

District Newsletter

December
2024

DG Raleigh Peck
1st VDG Corinna Christensen
2nd VDG Jon Kimble
3rd VDG Gary Bissell
montanalions.org

What's Inside the Newsletter?

| | | | |
|--------|---|----------|---|
| P. 1 | DG Raleigh Peck Message | P. 9 | District Facebook Page |
| P. 2 | IP Fabricio Oliveira Message | P. 10 | Endorsed Projects |
| P. 2-3 | GMT Report | P. 11 | Memorial Form |
| P. 3-4 | GST Report | P. 12 | Special Notices |
| P. 4 | LCIF Report | P. 13 | Websites |
| P. 5 | Plus Optix Report | P. 13 | Contact Information |
| P. 5-6 | MT Sight & Hearing Foundation | P. 14 | Club Anniversaries |
| P. 6-8 | Club Spotlights: Gallatin Empire Kalispell Sunrisers, Sunburst | P. 14 | District Meetings & Conventions |
| P. 9 | Leo Club Service Reporting | P. 15 | USA/Canada Forums/LCI Conventions |
| | | P. 16-20 | Minutes-October 5 th Cabinet Mtg |

“Where there is a need, there is a Lion” **From the Governor’s Desk – DG Raleigh Peck**

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

As we wrap up the 2nd quarter of the Lionistic year, it's time to focus on our goals and complete our ongoing projects. Our District is proud to have the most Zone Chairs in recent history, and most are working hard to connect with the clubs. Their role is one of the most crucial in the district, as they serve as the link between the clubs/members, the district, and International.

If you haven't heard from your Zone Chair or have suggestions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can find their contact information on MontanaLions.org by selecting "Contact Us" and then choosing "Zone Chair" from the Committees drop-down menu.

Additionally, ensure your club is working toward the Club Excellence Award. It's always rewarding to add another patch to your banner!

As we continue into the new year, let's remember the true spirit of Lions service—helping those in need and making a positive impact in our communities. It is through our collective efforts that we strengthen our mission and demonstrate the power of Lions working together. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to service make all the difference, and I am grateful for each of you.

Yours in Service,
DG Raleigh G. Peck



President's Message Make Your Mark with International President Fabrício Oliveira

Dear Lion,

You know that when we work together, we can make our mark in an even more impactful way. We all have important roles to play in order to grow our clubs and our service, so let's do our part to keep our momentum going in every avenue. Talk to that potential new member. Take that online training. Work together with your fellow Lions to reach your club goals and your personal goals.

I am confident that we will achieve great things this year — including our *MISSION 1.5* goal of reaching 1.5 million members by 2027. You are the best of our organization, so be sure to do your part, serve like only a Lion serves, and Make Your Mark in the world.

At your service,

Fabrício Oliveira

International President

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership - December, 2024

I ASK

Has your club reviewed your income and service projects?

Is your income sufficient or holding you back?

Is each service project still needed or has it been reduced in scope because others have taken over some or all of the objectives?

Do you have enough active members to carry out the income needed or services?

I witness the revolving door of less members leading to fewer projects and/or income that begins a downward trend. Clubs can lose focus and don't know how to reverse those trends or don't take them seriously enough. Every club is very different and needs to develop a plan specifically for them to regain their strength and continue adequate funding and service to their communities.

I am willing to come to your club to facilitate a meeting that will help you find the solutions and determine what is the best way forward for your club. Your club will decide what is best for you after a self-inspection and develop ideas. Then you can pick how to move forward. I am not going to tell you what to do, but help you decide. I want your club to be the best it can be.

Thanks for reading this and call me if you have questions or would like to schedule a club visit to proceed.

PDG Richard Gessling Call 406-425-3785; Email gesslingdds@gmail.com

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - December, 2024

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

Huntley Project (76): Homestead Days celebration, support for SNAP and Family Services, support for local food bank, Sunnyside library summer program, Plusoptix, school gift cards, support for Friends of Pompey's Pillar, Easter egg hunt, bingo, support for Leader Dog; **Hysham (3):** Community center dishwasher, July 4th BBQ, Shakespeare in the Schools; **Joliet (28):** Adopt a Highway, community breakfast, craft and car show, recycling, kids for Christmas program, holiday bake sale, speech and drama performances; **Kalispell (99):** Christmas cards to veterans, rifle raffle, help for emergency room patients, work day at Lions Youth Camp, Plusoptix, eyeglass and hearing aid donations, Lions Bitterroot Camp, Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance, Salvation Army bell ringing Lions park cleanup; **Kalispell Sunrisers (35):** Plusoptix vision screening, fair parking, support for Pee Wee baseball; **Laurel (19):** July fireworks sales, Arbor Day celebration, tree trimming, city park service day, hearing aid assistance, Tree Board support, park path curbing project; **Missoula (1):** Christmas tree sales; **Missoula South Side (1):** Plusoptix vision screening; **Nashua (1):** Birthday calendars; **Plains (6):** Vision screening in schools, Halloween celebration, hot dog roast and costume contest; **Plentywood (0): Red Lodge (2):** Adopt a Highway, fun run; **Roundup (0); Scobey (0);**

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: www.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”. The click on the blue box that says “Create Service Activity”. Follow the prompts to complete the report.

LCI has the newest service webinar (**Creating and Managing Service Activities**), as well as other service webinars, posted to YouTube. Access via log in to LCI website, select “training videos” on the home page, which will lead you to the YouTube webinars.

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, pegtobin54@gmail.com for posting on the district website and district newsletter.

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 Mike Tobin & PDG Lary Garrison
December 2024

As we close out this calendar year I am filled with pride as I have witnessed or heard stories of Lions and Leos serving our Montana communities, providing support for those that need help during everyday life or under extraordinary circumstances.

Our global foundation enables us to expand our humanitarian service, respond quickly when necessary, and develop innovative projects with lasting impact. Your donations to our foundation make so much of this service possible. I want to thank you all for your donations, especially those individuals that have done the \$10 a month pledge, and those clubs that have done the \$5,000 DCG donations. Your donations to our foundation make so much of this service possible.

From your District 37 LCIF coordinators, we again thank you for your continuing support and dedication to our foundation (LCIF) that allows us to bring needed change to Montana and the world.

Contact PDG Lary Garrison or myself to answer any questions you may have regarding how to donate to LCIF. All donations are tax deductible.

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

Melvin Jones Week Vision Service Project! L.U.V. Lions United Vision Week

From PIP Brian Sheehan: Greetings Lions of the US and Affiliates,

We are looking forward to starting off the year 2025 with a big **LionsUSA** splash!

Our goal is to make a huge nation-wide impact by performing Lions vision screenings in as many of our communities as possible during the week of **January 12-19, 2025 as we celebrate the birthday of our founder Melvin Jones with Lions United Vision.**

Imagine the difference that can be made for the visual needs of our preschool and school age students! Imagine the public awareness of Lions in our communities when we do this collectively all across our nation!

Want to be part of the splash?

Register for the informational Q&A Zoom on **Dec. 4, 2024 @ 7:00 PM CST** by copying the link below into your browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApcoGorjoqE9AANQuX3yoY7cauNU6PRnkr#/registration>

If you want more information about this project, please contact PlusOptix chair, Lion Dave Falcon

314 9th St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; H. 406-253-1726: lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

District 37 PlusOptix Update – PlusOptix screening totals for school year June 2024 to June 2025: **18,426 screened with 2,652 refers. Fellow Screeners GREAT JOB!!!**

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

December 2024

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024.

Applications Received: 53

Assistance Provided: 26

Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$25,798.00

Applications Received From: Augusta, Bozeman, Belgrade, Big Timber, Bridger, Choteau, Clancy, Clinton, Conner, Corvallis, Darby, Deer Lodge, 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, PID Gary Tschache and PID Ben Apeland Fellowships are now available. The fellowships recognize the contributions to Lionism made by PID's Dave, Tom, Gary and Ben. 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

Gallatin Empire Lions

The Gallatin Empire Lions Club in Bozeman just completed it's 12th Red Cross blood drive on October 25th which has resulted in a total of 648 life savings products that were provided to needy hospital patients. This project was started in 2020 as a club project and has been very rewarding in being able to sponsor these blood drives and help those in need. Our next blood drive is scheduled for the 26th of March 2025 at the Red Cross blood center right here in Bozeman.

Kalispell Sunrisers Lions Club

The Sunrises Lions Club had a dinner on October 24th at the Dusty Star to honor our Charter member Les Tinseth. Les started the Sunrises Lions, February 1969, to meet early Monday mornings prior to members going to work. Les was President the very first year then again 50 years later plus many in between.



We want to thank him for all his community service. Les was very active in youth baseball. He was the founder of the 4th of July all-star tournament beginning in 1970 with 8 teams. Now it has blossomed into a major event. The Sunrises Firecracker tournament on July 4th weekend has 40 little league teams from across Montana. Les also organized our FVCC Scholarship program.

Over the 55+ years he has held numerous positions at the state level for the International Lions. He has held District Cabinet Chair, Director of Montana State Lions, and Zone Chair.

In his professional career he founded Tinseth Insurance Agency, specializing in Health, Life insurance, Medicare and Supplements. Les has helped so many people over his 60 years with professionalism, respect, and dignity. He is a fine American and great example of humility and dedication to the community. Thank you Les Tinseth.



Sunburst Lions

On November 30th, the Sunburst Lions Club hosted its 3rd Annual Parade of Lights and added it's FIRST Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. This special event began at 5:30 with the parade, followed at 6:00 by the tree lighting with the assistance of Mayor Holly Hovland plugging in the lights at the end of the countdown. We were blessed with a calm, balmy 20-degree evening. The Lions added lights to a live Norwegian Fir that was planted this fall by the Northern Telephone Cooperative. They also provided a fire pit, seating area, hot chocolate and hot apple cider for all who attended.

Other upcoming December events hosted by Sunburst Lions include the Annual Christmas Stroll on the 5th and the Senior Christmas Party on the 15th



LEO CLUB SERVICE REPORTING

All of our Leo Clubs should be reporting their service on the Lion Portal along with our regular clubs. The Leo Club Advisor, President and Secretary all have access to do their club reporting and this service reporting counts for our district too! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lion Peggy Tobin at 406-461-4206 or pegtobin54@gmail.com.

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; 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

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

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 Orlando, FL - July 13-17 (Updated)

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 – October 5, 2024 – CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, October 5, 2024; 10:30 AM; Great Falls, MT School for the Deaf and the Blind

Attendees:

In Person: DG Raleigh Peck, Lion Steve Dogiakos, 1st VDG Corrinna Christensen, Lion Marie Hajny; PDG Jack Beckman, PDG Mike Tobin, Lion Peggy Tobin, Raymond Gonzales– President of Fort Benton Lions

Via Zoom: IPDG Brian Gertizer, PDG Jim Jonke, PDG Dennis Kopitzke – GST, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Gary Bissell, IPID Ben Apeland, PDG Richard Gessling – GMT, PDG Mike Collins-GLT, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, IPD Dave Hajny.; Margaret Baylinson - Zone 3 Chair; Robert Jaquiss - President of Missoula Lions, Kim Tarplee - President of Winnett Lions.

1. Call to Order by DG Raleigh Peck at 10:30 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: Mike T
 - c) Introductions – all attendees introduced themselves noting their club and position
 - d) District Governor – no specific issues to bring up other than the agenda
2. Minutes: Motion by Steve D, second by Mike T to approve the July 13, 2024 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve reviewed the financial reports ending September 30, 2024, noting that we are in pretty good shape. Reminded everyone that expense reports are due within 60 days following the expense and to submit them directly to DG Raleigh. Steve reviewed his recommendation to change the policy manual to establish Article 3, Section D: Operating Reserve. The motion to approve the financial report was made by Mike T and seconded by Jack. Dave H asked for clarification of the stipends for the secretary and treasurer and discussed the format of the reports. Dave H had several questions/comments on the new reporting format. He noted that the Friendship Committee does not pay for the snacks at the leadership committee and Steve said he can recode, but that was where he was directed to put them. Steve offered to set up a separate entity for the Friendship committee. Raleigh recommended to take these issues to the Finance & Budget Committee. The motion to approve the financials was voted on and passed.

Dave H left the meeting.

4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 7 below – Peg requested to add approve current endorsed projects for the 2024-25 Lionistic year. Jack asked about the closed clubs. Brian will discuss this during his report.
5. Old Business
 - a. LCIF – Executive Meeting to close the LCIF Hunger Project Grant (see 5a below for final action on this item). Mike T reported that PDG Lary couldn't attend the meeting, but that he wanted to inform the Cabinet that all grants except the Bozeman Hunger Grant have been closed so District 37 has two Matching Grants available. Big Timber is looking at the possibility of one of them and PDG Lary will be attending their meeting on the 8th. He will also be visiting with the Shepherd Lions on the 14th, the Billings Heights on the 15th, the Laurel Lions on the 17th and possibly the Winnett and Roundup Lions on the 22nd. On the 23rd PIP Patti Hill will have a zoom meeting to give Grant updates including the new Vision Grant Program. He hopes to attend the next District Cabinet Meeting. Mike T added that he has met with Cut Bank and is scheduled to visit Ennis on the 9th. He

is also working with Cascade to set up a visit. Mike is working on a program to those clubs and the district that have a lot of money sitting in the bank. He would love to have the district lead this program so that he can pass that information on to the clubs – specifically to donate at least \$5,000 which opens up an immediate 15% (\$750 for a \$5,000 donation) back in a DCG grant from LCIF. When he does his club visits, he’s asking for money from clubs based on their financial condition and he recognizes that not all clubs can afford to do that. Raleigh agreed with this recommendation. Jack asked for clarification and discussion followed. Richard noted that it feels like Mike T is “strong arming” clubs and the district. Mike T assured him that he doesn’t strong arm the clubs and makes note of their finances prior to even suggesting the donation. However, he is definitely strong arming the district because he feels that the district needs to support its foundation in this manner and be an example to those clubs who can afford it.

Mike T moved for the district to donate \$5,000 to LCIF and Steve seconded the motion. Steve confirmed that this isn’t in the budget and asked if we need to refer this to the budget committee first? Mike C noted that this isn’t in the policy manual. Mike T noted that we won’t have everything in the budget. Raleigh asked PID Ben for his comments. Ben noted that this has come up many times and he agreed that there is nothing in our policy and bylaws that would keep us from doing this. However, there is an “unwritten” policy that the funds would be used for district. Mike C pointed out that there isn’t anything for an “unwritten” policy. Peggy noted that because of the benefits that our district receives from LCIF, that this donation wouldn’t even go against the “unwritten” policy. Jack asked if we need to have a policy change. Raleigh noted that there is nothing from LCI Legal’s point of view to preclude us from donating. Dennis noted that we have eight other endorsed projects and feels that they would all be worthy of receiving support from the district. Richard feels that the clubs are not very happy with the district and doesn’t feel this would be viewed favorably. Jim noted that this is the only endorsed project that gives back to the district. He favors doing something like this. Mike T agreed to amend the motion to include that it is a one-time donation for this year. Steve seconded the amendment. Jack asked and received confirmation that the district has funds for the donation. Raleigh did a roll call vote and the motion failed.

- b. Club Health Assessment – August Report – Raleigh pointed out the length of many club president rotations is very long and is concerned about the club being stagnant. Membership is currently at a - 2. Steve confirmed that the account balances are club balances owing LCI.
- c. Club Officer Training – Mike C reported that we will do another zoom club officer training although he hasn’t confirmed details with his team. He noted that we redid the secretary training and broke it into two segments including a new video of the Lion Portal. Raleigh confirmed that if officers do the training in the Lion Portal, that training will automatically be recorded. Mike C confirmed that he has reported all of the district officer training that has been completed.
- d. Appoint 3rd Vice District Governor –Raleigh noted that the policy manual was changed to include a 3rd Vice District Governor even though it isn’t acknowledged by LCI. The advisory committee has picked Gary Bissell. Richard asked why this is being appointed and not going through the election process that the other DG’s go through. Raleigh noted that this pilot program does not guarantee that the 3rd would move up to 2nd automatically. Mike T noted that this policy was given to the policy committee and was approved at the July cabinet meeting and is in the current policy manual. Richard feels that the 3rd VDG should have to run in an election. Steve read the policy. Steve moved to appoint Lion Gary Bissell to 3rd VDG. Mike T seconded the motion. Motion passed by majority vote.

- e. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Steve reported that the page has been updated since July and has increased our views. Peggy noted that the views on the website have increased exponentially. Steve also noted the most popular area of the website has been under “About Us”/Traditional Words which includes the Lions Creed, Prayers, toasts and the pledge of allegiance.
- f. 2025 District Convention – Raleigh noted that everything is set up with the Delta hotel. Dan is still waiting for the food costs which we need in order to determine the registration fees.

Steve went back to **item 5** to complete the action required for the Executive Meeting to close the LCIF Hunger Project Grant (see attached minutes). Steve moved to adopt the action of the executive committee. Mike T. seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- g. Approve the District Endorsed Projects – Lion Peggy read the list of the nine endorsed projects. Mike T asked what being an endorsed project does for these groups. Discussion followed regarding the process and an explanation of how the district has vetted the groups and therefore, the clubs can feel that their donations will be utilized correctly. Mike C moved to approve these endorsed projects for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and Dennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business

- a. Date of District Dues – Steve reported that he’s been asked by Club’s why we bill in January instead of in July as LCI does. The district bases the dues on the November membership rolls. Steve doesn’t care but wanted an explanation that he can pass on when asked the question. Mike C noted that LCI bills twice during the year in July and December. Mike T reported that this was done during his term because the clubs were confused about paying dues twice (once to LCI and once to the District in July). Steve thanked the group for the clarification.
- b. Membership and Marketing Proposal (see attached) - Raleigh noted that International President Fabricio is really pushing forming new clubs. Based on his travels, Raleigh feels that we need to do an entire revamp of the district’s processes to form new clubs and asked Steve to present his proposal to use a professional marketing agency to build membership (see attached). Steve noted that we are probably closer to \$120K (vs \$135K in proposal) over the next few years and reported that this proposal includes some hard advertising and has a paid position to assist in growing our membership. Raleigh reviewed the membership overview. Richard noted that he didn’t have a chance to review the proposal and Raleigh assured him that this is just a proposal and won’t be voted on today. Richard asked about the \$5,000 proposed in the budget already and Raleigh clarified that this was a grant that was applied for. Mike T noted that in a report that was given at a convention he attended, in most clubs the new members are generated by only one or two members of the club. He feels that doing a marketing campaign that will reach all of the population in Montana will be more effective than what the clubs are currently doing. Raleigh reiterated that this is a proposal and he asked that everyone review this over the next few months so that we can move it further along in January. Jack noted that he agrees with the general proposal and that 10 years ago he was DG and they tried to get a club formed in Lewistown and it did not succeed. He said that getting community involvement is critical to being successful. Raleigh is also asking that every club have a member that becomes a Guiding Lion. He has a trainer in Alberta who is willing to do zoom training. We have to have a culture change because we aren’t recruiting new lions. Delaware is bringing in lots of new clubs with young members. This will be on the January agenda.

7. Officer Reports

- a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations – Raleigh reported that he’s done most of his and will schedule the Billings Heights visit. He has a scheduling conflict with Missoula and VDG Jon will pick up that visit for him.

VDG Corinna has visited a handful of clubs – Lion Gary came with her to Big Timber. Steve noted that the forum being used to compile the notes from every club visit is going well. Richard asked if that could be available to him as they would really assist the GMT and Steve answered that Richard can be added. Gary has lined up three visits to Forsyth, Laurel and Joliet.

- b. Administrator/Secretary’s Report – Peggy reported that there are still two clubs who have not responded to any of her contacts regarding new officers for 2024-25: Denton & Plains. In addition, five clubs have not completed entering all of their officers and currently list only their club secretary: Fort Benton, Great Falls, Nashua, Scobey, and Whitefish. Multiple attempts have been made with the secretaries to complete this process. Per action taken at the July cabinet meeting, the emails previously listed on the directories have been removed from the directories. In addition, the menu options were updated following the leadership training to make the directory easier to get to by pulling it out of the “Contact Us” section and putting it on the top bar. Peg offered a big “Thank You” to Steve for updating it immediately! Peg reported that there has been a much higher rate of usage of the “Contact Us” section since providing the menu options to contact the various district officers instead of just the District Governor. The Eye Glass project information is on the “Donate” page. The revamped secretary videos are on the website under training/resources and the “Events” and newsletter both include the list of future USA/Canada Forums and International Conventions provided by PID Ben and the change from Mexico City to Orlando has been made on the website and will be noted in future newsletters.

c. Zone/Region Reports

Margaret – Zone 3 Reported that she has visited with Adrian with Eureka and they are working on a playground. They have adopted a highway and also got a Plus Optix machine. She also visited with Kalispell and the clubs are back meeting twice a month. They are working on their donations to various groups that they support. Margaret had a booth at the fair. She had those interested complete a survey and got over 100 responses of folks interested in Lions noting that Columbia Falls got two new members from the booth. The biggest issue was meeting times and she’s hoping to start a branch club that would meet at a different time. She reviewed a variety of other projects being done in her zone and noted that a zone meeting is scheduled for October 2.

8. Committee Reports – Raleigh would like to have all of the committees get more members to assist with their work.

- a. GET – Brian is working on a letter to send to club presidents and marketing chairs. Brian offered to assist Margaret with a branch club in Kalispell. Richard suggested that we reach out to diabetics that might be interested in branch clubs specializing in Diabetes.
- b. GMT – Richard reported that he visited the Butte Mile Hi club in September. They will start working on a branch club either at Montana Tech or other groups but they have some ideas. He visited with Missoula Southside and they want to get together with the other two clubs and have an event together to recruit for all the clubs. He has followed up with the clubs he has worked with and Joliet is the “winner”. Ray Carlson will be going to Plains and Hot Springs Lions clubs this month and possibly Dillon after, as they are more receptive to district assistance. Richard has heard from a

couple of clubs to do a diabetic meeting. Mike C reported that he tried to start an online Diabetics club that never took off. He noted that there are a lot of resources on LCI's website.

- c. GLT – Mike C reported that he felt the leadership training was very successful even though the numbers are lower than he would like, but the food and hotel costs were significantly lower than budgeted by having the training in Choteau. The reviews were the best we've ever had. There were discussions of having the next training in Lewistown or Fort Benton. Mike C also noted that Montana is supposed to host next year's VDG training. Lion Raymond noted that this is his first year as president of Fort Benton. They did a community gathering called "bridging Fort Benton". They discovered that there were 43 little clubs in Fort Benton. The feedback was "let's help each other" and a community calendar was created. They met with the school and presented a Leo program. Mike T noted that even though we may only get 8-10-12 attendees, we are getting attendance that we won't have without the leadership training. He doesn't feel that there is an option. Steve added that he got a lot of feedback from Choteau as it had a great impact on the community.
 - d. GST – Dennis reviewed his report (see attached). They have sent information to all the clubs that haven't completed entering their service projects, including a variety of resources for reporting service projects. He hopes to have reports from all of the clubs by the end of the year to share what other clubs are doing. Mike T noted that he always stresses doing the service reporting as it impacts LCIF. Raleigh asked if Dennis would also start working with the club service chairs.
 - e. LCIF – see above.
 - f. IPID Ben – complimented everyone for the robust meeting that has occurred today. He thanked all of the opinions presented today and he's very impressed with the membership program being developed. He noted that those who have been around a long time need to step out of their box and he's glad to be part of the district. Raleigh added that he appreciates the spirited conversation today and everyone's thoughtfulness.
9. Next meeting: January 11, 2024 at 10:30am – VIA ZOOM – Raleigh asked Mike C to set up the zoom meeting.
10. For the good of the order – Jack is working with the MTSDB to put in a new playground
11. Adjournment – Steve moved and Mike T seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:04pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin
District 37 Administrator/Secretary 10/5/24