

District Newsletter

October
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 Lions and welcome to October,

As we start into the 2nd quarter of this Lion Year, I think about International President Fabricio's message. **Make Your Mark.** What are you and your club doing to make your mark and make your community and the world a better place to live? I want all Montana Lions to know that I want my mark as governor to be starting the rebuilding of Montana Lions. Just a few short years ago, we had 84 clubs and over 2,400 members. Now we're at 58 clubs with 2 wanting to disband and only 1,500 members. CA1, the USA, the greatest country in the world, along with the Caribbean and Bahamas in 1984 were over 600,000 Lions strong. Now, the greatest country in the world has only 239,000 Lions. That's less than half of what we were, and only members with at least 40 years of service have seen positive membership growth.

Together we can fix this!!

IP Fabricio also tasked all the Governors to make a list of at least 30 communities without a Lions club. When I made this list and looked at it, nearly every single one previously had a Lions Club. To start a new club we need 20 new members. How about we find 4 or 5 like-minded people that have a common goal to make their communities a better place? That is called a Club Branch or Specialty Club. Our founder Melvin Jones had a quote. “The only thing greater than the privilege of joining a Lions Club is helping to build one.”

I can't do this alone and am asking all of you to join the GET led by PDG Brian Gertiser and/or the GMT led by PDG Richard Gessling. The GET or Global Extension team focuses on growing new clubs. The GMT or Global Membership team is focused on just that, growing membership. When asked, please consider becoming a Guiding Lion to help support and mentor to lead the new clubs on their way to becoming GREAT Lions Clubs. As we all know the more hands, the lighter the work.

Yours in service
Raleigh G Peck
SD 37 Governor

Vice District Governor Message 1st VDG Corinna Christensen

September has flown by, and can you believe it? One quarter of our Lionistic year is already complete! It has been such a rewarding time visiting clubs around the district and witnessing firsthand how you all are embodying our Lions International motto, "We Serve."

The **Broadwater Lions** in Townsend celebrated their Charter Night in style, with a healthy crowd of current and past district officers in attendance. It was a joy to spend the evening with them, sharing in the festivities and enjoying a fantastic meal. What a night of camaraderie and celebration! This picture is of Lion Dela and DG Raleigh presenting a Melvin Jones award to Lion Patti Hanson.



The **USA/Canada Lions Forum** in Louisville, Kentucky. This incredible event brought together Lions from across North America to share ideas, network, and learn from one another. The range of seminars, speakers, and workshops offered valuable insights and inspiration for enhancing our service and leadership skills. It was a fantastic opportunity to see how Lions everywhere are working toward the common goal of making a positive impact in their communities. I also was able to visit with Lion friends from around USA and Canada that I had met at previous trainings, events, and even those "virtual friends" from Facebook. I highly encourage fellow Lions to attend future forums and experience the energy and passion that comes from being part of such a dynamic event. The picture is from the Strides Walk to benefit the Lions Diabetes Initiative.



I had the privilege of meeting Lion **Pamela Harr**, whose stunning sculptures beautify not only Glendive but also communities far and wide. It was inspiring to see her artistry enriching the world around her. My Lion buddy, Julie, was along to enjoy the fun in Glendive.



I also had the opportunity to visit the **Big Timber Lions**, alongside Lion **Gary Bissell** from Billings. The Big Timber Lions are in the exciting planning stages of an extensive walking and biking path project. This path promises to be a great addition to their community, offering a safe and enjoyable space for outdoor recreation and connection. I can't wait to see this project come to life!

Additionally, I was honored to present the **History of Lions** at the **Montana Lions Leadership Retreat** in Choteau, Montana. The retreat was a fantastic learning opportunity, and I encourage all Lions across Montana to attend next year. Lions are stronger in service when we learn from each other, and this event provides an invaluable chance to grow, connect, and sharpen our skills for the benefit of our communities. Also, let's talk about the food and good company with District Secretary, Lion Peggy Tobin.



As we head into the next quarter, I am filled with pride and optimism for what's to come. Keep up the incredible work, Lions, and remember, **our service today builds the foundation for a stronger tomorrow.**

Yours in Lionism,
Corinna Christensen
Vice District Governor, Montana Lions District 37



President's Message

Make Your Mark with International President Fabrício Oliveira

Dear Lion,

Our service is extraordinary, so let's promote it with extraordinary marketing. Every Lion is a club promoter, so you should proudly share with others the life-changing service you and your club are doing. There are many great resources on the Lion website to help you tailor social media, engage the press and market your service projects in your community.

Let's all make a commitment to grow our great association through encouraging others to join our service by sharing impactful photos, videos and stories and wearing Lion-branded gear whenever and wherever you serve.

At your service,
Fabrício Oliviera
International President

Lions District 37 Leadership Retreat Report

GLT – Global Leadership Team

September 20-21, 2024 | Choteau, MT

The Montana Lions District 37 Leadership Retreat took place in Choteau, Montana, on September 20-21, 2024. Lions from across the district gathered to enhance their leadership skills and gain new insights on a variety of important topics.

The event featured several engaging sessions, including an overview of the *History of Lions*, highlighting the organization's global impact over the past century. Attendees also participated in *Lion Portal Training*, ensuring that members are equipped to effectively utilize the Lions Clubs International online resources. In a session on *Conflict Resolution*, participants learned practical strategies for addressing disagreements within their clubs and communities, followed by an interactive discussion on *Teamwork* and the importance of working cohesively within a group.

Mentoring was another key focus, with an emphasis on how experienced Lions can guide new members to foster strong leadership development and retain active engagement. A special highlight of the retreat was Marc from the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, who delivered an insightful presentation on *Leadership Personalities*. His talk resonated with everyone, sparking thoughtful discussions and providing valuable takeaways for personal and club leadership growth.

The retreat was a resounding success, providing attendees with new tools, perspectives, and connections to further strengthen Montana Lions District 37 in the coming year. Lions are encouraged to consider attending next year's retreat for another opportunity to grow, connect, and lead. Don't miss out on the valuable experiences and insights this retreat offers!



Class of 2024



Class of 2024 w/GLT team

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - October, 2024

The work of our Montana Lions clubs to provide a wide variety of service activities to communities is appreciated by your community members. Keep up the great work.

During the next few months service projects involving our Montana Lions clubs will be highlighted. Examples from every club in the state will be provided. Information was posted on the LCI website starting in July 2020. For more information on each club contact club leaders. Contact information can be found on the district website: www.montanalions.org

Chinook (29): Flags for 1st graders; eyeglass recycling, pronto pup sales, all class reunion breakfast, parade of green, Operation Sparkle community cleanup; **Choteau (119):** food bank support, swim pool maintenance, birthday calendars, Red Cross blood draw, gun raffle, eye glass collections, Adopt a Highway, bike fair, Thursday concerts, vaccination clinic, swimming pool cleanup, flags for veterans cemetery; **Columbia Falls (125):** flags for 3rd graders, food delivery to seniors, bingo at veteran's home, support for book mobile, plusoptix, summer concerts, backpacks for kids, food bags for the needy; **Conrad (6):** support for bike helmet program, support for Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, support for "one classroom at a time", LCIF donation; **Culbertson (12):** Ike's pond and walking trail, Santa day breakfast, cemetery cleanup, Palm Sunday breakfast, Cub Scout sponsor **Cut Bank (63):** support for Leader Dog, support for LCIF, senior center flowers and shrubs, food pantry, painted murals project, Missoula Children's Theater, Adopt a Highway; **Deer Lodge (0); Denton (16):** Fire relief, town cleanup, Denton beautification, blood drive, flag for elementary school students, used eye glass collections, pull tabs program; **Dillon (5):** Adopt a Highway, vision screening; **East Missoula (0); Ennis (102):** Ennis Lions Park maintenance, 4th of July picnic, Easter egg hunt, pull tab collections, used eyeglass collections, support for Journey of Hope, vision screening, Peace Poster program, bike rodeo, fishing derby, Halloween bingo.

Once clubs have chosen a service project and work has been done then the results of the club's efforts should be reported to LCI. Reporting is easily done via the Lion Portal. The club president, secretary, club service chair or club administrator can establish an account with the LCI portal and report club service activities. Go to the montanalions.org; click on "links", select Lion Portal. If you haven't yet created a login, click on "Don't have an account?". Otherwise, log into your account.

To report the service activity, click on "Service". Then click on the blue box that says "Create Service Activity". Follow the prompts to complete the report.

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, peggyt@northerntel.com Lion Peggy can post information to the district website and it can be included in the district newsletter.

Additional service information will be distributed to clubs via email to club presidents and secretaries throughout the Lions 2024-2025 Lions year.

For more information on Montana and Global service contact: PDG Dennis Kopitzke, GST Leader; djk_7491@rangeweb.net; Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-853-8695.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

District LCIF Co-Chairs
PDG Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin
October 2024

Here it is October already. Summer is officially over, autumn is in full swing. Schools are back in session and most clubs are back to having their meetings. As I have been doing club visits, there is one item that I have noticed. A lot of your clubs are sitting on a lot of money in your accounts (\$20k, \$30k, even \$40k or more). I don't want to be mean, but that money just sitting in a bank account isn't doing anybody any good. If you were to donate some of those funds to LCIF at least it could start doing some good around the world including in Montana (we are already looking at a disaster grant for \$15k). A \$5,000 dollar donation would unlock for your club, DCG grants (\$750 or 15% of your donation of \$5,000 or more), community improvement grants and more.

You look at how much District 37 clubs have donated to LCIF versus how much LCIF has given to Montana in grants and it is not pretty. LCIF has granted over \$3.4 Million to Montana and we (District 37 clubs) have only donated 9% back - \$307,221 in the last ten years. Fellow Lions let's do something with all these funds! They don't do anybody any good just sitting in a bank account (except the bank). I would love nothing more than to be handed a \$5,000 check for LCIF when I come and visit your club. Have a great year. Thank you!!

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Mike Tobin
P.O. Box 408
Sunburst, Mt. 59482
406-450-2780
miktob1951@gmail.com

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

PLUSOPTIX

PlusOptix Update – PlusOptix screening totals for school year Sept 2024 to June 2025: **2,093 screened with 476 refers.**

There are currently no new updates for the machines. Have 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

October 2024

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2024 to September 29, 2024.

Applications Received: 42

Assistance Provided: 19

Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$24,087.00

Applications Received From: Augusta, Bozeman, Belgrade, Big Timber, Bridger, Choteau, Clancy, Clinton, Corvallis, Darby, Dillon, East Helena, Fortine, Great Falls, Hamilton, Helena, Highwood, Libby, Livingston, Missoula, Stevensville and Winifred.

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.

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

Prepare for the Annual District 37 Dues Assessment

As October arrives, it's time for all club treasurers and secretaries in District 37 to start getting ready for the upcoming assessment of district dues. Here's a helpful guide to ensure your club is prepared.

Key Date & Membership Basis

District dues are assessed/invoiced on January 1st, but the key date to mark on your calendar is **November 1st**. The dues will be based on the membership recorded in the Lions Portal on that day. Make sure your club's membership records are up to date by November 1st to avoid any discrepancies in your dues calculation.

Dues Structure

The dues are set at \$25 per member and are divided into three parts:

1. **Friendship Committee:** \$1 per member is allocated to the district's Friendship Committee. This committee not only fosters camaraderie and support within the district, but also attends to VIPs from Lions Clubs International, such as visiting International Directors. Additionally, the committee helps defray the costs of attending trainings, and attending Lions Club International events for some of the District Governor cadre.
2. **District Convention Seed Money:** The final \$1 per member is designated as seed money for the annual District convention, ensuring that this important event has the necessary funds to get off to a great start each year.
3. **District Operations:** \$23 of each member's dues go toward the district's operational costs. This helps support the various activities, programs, and administrative needs of District 37.

What You Need to Do Next

- **Update Membership Records:** Before November 1st, review and update your membership records in the Lions Portal. Make sure any new members are added, and all changes in membership status are correctly reflected.
- **Communicate with Your Club:** Remind your members about the upcoming dues assessment to keep everyone informed.
- **Prepare Financially:** Review your club's finances to ensure you can cover the dues based on your current membership. A little budgeting now can prevent financial strains later.

Timely and accurate dues assessments are essential for the smooth operation of our district. By keeping your records current and preparing financially, you contribute to maintaining the integrity and efficiency of our district's work.

If you have questions or need help updating your records, please reach out to Cabinet Treasurer Steve Dogiakos.

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

Sidney Lions Serving Their Community

The MonDak Heritage Center sent out the call for a project day and the Sidney Lions volunteered. The landscaping project on the north side of the museum is progressing, with a weed mat laid down and spreading gravel on 9/14/24. We all know that many hands make light work, but this was still pretty physically demanding work. And it was great to be able to participate! Where there's a need, there's a Lion. We serve.



Vision Screening

Sidney Lions has been partnering with the Richland County Health Department for several years. Sidney Lions does the vision screening using our PlusOptix machine, and the Health Department does the hearing screening. Doing both screenings at the same time means less interruption in the classroom. So far we have screened 636 students, with 100 referrals, with more students yet to screen.

Sidney Lions has an Eyecare Assistance Application available to help with up to \$300 for glasses. This application is shared with every family that receives a vision referral letter through the vision screening program, giving the gift of sight with some financial assistance where needed.



Ennis Lions Club September Update

A Patriotic Start and Ongoing Dedication to Our Community

September began with a touching and patriotic tribute as the Ennis Lions held their first meeting of the month on September 11th. The local VFW honored the occasion with a moving presentation of the colors, followed by the solemn playing of taps, creating a moment of reflection for all in attendance.



Throughout the summer, the Ennis Lions have been diligently working to maintain and improve the Ennis Lions Park. Our efforts have ensured that hundreds of visitors each day can enjoy a well-maintained, welcoming space. From mowing to general upkeep, the Lions have been there every step of the way. Recently, we undertook significant improvements to the kids' fishing pond, dredging it to create a healthier environment for the fish. In addition, we extended the pond by building a peninsula, further enhancing the experience for young anglers. The Ennis Lions Park also got an updated Entrance Sign.



In addition to our park work, the Ennis Lions are proud of completing **eye testing in all Madison County schools**, ensuring that local students have access to critical vision screenings. This service is just one way we strive to improve the well-being of our community.

We also had the honor of helping with the **BBQ for the School Homecoming Picnic Lunch**, where Lions members served up hamburgers to students and staff, adding some extra spirit to the festivities.



Looking ahead, the Ennis Lions have an exciting slate of fall and winter events planned, ensuring that our community stays active and engaged. Upcoming events include:

Fall Bingo: A lively event filled with fun and fellowship for all ages.

Halloween Carnival: A community favorite, packed with spooky booths and games.

Santa and Candy at the School Concert: A festive tradition that brings joy to our local students during the holiday season.

Christmas Decorations at the Park: The park will shine with holiday spirit, bringing warmth and cheer to all who visit.

Shed Sales Fundraiser: Our ongoing sales continue to raise funds that directly support the park and other Lions Club projects.

Rifle Raffle Fundraiser: A new initiative, offering community members the chance to win an exciting prize while supporting Lions projects and outreach efforts.

The Ennis Lions are proud of the work we've accomplished and look forward to making a positive impact through these upcoming events. As always, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the community for its ongoing support and participation. Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved and help make a difference!

Choteau Lions Club Celebrating Lion Bob Nauck's 101st Birthday

The Choteau Lions Club recently gathered to celebrate a truly special occasion—the 101st birthday of their beloved member and District 37 Hall of Famer, Lion Bob Nauck. Known for his decades of dedication and service, Nauck has become a cornerstone of the Lions Club and a cherished figure in the Choteau community. To honor this incredible milestone, the club came together at Benefis Teton Medical Center to celebrate with pizza, ice cream, and heartfelt gratitude for the legacy he has built.

Lion Bob Nauck's birthday celebration was filled with joy, laughter, and camaraderie. His unwavering commitment to the Lions' mission of community service has been inspiring to all who have had the privilege of working alongside him. The celebration wasn't just about honoring his longevity, but about appreciating the many years he has spent contributing to the betterment of the Choteau community. The event was a reflection of the deep respect and affection the club holds for Nauck, whose energy and spirit remain as strong as ever.



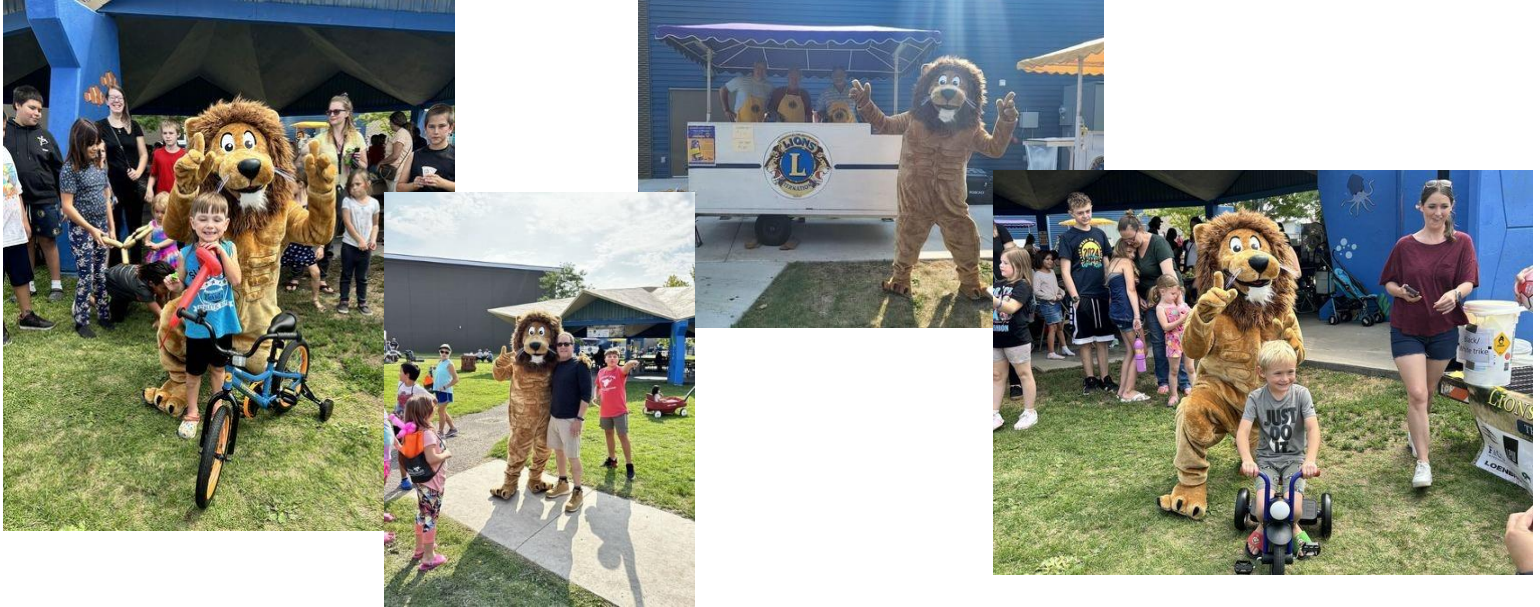
Winnett Lions Club

The Winnett Lions Club donated two gorgeous cement benches to their new Petroleum County Community Center. What a fabulous addition to the center and great advertising for Lions! If you are interested in finding out more about how to get one of these benches, contact Jess Hoge with the Winnett Lions Club. Her phone is 406-202-2202,



Great Falls Lions Club

What a great turn out to the Lions Family Fun Fest held on August 10th. There were 618 kids registered for the event. We gave away bikes, sports equipment, fun prizes, snow cones and had a fabulous fun free event thanks to our awesome sponsors. We are already planning for 2025!



DISTRICT 37 FACEBOOK PAGE

We all know that Lions serve from the heart, and now we want to see YOU in action! Whether you're planting trees, organizing a food drive, helping out at a community event, or any other service activity, we want to showcase the amazing work our Lions are doing.

We're looking for candid shots of Montana Lions actively engaging in service. We appreciate the posed group photos that commemorate events but we want to see how you have captured the real moments that show the spirit of Lionism in action!

How to Participate:

1. Snap candid photos of Lions in action during service activities.
2. Share your photos via message to the District Facebook Page (<https://m.me/MontanaLions>).
3. Include a brief description of the activity and the names of the Lions involved.
4. Bonus points for Lions wearing Lions Club logos on hats, vests, shirts, etc.!

Let's fill our media with the heart and soul of our District's service efforts. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words—let's show the world the impact of the Montana Lions Clubs of District 37!

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; jjohnke@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

CLUB TREASURERS - TAX FILINGS FOR 501C3'S C4'S

Please remember that all Lions clubs with annual gross receipts less than US\$50,000 that are not required to file Forms 990 or 990-EZ must file the e-Postcard (also known as the 990-N). Please be advised this filing relates specifically to the 501(c)(4). If your Lions club has a foundation, which is a separate legal entity, the appropriate form will need to be filed as well. **If you are unfamiliar with this process, please see the short video noted below.**

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-Two Videos:
The Secretary Position and Training on the New Lion Portal**

Club Treasurer: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

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

Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes)

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 videos below which are outdated.

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

OCTOBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Billings	10/20/1921
Fort Benton	10/10/2005
Joliet	10/22/1971

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

District Cabinet Meeting	October 5, 2024 @ 10:30am- Great Falls, MT School for the Deaf and the Blind
MLS&HF Board Meeting	October 12, 2024 @ 11:00am - Great Falls, MT School for the Deaf and the Blind

DISTRICT 37 ANNUAL CONVENTION

**2025 District Convention will be held in Helena at the Delta
(Colonial Inn) Hotel May 2-3, 2025**

UPCOMING USA/CANADA FORUMS

**USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUMS CAN BE RELATED TO ALL AREAS OF
YOUR LIFE – NOT JUST LIONS**

2024 – Louisville, KY
2025 – Atlantic City, NJ
2026 - Memphis TN
2027 – Huntsville, AB

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

2025-Mexico City – July 4-8;
2026 Hong Kong – Jul 3-7
2027 Washington DC – July 2-6
2028 Singapore -June 23-27
2029 Minneapolis, MN
2030 San Antonio TX
2031 – Helsinki Finland

MINUTES – July 13, 2024 – CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, July 13, 2024; 10:30 AM; Great Falls, MT School for the Deaf and the Blind

Attendees:

In Person: DG Raleigh Peck, Lion Steve Dogiakos, IPDG Brian Gertizer, PDG Mike Collins, Lion Dave Falcon, PDG Dan Studevart, Lion Jessica Fausey, IPD Dave Hajny, Lion Peggy Tobin, IPID Ben Apeland, PDG Mike Tobin; Lion Marie Hajny; Lion Monte Weisner-Kalispell Sunrisers; Lion Bob Graves, Zone 8 Chair, Choteau, Lion Carl Vender- Shephard

Via Zoom: 1st VDG Corrinna Christensen, 2ndVDG Jon Kimble, PDG Dennis Kopitzke - GST, PDG Richard Gessling (until 11:30) - GMT, Hondo Barr, Zone 13 Chair; Margaret Baylinson, Zone 3 Chair

1. Call to Order by DG Raleigh Peck at 10:45 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: Dan
 - c) Introductions – all attendees introduced themselves noting their club and position
 - d) District Governor - Opening Remarks –DG Raleigh discussed Mission 1.5. His big push this year will be Club Branches where only 5 members are required.
2. Minutes: Motion by Steve D, second by Mike T to approve the April 21, 2024 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve reviewed the financial reports ending June 30, 2024, noting that the District is in a decent financial position with over \$200,000. He noted that we were about \$2,000 over in the budget for 2023-24 (website was also over by that amount). He recommended that we review the current year budget to ensure that we have a balanced budget as currently the bottom line is a \$-24,000. Mike T. recommended that the governor's team review the budget. Richard and Brian noted that we need a GAT (action team) line item in the budget.
Steve moved to adopt the resolution 2024-01 for banking. Ben asked if the funds are staying in Stockman or moving. Steve will be moving the funds in Stockman to 1st Bank of Montana which has a local branch in Choteau. Mike C seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Dave H recommended that since we have a new treasurer, that Raleigh and Peggy work with Steve to develop good processes to ensure that payments are all valid and correctly paid. Motion by Mike C, second by Dave F to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below. Raleigh commented that he hasn't completed the district committees.
5. Old Business
 - a. LCIF – outstanding grants – Mike T. requested the cabinet's approval to close out the Plus Optix Grant. Steve moved to approve the closing of the Plus Optix grant. Mike C. seconded the motion noting that he would like to see a summary when we are voting on grants. Motion passed unanimously. Mike T also reported that Glendive is submitting two grants - a matching grant to upgrade the Pool's bathrooms to be ADA compliant and one for hunger (not matching) for new appliances for the food bank. Mike T reported that the LCIF district giving is 25% higher than the prior year.
 - b. Club Health Assessment – May Report –Brian noted that to date we are positive.

- c. Club Officer Training – Mike C. reported that we have not yet redone the videos but Peggy had Edge provide links to three of the Lion Portal “how to” videos under the Training tab for club secretaries. We will have training at the Convention in Helena. Mike C. has applied for attending the Faculty Development Institute (FDI) in Chicago. He hasn’t been accepted as yet, but if he is invited to go, he’d ask for reimbursement for the registration and travel. Peggy was asked about the secretaries who have not updated the officers for the current year. She reported that she emailed approximately half the clubs who hadn’t reported in the system as of June and we are now down to eight clubs that have not started the process. Mike C. also reported on the Leadership Retreat to be held in September in Choteau.
 - d. Addition to the Policies - 3rd Vice District Governor – Raleigh reviewed the proposed Article 2 Section A1 to add a 3rd VDG to the District (see attached). Discussion followed regarding budgets. Richard moved to approve bringing on a 3rd VDG program as a pilot program adding \$1500 from reserves to fund the position. Motion was seconded by Mike T. Motion passed unanimously. Steve moved to add Article 2, Section A1 to the policy manual. Seconded by Dave F and motion passed unanimously.
 - e. Review/Update to Policy Article 7 - Endorsed Projects – Proposed changes were reviewed (see attached). Richard moved to accept the amendments to the endorsed projects and was seconded by Steve. Motion passed unanimously.
 - f. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Jessica sent out a request and Steve was the only one that responded. Brian recommended that a “help wanted” for assistance be in the August Newsletter. Steve also has some ideas for how to find others to assist Jessica.
6. New Business
- a. 2024 Convention Report – Brian reported that we haven’t received a final report from Havre.
 - b. 2025 District Convention – Dan reported that the 2025 Convention will be May 2-3, 2025 at the Delta (Colonial Inn) in Helena. Dan confirmed that there is \$3,000 of seed money available from the District. Ben agreed to assist and reported that ID Anthony Paradiso from New York (a sitting judge) has been selected and notified. Dan has both Helena clubs and Townsend club onboard to assist with the convention.
 - c. Montana Glasses – Raleigh noted that there’s a question of whether this is a district project or not. It was confirmed that several Walmarts have quit taking the glasses and John is no longer going to be a collection point. Ben noted that when you collect 300 pairs of glasses, the club should put that on their club service report. Peggy will link the post that tells how the clubs can forward the glasses directly to Seattle to the Donate Page. Corrina offered that if any clubs aren’t willing to forward the glasses to Seattle, Ennis will offer to collect the glasses. Peggy moved to make Collecting Glasses as a District Project. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - d. Website security – proposed changes to directory – Peggy reviewed the options that Edge has provided in providing more security for the Directory page – the first option was discussed over a year ago – have a login/password that would be provided to current members but that option didn’t seem to provide much security band because it would be difficult to disseminate the login information to the appropriate folks. The other option is to have a “registration process for anyone who wants access to that information. The registration would go into a “que” and be reviewed and either approved or rejected. Once registration is approved, that member would be able to access the directory. This upgrade would cost \$500 as Edge would have to set up additional parameters to make it work. A third option is for everyone to use the Lion Portal and just have a listing of our current officers with no contact info. Richard moved to approve the \$500 to Edge to create a registration for members. Steve recommended a fourth option that we could just remove the email information off of our website as they can be accessed through the Lion Portal by every member. Peggy noted that Deanna said that could be done without

taking the emails out of the database. Richard retracted his motion. Steve moved to remove all emails from the website and have “contact forms” for all of the district team members as needed and Mike C seconded the motion. Motion carried with Dave H abstaining.

7. Officer Reports

- a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations – Raleigh reported that they have not started visitations as 3rd VDG had not been finalized. He noted that Gary Bissell will be put into the 3rd VDG position.
- b. Administrator’s Report – Peggy reported that since the convention, she has been working with several secretaries on the new Lion Portal. Five of the clubs on her initial list had in fact entered their officers, but the portal report did not include them (even though 23-24 had all 59 clubs). She has emailed technical support but hasn’t received a response. The website directory has been updated with 2024-2025 officers for all clubs that updated their officers in the new Lion Portal. The website directory has also been updated to reflect all current district officers. She will be providing Edge with the new lists for International officers and directors along with updating the “our organization” section as soon as she has Jon’s bio and photo and LCI has updated the 1st year International Directors. Peggy updated her contract to reflect the duties that have evolved with the development of the website. Mike T added that if the governor’s team will request that the club secretaries that update any information LCI also pass that information on to the district secretary.

c. Zone/Region Reports

Margaret – Zone 3 – Reported that most of the clubs are on vacation. Columbia Falls just completed a celebration for Don Lawrence. They also do summer concerts in the park and are getting ready for Heritage Days where they will have a float in the parade. Sunrisers sponsor “Firecracker Baseball” where they make \$2-3,000. Adrian in Eureka is still working on a playground that they’ve been installing and she has encouraged him to officially complete the paperwork for a Leo’s club. Working on details for all of the zone clubs to have a booth at the fair.

Raleigh introduced Zone 13 Chair, Hondo from Ennis and Zone 8 Chair, Bob from Choteau. Bob reported that Choteau completed their parade and they sponsored a concert at the new band shell. Their trip of the month will kick off in August. Sunburst is setting up a 501C3 utilizing the EZForm.

8. Committee Reports

- a. GMT – Richard reported that he has done Bozeman Gallatin Empire, set a date for Missoula Southside and is setting a date for Butte Mile-Hi. July 17th he will be at the new club members induction for Joliet. He has also been working with George Chenowith in Livingston.
- b. GET – Brian is working with George Chenowith in Livingston to get a club branch going there and Brian is working on their Tri-Fold. Havre is working on Chester and Raleigh asked Brian to work with Zone 8 Chair, Scott. Brian is also hoping to work with White Sulphur Springs in the Shields Valley area. Bozeman Heritage Christian School is interested in a Leo Club. Adrian has agreed to be the Leo Chair.
- c. GLT – See above – Leadership Retreat is in Choteau September 20-21. Will hopefully do zoom training for the portal and will do training at the convention.
- d. GST – Dennis reviewed his report (see attached). Dave H. requested that Dennis provide his reports so he can submit them to the Global Service Team officers.
- e. LCIF – Mike T reported that this is his and Lary’s last year but he told Corinna that he would be willing to do another tour. Corinna asked if they coordinate visits with governor’s visits. Mike said it’s good to do just an LCIF visit and not interfere with the governor’s visit.
- f. Plus-Optix – no report for the summer.

- g. IPID Ben reported that the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forums can be related to all areas of your life – not just Lions. Ben asked for the following schedule be put on the website:

2024 – Louisville, KY

2025 – Atlantic City, NJ

2026 - Memphis TN

2027 – Huntsville, AB

He also provided the LCI Convention schedule:

2025-Mexico City – July 4-8;

2026 Hong Kong – Jul 3-7

2027 Washington DC – July 2-6

2028 Singapore -June 23-27

2029 Minneapolis, MN

2030 San Antonio TX

2031 – Helsinki Finland

9. Next meeting: Oct 12, 2024 at 10:30am – Great Falls, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind

10. Adjournment – Dave H moved and Ben seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:00pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin

District 37 Administrator/Secretary 7/13/24