

District Newsletter

February
2025

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

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

February 2025

Montana Lions—Mark Your Calendars!

Fellow Lions,

Get ready for an unforgettable **Montana SD37 Annual Convention** on **May 2nd & 3rd** in our **beautiful state capital, Helena!** This is your chance to **connect, learn, and celebrate** the incredible impact of Lions service.

This year, we have **outstanding speakers and presenters** who will inspire and energize us. Whether you're looking to grow as a leader, strengthen your club, or simply soak in the Lions spirit, these sessions are not to be missed!

And of course, **we’re making learning FUN!** Join us **Friday night** for our exciting **Speed Learning session**, held during the **social and silent auction**. It’s a fast-paced, interactive way to gain fresh insights while enjoying great company.



Important Info:



Registration will be arriving in your email in the next week or so—**be on the lookout!**



We'll also be sharing **more details in the coming weeks.**

You **really** won't want to miss this event. **See you in Helena!**

**Yours in Service,
District Governor Raleigh G. Peck**



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

Dear Lion,

As an organization, we have a vision for the future of our service. And as individual club members, we have a vision of how to make that future a reality — through our service and by inviting others to join us.

So work with your fellow club members and your community to bring your vision to life so we can grow together and serve more people than ever before.

At your service,
Fabrício Oliveira
International President

GET Report - IPDG Brian Gertiser

Global Expansion Team

Global and Montana Expansion – January , 2025

Greetings Lions of District 37 and beyond.

What a great start to a new year, the holidays are behind us and we are navigating winter in true Lions fashion. Staying close to the fire and watching the wind and snow from indoors.

But as we stay warm and cozy, now would be a great time to think about how we can work to grow our clubs, maybe add a club branch or even restart a club that used to be in a neighboring town.

While cruising around the Lions Portal I found numerous article and ideas to aid my fellow Lions in this effort. I encourage all Lions to spend time on the Portal getting ideas and motivating plans to further Lionism. I found 100 ideas to attract new members, You Tube videos on recruitment and retention.

The greatest gift I think we can give to our community is a Lions Club. I sure could use your help, so please reach out to me and let's get growing.

Give me a call at 406-539-0992 or email me at 2bjgert@gmail.com
PDG Brian Gertiser

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership - February, 2025

As the Global Membership Team Coordinator, it is my responsibility to help Lions Clubs with membership issues. I am making the following suggestion, because it is one of the ways you can be the quality club that you deserve and want. **I suggest that every club have at least two members attend the District Convention in Helena May 2 & 3.**

- You will meet old friends and make new ones.
- You will be exposed to ideas to help your club in many ways
- You will enjoy the fellowship with other Lions.

Make plans and bring a friend to the convention. Ask your club for help in attending if needed. You will become energized and that will rub off on your club members when you meet.

Thanks for reading this!
Llon Richard Gessling

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - February, 2025

WHY MONTANA LIONS CLUBS SHOULD DO SERVICE PROJECTS! THE SERVICE JOURNEY

The Service Journey is an approach to living and serving well. To making a real difference people can see and feel. It encompasses four simple phases: learn, discover, act and celebrate. These words transcend organizational formulas. They have no border. They are the essence of Lions and Leos. If the past 100 years have taught us anything, it's that as we serve, we grow. And we were never meant to stop. Service is our journey.

Insight is often more valuable than instinct – if we aren't informed about what is happening around us, our impact may fall short. So, we cultivate an awareness of local needs and how they connect to a larger global narrative. We seek new information and turn it into insight. Learning positions us to be effective.

LCI encourages clubs to get involved in projects associated with: **Childhood Cancer:** We provide support for the needs of children and families affected by childhood cancer. **Diabetes:** We work to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improves quality of life for those living with diabetes. **Disaster Relief:** We take steps to meet immediate needs and provide long-term support for communities devastated by natural disasters. **Environment:** We find ways to protect the environment to create healthier communities and a more sustainable world. **Humanitarian Aid:** We identify the world's most crucial needs and provide humanitarian aid where it's needed most. **Hunger:** We strive to improve food security and access to nutritious food to help alleviate hunger. **Visually Impaired:** We help prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired. **Youth:** We support young people so they can make positive choices, lead healthy and productive lives, and become the next generation of service leaders.

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

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, 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 Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin February 2025

To all of our District 37 Lions, I can't say it any better than what LCIF Chairperson, Dr. Patti Hill, wrote in her recent letter:

The start of a new year provides an excellent opportunity to take a look at your service and fundraising goals to consider ways Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) can help you achieve them. LCIF grants and programs empower Lions and Leos worldwide to take on bigger projects and impact more people than any single Lion or club could do alone. Within this month's newsletter, you will find an example of a Matching Grant project that is making a difference in Australia, as well as valuable resources that can help you learn more about LCIF grants to see if there is one that's right for your club, now or in the future.

It is the support each of you provides our foundation, through your financial gifts and sharing impactful stories of service with others, that we are able to achieve our ambitious goals together. LCIF and our beneficiaries are truly grateful for your continued [contributions](#).

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

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation February 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2025 to January 28, 2025

- Applications Received: 6
- Assistance Provided: 0
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$0.00
- Applications Received From: Bozeman, Corvallis, East Missoula, Hamilton and Hot Springs

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 Contribution – CHANGE as of January 1, 2025

For over eight years, the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation has not made any changes to the club contribution towards applications. However, due to the increase in the cost of hearing aids and other services over that time, the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation voted at the January board meeting to increase all club contributions towards applications *from \$200.00 or 10% of the total cost, whichever is greater **to \$300.00 or 10% of the total cost, whichever is greater.***

Thank you for your continued support of the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation.

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

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos **DISTRICT 37 ADOPTS OPERATING RESERVE POLICY** **TO SECURE OUR FUTURE**

To strengthen the long-term stability of our District and ensure we can continue serving Lions across Montana, District 37 officially adopted an **Operating Reserve Policy** at the last meeting of the District Cabinet. This policy is designed to **safeguard our financial health**, ensuring that we have the funds necessary to support clubs while also freeing up cash for membership recruitment and service initiatives.

Why an Operating Reserve Matters

An operating reserve is a portion of our unrestricted funds set aside to cover operational expenses in times of financial uncertainty. **It acts as a financial cushion, allowing us to stay resilient even during economic downturns or fundraising shortfalls.**

Historically, a significant portion of the District's cash reserves sat unused. This new policy **clarifies how much should be set aside for emergencies** while freeing up the remaining funds for vital initiatives, such as:

- **Membership growth & club support**
- **Leadership training & service project funding**
- **Technology & communications improvements**

By adopting this policy, District 37 is taking a proactive approach to financial stewardship, ensuring that we **invest in growth while maintaining financial security.**

Why Clubs Should Also Establish an Operating Reserve

Lions Clubs can benefit from having a **reserve fund** just as much as the District. Without financial reserves, clubs may struggle to keep projects running smoothly when unexpected costs arise.

Setting aside a reserve equal to three to six months of operating expenses ensures clubs can:

- **Continue service projects even during financial downturns.**
- **Cover unexpected expenses without derailing operations.**
- **Invest in growth initiatives, such as recruitment and marketing.**

With this new policy in place, District 37 is not only securing its own future but also **setting an example for local clubs** to follow. Together, we can build a stronger, more sustainable Lions network across Montana!

Questions? Contact the District Treasurer for more details on how clubs can establish their own operating reserve policy.

Yours in Service,
Steve Dogiakos
Montana Lions Clubs District Treasurer

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

Havre Lions Close Out a Busy Fall Serving and Donating

August:

In August, the Havre Lions supported National Night Out by donating \$1,010 for food.

24th - They began work on Natalie Patrick Splash Park pump house. They constructed forms for the floor of the Natalie Patrick Splash Park pump house. Pouring and finishing 18 yards of concrete for the floor and foundation.

September

7th - The Havre Lions supported the Annual Fly In by cooking breakfast from 7 to 11 at the Havre Hill County Airport.

21st - they walked in the festival day parade with the Alberta Bagpipers, sponsoring their appearance for Festival Days by donating \$2,000. They also cooked Pronto Pups at Downtown Park. Thanks to all that supported our fundraising by purchasing a pronto pup. We also thank all those who supported us at the Great Northern Fair earlier this year. The Havre Lions also donated \$1,000 in September supporting NAMDI Walk.

October

9th - The Havre Lions cooked 199 burritos for the NALSF Pheasant hunt. Sunday the **13th** - they cooked Shrimp for the Hunt Sunday closing dinner. This is the 24th year for the hunt, which Lions have cooked and helped out at every year!



17th - 14 Lions cleaned Hwy 2 ditches East of Havre.

24th - We framed the walls of the Natalie Patrick Splash Park Pump House.



November



6th - Three Lions and one Kiwanian spent the afternoon building trusses for the Natalie Patrick Pump house.

11th - a large group of Lions placed trusses on pump house and sheeted building.



December



12th - We covered the pump house with plastic framed in the doors and closed operations on it until spring. Havre Lions donated \$1000 to the community food bank

14th - 19 Lions rang bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at Gary And Leo's along with North 40. \$2,912.08 was collected which they matched for a total of \$5,824.16 donated to the Salvation Army.



DID YOU KNOW?

LIONS TRIVIA – Submitted by Melody Whitcher

Four US presidents have been members of Lions Clubs International:

- George W. Bush: An honorary member of the Lions Club International
- Jimmy Carter: A member of the Plains Lions Club (see article below)
- Gerald Ford: A member of the Grand Rapids Lions Club
- Ronald Reagan: A life member of the Dixon Noon Lions Club



Excerpts from the Westport Lions Roar, By Lion Bob Reddick
Former President Jimmy Carter credits Lionism as a positive factor in shaping his life.

“Lions changed my life,” said former president Jimmy Carter. “I would have never been ambitious enough to run for Governor of Georgia. I would have never dreamed of being President of the United States if it were not for the Lions.”

Mr. Carter followed in his father’s footsteps and joined the Plains Lion Club in 1953 a week after he resigned from the navy. During his term as club president in 1957-58, the Plains club built and began operating a community swimming pool. Also, their club was involved in blindness prevention projects in Georgia and Honduras.

Lion Carter found that Lionism is a great way to engage in public service. It helped him to expand his horizons and he credits the many lessons he learned while serving his community as helping him in his career as a politician and peacemaker. He says the Lions’ commitment to service showed him the importance of caring for others.

Being zone chairperson, district governor and chairperson of the Council of Governors in Georgia gave him a visible involvement with the Lions. This high profile with the 208 clubs throughout the state of Georgia helped him immensely with his campaign for governor in 1970. During his presidential campaign in 1976, he tributes his “civic involvement as a Lion contributed to my identity as a community leader.”

After leaving the White House, Mr. Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, founded The Carter Centre in 1982. Its mandate was to advance human rights and diminish human suffering around the world. In 1994, the Carter Center partnered with Lions International Foundation (LCIF) SightFirst program and focused on two blinding diseases, trachoma and river blindness. River blindness is a vector-borne parasitic disease that leads to blindness, and trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide.

From 1994 to 2018, the partnership resulted in more than 236 million treatments to eliminate river blindness and over 177 million treatments to halt the blinding effects of trachoma. Over 799,000 sight-saving surgeries to reverse the advanced stage of trachoma have been performed, and more than 3.2 million latrines have been built to reduce transmission of infection.

Since 1994, LCIF has approved more than 60 river blindness and trachoma grants totaling over US\$67 million. **LCIF and The Carter Center believe in the power of partnerships.** No single organization or country can hope to eliminate tropical diseases like river blindness and trachoma on its own. As we see today, to conquer these dreaded diseases and viruses takes the efforts and cooperation of many diverse teams.

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

Nomination Form - 2025 District 37 Hall of Fame

Must Be Received by the District Governor 30 Days prior to start of the 2025 District Convention which will start on May 2, 2025.

Forms can be submitted online at
<https://www.montanalions.org/hall-of-fame-nomination/>

Date:

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Address:

Candidate's Phone #:

Candidate's Immediate Family:

Family Addresses:

Sponsor's Name:

Sponsor's Contact Information:

CRITERIA:

Date Candidate joined Lions:

Candidate's current Club:

List of all clubs in which Candidate has held membership:

List Past Club Offices held:

List Current Club Offices:

List District positions held:

List LCI positions held:

List all Lion's awards and honors received:

Is candidate a Life Member of District 37 or LCI? _____ If so, how long? _____

How many new members has candidate sponsored? _____

State reasons why you think this member is a worthy candidate for the District 37 Hall of Fame:

List any other information that you feel may be applicable:

Please feel free to include any news articles.

Note: This form/application must be filed with the District Governor at least 30 days before the District Convention.

Additional Comments:

MEMORIAL FORM

Forms can be submitted online at
<https://www.montanalions.org/memorial-necrology-service/>

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!

DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION BID FORM

This form must be received by the District Governor, 30 days prior to the start of the current year convention. Forms can be submitted to:

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

OR

**Forms can be submitted online at
<https://www.montanalions.org/convention-bid/>**

The district convention will be held on May 2-3, 2025. The approval/non-approval of the bid will be made at the current year district convention.

Please print.

Date of Bid Submission: _____

Bid for Year: _____

Location: _____

Bidding Club(s): If this bid is being jointly made by more than one Lions Club, please list all clubs as bidding clubs: _____

Convention Headquarters: _____

Convention Chairperson: _____

Mailing Address and Email Address: _____

Phone Nbr. _____ Fax: _____

Number of full-service motel rooms: _____ meeting rooms: _____ Campsites: _____

1. Location and seating capacity for the following activities

Activity	Capacity	Location
Social	_____	_____
Business Sessions	_____	_____
Breakfasts	_____	_____
Friday Night Social	_____	_____
DG Banquet	_____	_____

2. Attach information as to what makes your area an attractive site for a District Convention. Please note items of interest in and around your community.

3. Organizational support has been obtained from:

Other Lions Clubs: _____

Other Clubs: _____

Levels of Government: _____

Chamber of Commerce/Board of Trade: _____

Travel/Convention Bureau: _____

Other: _____

4. Convention experience of Chairperson and others:

5. Name of host club: _____

Chairpersons signature: _____

6. Attach a copy of minutes of club meeting where the motion was passed authorizing this bid.

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

FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

351 years of combined service!

Bozeman Gallatin Empire	02/24/1969
Fairfield	02/26/1940
Kalispell Sunrisers	02/03/1969
Nashua	02/12/1952
Plains	02/23/1944

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MLS&HF Board Meeting	April 26, 2025 @ 9:00am – VIA ZOOM
District Cabinet Meeting	May 03, 2025 @ 9:00am – Convention Site

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**

**REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE MONTANA LIONS WEBSITE (montanalions.org) SOON!!
WATCH FOR A SPECIAL EMAIL WITH MORE INFORMATION**

Use the link below to find out what Helena has to offer:

<https://helenamt.com/>

UPCOMING USA/CANADA FORUMS

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

2025 Atlantic City, NJ – September 18-20

Registration is open online at

<https://members.lionsforum.org/event-5804241/Registration>

2026 Memphis TN – September 3 - 5

2027 Huntsville, AB – September 16-18

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 – JANUARY 11, 2025– CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, January 11, 2025; 10:30 AM; VIA ZOOM

Attendees:

DG Raleigh Peck (Benevolent Dictator Raleigh), 1st VDG Corinna Christensen, 2nd VDG Jon Kimble, 3rd VDG Gary Bissell, Lion Steve Dogiakos, PDG PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF, PDG Lary Garrison,-LCIF, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Marie Hajny; PDG Brian Gertizer-GET, PDG Richard Gessling-GMT, Mike Collins-GLT, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, Rob Shaffer – Zone 1, Margaret Baylinson - Zone 3, Bob Graves- Zone 8, PDG Melody Witcher-Zone 14, IPID Ben Apeland, IPID Dave Hajny, Kim Tarplee, President of Winnet Lions, Naomi Valentine-President of KdalisPELL Lions, Lion Peggy Tobin (Note: PDG Dennis Kopitzke was on the call but couldn't get connected)

1. Call to Order by DG Raleigh Peck at 10:30 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: PDG Lary Garrison
 - c) Introductions – Raleigh briefly introduced Naomi Valentine, President of Kalispell Lions to the rest of the attendees
 - d) District Governor – Opening Remarks – everything that we are receiving from International is focused on membership growth and retention which involves recruiting new members, young members, and starting new clubs.
2. Minutes: Motion by Steve, second by Mike C to approve the October 5, 2024 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve asked if there are any questions regarding the financial reports ending December 31, 2024 or his comments that he sent with the reports. We are receiving dues earlier than in the past. Raleigh asked that everyone check on both the Lions Portal and montanalions.org to ensure that everything is correct. Steve responded to Raleigh's question regarding a negative net profit, noting that as dues come in that will go positive. We have about \$25k outstanding dues. Gary moved to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Dave F. The motion to approve the financials was voted on and passed unanimously. Steve added that there is a better payment processing system for the convention (stripe) and we would be able to use it outside the website as well. It was agreed that this change would not require cabinet approval as the convention expenses are already in the approved budget.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 7 below – there were none
5. Officer Reports
 - a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations –Raleigh logged in a bunch of miles doing visitations and enjoying club celebrations
Corinna – had some great DG visits and also lots of miles going west. She will go to St. Charles for DG training.
Jon – Jon has completed all of his club visits except Sunburst who is having an event in the spring that they would like him to come for. He's doing online training
Gary – Has three clubs left and his visits have gone well except Huntley Project.
 - b. Administrator/Secretary's Report – Peggy reported that she continued to update the website on a regular basis with directory changes, updates to the organization to include the 3rd VDG, finalizing the committees, posting club news as well as the newsletters for November, December and January. The website is continually evolving as we try to make it as user friendly as possible. She has fielded

both phone and email inquiries that have come from the website contacts. A discussion should probably take place as to whether we want the “General Mail Box” option to include all of the officers. Peg also noted that she has been working with Lion Tom Naegele of the Helena Gold Rush Club and has provided prior year convention programs, budgets, and other data that will be necessary in order to set the convention up on the website for registration for the 2025 Convention. Steve has offered to look into other credit card options.

c. Zone/Region Reports

Rob-Zone 1 - reported that he’s been meeting with his clubs – some are doing well, some are struggling. One piece of feedback is from the secretaries regarding the new Lion Portal and how difficult it is to navigate and find things. The zone is battling membership. Peggy noted that there is secretary training available on the MT Lions website. We are also planning online secretary training in February and will be training Friday morning at the convention.

Gary – Zone 11– has been visiting clubs and confirming that they are submitting their hours of service and working on the portal. Raleigh noted that about 55% of the clubs are entering service.

Melody – Zone 14 – Melody talked to Denton and they have many service projects and always invite new members. Winnet does an annual calender. Roundup is very active and has had several projects and is talking to many potential lions.

Margaret – Zone 3 – She has visited all of her clubs and they are all doing well. Whitefish is the biggest club at 54. She said they have some issues but are getting them straightened out. They have changed the time from noon to 5:30 to increase their meeting participation (1st meeting went from 4-5 to 15). She presented years of service pins. She’s trying to get all the clubs together to do a service project.

Bob – Zone 8 – He’s been out of the district a great deal, but is going to try to get together with the clubs and get things in order.

Raleigh added that when you are out visiting in your zone, be on the lookout for lions that have the potential to participate at the district level.

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

- i. GET – Brian reported that they are working on Mission 1.5. There are five different sessions and he is working on being a certified Guiding Lion. They would like to get a couple of clubs started so zone chairs, please contact Brian if you have any potential areas where a team could go. They are working on Manhattan as a couple of bank employees are interested in a club. In Bozeman, they are working with Best Buy who is interesting in having a cyber club for technology. Richard asked about getting Chester as a branch under Havre. Brian is working with Havre as they need a push. Brian is also working with a member that may work with George to get a branch in Livingston.
- ii. GMT – Richard reported that some clubs are doing better and some aren’t. For us to be better as a district, we need more members to become Guiding Lions and we need more of the zone chairs to be active. The job description for zone chairs is the longest list of any position. We are jumping ahead of ourselves to get new clubs without having the resources

available. Raleigh noted that Lary is our one and only guiding lion. We need some passion. Steve asked what clubs need further assistance, and discussion followed regarding a Bozeman club, Butte Mile Hi, and Missoula Southside. There was also a club in Bonner. Raleigh got a letter from LCI indicating that Missoula Southside is officially closing. Bob got hold of the secretary yesterday, and she confirmed that their final meeting will be a recognition meeting in April. They believe that three of the members will migrate to the downtown Missoula club. Dave Hajny noted that he had a lengthy discussion with Judy Lehman, who said she was ready to quit lions, which would be a huge disservice to a long-standing Lion such as Judy.

- iii. GLT – Mike C. reported that we will do zoom club officer training sometime this month or in early February. We will do club officer training at the convention. We are starting to work on the leadership retreat, but there's a twist. District 37 is hosting VDG training in the next lionistic year that we could combine with our training. It has to be held where there's a major airport – Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell. This will be discussed at their planning meeting on Monday.
- iv. Dave Falcon – Plus Optix – the state is doing very well. He had 15 clubs out of 25 that are reporting – better than usual. About 26,300+ screenings and 3,127 referrals. The referrals have increased-up 2% to 12%. The northwest is almost done with theirs. He's been helping Scott D. in Billings who is starting to screen there. Steve noted that his club has not gotten a machine and asked how to get screenings for Choteau. Dave recommended contacting Cut Bank. Peggy noted that Sunburst usually joins with Cut Bank. Melody recommended that members in the club who are interested should participate (Steve noted that it's he and Bob). Dave F. said he will also assist. Melody added that she talked to an eye doctor who noted that children are experiencing too much “screen” time which is what has increased the referrals. Lary reported that Missoula Southside has machines that they might be willing to donate to another club. Steve will contact Judy Lehman. Raleigh recommended that our clubs invite other clubs to their meetings.
- v. GST – Raleigh reviewed Dennis's report (see attached), and he noted that he knows that many of the clubs that are listed as not reporting service are DOING service. We need to get them on the portal as service reporting is really easy and very necessary. He also noted that Plentywood and Superior are both receiving Mission 1.5 badges.
- vi. LCIF – Mike reported that he hasn't done much in December with Christmas, but will start club visits back up in January. He also reported that the district is over ½ of their commitment already this year. Lary added that we are at 56% of our goal and Mike and Lary confirmed that we have never accomplished that before this early in the year. All of the grants are available as we currently don't have any open grants. Last year LCIF reported that there were almost three weather disasters/month – Canadian cold snap, typhoons, landslides, etc. This year we have the fires in California and there was a super typhoon that hit Taiwan on January 3rd. Raleigh challenged everyone to go to LCIF and set up a monthly donation.
- vii. Advisory Committee – Ben noted that we haven't had a meeting but will be setting one up soon.
- viii. Policy & By Laws Committee – Peggy reviewed the three changes. Steve had requested two of the changes and he reviewed them. (See attached). Dave H asked if the dues would be

reduced by the \$1 tax and Steve responded “no”. There was additional conversation regarding the cost of the convention startup fund of \$3,000. It was noted that these proposed changes are to clean up verbiage to reflect what is actually being done. Mike C noted that MDC’s convention startup funds represent about \$50/participant and far exceed the \$3,000 that we are discussing.

- i. Steve moved and Jon seconded to accept the changes to Article 4, Section E: Correct “Chapter” to “Article”
- ii. Jon moved to accept the revision of Article 8, Section F: Convention Startup Fund. Steve seconded and motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Article 3, Section D: New – Operating Reserve – Steve moved and Corrina seconded to accept this new section to Article 3. Richard requested an amendment to remove the word “Board” and replace it with “Cabinet”. Mike T moved and Mike C seconded to approve the changes. The motion with the amendment passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

- a. Updates to Policy Manual – see above
- b. 2025 District Convention – Raleigh reported that there have been two meetings thus far. It is tentatively scheduled to have the Delta Hotel in Helena. Helena is getting assistance from the Helena Gold Rush club and Townsend-Broadwater. They are working very hard to finalize the registration so it can be in the February newsletter. He noted that they are hoping for the registration fee to be at \$100. The international guest has been confirmed. There will be a leader dog representative there with his dog. Mike C. noted not to forget MailChimp for getting the word out to all members. Mike C. also reported that he is still talking to the Columbia Falls club for the 2026 convention. He will be meeting with them next week. Steve noted in “chat” that Choteau is still interested in pursuing the 2027 convention.
- c. Club Health Assessment – December Report – Raleigh quickly reviewed the report noting that two clubs that were nearing “status quo” are now ok. Richard noted that the report is lagging behind the actual activity that has occurred.
- d. Club Officer Training – Mike C – See Committee Reports
- e. 3rd Vice District Governor – Raleigh is looking for names for the 3rd VDG position and also for any awards. Mike C. noted that Raleigh needs to form a nominating committee.
- f. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Steve noted that we are continuing to post and the page is going strong.

Naomi had to leave the meeting at 12:25.

- g. Membership and Marketing - Proposal – Richard doesn’t believe that we are ready to do this yet. The District needs to get stronger - have active zone chairs and guiding lions to make sure we can keep the lions we have before we get new ones. Mike T disagrees – he feels that we need to start marketing or else we will just sit and talk about it. Lary agrees with Richard that until we get support for what we want to do, we are throwing good money after bad. We can hire someone but you have to have someone to follow up with the new clubs. He used Lewistown as a great example. The problem that we hit Covid, and no one could be with the club and as soon as they didn’t have the support, the club went away. Raleigh noted that the physical distances between clubs makes the

support very difficult. Lary feels that if we find an area to build new clubs, we should focus on just two or three locations – it can't be district wide initially, and we need at least two guiding lions for each new club. Dave H. 3rd page of the proposal – Membership Overview – was questioning the numbers and Steve noted that he pulled the numbers right out of LCI. Steve described the \$50,000 as being a sub-contractor and the cost would include travel expenses, etc. He also suggested rewording the plan to be one-year with the option to renew for a second year assuming that it is being productive. Richard noted that the plan will need to be fleshed out more. Steve said that he would withdraw the proposal if it isn't going anywhere. He noted that we have a lot of money that needs to be used in our operations because we are a non-profit and we need to be spending down the cash we have. The operating reserve does provide a use of some of the funds. That's the conversation he was hoping to get going based on DG Raleigh's goals. We need to not be sitting on money, but instead put it back into our goals. Dave thinks the plan just needs some fine tuning. Peggy recommended a smaller committee to do the fine tuning. Mike C. feels that if we go out and start something, we will get people that will be willing to help, but there has to be a plan for them to execute. If we ask for guiding lions, they need to have a plan to execute in their area. Richard agreed. You can't start a club without a plan. Steve feels that we need to get some major marketing for the entire district to remind everyone of who/what Lions is...radio, etc. Richard agreed. "They" don't know about us".

Raleigh reported on the marketing grant that we got. Steve said that we've spent \$500 (which the district needs to match). Steve's recommendation is to form a committee to use the marketing grant. We need a more focused approach. Jon asked to be on the committee and Raleigh said that Corinna will also be on it. Steve noted that we have had two signups from Lewistown and six showing interest in Somers.

7. New Business

a. Growth meetings –

- i. Guiding Lions meetings, Zoom
- ii. Area G Growth Workshops, Zoom
- iii. Status of membership grant – see notes above
- iv. Peace Poster Contest – Raleigh noted that there isn't anything written down for the governor's duties regarding the Peace Poster Contest, selecting 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes, etc.

Mike C. reminded us that there needs to be a newsletter reminder to nominate the Hall of Fame awards.

8. Additional Items – N/A

9. Next meeting: May 4, 2025 at 9:00am – Convention hotel

10. Adjournment – Jon moved and Mike C seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:06pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin
District 37 Administrator/Secretary 01/11/2025