year



Thanks to all the Clubs and Individuals that donated to LCIF at the District Convention in Kalispell. Thank you to DG Mike Collins and the Kalispell Lions for putting together a truly unforgettable experience. Thank you, Anne Smarsh, for your inspiration and dedication to LCIF and its goals.

Just under \$26,000 was raised at the Convention-a significant amount considering the challenges Lions and our Clubs have passed through. Just after the Convention LCIF notified DG Mike Collins that a \$40,000 Diabetes Grant had been granted for a summer camp for youth with Diabetes. What differences will and have occurred in the lives of Montana youth?

Because of your donations and LCIF's support there are 100 visually impaired Montana students that can read a book, study their lessons and see what is on a PowerPoint presentation. These are students from school districts all over Montana, not from just one city or county. These are students that no longer need to guess at what they are looking at. Those of us that wear glasses know the frustration of trying to read fine print or make out a fuzzy image at a distance. You and LCIF have changed their lives!

Because of your donations and LCIF's support youngsters dealing with childhood diabetes will have an opportunity to participate with peers and share a camping experience with those that understand the challenges they endure. Children with Type-1 Diabetes do not live a "normal" life, and other children and many adults have no idea the lifestyle they must live in order to survive. This will be an opportunity for them to meet other children from all across Montana to learn and share their experiences.

Because of your donations and LCIF's support youth with disabilities will soon be able to fish from a special dock at the Lion's Park in Laurel, Montana. There are few safe and easy accesses for them.

These are just a few of the changes you and LCIF have and will make in the lives of our children. LCIF has and will be there for natural disasters Montanan's have and will face for as long as we support LCIF and its programs. Thank you again for any support you have given or will give to change the lives of those in need or facing challenges.

Lary Garrison, District 37 LCIF Chairperson

District 37

Advertising and Publicity Reimbursement for 2020-2021

District 37 has made available funds for reimbursement of advertising expenses for the July 2020- Jun 2021 Lions Year. District 37 will reimburse clubs in good standing up to \$100.00 for expenses for advertising expenses such as social media advertising, google ads, newspaper, radio, or other paid advertising.

It is highly recommended that the advertising should be used to promote your club and club projects, attract new members, and increase public awareness of your Lions club. While the funds may be used to promote a fundraiser, please emphasize what your club is raising the funds for. Social media advertising allows you to get a much bigger impact for your dollar and can be targeted to specific demographics, so it is highly recommended that these funds be used for that type of advertising.

Requests for reimbursement can be made by submitting an Advertising and Publicity Reimbursement Request to DG Mike Collins either by email or postal mail. Please send one request for funds rather than sending multiple small requests. The form will be published in the newsletter and on the web site. All requests must be submitted by June 1, 2021.

We Serve
DG Mike Collins

Montana Lions District 37 will reimburse individual Lions clubs for expenses for advertising your club for the Lion's year 2020-2021 up to a maximum of \$100.00 per club. It is recommended that this be used for attracting new members and/or publicizing your club using electronic or social media but is not limited to this.

District 37 Advertising and Publicity Reimbursement Request

Date _____

Club _____

Mailing Address _____
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Describe advertising done (type of media, purpose, duration of ad):

Describe results of advertising (new members, fundraising results, new followers):

Amount requested (receipts required):

Club Representative Signature

District Governor Signature

All requests must be submitted no later than June 1st, 2021

Please email signed form and scanned receipts to

mikeacollins@bresnan.net or Mail to DG Mike Collins, 40 Meadowlark Dr.,
Kalispell, MT 59901