

District Governor Newsletter

May
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”

Montana entered into the first phase of a staggered reopening of the state in the coming days, which includes lifting a statewide stay-at-home order and some of the restrictions that closed schools, restaurants, bars, retail stores and more.

Measures taken by our state Governor has slowed the spread of the coronavirus, which has sickened over 439 and killed 16 Montanans since the first cases were diagnosed here nearly six weeks ago.

The statewide stay-at-home order lifted April 26th, individuals were allowed to attend church services and Monday April 27th for nonessential businesses, as well as the possibility to re-open schools.

What does that mean for Lions Clubs in Montana? First and foremost, we all need to remain cautious and careful. We’ve all gotten the message to maintain safe social distance and the importance of washing our hands.

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As far as club meetings, some clubs have utilized, electronic meetings via Zoom, social media, as well as other electronic tools.

I've received reports that there were a number of clubs that created service projects by making face masks and distributed them to nursing homes. Others supported food banks.

We successfully conduct cabinet & advisory meetings via Go to Meeting; and, we were able to hold our state election via U.S. Mail in order to insure a legal and timely election of our incoming district governor and vice district governors.

Where there is a will, there is a way! Lions are still about serving the communities we live in; I applaud those of you who did not give up or give in to this unfortunate crisis we've faced with this pandemic.

Although we had to cancel the District Convention scheduled for April 24th-25th, no one was as disappointed as I, and based on the amount of work that the Glendive Lions club put into the hosting of this convention, I can assure you that we all miss an event of a lifetime! However, as difficult of a decision as it was to cancel, as your governor, I had to look out for the health and safety of the district that gave me the privilege to serve your best interest.

As I approach the end of my term, my best wishes go out to the new District governor's team for 2020-2021: District Governor Elect, Mike Collins, (Kalispell); 1st Vice District Governor Michael Tobin (Coutts/Sweetgrass), and 2nd Vice District Governor Scott Dornfeld (Billings Heights).

WE are Lions – WE are Montanans- We are strong- We STILL SERVE!

2020 DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS

Final results from the recent 2020 convention election are as follows:
DGE, Mike Collins, Kalispell Lions Club;

1st VDGE, Michael Tobin, Coutts/Sweetgrass Lions Club; 2nd VDGE Scott Dornfeld, Billings Heights Lions Club.

Montana Lions have chosen Kalispell as the site for the 2021 convention, April 23 and 24.

The constitutional amendment to add the "District Administrator" to the list of district officers and to the District Cabinet, passed. The proposal to add the "District Administrator" to the list of compensated district officials, passed. The proposal to add to the district by-laws, Article I, Section 8, "Montana District 37 grants full delegate status to each past district governor who is a member of a club in such district independent of the club delegate quotas, passed.

Congratulations to the district's 2020-2021 incoming district governor and vice district governors. They will officially take office on July 1.

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.



Congratulations to: LION MIKE HANNULA Great Falls Sunrise Lions Club

This year's winner of the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation raffle and a 2020 Honda Pioneer 700 with dump box, roll bars and doors.

When he was contacted by PDG Dan Sturdevant and was told he'd won, he stated, "are you kidding me? I've never won anything in my life!" I contacted Lion Mike on Sunday afternoon to congratulate him, and he stated that he's been buying raffle tickets for at least 18 years of his 20 years of being a Lion. He said he never expects to

win, he just wants to support the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation!

Lion Mike joined Lions in 2000, served as club secretary from 2014-2019. He retired from 27 years of service in the U.S. Air Force National Guard. His wife Lion Susan Hannula, has served Lions since 2015.

We thank all of you who sold and purchased tickets; your support is greatly appreciated by the Foundation.

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.

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



Website Update

From District Governor Verna Love:
 Much appreciation to our Web-Master Jerry Leggate! (Billings Lions Club).

I got a number of calls and messages from members around the district indicating they couldn't get on the Montana Lions website. I had experienced some difficulty, but if you've ever been on a conference call with DGE Collins there the help me, you can appreciate that it was just me.


After contacting Lion Jerry, he got right to work on it and discovered we had some hosting issues. After days and hours of his tireless effort, we are back up and running!

This was a bitter sweet experience because it told me that our Lions were accessing the site.

If you have issues getting back on track please send Lion Jerry an email, at: jnleggate@yahoo.com

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
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.

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. DGE Mike Collins, 406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net or Lion Jerry Leggate, 406-698-3186; jnleggate@yahoo.com

CLUB OFFICER TRAINING

District 37 will be offering club officer training for all club officers for the upcoming Lions year. We will be starting with a training session for all incoming club officers. The second session will be for club treasurers. Sessions for secretaries and membership chairpersons will be announced soon.

The first session is for all officers and will include:

- Know some Lions history;
- Describe the Lions Club International Structure;
- Describe standard club leadership structure;
- Identify the duties and responsibilities of each club officer;
- Be familiar with the Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws;
- Understand Meaningful Projects;
- Know what a good meeting is;
- Be familiar with the LCI Suite, MyLCI; MyLion and the Lions Learning Center.

Please register for Club Officer Training – All officers on May 9, 2020; 6:00 PM MDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1483093158354989837>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The second webinar will be for Club Treasurers. It will include:

- Treasurer Responsibilities;
- Club Accounts & Budgets;
- Member Dues;
- Payments;
- Financial Policies;
- Financial Records

Please register for Club Officer Training – Treasurer on May 16, 2020; 6:00 PM, MDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2263597980006389517>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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.

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.

PLUSOPTIX

Hello Fellow Lions:

With the overwhelming 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; 406-253-1726; 406-257-2258) The cost is \$7,235.00 for the S-12 machine, printer and labels.. For \$7,015.00 clubs can just purchase the S-12 machine. The machines are available now and ready to be shipped or arrangements can be made for personal delivery, depending on location. Keep in mind, I will be willing to provide personal training at a specific location and time that works for the purchasing club. You will not have to fly blind in using these machines.

Reminder: please send in your total screened and total referred each month. With this information we are able to purchase more machines and provide up-to-date statistics on the amazing work the Montana Lions do i vision issues for our future leaders.

Leadership Forum

As of Mach 13, 2020; 26,993 children have been screened in the State of Montana. In fiscal years 2019-2020 2,780 children have been referred for additional evaluation.

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

USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM



Louisville
Kentucky

September 17-19, 2020

At this time, there hasn't been any updates as far as the 2020 USA/Canada Forum in Kentucky. We still have until May 31st to register early, however, the impact of Covid-19 virus concerns , understandably there maybe reluctance to register and make travel arrangements. As information becomes available, it will be circulated to our members. You may also visit:

<https://lionsforum.org/newsletters1> for up-to-date info.



Dear Fellow Lions,

We are still going through trying times around our District. Most clubs are not meeting or meeting via video, our convention was cancelled and we all look forward to getting out and about again.

Although we may not be as active at the club and district level our International Foundation continues to meet needs around the world. This is the time many clubs have made donations to the Foundation, and it is just as important to do so again this year.

We are looking at the possibility of a \$10,000 Emergency Grant from the Foundation for relief here in Montana from the effects of COVID-19. We have been working with the Billings and Bozeman areas as they have the majority of cases, however I will be working with the Food Banks around the state. At present the Food Banks are not eligible, however, the BODs are looking at including them as recipients.

I will keep you informed of any changes, but the need is there, not only for COVID-10 relief, but also for hurricane, tornado and flood relief which will be coming into the forefront soon.

Remember 100% of all donations from clubs and individuals go to relief and are tax deductible for individuals.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Lary Garrison, LCIF Dist. 37 Chair



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



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.

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