

District Newsletter

June
2024

DG Brian Gertiser
DGE Raleigh Peck
1st VDGE Corinna Christensen
2nd VDGE Jon Kimble
montanalions.org

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“Where there is a need, there is a Lion” District Governor Message - DG Brian Gertiser

Greetings fellow lions of District 37 and beyond,

All I can say is what a year this has been. No Wait! What a great experience the last three years have been.

When I started on this journey as the Second Vice District Governor through this year as your District Governor, I was able to meet and share some wonderful times with Lions across this great state and into the world of Lionism as a whole. There are Lions that I was privileged to meet that are doing some truly great impact in our district and the world. So many that I feel I could never remember them all.

Some projects we are doing include screening an average of 34,000 children a year through Plus Optics with a referral rate of around 11%. These are kids that will be given a far better chance of success in school and life.

It was great that 54% of our clubs reported to LCI 15,000 hours of service projects with over 99,000 people served. Great job everyone, let's keep up the great work.

Our LCIF grants program and the Montana Sight and Hearing Foundation has allowed us to help clubs in their communities that may not have been able to assist without them.

Hunger, sight, hearing, the environment, childhood cancer, diabetes, I think we hit them all and we are living up to our motto "WE SERVE".

Our district had positive growth this year, hopefully we can keep it up and share the wonderful world of Lionism with even more people around the state. I hope everyone will continue to work on expanding our membership, we need help in serving our communities and new members are the key. The Branch Club initiative is ongoing, and we have clubs actively working on club expansion. This is something I am going to assist our new District Governor on next year.

We had a wonderful Convention in Havre and I appreciate all the work everyone put into a great experience that Deb and I had. Our International guest, PID Jenny Ware was quite pleased with everything as well.

I would not have been able to do this job without a whole lot of support from the cabinet and our team. Special thanks to Lion Peggy for all her work as the District's Administrator. Thank You to All the GAT leaders, all of you took the ball and ran with it. Finally thank you to PID Lion Dave Hajny and ID Lion Ben Apeland for your help and guidance, it was invaluable.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Clubs that we visited; everyone made us so welcome.

My sincere hope is that all the Lions in District 37 show and share the same level of help and volunteerism for incoming District Governor Lion Raleigh Peck that has been exhibited to myself.

Again, Thank You Lions of District 37, I hope to see you all again soon.

Remember our motto "We Serve"!

Yours in Lionism,
District Governor, Brian Gertiser

DGE Message - Raleigh Peck

Hello Montana Lions,

With only a month left in this Lionistic year I thought it's a great time to let you know what my plans are for our next year.

With Mission 1.5 in full swing there's a big push from Lions International for lots of new members and more importantly, NEW CLUBS. My plan is to ask every club to look at neighboring communities that could benefit from having Lions in them.

It's ok if it's a small population. We have a new way to build membership called Club Branches. It only takes 5 Lions to get started. Another great way to increase membership is with specialty clubs or branches. Look for underserved parts of communities. Groups like Spanish speaking or other ethnic clubs are great ideas for club branches. There's lots of examples I'd love to discuss with you as we move forward.

I want to fix our communications so I will be reaching out to all Club Presidents and Secretaries to request they attend all District Cabinet Meetings by Zoom if it's too far to travel so it's easy to know what's going on. We need to make sure ALL club officers and zone chairs get the training provided by LCI. Most are available online at your leisure and take less than an hour. The more you know the easier it is to be a great leader. We still have a couple zones that need chairs, so if you know of a Lion that would be a great leader, PLEASE let me know.

Our first cabinet meeting will be Saturday, July 13th at 10:30 am at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls. Looking forward to seeing and hearing from as many of you as possible.

I invite everyone with any questions or comments to give me a call or text at 406-480-5000 or email at raleighgpeck@gmail.com. I WILL call you back if I don't answer immediately.

Thanks for your service and have a great summer.

Yours in Lionism,
DGE Raleigh

1st VDGE Message-Corinna Christensen

Dear Fellow Lions of Montana District 37,

Exciting Leadership Transitions at the Lions Clubs International Convention:

As Lions from around the world gather in Melbourne, Australia this June, we are set to witness significant leadership transitions within our esteemed organization. Notably, District Governor Elect Raleigh Peck will be inducted as the Governor of District 37 in Montana, marking the beginning of a new chapter of dedicated service and community impact.





Alongside this, we proudly welcome Fabrício Oliveira as he takes office as the President of Lions Clubs International. Fabrício Oliveira hails from Catolé do Rocha, Paraíba, Brazil. Elected first vice president at the 105th International Convention in July 2023, Oliveira brings a wealth of experience and a robust business background, holding an MBA from Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) and a degree in Administration.

A Lion since 1985 and a member of the Catolé do Rocha Lions Club, Oliveira has served in numerous roles, including club president, district governor, and international director. His dedicated service has earned him multiple prestigious awards, such as the Ambassador of Good Will Award and 14 International President's Awards. Outside of Lions, Oliveira has held significant positions in professional and community organizations, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to leadership and service.

Looking Ahead:

A. P. Singh as Future President- As we look forward to the 2025-2026 Lionistic year, VDGE Corinna Christensen will be stepping into the role of governor for District 37, coinciding with A. P. Singh's ascension to the presidency of Lions Clubs International at the convention to be held in Mexico City.



A. P. Singh, from Kolkata, India, was elected second vice president at the same convention in July 2023. With a career as a practicing chartered accountant and family business interests in automobile dealerships, Singh has been an active Lion since 1984 and a member of the Calcutta Vikas Lions Club. His extensive service includes roles such as district governor, GMT international

coordinator, and chairperson for numerous committees. Singh's contributions have been recognized with the highest honors, including multiple International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award.

A Future of Inspired Leadership:

These leadership transitions symbolize the unwavering commitment and dynamic vision of our organization. As we embrace the new leadership of Fabrício Oliveira and look forward to the presidency of A. P. Singh, we are confident in their ability to steer Lions Clubs International towards continued growth and impactful service. Together, we will continue to serve, inspire, and make a difference in communities worldwide.

Yours in service,
Corinna Christensen
1st Vice District Governor Elect, Montana District 37



Changing the World with International President Dr. Patti Hill

The purpose of my life on this earth is to help others achieve their potential. If I'm not doing that, I should be! Let's think of others this holiday season.

Dear Lion,

We're almost at the end of the Lion year, and I've been so fortunate to meet many of you during my travels. I experienced first-hand one of our association's greatest strengths—the diversity of our membership and service.

For more than 100 years, Lions have opened their arms to the world and embraced new people, projects and ideas. We provide eyeglasses to those with low vision, welcome displaced people to our communities, care for the elderly and so much more.

As Lions, we don't just accept the status quo—we innovate to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities. Let's continue to find new ways of supporting all people who need us and inviting all people who want to join us in service.

Yours in service,

Dr. Patti Hill
International President

GLT Report - PDG Mike Collins

Global Leadership Team, June, 2024

WANTED LIONS LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS

District 37 is proud to offer leadership training for current or future leaders. The training will be held in Choteau, MT starting the afternoon of September 20th and all day September 21st. Food and lodging is included at no charge. To be added to the invitation list, please contact PDG Mike Collins at mikeacollins99@charter.net or 406-871-4176 for more information.

THE NEW LION PORTAL HAS LAUNCHED

Many of you may have received the email regarding the new Lion portal launch. Here are the details of the timing of the launch. We do not know when everyone will be receiving the invitations to access the new Lion Portal, but here is some important information to prepare you for launch.

Phased rollout for Lion Account Users

Our target launch window is April 15 – May 13*. During this time, all current Lion Account users will receive an email inviting them to access the new Lion Portal**. We're doing this phased rollout to ensure staff are available to provide the best support possible and offer you a positive introductory experience.

- **April 12 and beyond:** MyLion, MyLCI and Insights are no longer available.
- **April 15 – May 13:** Invitations to access the new Lion Portal sent via email on a rolling basis to existing Lion Account users.

Please note: User permissions will not change. In other words, those who can report service, access member data and other key functions remains the same.

- **May 13 and beyond:** All visitors attempting to access the previous digital tools will be automatically redirected to the new Lion Portal.

*Dates are subject to change. Our number one goal is to create a positive experience for Lions and Leos. If determined more time is required to ensure the product is in an optimal state, the dates may be adjusted accordingly.

**If you don't see the email in your everyday inbox, please check all spam and junk folders for it first before contacting Member Support.

Note that the new Lion Portal will require a unique, unshared email, and phone numbers will no longer be supported as a log in credential.

Information and resources

Be sure to visit lionsclubs.org/portal-updates for the latest information and resources, which includes handy how-to videos for help accessing the new portal once you've received your Lion Portal invitation email.

We appreciate your support and thank you for your continued service as we prepare for the new Lion Portal – together.

Sincerely, Sue Ben
Chief of Technology, Lions International

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - June, 2024

All Lions, but especially those interested in global service (GST) should take time to review the information on the newly revised LCI website. The site provides information in the Member Resource Center associated with our global causes: childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, humanitarian projects, hunger, vision and youth.

To access GST information on the Lions Clubs website: www.lionsclubs.org; go to member "Log In"; once logged in you will have access to the Member Resource Center; go to the "Service" link where you will find our Global Causes; Programs and Resources.

Emphasis is placed on a variety of programs such as: advocacy for causes, diabetes camps, diabetes support groups, Strides for Diabetes, Type 2 diabetes screening, Lions Eye Banks, recycling glasses, eyeglass recycling centers, Sight First, Lions Quest, and youth camps and exchanges.

Resources are also provided in the Service Journey section: the service launch pad includes ready to go planning resources that help you serve the causes your club cares about. The resources can be used to help create, support and promote virtually any Lions service project.

Once you have completed your service project it is important that the results be reported to LCI. The section associated with **Service Reporting** provides information associated with: how and when to report service, who can report service, how to measure service, benefits of reporting service and why report service?

Service Tool Kit: The tool kit provides: quick start ideas, Club Quality Initiative instructions; club and community needs assessment, development of local partnerships, fundraising guide, why service reporting matters.

For more information contact PDG Dennis Kopitzke, GST leader; Box 1266, Forsyth, MT 59327; 406-853-8695; djk_7491@rangeweb.net

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team, June, 2024

New Trifold, Planning

First, I want to thank the team at EDGE (our website developer). Owner Deanna Johnson and Dustin Stewart did a wonderful job making this document easy to use and our clubs now have a tool to help recruit new members and describe how they serve their communities.

I've been traveling to clubs and helping them decide what they should be doing to be vibrant and I can also help them decide what service projects they should develop moving forward. I am only a facilitator in this project and let the club decide what would be best for them.

One thing I have identified that is hindering club health is that very few clubs have a plan. Businesses have plans and determine projects that will make the business a success. If they don't they will fail. The same is true for Lions Clubs. It is true a Lions club is not a business. However, if a Lions Club is not evaluating what they are currently doing - services projects and fund raising - they will start to decline. Times change, businesses know this and change needs to happen to keep being successful. Lions clubs need to do the same.

Too often we keep doing service that has been handled by another group of the government and is not needed. If more funds are needed for projects should they consider a different approach or increase their effort with the same fund raising. A Lions club should be reviewing their current service projects and fundraising goals every so often to keep up with our slogan "WHERE THERE IS A NEED THERE IS A LION". If your club is stuck and in need of a plan, you can evaluate and figure it out on your own or get of hold of Richard Gessling. I have been helping clubs like this and will continue to do so with my team. We can come to your club and facilitate planning. Your club will be renewed and be on its way to be the best club you can be and become more successful. My hope is for all Lions Clubs in District 37 to be the best they can be.

Richard Gessling, email "gesslingdds@gmail.com" (406)425-3785.

PLUSOPTIX

PlusOptix Update – PlusOptix screening totals for school year Aug 2023 to May 2024: 37,132 screened with 4,546 refers.

Thank you for a great school year.

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair
314 9th St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; H. 406-253-1726: lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2024 to May 26, 2024.

Applications Received: 23

Assistance Provided: 8

Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$9,155.00

Applications Received From: Augusta, Bozeman, Bridger, Corvallis, Darby, Dillon, East Helena, Fortine, Great Falls, Hamilton, Helena, Libby, Livingston, Missoula and Stevensville.

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Fellowships

Foundation Fellowship: Foundation Fellowships can now be purchased by individuals. Foundation Fellowships are used to recognize outstanding Lions and other deserving individuals. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation endorses this Fellowship. The Fellowship award includes a lapel pin and a mounted certificate and may only be bestowed by a Lions Club on an individual or group of individuals with a donation of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

PID Fellowship: The PID Dave Hajny, PID Tom Lehman and PID Gary Tschache Fellowships are now available. The fellowships recognize the contributions to Lionism made by PID's Dave, Tom and Gary. The new fellowships are a great way to provide recognition for a deserving Lion. Fellowships can be purchased for five hundred dollars (\$500) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Life Membership: A Life Membership to the Foundation, which includes a lapel pin and pocket card can be bestowed by an individual, group of individuals, Lions Club or can be purchased by an individual with a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Memorial or Honorarium: Remember a loved one or honor that special person by donating to the Foundation. What better way to remember or honor someone than having your donation live in perpetuity? Your Memorial or Honorarium donation is never spent; only the interest earned on these assets will be used to further the purpose of the Foundation.



THE PRAYER OF SAINT BRENDAN

"Help me journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give me the faith to leave the old ways and break fresh ground with you."

1. Childhood Cancer Grants- \$10,000-\$150,000

Help support and improve quality of life for children with cancer and their families.

2. Diabetes Grants- \$10,000-\$150,000

Help reduce prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed.

3. Disaster Relief: Emergency Grants- \$10,000

Help Lions provide immediate emergency assistance to victims of natural disaster.

4. Disaster Relief: Preparedness Grants- \$10,000

Support local authorities and organizations to prepare for future relief efforts.

5. Disaster Relief: Community Recovery Grants- \$20,000

In wake of current disasters affecting at least 100 people, help support short-term clean-up and repair where immediate needs already addressed by other groups.

6. District and Club Community Impact Grants: (DCG)

Awards vary: based on contributions to LCIF.

7. Hunger Grants- \$10,000-\$150,000

Support Lions' service projects focused on alleviating hunger.

8. Leo Service Grants- \$1,500-\$5,000

Support Leos in assessing, planning, implementing their own service projects.

9. Lions Quest: Program Grants- \$50,000

Implement Lions Quest program where Lions have detailed plan and commitment from local schools.

10. Matching Grants- \$10,000-\$150,000

Help establish or expand Lions-initiated projects addressing critical human and social needs.

11. SightFirst Grants- Awards Vary

Help fight major causes of preventable and reversible blindness: provide services to those with blindness or visual impairment.

HOW CAN YOUR CLUB USE A LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT TO JOURNEY BEYOND THE FAMILIAR AND INTO THE UNKNOWN AND HAVE THE FAITH TO LEAVE THE OLD WAYS AND BREAK FRESH GROUND?

District 37 has received over \$1,000,000 in grants from LCIF over the years! Every county in Montana has received some benefit from our Lions Clubs International Foundation through one or more of the above listed grants!

PDG Mike Tobin and I have asked every Lion to donate at least \$10 to LCIF this year, and at least \$500 from every club. To date only 3.8% of Montana Lions and only 50% of the clubs have made a donation.

Saturday June 2nd is the LCIF TELL-A-THON from 11am to 1pm (MDT) from Chicago. Visit Lions virtual TellAThon Facebook group. Register at tellathon.org now!

You can send your tax deductible contribution in support of LCIF to 300 W. 22nd, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523-8842 or at lionsclubs.org/donate. Thank you for your past and future support.

If your club is thinking of a project contact Mike or myself to see if it may qualify for a grant. The only sure denial of a grant is one not asked for!!!

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Lary Garrison, 703 Conway St., Billings 59105 lionlarygarrison@gmail.com,
406-855-6997.
PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst 59482, miktob1951@gmail.com,
406-450-2780

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

Sidney Lions Serving the Youth



Sidney Lions puts on an elementary track meet for grades 1-6, held at the Sidney High School track each year. This year on Monday, 5-14-24, 5:30-7:30pm, we hosted about 120 students along with lots of family cheering them on! Track and field events included 50, 100, and 400 meter dashes, softball throw, high jump and long jump. A special thank you to Sidney Leos for their help. With perfect weather, enthusiastic participants and supportive family, the track meet was a huge success.



DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

Diabetes- Now What? – PDG Dennis Kopitzke, djk_7491@rangeweb.net;
PO Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

Florence Crittenton Home (Helena) - Lion Danielle Vincent; 4410 Crimson Ct, Helena, MT 59602; 406-202-1348; [craftycpa@gmail.com](mailto:crafty CPA@gmail.com);
www.florencecrittenton.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind - PDG Jim Johnke, PO Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406- 928-3311; jrjohnke@gmail.com; www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog
and DG Michael Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; 406-937-1215; miktob1951@gmail.com

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) – Co-Chairs
PDG Lary Garrison, 703 Conway Street, Billings, 59105; 406-855-6997; lionlarygarrison@gmail.com; www.lcif.org
PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482; 406-450-2780; miktob1951@gmail.com

Lions Gift of Sight, (Actively Endorsed) - PDG Dan Sturdevant, PO Box 275, Clancy, MT 59634; 406-439-9297; sturdydan@gmail.com;
www.opthalmology.umn.edu

Montana Association for the Blind – Lion Rhonda Cochrane, 1802 West Park, Anaconda, 59711; 406-490-2669; rhondacochrane67@gmail.com;
www.mabop.org

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation – Lion Jessica Fausey, PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; lionjessicafausey@gmail.com; www.mtlionsshfnd.org

NEWEST ENDORSED PROJECT:

Montana School for the Deaf & Blind Foundation – Lion Mark Willmarth, 220 38th Ave NE, Great Falls MT 59404; 406-899-6110; mark@visionwestmt.com;
<https://www.msdbmustangs.org/about-us/foundation/>

Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance – PDG Mike Collins; 40 Meadowlark Drive, Kalispell, 59901; 406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net

MEMORIAL FORM

Also available on the district website at <https://www.montanalions.org/events/> and can be submitted directly from the website

The chairs for the Memorial/Necrology Service at the District's annual convention are the 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors. During the service they will be recognizing deceased Lions' service and years as a Lion, where we will be asking a club or family member to assist by receiving a memorial rose.

We are asking each club's help in securing information about the deceased Lion. We would like to have members of the club or family members in attendance for the service, as well.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

Deceased Lion's name: _____

Club's name _____

Number of years as a Lion: _____

Service projects involved in: _____

Club Offices held: _____

District Offices held: _____

Awards: _____

Please include the Lion's photo. Return no later than March 31st.

Submitted by: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you!

SPECIAL NOTICES

ELECTION OF 2024-2025 CLUB OFFICERS

This is the time of year than clubs should be in the process of or starting the process of electing club officers for the 2023-2024 Lions year that starts on July 1. **LCI asks that officers be reported to LCI no later than May 15 of this year. If you have not yet submitted your 24-25 club officers, please do so ASAP!!**

DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS

These videos are all accessible via the district website, www.montanalions.org under "Training/Resources". With the release of the new LionPortal, some of this information is outdated and new videos will be provided as soon as possible.

All Club officers: Trainer PDG Mike Collins
Club President: Trainer PDG Mike Tobin
Club Secretary: Trainer Lion Peggy Tobin
Club Treasurer: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

Short videos about how to do specific secretary or treasurer tasks:

Activity Reporting in MyLion (23 minutes)
Monthly Membership Report in MyLCI (15 minutes)
Designating officers for in MyLCI (10 minutes)
Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes)

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Any Lions club member can submit information associated with any type of Lions project or general club information. **You can submit Club News ANYTIME via the website under News/Submit Club News.** Here's the link <https://www.montanalions.org/submit-club-news/> You are also welcome to email your news (hopefully with photo) to: Lion Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com.

WEBSITE UPDATES

The new "Tri-Fold Generator" is now available for clubs to create their own club brochures using a tri-fold format that your club can use to share your information to prospective new members. You will find it under Training/Resources on the website.

The club-level website is still being offered by Montana District 37 at NO COST! If you don't already have a domain name, Deanna can provide one for a cost of \$20/year after the first year. If you are interested in getting a website for your club, please contact Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com or call 406-461-4206.

DISTRICT WEBSITE & AVAILABLE LINKS:

Visit the district website at www.montanalions.org to find a wealth of valuable information regarding almost every aspect associated with the operation of the district. In addition, the “Links To” on the district website will take you to the websites below:

LCI website - Look for: general information, service projects, membership, club improvement, online training, media and news releases, and LCIF.

LionPortal –NEW The newly released access point to your Lion Account (for Members, Club Officers, District Officers, Activity Reporting and all things Lion).

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation*: Information regarding programs and sight, hearing and/or speech impairments.

LCIF* (Lions Clubs International Foundation) – Information regarding the Lions Clubs International Foundation and all of the focus areas – Vision, Youth, Disaster Relief, Humanitarian, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer, Environment and Hunger.

Lions University – Find out about year/round training provided by the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

***Please note that the district website also provides a “Donate” button to donate to MT Sight & Hearing Foundation AND the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).**

DISTRICT OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

DG Brian Gertiser, 10680 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715;
C: 406-539-0992; governor-D37@gmail.com; 2bigert@gmail.com

DGE Raleigh Peck; 1575 10th Ave. SW, Sidney, MT 59270; H: 406-488-7447;
C: 406-480-5000; raleighgpeck@gmail.com

1st VDGE Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729;
C: 406-570-6742; 406corinna@gmail.com

2nd VDGE Jon Kimble; PO Box 1583, Seeley Lake MT 59868;
C: 559-352-1455; jkimble@wellhead.com

District Secretary/Administrator; Peggy Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT, 59482;
C: 406-461-4206; H: 406-937-1215; pegtobin54@gmail.com

District Treasurer: PCC Dan Krum, PO Box 213, Worden, MT 59088;
H: 406-967-3281; C: 406-671-4209; danmar@nemont.net

JUNE CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Turner Hogeland	06/30/1985
White Sulphur Springs	06/17/1985
Whitefish	06/01/2009
Winnett	06/05/1991

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MLS&HF Board Meeting	July 13, 2024, 9:00am, Great Falls, MT School for the Deaf and the Blind
District Cabinet Meeting	July 13, 2024, 10:30am Great Falls, MT School for the Deaf and the Blind

MINUTES – April 21, 2024 – CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, April 21, 2024; 10:00 AM; Havre, Best Wester Plus Havre Inn & Suites and VIA Zoom

Attendees:

In Person: DG Brian Gertiser, DGE Raleigh Peck, 1st VDGE Corinna Christensen, 2ndVDGE Jon Kimble, IPDG Scott Dornfeld, PDG Jim Johnke, PCC Dan Krum, Lion Steve Dogiakos, PDG Mike Collins, PDG Richard Gessling, PDG Lary Garrison, PDG Mike Tobin; Lion Marie Hajny; IPD Dave Hajny. Lion Jessica Fausey, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Peggy Tobin, Lion Bob Graves from Choteau, Lion Jim Bennet from Havre.

Via Zoom: Zone Chair Margaret Baylinson,

1. Call to Order by DG Brian Gertiser at 10:00 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: PDG Lary Garrison
 - c) Introductions – all attendees introduced themselves noting their club and position
 - d) District Governor - Opening Remarks – review of the convention and noted that the “theme” of the convention became “youth and childhood”. Brian briefly reviewed his year as DG. He felt that while he was governor, everyone on his cabinet was doing their jobs so well that he didn’t feel the job was overwhelming.
2. Minutes: Motion by Mike C, second by Dan K to approve the January 13, 2024 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Dan reviewed the financial report ending April 17, 2024. All of the dues are in with one check in the mail. Net income is over \$6,000. Most of the budgeted items were close to budget. Brian asked if there is anything that needs to be done with the CD’s. Dan noted that the two investments have lost \$20k and his proposal is that when Steve takes over in July, that he reinvests those funds in something that would work better for the district. Motion by Mike T, second by Dan to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

Raleigh noted that all of the financial responsibilities will move from Dan Krum to Steve Dogiakos and the other two signatures on the account will be the District Governor, Raleigh Peck and Administrator Peggy Tobin. These changes will be effective July 1, 2024.

4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below.

Plus Optix report by Dave F (moved from 6,b,v)

Dave reported that he received a request to refer students with a non-dominant eye (see attached letter) and that the foundation has rejected the proposal. Mike C moved to not support “Solutions in Low Visions”. Raleigh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
5. Old Business
 - a. LCIF – outstanding grants

Lary reported that he has ordered the Plus Optix machines. He and Mike T will deliver them to the clubs when they are received. Mike T reported that he has received the final report for the Denton grant. Mike C moved to approve the closing documents for the Denton grant. Seconded by Mike T and passed unanimously.

Mike T reported that there are \$5,886 of MJF funds and twelve clubs that have not received a MJF award. He also noted the balances that each club has available (see attached report). Dave H noted that

the credits should be transferred when a club has achieved the amount required to complete the process. Raleigh moved that we give clubs that have never had a MJF \$250 from the credits available. Dan seconded the motion. Discussion followed and Mike T and Lary noted that they would like to have the authority to implement the plan not to exceed the total funds available. Raleigh amended his motion to be up to \$500 to make up the difference. Corinna seconded the amended motion. Mike C called for question. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Report from Jerry Kuhn for 2024 Convention. Jerry said that he has heard nothing but positive comments from their club. As treasurer for the convention, he will have a final financial report soon and will forward it to Brian. He has cut two checks – one for LCIF and one for MLSHF. Live auction raised \$3,730. There were 112 registrations but final attendance was 104.
- c. Club Health Assessment – March Report – Brian reported that we are off the mark from his goals. He noted that we are going to lose Great Falls Electric. Richard reported that quite a few of the members have transferred. Raleigh added that they are going to try to relaunch the club charter within the next year. Richard, Brian and Raymond Carlson will form a GMT team and work with seven towns that have Lion parks with no club. Brian finalized that the district still has work to do. We are currently +4. NOTE: The plus optix machine from Great Falls Electric has been turned in and will go to another club. Steve asked if the number of members is the only matrix used to measure a club’s health and several responded that it is a combination of many things including activity reporting, paying dues etc.
- d. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Jessica reported that she and Mike C are the only ones currently set as administrators on the District Facebook page and recommended that Steve be added to the account and Raleigh recommended that the entire governor team be added. Clubs need to tag the District Facebook page so that Jessica and the other administrators don’t have to try to follow all of the other clubs. Mike C will look into setting up an Instagram page.
- e. Website/Admin Update/Tri-Fold –Peggy noted that the Tri-Fold/Lions Brochure Builder Tool is now available on the “training/resources” page. There was discussion on whether the brochure could also be adapted for Leo Clubs. Mike C noted that the training videos were updated following the February zoom trainings for Club officers, President, Secretary and Treasurer. Unfortunately, they are now out of date with the launch of the new Lion Portal. He also noted that there are videos available from LCI for the Lion Portal that we may be able to put on the website instead of redoing them ourselves.
- f. Club Officer Training – Mike C. reported on the training provided Friday morning at convention and had 19 participants and that the only cost is one night for the hotel room. Mike T reported that every participant in the Presidents’ training was actively engaged and Peggy agreed that her training was well received. Mike C is working with Raleigh to have Zone chair training.
- g. Club Visitations – Corinna reported that Butte Mile Hi wants to rebuild, but she has concerns. East Missoula needs assistant with reporting. Missoula Southside had concerns about their health. Dillon has their lobster project in progress and Ennis has offered to assist with it. Corinna will provide Richard with contacts for Dillon. She has four to five visitations left. Raleigh has all but four completed – He did Chinook Tuesday night. His biggest challenge is Sun River as none of his phone calls have been returned from any of the members. Brian has Hysham and Joliet to do. Richard noted that Joliet has been renewed and got five new members. Brian also reported that he requested and received additional funds for club visits from LCI.

6. New Business

- a. Administrator's Report – new contract for Tobin Trails Inc for the 2024-2025 District 37 Secretary/Admin position. Mike C and Jim recommended to increase the contract by \$100/month. Dave H moved and Raleigh seconded to increase Peggy's contract by \$100/month. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Treasurer – new contract for incoming treasurer Steve Dogiakos. Dan just worked on a stipend of \$200/month and did not have an actual contract. Steve was fine with that. Jon moved to continue the stipend of \$200/month for Steve. Lary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. 2024 Convention Report – Jim – see above. Mike C recommended updating the Convention Manual. Lary recommended that there be more auction items.
- d. 2025 Convention Report – Helena - Raleigh said the tentative date of the last weekend in April or first weekend of May.
- e. 2026 Convention – Mike C reported that they are working on Kalispell/Columbia Falls and Choteau
- f. Corinna moved to endorse Gary Roadifer for International Director. Mike T seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- g. Proposal for new Endorsed Project – Montana School for the Deaf and Blind – Mike T moved to endorse the project and Mike C seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Lary noted that we used to have Camp Make a Dream as an endorsed project and he would like to add it back in. Dave H recommended that they resubmit an application/letter requesting endorsement.
- f. Policy Review – Dave H. reviewed the recommended changes from the Policy committee. Richard moved to accept the changes to the policy manual and Mike T seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- g. Officer Reports
 - a. Zone/Region Reports
 - i. Margaret – Zone 3 reported that she has visited all the clubs and had two zone meetings. Eureka is back (many members are snow birds) and are getting ready for a celebration of the founding of Eureka. Will have handouts and brochures to assist in increasing their membership. They are also working on a playground. Adrian Miller is working on a virtual Leo Club but they haven't met all the criteria. She also reported on several projects being done by the Whitefish, Columbia Falls and Kalispell.
 - ii. Jon – Western Region Chair – reviewed the activities of clubs in his Zone – lots of activity going on in the communities. They all reflect that they haven't done the activity reporting and Jon has made them all aware of the importance of reporting.
- h. Committee Reports
 - i. GMT/Club Health Assessment – Richard reported that Brian and Ray Carlson will be joining him next year in the GMT efforts. He has a U-Tube video for a template on how to approach the clubs with the ability to have the clubs come to their own decisions on what they want. Lary reported that George Chenowith has had a series of strokes and has been moved to a long term care facility. Lary suggested that he try to start a club in Lewistown which George expressed interested in. Lary moved to have the district pay George's dues if he can get four members to start a branch in Livingston. Motion seconded by Richard. Dave H moved for a friendly modification to provide a \$100 cash seed money. Lary accepted the friendly motion and Richard noted that the funds would come from GMT. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. GLT – See above
 - iii. GST – Dennis sent a copy of his quarterly report (see attached).
 - iv. LCIF – See above – Mike will provide a status of LCIF donations in the May newsletter
 - v. Plus-Optix – See above

- i. Additional Items –
Third-Vice District Governor – Dave H reported that a third Vice DG is being discussed. According to the by-laws we will need a special convention to have a vote to add a third Vice DG to take some of the pressure off of the current DG team. Dave will move this along as quickly as possible.
- j. Next meeting: July, 13, 2024 at 10:30am at the MT School for the Deaf & Blind in Great Falls.
- k. Adjournment - Lary moved and Raleigh seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:15pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin

District 37 Administrator/Secretary, April 21, 2024