

# District Newsletter

January  
2025

DG Raleigh Peck  
1<sup>st</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen  
2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Jon Kimble  
3<sup>rd</sup> VDG Gary Bissell  
[montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org)

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

January 2025

Greetings and sincere hopes that everyone celebrated a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.

We are now halfway through our Lionistic year, and though we’ve accomplished so much, there is still plenty more we can achieve in the second half.

If your club hasn’t completed and submitted the **Club Excellence Award**, I strongly encourage you to take a short period of time to complete it and earn the recognition your club deserves. If you have any questions about completing it, please contact your Zone Chair or any member of the Governor Team: myself, 1st VDG Corinna, 2nd VDG Jon, or our new 3rd VDG Gary. All of our contact information is readily available at [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org) or through the **Lion Portal**, where you can find our email addresses.

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### About the Lion Portal

Bookmark this site: <https://lionsinternational.my.site.com/>. The first time you visit, click the “**Don’t have an Account?**” link to create your account. It’s easy—just set up a username and password. I recommend using a password manager to save your credentials for enhanced security, rather than relying on your browser’s memory.

One of the best features of the portal is its **search bar**. It works great! Try it by entering any Lion's name to find their contact information. You can even put in my name to find my email address and send me a quick message about how it worked for you. I'd love to hear your thoughts! You can also search for resources and information about being a Lion, and the results will appear quickly and efficiently.

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## **Growing Our District**

I need everyone's help in growing our District. Please participate in the **Guiding Lion** Zoom meetings presented by PCC Betty Ann Robson. Please contact me, and I'll forward you the link. Or, if you prefer, you can also complete the program independently at this link: [Guiding Lion Program](#). The program takes only about six hours to complete and offers a three-year certification.

We urgently need Guiding Lions to:

- Start new clubs.
- Reinvigorate struggling clubs.

Always remember: **More Lions mean more service and less work for everyone when we share the load.** Let's collaborate and achieve even greater success together.

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## **In Closing**

We're all in this together, and together we can do more. Thank you for your continued dedication and service.

Yours in Service,  
District Governor  
Raleigh G. Peck



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

Dear Lion,

We are driven by a desire to serve. As Lions, we're always thinking about others and the work that needs to be done to help them, both in our communities and around the world. And when we grow our membership, we're also growing the amount of service we can do — and the impact we can make together.

I know we can serve more people than ever before this year, thanks to your service and your support of *MISSION 1.5*. So let's serve and grow to make our mark like only Lions can.

At your service,

**Fabrício Oliveira**

**International President**

## GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership - January, 2025

As the GMT/membership chair, I strongly suggest all members seriously consider attending the District 37 convention in Helena May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025. By attending you will be rewarded by learning how to make your club the best it can be. You will be motivated to act to increase your service to your community that your club serves. You will have fun and meet other Lions that come from around the state, making new friends in the process.

Yours in service.

Lion Richard Gessling

# GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - January, 2024

This is the final article featuring service projects every Montana Lion Club and providing examples of service projects from every club in the state that submits reports to LCI. 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](http://www.montanalions.org)

**Seeley Lake (35):** Prescription assistance, sand bagging, Adopt a Highway, emergency firewood cache, resident assistance, hunters education, Plusoptix, Christmas tree lighting; **Shepherd (60):** Easter egg hunt, dress a child, eyeglass recycling, community garage sale, Memorial Day service, Lions Jamboree; **Sidney (146):** Project day at Heritage Center, Adopt a Highway, Memorial Day posting, elementary school track meet, blood drive, flags for 1<sup>st</sup> graders, park shelter maintenance, eyeglass recycling; **Sunburst (83):** Plusoptix, community center management, Adopt a Highway, Trex plastic collection, community calendar, hearing aid collection, support for Florence Crittenton Home; **Sun River Valley (1):** Fun Day; **Superior (0); Townsend (55):** Eyeglass & hearing aid recycling and screening, rodeo corn dog wagon, Leader Dog, golf tournament, legion baseball, A for attitude book program, Adopt a Highway, Lights for Love; **Turner/Hogeland (0); Whitefish (3):** Northwest Montana fair booth, winter carnival; **White Sulphur Springs (162):** food bank donation, Easter egg hunt, fishing derby, vision screening, coat swap, EMT training, Radar Park cleanup, Arbor Day tree planting; **Winnett (46):** Adopt a Highway, environment beautification, community calendar, Peace Poster contest, spay and neuter clinic, vision screening, care baskets; **Wolf Point (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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

January 2025

### WHAT MADE THE BILLINGS HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB UNIQUE IN 2023-2024?

Montana District 37's 2024/25 Donation Goal is \$46,172

\* From July 1, 2024, Montana District 37 has donated \$22,203 to LCIF - 34.7% of its goal.

\* LCIF uses no Lions Club dues. 100% of LCIF donations are used for LCIF Grants!

\* 11 of 59 Lions Clubs have donated \$14,700 to LCIF.

An average of \$1,336 per club. (\$100.00 to \$5,100 donations)

\* 54 of 1513 Members have donated \$7,503 to LCIF.

An average of \$139 per donation. (\$10-\$1,000)

\* 18 of 1513 Members donate monthly for a total of \$539 per month.

An average of \$29.94. (\$10-\$85)

\*\* From 2012-2024 Montana District 37 received \$602,596 in grants from LCIF.

An average of \$46,353 per grant. (\$10,000 to \$100,000)

\*\* From 2012-2024 Montana District 37 donated \$273,299 to LCIF.

An average of \$21,023 per year. (\$16,647 to \$38,467)

DURING 2023-2024 THE BILLINGS HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB WAS THE ONLY CLUB THAT MADE DONATIONS TO LCIF AS A CLUB AS WELL AS BY 100% OF IT'S MEMBERS! Will your club join our club to do so in 2024-2025???

A BIG THANK YOU to every club and every Lion that has made a donation this lionistic year.

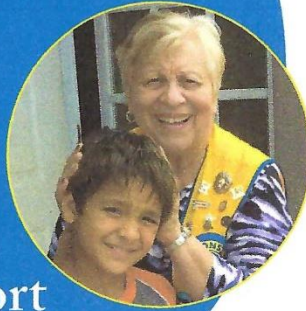
Donations to LCIF can be made to [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate) or mailed to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842 USA.

Yours in Lionism,  
PDG Lary Garrison  
703 Conway St.  
Billings, Mt. 59105  
406-855-6997  
[lionlarygarrison@gmail.com](mailto:lionlarygarrison@gmail.com)

PDG Mike Tobin  
P.O. Box 408  
Sunburst, Mt. 59482  
406-450-2780  
[miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com)

# IRA Charitable Rollovers

## A Tax-Savvy Way to Support LCIF



If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a qualified charity, such as LCIF, and exclude it from your taxable income. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

### Why consider this gift?

- Beginning in the year you turn 72, your gift satisfies all or part of annual required minimum distributions (RMD) and provides a charitable giving strategy for donors who do not need the additional income.
- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making. It may also be used to fulfill any outstanding pledges to LCIF.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Your annual income level may be reduced since the gift doesn't count as income. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

### What are the requirements and restrictions for making an IRA charitable rollover gift?

- You must be at least age 70½ on the date of the gift.
- Distributions are limited to \$100,000 per individual per year, and must be transferred directly to LCIF from your IRA custodian.
- QCDs can come only from a traditional or Roth IRA (not from a retirement plan such as a 401(k), 403(b), etc.).
- QCDs can only be made to public charities like LCIF. They cannot be made to private foundations or donor advised funds, or be used to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.

*Note: You should consult your legal or financial advisor as other requirements may apply.*

### Next Steps:

- 1 If you wish to make a QCD, please contact your IRA Administrator and instruct that person to transfer funds to LCIF at the following address:  
**Lions Clubs International Foundation**  
300 West 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842
- 2 Please indicate the area you would like your gift to support.



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Kanonik, J.D. at +1.630.468.7067 or [robert.kanonik@lionsclubs.org](mailto:robert.kanonik@lionsclubs.org).

## PLUSOPTIX

**District 37 PlusOptix Update** – PlusOptix screening totals for school year June 2024 to June 2025: **25,516 screened with 3,511 refers. Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!**

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

## MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

January 2025

### Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

Applications Received: 59

Assistance Provided: 26

Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$26,548.00

Applications Received From: Augusta, Bozeman, Belgrade, Big Timber, Bridger, Choteau, Clancy, Clinton, Conner, Corvallis, Darby, Deer Lodge, Dillon, East Helena, Fairview, Fortine, Great Falls, Hamilton, Helena, Highwood, Kalispell, 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.

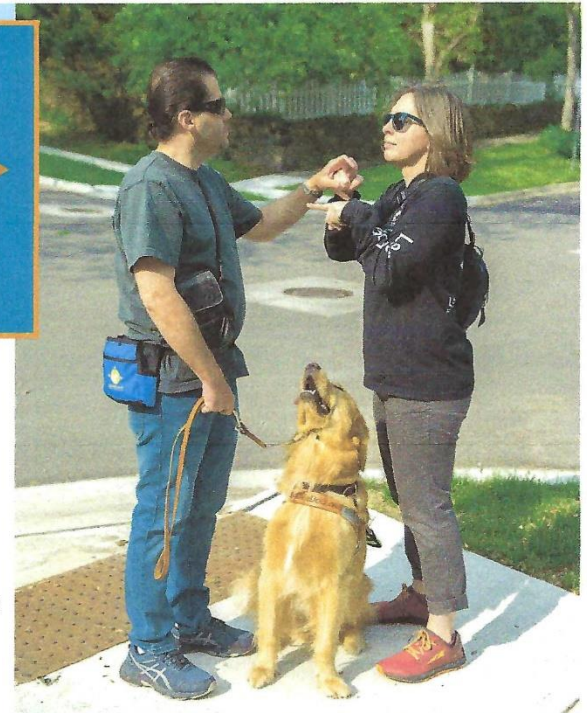
**Life Membership:** A Life Membership to the Foundation, which includes a lapel pin and pocket card can be bestowed by an individual, group of individuals, Lions Club or can be purchased by an individual with a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

**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.

JANUARY | 2025

# LEADING THE WAY

Leader Dogs for the Blind - Lions Newsletter



Sarah D., GDMI, COMS explains to Client Steven how to navigate an intersection using tactile ASL.

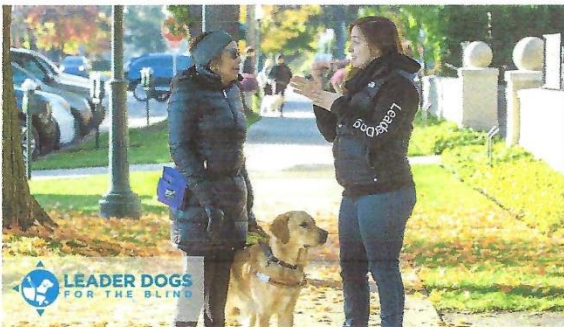
## Training to Every Client's Needs

### Learn about our DeafBlind Program and Adaptive Services

At Leader Dogs for the Blind, our top priority is ensuring each client receives customized training that allows them to develop exceptional skills to travel independently with a white cane or a guide dog. Though all our guide dog mobility instructors (GDMI) and certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS) are skilled at adapting the training process to accommodate a wide range of personalities and individual needs, the GDMI on our adaptive services team also individualize client and dog training for additional client needs or disabilities that may be physical or intellectual. Some examples of ways we are able to adapt training are:

- Train a dog to work on the right side for someone who has experienced a stroke, has a prosthetic hand or has lost a limb.
- Identify and train a sturdy dog for someone with an uneven gait due to cerebral palsy that can offer a little counterbalance and be easier to control.
- Provide one-on-one instruction at a gradual pace for someone who has experienced a traumatic brain injury.

People who are both deaf and blind can find navigating the world to be challenging. After working closely with DeafBlind clients, we began offering guide dog training in 1992 using American Sign Language (ASL) as the main method of communication. A guide dog working with a person who is DeafBlind must be extremely mature. Their training stresses partner awareness because they receive all commands from their handler via hand signals. Much attention is placed on traffic awareness and proper street crossings since these can be extreme safety issues for people who are DeafBlind.



**DID YOU KNOW IN 1992, LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND BECAME THE FIRST ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE GUIDE DOGS SPECIFICALLY TRAINED FOR CLIENTS WHO ARE BOTH DEAF AND BLIND.**



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR DEAFBLIND PROGRAM & ADAPTIVE SERVICES TODAY!



## From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

### Navigating Club Insurance Requests: A Quick Guide for Montana Lions Clubs

One of the great things about being part of Lions Clubs International is the wealth of resources available to support our local clubs' operations and events. Recently, I received an inquiry from the Lions Club in the District about obtaining proof of insurance for their roller-skating program at the town civic center. It's a great example of how Lions Clubs enhance their communities through long-standing traditions and activities

The question was straightforward: "Can the District provide proof of insurance for our club?" While the District assists with many aspects of club administration, it's important to know that liability insurance for clubs is managed directly by Lions Clubs International (LCI), not by the District.

Thankfully, LCI has made accessing the necessary documents for proof of insurance incredibly simple. Here's how any club can retrieve their certificate of insurance:

1. Visit the LCI Certificate of Insurance Page

The documents you need can be found on the Lions Clubs International website at this link: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/certificate-of-insurance>.

2. Select the Appropriate Certificate

On this page, you'll find general liability insurance documents and certificates that clubs can download and use as proof of coverage.

3. Download and Share

Once downloaded, you can provide the document to the requesting party, whether it's a venue like the civic center or another partner organization.

This centralized system ensures that every Lions Club has consistent access to the insurance documentation needed for their events, simplifying what could otherwise be a cumbersome process.

If your club ever has questions about insurance or other administrative resources, don't hesitate to reach out. While some inquiries may be handled directly by LCI, the District is always here to guide you toward the right solution. Together, we're ensuring that our service projects are safe, effective, and impactful for our communities.

Yours in Service,  
Steve Dogiakos  
Montana Lions Clubs District Treasurer

# CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

## FORT BENTON LEOS REINVIGORATE CLUB WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fort Benton, MT – The Fort Benton Leos Club is making a strong comeback with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to serving their community. Partnering closely with the Fort Benton Lions Club, the Leos have recently engaged in a series of impactful projects that highlight their enthusiasm and dedication.

One of the club's standout efforts was assisting the Lions with the Chouteau County Cancer Support Group annual luminary display. The event, a cherished community tradition, brought festive light and warmth to Fort Benton during the holiday season. The Leos played a key role in setting up and ensuring the success of the event, showcasing their teamwork and willingness to step up.

Following the Halloween celebrations, the Leos turned their attention to helping local businesses and residents by cleaning windows adorned with seasonal decorations. Their efforts restored storefronts and homes to their sparkling best, demonstrating the club's responsiveness to community needs.

The Leos also took an active role in addressing food insecurity within the area. While helping gather and redistribute donations for the annual GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club Angel Committee food drive, they identified an additional need: homes without visible house numbers. Recognizing the importance of house numbers for safety and accessibility, especially for deliveries and emergency services, the Leos have committed to providing house numbers for those homes, with the permission of the homeowners.

"It's inspiring to see the Fort Benton Leos come together with such energy and focus," said president Raymond Gonzalez of the Fort Benton Lions Club. "Their projects are already making a real difference in the community, and we're excited to see what they accomplish next."

Special thanks go to Karyn Giles and Carley Vielleux of the FB Lions Leo Committee for their leadership and support in helping guide the club to success.

The reinvigoration of the Leos Club is a positive step forward for Fort Benton. With their hands-on approach and partnership with the Lions, the Leos are making a meaningful mark on their hometown while setting an example of leadership and service for the next generation.

The Fort Benton Leos now have 17 active members and invite other young people in the area to join their growing club and be part of the positive change. Together, they're proving that small acts of service can have a big impact.

Pictured are Leo Kailey Rominger, Leo Zoe Donner, Lions Vice District Governor Corinna Christensen, Leo Lucia Johnson and Leo Etta Wicks



## GREAT FALLS SUNRISE LIONS SERVE CHRISTMAS TREATS

On Saturday December 7th, the Great Falls Sunrise Lions met at the Senior Citizens Center to serve their annual Christmas Treats for those attending that day's bingo session. This event started in the 1970's as a party for the seniors during the holiday season. Over the years we have had singing groups from the high school do chorale presentations and used to have an event dinner.

Recently the center finds more activity during the bingo sessions and is changing winter hours to better fit the travel of people who are either without transportation or are reluctant to drive at night during the winter.



At this year's party, we had nine lions from the club bring a minimum of two dozen cookies each. The club provided a special Christmas punch and ice cream in chocolate, vanilla and Neapolitan flavors. We served the treats during the break until all the sugar needs of the group were met. We also do non- sugar items and fruit slices to include all who attend.

Just one more thing that Lions do during the year to serve our community

## WINNETT LIONS DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Winnett Lions were busy spreading Christmas cheer to our community members.

- We delivered poinsettias and candies to our Senior Citizens and community bachelors. We wore our Santa hats and sang them a Christmas carol. Fifty deliveries were made.
- We filled 80 goodie bags for Mr. and Mrs. Santa ( Jim and Melody) to give out at the kids at the school's Christmas program.
- We put up our 16-piece nativity scene that we built on Main Street for all to enjoy. We sponsored a Christmas light contest and gave prizes to the winners.
- District Governor presented three of our members with Melvin Jones awards and some others with 10 and 20 year attendance pins.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:djk_7491@rangeweb.net); PO Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

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

**Leader Dogs for the Blind** - PDG Jim Johnke, PO Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406- 928-3311; [jjohnke@gmail.com](mailto:jjohnke@gmail.com); [www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog](http://www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog) and DG Michael Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; 406-937-1215; [miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com)

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

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

**Montana Association for the Blind** – Lion Rhonda Cochrane, 1802 West Park, Anaconda, 59711; 406-490-2669; [rhondacochrane67@gmail.com](mailto:rhondacochrane67@gmail.com); [www.mabop.org](http://www.mabop.org)

**Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation** – Lion Jessica Fausey, PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; [lionjessicafausey@gmail.com](mailto:lionjessicafausey@gmail.com); [www.mtlionsshfnd.org](http://www.mtlionsshfnd.org)

### **NEWEST ENDORSED PROJECT:**

**Montana School for the Deaf & Blind Foundation** – Lion Mark Willmarth, 220 38<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Great Falls MT 59404; 406-899-6110; [mark@visionwestmt.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com) or call 406-461-4206.

## DISTRICT WEBSITE & AVAILABLE LINKS:

Visit the district website at [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) to find a wealth of valuable information regarding almost every aspect associated with the operation of the district. 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 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Sidney, MT 59270; H: 406-488-7447;  
C: 406-480-5000; [raleighgpeck@gmail.com](mailto:raleighgpeck@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729;  
C: 406-570-6742; [406corinna@gmail.com](mailto:406corinna@gmail.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Jon Kimble; PO Box 1583, Seeley Lake MT 59868;  
C: 559-352-1455; [jkimble@wellhead.com](mailto: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](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com)

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



## JANUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

570 years of combined service!

Cascade	01/25/1958
Denton	01/26/1955
Eureka-Tobacco Valley	01/16/2014
Glendive	01/10/1944
Hamilton	01/27/1930
Helena Gold Rush	01/09/1984
Hot Springs	01/23/1940
Missoula South Side	01/15/1964
Sun River Valley	01/05/1966

## UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MLS&HF Board Meeting	January 11, 2025 @ 9:00am – VIA ZOOM
District Cabinet Meeting	January 11, 2025 @ 10:30am – VIA ZOOM

## MULTIPLE DISTRICT C ANNUAL CONVENTION

**2025 Multiple District C Convention will be held in Medicine Hat at the Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Auditorium  
April 11-12, 2025**

## 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 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice District Governor –Raleigh noted that the policy manual was changed to include a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> would move up to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> VDG should have to run in an election. Steve read the policy. Steve moved to appoint Lion Gary Bissell to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 he 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, 2025 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