

District Newsletter

July
2024

DG Raleigh Peck
1st VDG Corinna Christensen
2nd VDG Jon Kimble
montanalions.org

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“Where there is a need, there is a Lion” District Governor Message - Raleigh Peck

Hello Montana Lions and welcome to our new year.

I've got a couple things I need your help with this year. First, as we all know the big push from LCI to grow membership through Mission 1.5. I've recently learned about Club Branch opportunities. This only requires a sponsoring club and 5 new members to start. Typically, a new club requires 20 new members and SD 37 hasn't started a new club in over 10 years. All we have done is lost over 20 clubs. Sunburst Lions hosted a Shelby Branch a couple years ago. I see the club branch as a great way to increase membership in underserved and areas where we've lost clubs and smaller communities plus other areas needing our service. Remember, as Lions, WE SERVE.

The other area I'm wanting to work on is communication. It seems we've taken the digital age a little too serious. I'm available for a call pretty much every day from 9am to 9pm. If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please, give me a call at 406-480-5000 and if I don't answer, I promise, I will. Of course, you can always text me at the same number or drop me an email at raleighgpeck@gmail.com. Don't forget the middle g.

Working with our governor team of myself, 1st DG Corinna Christensen and 2nd DG Jon Kimble and all of our zone chairs we will be calling and talking like real people to get our whole district communicating and working as one. Remember we are not just one little club, we are one pride of Lions working towards making the world a better place, one project, one person at a time. Yes, our one little club helps our one little community. But

if we work together as one whole pride, we can do so much more by helping other clubs and sharing our ideas of what works for us and what doesn't. Learn by others successes and failures. Go visit another club and see what they're doing and how you can help. You'll find your club better for it.

Yours in Service
DG Raleigh



1st VDG Message-Corinna Christensen

Greetings, Fellow Lions!

I hope this message finds you all in great spirits and ready for the exciting Lionistic Year ahead. I am thrilled to share highlights from the recent Lions International Convention held in the vibrant city of Melbourne, Australia. It was a grand celebration with 11,000 Lions from around the world, and I am brimming with inspiration and new ideas to bring back to our district.

Convention Highlights

The convention was a remarkable gathering that showcased the global reach and impact of Lions Clubs International. We celebrated the achievements of our outgoing International President Patti Hill from Alberta, who had a fantastic year leading us as the Lions have truly been "Changing the World.". Her dedication and passion were evident in every aspect of the convention, and we are grateful for her leadership.

We also welcomed our new International President, Fabricio Oliveira from Brazil. His vision and enthusiasm promise an exciting future for Lions Clubs worldwide, and his motto for this Lionistic year, "Make Your Mark," encourages us all to leave a positive impact in our communities. Additionally, our own Raleigh Peck from the Sidney Lions was inducted as our District Governor. Congratulations, Raleigh! We are excited to see the great things you will accomplish this year.



Marching with the Rocky Mountain Region Lions

One of the highlights of the convention was marching in the parade with the Rocky Mountain Region Lions. It was an incredible experience to walk alongside fellow Lions from our region, showcasing our pride and unity. The energy and camaraderie were palpable, and it was a wonderful opportunity to represent our district on an international stage.

Learning and Inspiration

The convention was not only a celebration but also a learning experience. We attended several enlightening sessions that provided valuable insights and strategies to enhance our service projects and strengthen our clubs. It was an opportunity to network with Lions from different parts of the world, share experiences, and learn from each other.



Peace Poster and Essay Contests

One of the most touching moments was viewing the winning Peace Poster entry by 11-year-old Fanjin Si from China. The artwork beautifully captured the essence of peace and left a lasting impression on everyone. Equally inspiring was the Peace Essay titled "Dare to Dream" by 12-year-old Yetka Yağiz Demirtas of Türkiye. These young voices remind us of the importance of nurturing the next generation and encouraging them to dream big and work for a better world.

Remarkable Exhibits

A standout exhibit at the convention was the Australian Quilt and Textile Collection, a project of the Lions Club of Quilters Victoria. The intricate designs and craftsmanship were truly awe-inspiring. It was a wonderful showcase of how Lions around the world contribute to their communities through diverse and creative initiatives.



Special Thanks

I was honored to be joined in Melbourne by several dedicated members of our district. My parents, Lion Marie Hajny and PID Dave Hajny of Ennis Lions, were there, as well as our Lion Governor, Raleigh Peck, and his wife, Deb. We were also accompanied by Lion Adrian Miller from Eureka Lions and PID Ben Apeland of the Gallatin Empire Lions. Their presence made the experience even more enriching and memorable.



Looking Ahead

As we embark on this new Lions year, I am filled with optimism and excitement. The convention has reinforced my belief in the power of our global network and the incredible impact we can make together. Let's continue to serve with passion, innovate in our projects, and support each other in our mission to make a difference. Remember President Fabricio Oliveira's motto, "Make Your Mark," and let's strive to leave a lasting legacy in our communities. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to Lions Clubs International. Together, we can achieve great things!



Yours in service,

Corinna Christensen

First Vice District Governor

Montana Lions 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,

What an incredible year it has been. A year ago, I asked you to commit to changing the world by setting bold, ambitious goals to meet the needs of our neighbors, our communities and our world—and you did!

I loved seeing the diversity of our clubs, members and service, and I wish I could have met every Lion and Leo because you are so inspiring. Your innovative ways of serving people and your passion for protecting the planet are at the heart of what it means to be a Lion.

The Lion year may be coming to an end, but our service continues. So, reflect on the impact of your service and the people you served—those unforgettable experiences are why we serve—then let's get ready to take up new roles and create new opportunities to help more people in need. Let's invite even more service-minded people to share the joy of being a part of Lions International.

It has been my greatest honor to serve as your international president. Thank you for an extraordinary year.

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.

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - July, 2024

Congratulations to the new district leadership team, district cabinet and club officers as you take office for the 2024-2025 Lions year. You are asked to take time to review (GST) global service 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.

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.

LCI suggestions for projects associated with our global causes might include: **Hunger:** children's nutritional breakfast, direct food service (food provider), food collective (food bank); **Environment:** tree planting project in community or area; school involved tree planting (support for Arbor Day and Tree City USA programs), support care for newly planted young trees; **Childhood Cancer and Youth:** survivor network event, create or support a family camp, stage an entertainment event for the children and family members. **Diabetes:** Stride for diabetes, diabetes family event, diabetes support group, diabetes information and support program, support for healthy eating programs, healthy living with type 2, support for recreational facilities (camps), type 2 risk awareness and type 2 screening services; **Vision:** fitness walk and social event, vision screening for adults and children, vision support groups. **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)** can provide support for all our causes including **Humanitarian** relief.

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.

In the coming months information will be provided on specific District endorsed projects as well as service projects of Montana Lions clubs.

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



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

District LCIF Co-Chair July 2024

Hello District 37, summer is in full swing and a new Lionistic year is starting. Last year was a record year and the district giving was at an all time high towards our District goals. We raised \$34,308.09 or 82% of our goal. But we also increased donations by \$6,425.59 (23%) over last year. But we can't sit back and just pat ourselves on the back. We need to hit the ground running and see if we can't improve on last year's giving.

Several clubs last year took up my challenge to do the \$50 dollar each month LCIF donation. I once again challenge ALL clubs to start in July with the \$50, remember a little over a longer period really builds up. Have any of your clubs ever done an LCIF fund raiser? To those clubs that have received an LCIF grant - you should think about doing a fund raiser for LCIF. For those clubs that have not just because your club has not received a grant doesn't mean you won't need one in the future (think about it). LCIF grants can help your club do things you would not be able to do by yourself.

I still have LCIF shirts, if you want one, send me a monthly personal donation application for at least \$10 a month and I will send you one.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst 59482, miktob1951@gmail.com,
406-450-2780

PDG Lary Garrison, 703 Conway St., Billings 59105 lionlarygarrison@gmail.com,
406-855-6997

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 June 27, 2024.

Applications Received: 27

Assistance Provided: 9

Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$10,195.00

Applications Received From: Augusta, Bozeman, Bridger, Choteau, Clinton, Clancy, 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.

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

FORSYTH LIONS CLUB, 100 YEARS OF “WE SERVE”

Forsyth Lions Club will achieve 100 years of service on December 8, 2024. The Club was chartered in 1924 making it one of the oldest in Montana.

Several of the projects that our Lions Club is known for include development and maintenance of the local freshwater springs and picnic area, construction of the city park pavilions, sponsor of the community birthday calendar, large print readers digest for the nursing home, purchase of eyeglasses for those who need assistance, and support of leader dog and diabetes programs. The club also donates to various community and school programs.



To celebrate our 100th anniversary, the club will be hosting an ice cream social during Duck Days in Forsyth on August 17. Find the ice cream truck downtown after the parade for free ice cream and thank the Lions for their service. The club will also have a banquet in early December to celebrate with local and district lions club members.

SEELEY LAKE LIONS FUND RED CROSS TRAINING FOR SWIM INSTRUCTORS

Page 2 – Thursday, June 13, 2024 – Seeley Swan Pathfinder

Swimming lessons wrap up with a safety assembly

By Keely Larson
Pathfinder Editor

Shortly after a swimming safety assembly at Seeley Lake Elementary School, a mermaid and a lifeguard walked into the Grizzly Claw.

Olivia Colburn (lifeguard), Melanie Blank (mermaid) and Michela Reese (local chiropractor) had wrapped up a three-week round of swimming lessons in Seeley Lake for about 70 school-aged children, four and up. The Double Arrow Lodge allowed the instructors, who all went through Red Cross training funded by the Seeley Lake Lions Club, host the swim lessons at the lodge's pool. The assembly was a good time before the end of the school year to present



Melanie Blank and Olivia Colburn dressed up to present a swimming safety assembly for Seeley Lake Elementary schoolers on May 31. Photo by Keely Larson

safety information to all elementary students, whether they were able to take swimming lessons during the

session or not.

Both Blank and Colburn grew up doing water related activities — Blank was

on a swim team and Colburn was a lifeguard — and understood the importance of providing an option for Seeley Lake kiddos to learn what they grew up learning, especially since Seeley kids are growing up in an area surrounded by water.

"It was so worth it," Colburn, who works at Reese's chiropractic office in Seeley, said.

During the swim safety assembly, the instructors asked the elementary students how many had been taking lessons, and Colburn and Blank were happy to see how many had participated. When they were going over the safety topics, presented using various rhymes, they were pleased that the students who had taken lessons seemed to have the reminders ready

for recall.

"Think so you don't sink," "reach or throw, don't go," "think twice before going near cold water or ice" and "don't just pack it, wear your life jacket" were a few examples of the safety lesson rhymes reinforced at the assembly. That last one is really important, Blank said, because she said she feels like a lot of the time, kids just end up using their life jackets as a seat cushion.

Blank, who owns Blank Power Sports with her husband in Seeley, said it's important to wear a life jacket even on the ice, and stressed the importance of not going out on any untested ice and staying near a supervising adult when near the water this summer.

"If you fall out of a boat and knock your

head, it doesn't matter how well you can swim if you're unconscious," Colburn said.

Blank and Colburn said they hope to offer another round of swimming lessons in the fall when Double Arrow's pool is available again. They are talking about doing a lake day over the summer for past participants to give them a refresher and "test their skills in the open water," Blank said.

The goal is to reach the younger kids, two and three year olds, with some parent/child classes in the next session. For more information or to reach out with feedback from the past session, email seeleystwimlessons@gmail.com.

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;
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

2024-2025 CLUB OFFICERS

As of July 1st, if your club officers for this new Lion year have not been entered into the Lion Portal, you will need to contact Lion Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com or call 406-461-4206.

DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS

These videos are all accessible via the district website, www.montanalions.org under "Training/Resources".

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:

With the release of the new LionPortal, we have added links to some of the short videos provided by LCI – specifically Service Activities, How to Edit Members and How to Assign an Officer to replace the highlighted videos below which are outdated.

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

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

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

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

District Treasurer: Lion Steve Dogiakos, PO Box 631, Choteau, MT 59422;
406-203-4679

JULY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Billings Heights

7/23/1957

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, 2nd VDGE 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