

District Governor Newsletter

April
2020

DG Verna Love
1st VDG Mike Collins
2nd VDG Michael Tobin
www.montanalions.org



Message from District Governor Verna Love

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

Just received word from International President Dr. Jung Yul Choi, that the International Convention in Singapore has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

I want to communicate to all of you, that we are in constant monitoring of the best practices for all gatherings in the midst of this pandemic .

According to LCI Constitutions and By-Laws, we must hold a District Convention 30 days prior to International.

Prior to Dr. Choi’s announcement, in a special Advisory meeting, we conceded that we would postpone or delay our district convention that was scheduled for April 24-25 in Glendive.

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That information was shared with all clubs in our district.

It was also decided and communicated, that, in order to follow the guidelines from LCI, we would conduct voting by mail, in order to properly abide by the rules of convention so that our incoming DGE, Mike Collins would be validated as District Governor.

In speaking with Senior Corporate Counsel David Kingsbury, and several other International Directors, the plan of action submitted on behalf of District 37 for conducting a vote for our district officers, is totally in order as long as our voting delegates are verified, and the voting ballots are properly distributed. The Committee to conduct these duties has already been appointed.

I have been in contact with all of the clubs in our district, to insure that each club is aware that they need to be in "good standing"; meaning that all dues owed to the district are paid, and that all voting delegates needed to be registered and verified prior to voting.

I think that we should continue with this action plan since we have no indicators as to when this unfortunate situation will subside.

Also, in my communication with our clubs, I surveyed which ones had decided not to meet in person. 100% of the club presidents and secretaries I personally spoke with have assured me that, until we had a better assessment of

the situation, meetings were cancelled and possibly certain service projects.

As of this date, there are no scheduled District Governors' visits.

We have, cancelled and reformatted the officers' training in Fort Benton, previously scheduled for April 3rd and 4th. This training will be conducted electronically in various segments as webinars. More information pertaining to that will be addressed in the April newsletter.

As we continue the progress of our district, I will keep everyone informed.

Again, our Communication & Technology Team are here to assist the clubs. If your club officers would like to utilize electronic conferencing tools contained within our district information is available and some information has already been sent to club presidents.

You are encouraged to check our district's Facebook page, as well as our District's website. Should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact District Governor, Verna Love at one of the following addresses:

(406) 988-4585;

cell – (406)5961265

Email: vprosgroup@hotmail.com

1st VDG Mike Collins

406-871-4176

mikeacollins@bresnan.net

Communications Technology Team:

Lion Jessica Falcon

(406) 253-1737 (Facebook)

Lion.jfalcon@gmail.com

Jerry Legate

(406) 698-3186 (Web Master)

jnleggate@yahoo.com

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS

This is the time of the year that each Montana Lions Club needs to start 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.

**1ST VDG MIKE COLLINS
2020-2021 GOALS**

1ST VDG Mike Collins is in the planning process for his year as District Governor, 2020-2021. VDG 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.

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

**MONTANA LIONS SIGHT &
HEARING FOUNDATION
ATV RAFFLE**


This year’s raffle is a 2020 Honda Pioneer 700 with Dump Box, Roll Bars & Doors
Tickets: \$20.00 each or 8 for \$100.00
Drawing: April 25, 2020 at the district convention. Need not be present to win.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used by the Foundation to help provide financial assistance to citizens of Montana with sight, hearing and/or speech impairments. Ask any Lion about tickets (many have them available). See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.



Free Conference calling and video conference services for Lions Clubs

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



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
	* 7 3	No notification on caller arrival
EXIT	* 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. Zoom 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.

Mike Collins

Lion Jerry Leggate

406-871-4176

406-698-3186

mikeacollins@bresnan.net

jnleggate@yahoo.com



2020 Montana State Convention Pin

A Thank You ...
from the Glendive Lions,

Although we won't be able to host the 2020 Montana State Convention in Glendive - due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we wanted to send our sincere "thank you" for your support.

Our community was ready to Welcome You - as you crossed the geographic divide back to Eastern Montana - on to Glendive!

The Convention Agenda was well-planned, promising to be very informative and educational; our mouth-watering, out-of-this world, scrumptious meals were being planned for your discretionary pallets; the paddlefish caviar was ready for your sampling; and most of all - Glendive Lions, City of Glendive and County of Dawson were ready to Welcome You - All Lions - to our piece of Montana, which we proudly call Home.

In quoting Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, our International President, "...we will continue to find new ways to put our kindness in action while safely serving our communities." Glendive Lions will heed this advice and continue to serve as only Lions do - with integrity, accountability, teamwork and excellence.

Stay safe & be well.

Thank you ... Glendive Convention Committee (Melonie Beeler, Club President; Patty Winchell, Club Secretary; Don Idso, Club Past President; and Debra Anderson, Club Treasurer/Convention Chair)

Service Reporting

To effectively tell our story, measure our impact and grow membership, it's critical that all clubs report service. Every project we participate in as Lions and Leos, no matter how big or small, is valuable and helps us continue our journey toward serving 200 million people per year.

Benefits

For our clubs, reporting service is the final step in our service journey. Reporting service can be a point of pride that can be celebrated and creates a database of the great projects done in a given community. Plus, clubs that report service become eligible for service awards and other forms of recognition.

Reporting Service Helps:

- Accurately measure our global impact
- Identify the best ways to work together
- Bring attention to the great work of Lions
- Ensure clubs' service is supported in the best ways possible.

CLUB EXCELLENCE

Make it your club's tradition to achieve excellence every year!

Clubs that excel in community service, membership growth, communications and organizational operations may qualify for the prestigious Excellence Awards.

Is your club striving to finish the year with a net growth in membership? Will

your club participate in at least three service projects? Are you promoting your club's events or activities to the community? If you answered yes to these questions, you may be eligible for the Club Excellence Award.

The Club Excellence Award is more than an award... it is proof that your club is STRONG!

For questions, inquiries or to submit your Club Excellence Award Application you may contact your Zone Chairperson.

MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIPS

The district has accumulated \$1200.00 in LCIF related funds. The district is making those funds available to clubs that would like to acquire a Melvin Jones Fellowship for a deserving Lion. The district is providing 6 \$200.00 grants.

Any club can request a \$200.00 grant to help pay for the \$1000.00 Melvin Jones Fellowship. Grants are available on a 1st come 1st serve basis. The club must contribute the remaining \$800.00.

Clubs MAY NOT ask for this grant unless they are submitting a request using this credit. This credit MAY NOT be held for future use and must be used at the time it is granted.

If interested in applying for a grant or for more information contact district LCIF chairperson, PDG Lary Garrison, 406-855-6997; lionlarygarrison@gmail.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: PID Tom Lehman, PID Dave Hajny, DG Verna Love, 1st VDG Mike Collins, 2nd VDG Michael Tobin, PCC Ben Apeland, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Lary Garrison, PDG Dennis Kopitzke, PDG Monte Weisser, Lion Jesse Gonzalez. (2) analyze the district to determine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The steering committee has completed this process (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.

DISTRICT AND CLUB COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Through the District and Club Community Impact Grant program, 15% of unrestricted contributions to LCIF are transformed into grants that fund local projects on a club and/or district level.

Donations may be made throughout the year, and grants can be applied for in the following Lions year. The District & Club Community Impact Grant requires a US\$5000.00 minimum donation for clubs and a US\$10,000 minimum donation for districts. The minimum donation must be achieved within the fiscal year (i.e. July 1 – June 30). Clubs and districts that meet this requirement are eligible to receive a grant, which they must apply for in the following fiscal year.

Check the LCI website: [LCIF-Grants-District and Club Community Impact Grants](#).

PLUSOPTIX

Hello Fellow Lions:

Just wanted to let you know that during the convention we are having our PlusOptix rep Rebecca Christensen attending. Please bring your PlusOptix machines to the convention. That way if we have updates we can install them or if repairs are needed Rebecca can help make the repairs. If you cannot make it to the convention please give your PlusOptix machine to someone else that is planning on attending the convention.

The Foundation still has two new S-12 PlusOptix machines for sale at \$7200.00 each. If interested please contact Lion Dave Falcon.

For those of you that have sent me your screening totals, thank you very much. For those of you that have not, please send me your screening totals. We are now reporting our screening totals to Kids Sight USA.

As of now we have screened 21,168 with 2,166 refers for the State of Montana. Thanks for doing the PlusOptix screening for you community. If you need any help please let me know. Thanks.

Lion Dave Falcon,
lion.dfalcon@gmail.com
406-253-1726 or 406-257-2258

USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM



There is still time for early registration to attend the 44th USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in beautiful Louisville, Kentucky.

The mission of the forum is to develop leaders, motivate and educate attendees, provide an open exchange of ideas, and support programs & goals of Lions Clubs International.

Thursday Morning Special Features! When planning your trip to the 2020 Louisville Forum be sure to arrive early enough to participate in two terrific events. The Strides Walk to

promote Diabetes Awareness is an event that allows Lions to gather together to walk for a cause. For the registration fee of \$25, participants receive a t-shirt and lunch. Join the walk and feel the energy of Lions making a difference.

This year's Childhood Cancer Symposium will feature the work of Four Diamonds, Penn State and the Lions of Pennsylvania. Since its creation in 1972, **Four Diamonds has helped more than 4,000** children and families and supported a diverse platform of childhood cancer research at Penn State Children's Hospital, seeking improved treatments and cures to benefit kids around the world.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to meet and fellowship with lions from all over the US and Canada, reunite with old friends, and get more inspired for service. There's lot to do and see in Kentucky. We have included a page from the February forum newsletter as an example.

To obtain the entirety of this Forum Newsletter please visit: www.lionsfourm.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Advisory Committee

April 13 – Video Conference

Advisory Committee

May 11 – Video Conference

Advisory Committee

June 13 - Bozeman

International Conventions

2021 – Montreal

2022 – New Delhi

2023 - Boston



FACE MASK PROJECT

It is estimated that hospitals will require three billion (3,000,000,000) face masks over the next year. This does not include what nursing homes and assisted living communities will need.

What can we do as Lions? JoAnn Fabrics has a pattern and materials list to make homemade masks. Will your club support this type of service project? A great project for club members that have sewing machines to help in making these vital protective items.

The materials can be ordered through the mail. Your club can consider paying for these materials and postage from “Charity Funds” and it would give members something to do while we are keeping ourselves in our homes while still serving our community and State. Volunteers could contact local hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities and deliver masks where needed.

The website is:

<https://www.facebook.com/7884763294/posts/10157170020198295/>

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Lary Garrison

Help Support Your
MONTANA LIONS SIGHT & HEARING FOUNDATION

YOU COULD WIN ME!!
Contact a Lion or Foundation trustee for tickets.



2020 Honda Pioneer 700 with Dump Box, Roll Bars & Doors

Tickets: \$20.00 each or 8 for \$100.00
Drawing: April 25, 2020, in Kalispell

Need not be present to win

Thank you for Supporting the Foundation!

Return ticket stubs and money to:

Lion Monte Weisser
533 West Arizona
Kalispell, Montana 59901



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



DISTRICT VESTS

The district has a number of vests for sale. Additional vests, in a variety of sizes, have been ordered to meet the requests from Montana Lions. Contact PID Dave Hajny for more information on the vests. 406-596-4596; whodat@3rivers.net

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



WE WILL NEED LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION!

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION NEEDS US NOW!

Most of us are homebound or have limited outside activity, but "OUR FOUNDATION" is hard at work serving those in need around the world! Our Foundation has given Italian Lions \$350,000, to mention only one nation, in their fight against COVID-19, and has set up a new \$10,000 COVID-19 emergency grant for districts around the world. Our Foundation does not have unlimited funds to meet this pandemic, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and earthquakes which we know are coming, even to Montana!

Montana has received over \$300,000 over the past 3 years and has a \$44,000 grant awaiting approval along with several clubs putting together projects to submit for grant consideration. What can we do to repay, or pay forward, for assistance we know we will need to ask for to complete service and meet humanitarian needs in Montana?

\$8.00 a month or \$100.00 a year from each member of your club qualifies for the 100/100 Club recognition. Your Club will receive recognition, each Club Member will receive recognition, but most importantly our Foundation will be able to continue meeting service and humanitarian relief worldwide, including Montana.

A \$100 gift can fund 2 cataract surgeries, Lions Quest curriculum for 1 year, 18 Diabetes screenings, 100 Measles vaccinations for children, regular access for 14 chronically hungry people, Equipment testing for 8 young cancer patients, Access to clean water for 14 people and immediate relief for 4 victims of a natural disaster. You can go online to www.lionsclubs.org/donate {for a one-time gift} or by credit card through direct withdrawals from your bank account (ACH) for monthly donations.

I wish every Lions Club would qualify for this, but even if your Club does not, you can still do your part to ensure the continuation of Lions Serving the World. I want to thank all who have, or are planning for your donations. They all make a difference!

Yours in Lionism - We Serve,

PDG Lary Garrison, District 37 LCIF Chair

if you have any questions contact me at:

lionlarygarrison@gmail.com, (406)855-6997, 703 Conway St., Billings, Mt. 59105

WHY SHOULD MONTANA LIONS SUPPORT THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF)?

FIRST: CHARITY NAVIGATOR HAS GIVEN LCIF A FOUR -STAR RATING FOR THE EIGHTH YEAR IN A ROW! This is their highest rating for a charity!

LCIF supports 8 areas of need around the world, and yes, even in Montana.

1. Vision: Lions will reduce avoidable blindness and visual impairment, and improve quality of life for those impacted, through SightFirst Grants. The Montana School for the Deaf and Blind received a \$100,000 grant from LCIF for state-of-the-art visual readers. The Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation received a \$25,000 grant for the purchase of Plusoptix machines to be used District wide.
2. Youth: LCIF will provide access to education, health services, and social programs, and provide youth skills-building programs, including Lions Quest. Montana received a \$75,000 grant to remodel the Senior Center in Ennis.
3. LCIF will deeply engage in disaster relief efforts, preparing for whatever and whenever devastation strikes. Montana has received numerous \$10,000 grants for flood and fire relief. The most recent \$10,000 grant went to the Turner/Hogeland Lions for an emergency generator.
4. LCIF will support programs addressing the needs of at-risk and vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by social and economic factors. In Montana, Winnett received a \$45,000 grant for a community ambulance. Laurel has a \$90,000 grant request pending for a fishing dock and enhanced accessibility to the Lions Park.
5. LCIF will respond to the diabetes global epidemic through multi-faceted comprehensive health initiatives. Grants are available for Diabetes Awareness Programs at the local level.
6. LCIF will strengthen medical and social services, increasing global life expectancy of children living with cancer. Grants are being developed.
7. LCIF will expand resources and infrastructure needed to address food shortages worldwide.
8. LCIF will protect the environmental health globally, generating positive ecological and humanitarian impact. Montana Zoo received a \$50,000 grant for a sensory garden. Dillon is preparing a grant request for a nature trail.

A new program is available for District and Club use. This is a program which started in 2018.

1. Community Impact Grants are now available. Each club MUST donate at least \$5,000 during a Lionistic year to qualify for a 15% fund that can be used locally. However, two or more clubs may combine their contributions for a grant, i.e. Zone Project. These funds can carry over from year to year but will be lost after 15 years.

How can Clubs and Individuals support LCIF?

Clubs can do fundraising projects specifically for LCIF or they may use a portion of existing charity or executive funds. A donation of \$1,000 can be used to honor a deserving club member with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Undesignated donations are also eligible for use in Community Impact Grants. Individuals can donate with an automatic deduction from a checking or bank account which qualifies them for individual levels of recognition, such as Melvin Jones Fellowships and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships. These could be for as little as \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month whatever you can afford.

Websites

There are several great websites that will be useful for every Lion. 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 The website has a wealth of information available to all Lions: general information, service projects, membership, club improvement, online training, media and news releases, and LCIF.

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation website is a great for information regarding the sight, hearing and/or speech impairments, www.mtlionsshfnd.org

LCI celebrates 100 years with the unveiling of MyLion – a world-class mobile app designed to make service volunteering fun, fast and easy. Get ready to connect and serve with Lions everywhere—right from your mobile phone. Learn more and download today at: www.mylion.org

Contact Information

DG Verna Love, 820 N. Montana Street, #10; Dillon, MT 50725; H 406-988-4585; C 406-498-5796; vprosgroup@hotmail.com

1st VDG Mike Collins, 40 Meadowlark Drive; Kalispell, MT 59901; H 406-752-3473; C 406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net

2nd VDG Michael Tobin, Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; H 406-397-1215; C 406-450-2780; miket@northerntel.net

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