

# District Governor Newsletter

August  
2021

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

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## Message from District Governor Michael Tobin

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

Happy August Lions of District 37. It has been a smokey, but fun July and I don't foresee changes for August, stay cool. As August starts, I look back at my June and July travels and the one thing I noticed is that people want to get out and go. All the camp sites I visited were full. I am glad I made reservations early. That being said, with their want to get out and get involved in something, now is the time to start asking people if they would like to become Lions club members and start to serve our communities. I think you would be surprised in their responses. But you need to ask, first.

Our new web page provider (EDGE out of Helena) is in full swing on producing our new web page. But they need your help, with information and pictures of your club members doing their service projects. Please send information to [deanna@edgemarketingdesign.com](mailto:deanna@edgemarketingdesign.com) As the web page evolves and you start to use it, any suggestions are welcome.

Again, as August starts I and my governor's team are starting our club visits. We are excited and enthusiastic to start the visits Please welcome them and don't be afraid to give them comments on how things are going. We can't help if we don't know. The District is actively seeking ways to help the clubs, but we need to have your input. As you start having in-person club meetings remember we are **"UNITED IN SERVICE"**.

DG Michael Tobin



### **District Governor Michael Tobin**

DG Mike was born in Helena, MT, graduating from Helena High (go Bengals). After graduation Mike joined the US Navy retiring as a Senior Chief (E-8) after 24 years. Moving his family back to Helena, He started his own Window and Door business.

After 9/11 he felt the need to continue his public service so he closed his business and was hired by INS (Immigration and Nationalization Service) as an inspector where he was stationed at the Sweet Grass POE, (port of entry). After over 10 years as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer he retired a second time.

He currently drives bus for the Sunburst School District #2. Mike is married to Lion Peggy and they have two daughters Michelle and Meghan.

Mike is a member of the Coutts/Sweet Grass Lions Club. He has served several terms as club president and LCIF Coordinator. He has served as zone chair for zone 7 for two years prior to becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor



### **1st Vice District Governor Scott Dornfeld**

1st VDG Scott was born in Minot, ND and the family moved to Montana when he was 3 years old. He was raised and went through school in Kalispell, graduating from Flathead High School. After graduation, he attended Flathead Valley Community College for 2 years. Upon completion of coursework at FVCC, he attended Eastern Montana College, Billings (now called MSUB). After graduating from EMC, he went to work for a chemical distributor as the office/warehouse manager, and later, on the road as a salesman, travelling Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota.

In 1985, he had the opportunity to spend more time at home with the family and bought a music store in Sidney, MT. He owned and operated the store for 28 years, until retirement. He and his wife, Barb, moved back to Billings to enjoy their newfound freedom. They have two children, Becky, living in Miles City, and Jeff, living in Williston, ND. They also enjoy their 6 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter whenever possible.

Scott started his life in Lions with the Sidney Lions club, serving as a director, secretary, and president. When he returned to Billings, he transferred his membership to the Billings Heights Lions club. He has served as president, secretary, zone and regional zone chairs.



## **2<sup>ND</sup> Vice District Governor Brian Gertiser**

Brian was born in Michigan, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of eight children. The family moved around the state as his father was promoted in the Michigan State Police. The family settle in Davison, MI where Brian graduated from Davison Sr. High. Brian also graduated for trade school at the same time. After graduation he started working in the heating and cooling field.

One of his employers was very involved in the Optimist Club, and his neighbor was involved with Lions.

With the desire to see other parts of the country, Brian loaded up the family and moved to Bozeman. While still working in the HVAC field, Brian returned to school and earned a degree in Business Management.

Brian and his wife Deborah started their own heating and cooling business and after 26 years have retired to their home in Bridger Canyon.

In 1986 Brian joined the Gallatin Empire Lions for the first time, but life got too busy and complicated, and he dropped out for a short time. Brian rejoined Lions in 2001 and just recently receive his 20-year monarch chevron.

Brian is a Melvin Jones recipient. Past president of the Gallatin Empire Lions Club, held the secretary position, served as Zone Chair for Zone 13, and is currently the treasurer of the Hyalite Youth Camp.

## **SERVICE FROM THE HEART AUGUST 2021**

I learned very early on about the importance and power of community. In Brooklyn, we work together and support each other to make life better for everyone. And that's why Lions has always felt like a family to me—like my home. Because the Lions, helping others is more than what we do It's who we are. And we give our "Service from the Heart." That is the message I want us to share with the world.

We have a vision to make a better world for all people. That vision begins with us at home in our communities. Our safe service is helping so many people, so let us continue to be guided by our hearts and to move our communities forward. Let's live out who we say we are. Let's show the world what it truly means to have the heart of a Lion.

It is a great honor to be your international president. And I promise I will serve you with all my heart.

**DOUGLAS X. ALEXANDER**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

## DISTRICT WEBSITE MONTANALIONS.ORG

The district's website team composed of PCC Dan Krum, PDG Richard Gessling, Lion Jerry Leggate, Lion Jessica Falcon, and Lion Daniel Douthit chose EDGE Marketing and Design of Helena to redesign the district's website. The district cabinet approved the team's selection of EDGE at the July 17 cabinet meeting.

The work is just now beginning as we need to give EDGE information about ourselves. There is a critical need for photos of Montana Lions participating in service projects. Please email photos to EDGE, [deanna@edgemarketingdesign.com](mailto:deanna@edgemarketingdesign.com). Thanks for your support. An excellent example of the type of work EDGE has done can be viewed at the Florence Crittenton website.

## 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](http://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. **If you have not reported your 2021-2022 club officers please do so as soon as possible.** As of the end of July the following clubs have not reported their 2021-2022 club officers. Anaconda, Butte Copper City, Cut Bank, Deer Lodge, Fairfield, Great Falls, Great Falls Sunrise, Hot Springs, Huntley Project, Joliet, Nashua, Plains, Plentywood, Sun River Valley, and Turner/Hogeland. Club members, encourage your club officers to file the required report. Thanks.

## 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](mailto:djk_7491@rangeweb.net)

## HAMILTON LIONS CLUB 91<sup>ST</sup> CHARTER NIGHT

At the Hamilton Lions Club's 91<sup>st</sup> Charter Night Banquet held at the Skalkaho Steak House, a 50-year Lions membership pin and a Half Century Club plaque was presented to Hamilton Lions Jim Whitlock by 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Scott Dornfeld. Lion Jim is a former Hamilton City Mayor, Club President, current Tail Twister and 55-year member of the Lost Trail Powder Mountain Ski Patrol. Hamilton Lion Ron Beck also has earned his 50-year membership pin and Half Century Club plaque, but was unable to attend the Charter Night Banquet. Lion Ron spent most of his Lion years

with the Lennox South Dakota Lions Club and served as its treasurer and president. Presentation of his awards will be made at a later date. Both Lions, Jim and Ron set an example for all of us.

## **DISTRICT DIRECTORY**

Work continues on the 2021-2022 district directory. The goal is to have the directory printed and in the mail to clubs prior to Labor Day. Directories will be sent to every club president and club secretary and all cabinet members. The directory is a great resource with a listing of all cabinet members and club officers and their contact information. Club meeting times, dates and locations are included. Additional information includes: listing of trustees of Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, LEO clubs, district endorsed projects, website information, hall of fame members, variety of Lions related information, protocol for district governor visits, international officers and international directors.

## **USA/CANADA FORUM**

The Planning and Host Committees continue to plan the finer details of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

Thank you to all of you who have pre-registered. I know I'm not the only one looking forward to being with like-minded Lions for an inspirational weekend of leadership, friendship, and service! It's not too late to register (the current fee is \$320) but some of the hotels have filled up, so don't stay on the fence too long.

The registration deadline and the \$320.00 registration fee has been extended until August 15.

**COVID Protocol:** There will be onsite testing on Friday September 10 at the Iowa Events Center. The Forum will follow safety protocols in effect at the Iowa Events Center. Currently:

- Face coverings are NOT required for fully vaccinated individuals (shots completed at least 14 days prior);
- Face coverings ARE required for individuals NOT fully vaccinated;
- As recommended by the CDC, it is recommended that masks be worn in large gatherings;
- Hand Sanitation Stations will be available throughout the Iowa Center.

There are so many interesting things to do in Des Moines, and we are bringing some new features to the Forum, this year to complement the many things you already enjoy. There will be something for everyone at #1LionsForum2021! Together in Service.

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](http://www.lionsforum.org) or to register on line at: [register@lionforum.org](mailto:register@lionforum.org)

## 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.org](http://www.mtlionsshfnd.org)  
Information regarding programs and sight, hearing and/or speech impairments.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

DG Michael Tobin, Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; H 406-937-1215; C 406-450-2780;  
[miket@northerntel.net](mailto:miket@northerntel.net)

1st VDG Scott Dornfeld, 744 Arbor Hills Drive, Billings, MT 59105; C, 406-489-1884;  
[Sdornfeld51@gmail.com](mailto:Sdornfeld51@gmail.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Brian Gertiser, 10680 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715; C 406-539-0992; [2bjgert@gmail.com](mailto:2bjgert@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)



## **CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:**

### **August**

Baker	1946	75 Years
Ennis	1948	73 Years
Huntley Project	1954	67 Years

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

August	Executive Committee Meeting, Oak Brook
August	LCIF Board of Trustees Meeting, Oak Brook
September	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

## **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, Chairperson**

Welcome to a new Lions year. I am thrilled to be starting my new role as chairperson of LCIF and look forward to what accomplishments the year will bring. We are now in the final phase of CAMPAIGN 100 and we are making history with LCIF's largest fundraising initiative to date. Let's continue to build on that success as LCIF supports Lions in one of the biggest comebacks the world has ever seen. As we work hard to move past COVID-19 and continue to support our Loins in the areas of vision, youth, disaster relief, humanitarian, diabetes, childhood cancer, hunger and environment let's remember why we do it. We do it because we have a world in need. There are people in every corner of this earth depending on Lions. Depending on LCIF. Let's make this the most successful year yet!

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, Chairperson  
Lions Clubs International Foundation



**The total donations from District 37 amounted to \$29,002 for the 2020-21 Lionistic Year. A special thank you to the following clubs that gave from club funds or from individual Lions. Billings Lions, Billings Heights Lions, Bozeman Lions, Bozeman Gallatin Empire Lions, Bozeman Sweet Pea Lions, Butte Copper City Lions, Columbia Falls Lions, Coutts=Sweetgrass Lions, Cut Bank Lions, Denton Lions, Dillon Lions, Ennis Lions, Evergreen Lions, Forsyth Lions, Fort Benton Lions, Great Falls Electric City Lions, Great Falls Sunrise Lions, Hamilton Lions, Havre Lions, Helena Lions, Helena Gold Rush Lions, Hysham Lions, Kalispell Lions, Kalispell Sunrisers Lions, Laurel Lions, Missoula South Side Lions, Shepherd Lions, Sidney Lions, Superior Lions, Winnett Lions.**

**This year I hope that every club will make a donation to LCIF. Large or small every donation adds to the total. District 37 has a very good return from our donations, and LCIF deserves our support. The Laurel Handicap Fishing Dock and Park improvements will break ground at 10 am on Thursday, August 5th. We are awaiting word on the Denton grant for their new ambulance which will be reviewed at the August Board of Director meeting.**

**If your club is looking at a project that may qualify for a grant contact me or DG Mike Tobin at the planning stage. Once construction is started a project is no longer eligible, and all applications must be submitted at least 90 days before the scheduled Board meetings. These occur the first week of January, May and August. There are a number of grants so also ask if your project could qualify, so ask. I cannot guarantee acceptance of every application-but-I can guarantee that unless an application is sought it will not get one!**

**This is the final year for Campaign 100. People, real people, are receiving help every hour of every day through the generosity of Lions around the world. We give donations every year- Remember the Lions Clubs International Foundation this and every year. Mail your donations to LCIF, 300 W 22nd St. Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842 or [donorassistance@lionsclubs.org](mailto:donorassistance@lionsclubs.org).**

**Yours in Lionism,**

**Lary Garrison, LCIF Chair**



DG Michael Tobin leads the cabinet meeting; front row, PDG Dennis Kopitzke; middle row, PCC Dan Krum, Lion Steve Melby, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Scott Dornfeld, Lion Bob Hannon, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Brian Gertiser; back row, PDG Dan Sturdevant, PDG Laary Garrison, Lion Marie Hajny, PID Dave Hajny, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Teresa Falcon, Lion Jessica Falcon; Photo by PCC Ben Apeland

PDG Dennis Kopitzke – District Administrator/Secretary  
Box 1266, Forsyth, MT 59327  
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djk\_7491@rangeweb.net

July 18, 2021

Montana District 37 – Cabinet Meeting, July 17, 2021; Bozeman, MT; Meeting face to face and via “Zoom”

Attendees: DG Mike Collins, DGE Michael Tobin, 1<sup>st</sup> VDGE Scott Dornfeld, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDGE Brian Gertiser, PID Dave Hajny, PCC Ben Apeland, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Dennis Kopitzke, PDG Lary Garrison, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Raleigh Peck, Lion Marie Hajny, Lion Jessica Falcon, Lion Bob Hannon, Lion Steve Melby  
Guest: PDG Dan Sturdevant

- I. Call to Order by DG Michael Tobin at 12:00 Noon
  - a. DG Tobin led the cabinet in the Pledge of Allegiance

- b. PDG Lary Garrison provided an invocation
  - c. Roll Call – Sign in documentation
  - d. Introductions by those in attendance
  - e. DG opening comments – Excitement regarding the new Lions year. The #1 priority will be communications with special emphasis on the communications between clubs and the district and LCI; work continues on a new website that will allow easy access to virtually all district activities, LCI information and will include information submitted by any Montana Lions club; every Montana Lions club will be asked to increase club membership by plus one (1) member; there will be an emphasis on training all key club leaders within the State.
- II. Minutes – April 25, 2021 cabinet meeting; motion VDG Scott Dornfeld, second by PCC Dan Krum, to approve the minutes. Passed.
- III. Financial Reports – PCC Dan Krum provided the reports. Motion PCC Dan Krum, second by PCC Ben Apeland to approve the reports. Passed.
- IV. Additions to the agenda
- a. Purchase equipment
  - b. Website update
  - c. PCC Ben Apeland, ID campaign
- V. General Business
- a. Grants, LCIF, PDG Lary Garrison – Laurel, their park project is moving ahead, bidding is in process, work should start in May and be finished in October; Denton grant is pending; diabetes camp grant (\$40,000.00) has been approved and funds have been received. There are many grant options available to clubs, contact PDG Lary Garrison for more information.
  - b. Administrator’s Report – PDG Dennis Kopitzke presented the report; information only, no action required
  - d. Club Health Assessment – The district is down in membership; many clubs are still not meeting; the Charlo club has folded; the Lolo club has folded as has the Lewistown club.
  - e. Zone Reports – None
  - f. Club Visitations – Visitations have not started; plans are being developed for 2021-2022 visitations.
  - g. Committee Reports

GMT – Lion Steve Melby will be the GMT leader; DG Michael Tobin and Lion Steve have met and established expectations.

GLT – Team leader is IPDG Mike Tobin. The Leadership Retreat will be held in Polson on October 8-9. Invitations have been extended to 47 Lions with a commitment date of July 31. IPDG Mike Collins is preparing a training manual, with input from other Lions; training will be provided for VDG's as well as for club officers. Plans continue to be developed.

GST – Lion Jesse Gonzalez, nothing new to report

LCIF – PDG Lary Garrison will continue to serve as the district's chairperson. A pledge form associated with Campaign 100 was given to all meeting attendees.

NAMA – North American Membership Alliance; GMA, Global Membership Approach; efforts will continue to be involved in the membership efforts.

## VI. Old Business

- a. Magnetic Signs - The signs have arrived and efforts are being made to distribute 4 signs to every club.
- b. Virtual Diabetes Club – DG Mike Collins continues to work on establishing a state wide virtual diabetes club.

## VII. New Business

- a. Communications/Website – DGE Mike Tobin will lead the effort to update the district website and develop a district communication plan. Efforts will be made to contract with a business that can develop and manage the district's website. The contractor needs to have experience working with non-profits.

Six proposals were received with EDGE from Helena selected as the contractor that will work with the district. Approximate cost \$8750.00 or \$920.00 annual fee; \$75.00 per month. 50% of the cost must be paid "up front". Motion by PCC Dan Krum, second by PID Dave Hajny to approve the financial arrangement. Passed.

EDGE will train several Lions regarding the website. The district will continue to have input on design features. A district website administrator will be chosen.

- b. Administrator's Contract – DG, VDG's and IPDG will review the agreement and make recommendations for changes. DG Michael Tobin has authority

to sign an agreement on behalf of the district. Motion by PID Dave Hajny, second by PDG Lary Garrison to approve the proposal. Passed.

- c. Treasurer's Contract – No contract needed; compensation approved via district budget
- d. Endorsed Projects – Annual reports may be submitted in writing or made verbally at the first cabinet meeting of the new Lions year. Approved via unanimous consent.
- e. Policy Update – Cabinet members reviewed the proposed changes/updates. Proposed change, Article 6, Section A: All appointees must be in good standing of clubs within the District. Motion by CDG Scott Dornfeld, second by PCC Dan Krum to approve the change. Passed.
- f. Lewistown club, designated funds – There is \$3807.38 being held by the district associated with the Lewistown club. Motion by PDG Lary Garrison, second by VDG Scott Dornfeld that the funds be held by the district and be available for the possible growth of a new Lewistown Lions Club. Passed.
- g. 2021-2022 Training – Training will happen in 2021-2022.
  - i. Leadership Retreat will be held on October 8-9 in Polson; final plans for the event are moving ahead.
  - ii. Governor Training – Ongoing training will be provided to the district governor and vice district governors. Plans continue to develop aspects of the training
  - iii. Region/Zone Chair Training – DG Tobin, VDG's Dornfeld and Gertiser, IPDG and other key Lions will be used to help train region and zone chairs as well as club officers
- h. Administrator's Financial Report – Information only
- i. 2021-2022 Directory – Same format as in the past several years; copies of the directory will be provided to every club president and secretary, cabinet members and others with a need for a directory. Approximately 170 copies will be printed and distributed prior to Labor Day.
- j. 2021-2022 Cabinet – Almost all positions have been filled. There is still a need for a Zone Chair for zone 13.

#### VIII. Additional Items

- a. District Equipment – DG Mike Tobin is making plans to secure equipment (computer, flash drives, passwords, email addresses, mailing addresses, other related) to provide transferable equipment and information from current DG to incoming DG thus maintaining continuity in the leadership needs of the district.

- b. Website – Issue addressed earlier in the meeting.
- c. PCC Ben Apeland, ID campaign – PCC Ben continues to be a candidate for International Director. He is collecting information from LCI on the details associated with his candidacy. Quarterly reports will be provided to the cabinet.

Note: IPDG Mike Collins provided a farewell message to 2020-2021 cabinet members and wished new administration, cabinet and Montana Lions the very best in the 2021-2022 Lions year.

Next meeting: October 9, 11:00 AM, Helena (exact location to be determined)

Adjournment: 1:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Dennis Kopitzke*

PDG Dennis Kopitzke, District 37 Administrator/Secretary  
July 18, 2021