

District Newsletter

March
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

March 2025

Hello Montana Lions, and welcome to spring in Montana!

Hopefully, the nice weather holds, and we receive plenty of much-needed spring rains. Our **annual convention** is approaching fast, and registration is now open at montanaLions.org. Be sure to sign up early—it’s going to be one of the **most fun and educational** Lions Conventions yet! **Remember, registration prices go up April 1st.**

As we near the end of our **Lionistic Year**, I must bring an important issue to your attention: **we continue to lose more Lions than we gain each year.** That’s why I ask you—**PLEASE, go out and Just Ask!** Invite **everyone** in your community to join us in the **fun, fellowship, and life-changing service** that is being a Lion.

We all know the **gratification of serving others** and making our communities a better place—not just for ourselves but for our youth and future generations. **Service is easier with more hands.** With more hands, we can **achieve more, serve more, and strengthen our impact.** That’s why our **convention theme this year is *We Serve Better Together.*** So, bring your **family, friends, and even the friends you haven’t met yet** to your next Lions event.

How old were you when you became a Lion? There are countless people in our communities—many younger than we were when we joined—who are eager to **make a difference**. Let's go out, find these future Lions, and make **Lionism shine** across Montana and beyond!

Thank you, and God bless.

**Yours in Service,
DG Raleigh G. Peck**

Vice District Governor Message 1st VDG Corinna Christensen

Exploring Lions Service Across Montana 🏠👤



I recently had the privilege of visiting the Sidney, Scobey, and Great Falls Lions Clubs. It was inspiring to see how each club meets unique community needs. Conducting a community needs assessment is a valuable tool to ensure our service aligns with the greatest areas of need.



Glendive Lions 80th Charter Celebration 🎉

Attending the Glendive Lions 80th Charter Celebration was a true honor. One of this club's most significant contributions is its stewardship of the Lions Camp in Makoshika State Park—a legacy that fosters community, nature, and service. 🌲🏔️



A Lesson from Makoshika's Dinosaurs 🦖🦖

The dinosaur fossils of Makoshika tell a story of resilience and history—much like the Glendive Lions' 80 years of service. Each act of kindness adds to a bigger picture, creating a lasting impact that will outlive us all. 🦖❤️

District Governor Training in Chicago 🏙️✈️

I recently traveled to Chicago for District Governor training, joining over 750 future DGs from around the world. Meeting incoming International President A.P. Singh from India was an inspiring highlight. His passion for service is truly remarkable. 🌐🌍

A tour of Lions International Headquarters in Oakbrook, Illinois, showcased the original Peace Posters and vintage Lions magazines. Connecting with Lions from diverse backgrounds was a powerful experience, especially through the language passport challenge, which fostered cross-cultural conversations. 🌐



A special shout-out to our neighboring Lions from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Saskatchewan! With Montana as a Single District, we formed a strong bond—by the end of the week, we were calling Montana “West Dakota.” 🤝



Regional Vice District Governor Training in Albuquerque 🤝 📖

Last December, 2VDG Jon Kimble and I attended the Lions Regional Vice District Governor Training in Albuquerque alongside leaders from Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. This training, which District 37 will host in Fall 2025, provided invaluable lessons on leadership, service, and district growth strategies.

A special thanks to PDG Melissa Washburn for her dedication in organizing this impactful event, and to Lions International 2nd Vice President Mark Lyon and International Director Marie Cunning for their inspiring leadership. The knowledge we gained will strengthen our mission of “We Serve.”



Honoring a Historic Legacy 🌐 🕒

In 2025, we will mark the 100th anniversary of Helen Keller’s challenge to Lions International to become “knights for the blind in a mission against darkness.” I encourage all Montana Lions Clubs to celebrate this milestone—through vision screenings, fundraisers, or educational events—to honor her legacy and reinforce our commitment to vision health. 👁️ 🗣️

Looking Toward the District Convention 🗣️ 📖

As we approach the District 37 Convention on May 2-3 in Helena, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside each of you. I am assembling our District leadership team, including zone chairs and leaders in membership, club extension, service, and leadership development.

We are stronger together, and many hands make light work. How can you step up at the District level to show how WE SERVE? 🤝 🤍

I look forward to seeing you all in Helena for a fantastic convention! 🏆

Yours in service,

Corinna Christensen

Vice District Governor, Montana Lions District 37

CONGRATULATIONS 2ND VDG JON KIMBLE
RECOGNIZED AS PERSON OF THE YEAR – SEELEY LAKE
(See separate club news post)



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

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling Global Membership Team Global and Montana Membership - March, 2025

- All Lions should seriously consider attending the District convention in Helena.
 - If you need financial help you should ask your club.
 - Your club will benefit from you attending the Convention.
- Those who know me will be astounded when I say “I don’t what else to say”

Yours in Service,
Lion Richard Gessling

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - March, 2025

BENEFITS OF REPORTING SERVICE

How to clubs and districts individually benefit from reporting service?

- Reporting services helps transfer knowledge and best practices to our club's future leaders.
- Reporting service is a matter of local pride. Reporting puts your club on the map as leaders in your community, and it's an important way to share success with other clubs in your district and around the world.
- A high percentage of clubs reporting service is a sign of a healthy district.
- Reporting service allows you to become eligible for service awards.

How do clubs and districts collectively benefit from reporting service?

- Reporting shines a light on how and where local clubs are making a difference. This elevates the profile of Lions Clubs International as a global service club organization.
- Service reports provide tangible evidence of our global engagement and impact to prospective partners of Lions Clubs International. These relationships strengthen the organization and yield benefits at the local level.
- People want to participate in real, visible change. Service reporting allows clubs to continually engage communities, tell stories more effectively and ultimately grow their member base.

How does reporting service benefit the people we serve?

- Service data helps everyone understand the needs of communities around the world and now our Lions and Leos are serving those needs. Reporting service helps transfer knowledge and best practices to your club's future leaders.
- Service data enables Lions Clubs International to identify best practices than can be shared globally.
- Service reports show lions and Leos around the world are using funds from Lions Clubs International Foundation grants to serve their communities. This visibility encourages Lions and Leos to think creatively about their own projects and apply for LCIF grants themselves.

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 and report club service activities. Go to the: www.montanalions.org; click on "links", select Lion Portal. If you haven't yet created a login, click on "Don't have an account?". Otherwise, log into your account. To report the service activity, click on "Service". The click on the blue box that says "Create Service Activity". Follow the prompts to complete the report.

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, peggtobin54@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

March 2025



From our first babbling to our last word, we make but one statement, and that is life.

Richard Paul Evans

**If actions speak louder than words –
What has been your life's statement?**

**If actions speak louder than words –
What is your life's statement?**

**If actions speak louder than words –
What will your Lions Legacy say about you?**

When you include Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in your estate plan, your generosity helps ensure LCIF can carry out its mission to support the efforts of Lions clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants. You are helping LCIF impact communities well into the future. **YOUR ACTION WILL SPEAK EVEN LOUDER THAN WORDS!**

contact: lcif.myplannedgift.org or facebook.com/LCIF Lions or your LCIF Coordinators:

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

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

District 37 – Club Officer Training

District 37 will be offering Club Officer training via the Zoom meeting platform in March of 2025. The training will consist of 4 separate webinars. This training is highly recommended for all club officers.

Session 1: Monday, March 24th – 7:00pm–All Club Officers - 1.5 Hours.

Trainer – PDG Mike Collins.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ1MPx3qSImgVNceiG580A>

- Lions history
- Describe the Lions Club International Structure
- Describe standard club leadership structure.
- Identify the duties and responsibilities of each club officer.
- Standard Club Constitution and Bylaws
- Meaningful Projects
- Be familiar with the LIONS PORTAL and the Lions Learning Center

Session 2: Tuesday, March 25th – 7:00pm - Club President – 1.5 Hours.

Trainer – PDG Mike Tobin.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/BkBDqCpzRyyoOCc4Y7HhfQ>

- President Responsibilities
- Leadership
- Where to find Resources
- Things to do and not to do
- How to enjoy your year

Session 3: Wednesday, March 26th – 7:00pm - Club Secretaries – 2 Hours.

Trainer – Lion Peggy Tobin.

Register Here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CT0gklGtTN2QZZZy_k3WOOQ

- Secretary Responsibilities
- Secretary functions before, during, after meetings
- Membership & Officer reporting – Hands-On training for Lions Portal
- Activity Reporting – Hands-On for Lions Portal

Session 4: Thursday, March 27th – 7:00pm - Club Treasurers – 1.5 Hours –

Trainer – PDG Mike Collins.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/S5p2qPPoSp6llK4Fhdvfzq>

- Treasurer Responsibilities
- Club Accounts & Budgets
- Member Dues
- Payments
- Financial Policies
- Financial Records

These sessions will be live on-line zoom interactive training sessions. This does require online access from a computer or tablet with speakers. You can participate without a microphone but would be limited to typing any questions. These webinars will be recorded and made available for people who are unable to attend.

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

March 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 9
- Assistance Provided: 1
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$1,411.00
- Applications Received From: Billings, Bozeman, Corvallis, East Missoula, Hamilton, Hot Springs and Kalispell

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: **31,044 screened with 3,971 refers. Thank you everyone!**

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

From the 2025 District Convention Committee

From Committee member Cory Sena

Montana District 37 theme is “We Serve Better Together”

Join your fellow Lions members in Helena on May 2-3 to build fellowship, share in the successes of our clubs, learn from International and local speakers, and just have a great time! Our Convention pin incorporates historic elements of the host city of Helena.

The fire tower near the site of the 1864 gold strike, named the “Guardian of the Gulch”, has been present since 1876 to protect the city. The ‘Sleeping Giant’ rock formation to the north of the city is a beautifully prominent backdrop. The Northern Lights can be seen all over the Big Sky!



Enjoy a free pint of beer when you buy a Convention Beer mug!



Attend the Live Auction and bid on this gorgeous quilt from local quilter Jana Peeler (Peeler Crafts) which is just one of the several local artists who are donating to our cause.



We look forward to seeing you in Helena in May!

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

Seeley Lake Lions Beat the Winter Doldrums

What do you do in Montana in the winter to beat the doldrums? You organize a variety show consisting of members of the community and the Lions club to entertain the community and raise money for scholarships for academic, merit and trade schools!

Lion Ginger Williams did just that for the second year in a row with a team effort from the Seeley Lake Lions Club. We drew in a little over 80 people in our small town. We went out and got donations from our local businesses to raffle off. We also had a 50/50 drawing. The show was a hit with over a dozen acts and skits highlighting songs through the decades. Our local band, Keeping the Day Jobs, consisting of Lions Marcos Arroyo and Rich Westin, provided equipment, sound and entertainment as well with lead guitarist Victor Talldude rocking out three different decades. We were also treated to a special performance by Joan Zen and her husband Jason on saxophone. They are part of a professional group that has played for years and were more than happy to donate their time for our small-town cause".

Marcos Arroyo and Rich Westin, provided equipment, sound and entertainment as well with lead guitarist Victor Talldude rocking out three different decades. We were also treated to a special performance by Joan Zen and her husband Jason on saxophone. They are part of a professional group that has played for years and were more than happy to donate their time for our small-town cause".

It was a great night for everyone to get out and socialize, have some laughs, catch up on things and be entertained. Lion Ginger did a fantastic job of gathering, organizing and pulling off a great show while being the emcee and changing into different attire for each of the decades represented. In all we collected over \$2,200 for the scholarships. This was important for our town to give the kids something to strive for. Even the trade school scholarship is truly important in that most kids cannot afford college but would rather pursue a trade. We are already starting to look forward to next year.



Havre Lions Donate Flags for 47 years

Havre Lions donated flags for the 47th year in honor of Presidents' Day. In 1979, Lion President Mike Wojowick and Lion Ken Stevens spearheaded the first Flag Donation to first graders. For many years, Lions went into the classrooms and put on presentations about the US Flags with stands prepared by Lions. Presentations varied from just talking about the origin of the flags to a magic show put on by late Lion Cammeron Worstel.

The in-class presentations continued until covid. Since then, Lions have presented the flags to the teachers who then present them to each of the students. This year flags were presented to 148 students at Highland Park and 23 at St. Judes Thaddeus School.



Fifteen Lions members got together at Diesel Dr. this year to make bases for the flags.



DID YOU KNOW?

LIONS TRIVIA – Submitted by 1st VDG Corinna Christensen & Lion Peggy Tobin

Lions & Helen Keller

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart.” *Helen Keller*

Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, USA, in 1880, Helen Keller developed a fever at 18 months of age that left her blind and deaf. With the help of an exceptional teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan of the Perkins School for the Blind, Keller learned sign language and Braille. A few years later, she learned to speak. As an adult she became a tireless advocate for people with disabilities and in 1925, Keller attended the Lions Clubs International Convention and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

The Lions accepted Keller's challenge and our work ever since included Sight program aimed at preventing blindness. In 1971, the Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International declared that June 1 would be remembered as Helen Keller Day. Lions around the world implement sight-related service projects on Helen Keller Day.

The mandate to prevent blindness was taken up by LCIF when Helen Keller (1925) asked Lions to be her “knights of Blindness”. Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. (MLERF) was officially formed in 1958 and took Helen Keller’s challenge to support eye research to prevent blindness. MLERF has been supporting eye research for over 50 years.



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 MT 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](mailto:crafty CPA@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 PDG 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

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

OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE CONVENTION

The annual District Convention shall be held on May 2 and 3, 2025 in Helena, Montana. The convention starts as registration commences on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Delta Hotel by Marriott Helena Colonial.

CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA

Policy Manual, Article 8, Section B: Club Delegate Formula

Each chartered club in good standing in Lions Clubs International and this District shall be entitled in each annual convention of this District to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each (10) members, who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the International office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. **(NOTE: for the 2025 convention, that date is April 1st.)** The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members. Each certified delegate, present in person, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote only on each question submitted to the respective convention. All eligible delegates must be members in good standing of a club in good standing within the District.

Montana District 37 grants full delegate status to each past district governor who is a member of a club in such district independent of the club delegate quotas.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Early registration for the District 37 Convention in Helena ends **MARCH 31, 2025**. The cost will increase from \$150 to \$175 on April 1st. The hotels must be booked by April 15th to take advantage of the group convention rates. Go to www.montanalions.org to register online or download the registration form on pages 13-14 of this newsletter.

Additional forms attached are the Hall of Fame Nomination, Memorial Form and Convention Bid Form.

ALL OF THESE FORMS ARE EASILY COMPLETED ONLINE AT
www.montanalions.org

See specific locations listed on each form below.



**2025 MONTANA DISTRICT 37
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
MAY 1-4, 2025
Helena, MT**

NAME & TITLE:	
COMPANION NAME & TITLE	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
CLUB NAME:	
VOTING MEMBER:	YES / NO Voting Member must bring Lions Membership Card with Lions Number

Registration	Check or Credit Card - PAYMENT DUE WITH REGISTRATION FORM	Indicate # Attending in Each Category Below	
LIONS MEMBER - Early Bird By 3/31/2025	\$150.00		2 Meals & Auction Social
LIONS MEMBER – After March 31 Starting April 1 at 12:01 AM	\$175.00		2 Meals & Auction Social
COMPANION – COVERS ALL MEALS Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00	\$100.00 Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00		Saturday Lunch Buffett & Banquet Dinner Chicken Cordon Bleu List Food Allergies _____ We will Attempt to Accommodate.
LIONS MEMBER - Friday & Saturday-Social & Banquet Dinner	Included with Paid Registration		List Food Allergies _____ We will Attempt to Accommodate.
TOTAL DUE NOW			

CONVENTION MUGS RESERVE BY 3/31/2025	\$25.00/each Payable at Registration	Indicate # of Mugs to Reserve Price includes a free beer chip
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PLEASE TRY TO REGISTER ONLINE AT montanalions.org

If you Mail in your Registration: MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO HELENA LIONS CLUB. SEND WITH REGISTRATION FORMS TO HELENA LIONS REGISTRATION, PO BOX 1077, HELENA, MT 59624-1077 or email to Lion Byron Beley byronbeley70@gmail.com

Circle CREDIT CARD TYPE: MASTER CARD, VISA, AMERICAN EXPRESS or DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____

(“MONTANA LIONS DIST 37” will show as the transaction on bank/credit card statement.)

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ CVV: _____

Registration Refund Policy: Any refund request must be communicated to DG Raleigh Peck no later than April 18, 2025. Registration may be transferred from one club member to another, within the same club.

Training Planned	Friday, May 2nd		
Club Officer Training –Delta Hotel Offered 9:00am – noon Free Montana State Capitol Tour 9am & 3pm	Club President Club Secretary Club Treasurer Zone Chair Roundtable	Included with Paid Registration. Thursday night hotel will be reimbursed if requested.	Select Training & Number in Party
Convention Events Planned Registration, Trainings, Live & Silent Auction	<u>Friday, May 2nd</u> Registration Opens 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM <u>Saturday, May 3rd</u> Registration 8 am-10 am		Select Event & Number in Party
Live & Silent Auction 6:00 PM Appitizers, Cash Bar Delta Hotel	Speed Learning	Included with Paid Registration	
Optional Events			
Friday–VIGILANTE PARADE 12:00pm Noon Tour Train 2:30pm; Helena Tour Train 1½ hr. tour of Historic Helena Sites Free Montana State Capitol Tour 9am & 3pm (also available on Thursday)	On Your Own Guide Provided for Both	Tour Train: Separate Fee paid at site \$11.00 Minimum of 30 pre-registrations needed	
Golf, Trap Shooting, Biking, Hiking Bill Roberts GC 406-442-2191; Fox Ridge GC 406-227-8304; Green Meadow CC 406-442-5750; Helena Gun Club 406-458-9920 Biking & Hiking Info at Convention Registration	*Weather Dependent	Separate Fee paid at site, call for tee times for golf and/or reservations at Helena Trap Club	
Local Shopping	On Your Own	Separate Expense	

MEMORIAL SERVICE: During the District Convention, we will be recognizing deceased Lions members at the Memorial Service. Club Presidents or Secretaries are asked to complete the Memorial Form located on montanalions.org web site under “Events” or “News” tabs.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CLUB PROVIDE ONE ITEM/ BASKET FOR THE SILENT AUCTION WHICH WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FRIDAY EVENING SOCIAL.

THE PARADE OF GREEN WILL BE HELD DURING THE DISTRICT CONVENTION.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT: Lions Byron Beley 406-594-0126 or Tom Naegele 406-594-1833.

HOTELS –SET-UP your own reservations--- all hotels have a block of rooms under: MT State Lions Convention or a Code. Room rates do not include 8% tax or \$2/night fee. Hotels have Complimentary Breakfast Available.

Delta Hotel by Marriott Helena Colonial (CONVENTION HOTEL) 2301 Colonial Dr 406-443-2100
\$169.00 King or Dbl (+ Tax)

Fairfield Inn & Suites/Marriott: 2150 E 11th Ave 406-449-9944 Till April 15th: \$160.00 King or Dbl (+ tax)
Use Code: MLDN

Super 8 Motel/Wyndham: 2200 11th Ave –Helena 406-443-2450 Till April 15th : \$119 King; \$139 Dbl (+Tax)

Days Inn Helena/Wyndham: 2001 Prospect Ave 406-442-3280 Till April 15th: \$159 King or Dbl (+ tax)

La Quinta Inn Helena: 701 Washington Street 406-204-3934 Till April 14th: \$159 King or Dbl (+ tax)

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: _____
Candidates Name: _____
Candidates Address: _____
Candidates Phone Nbr. _____
Candidates Immediate Family and Addresses: _____

Nomination Sponsor & Phone Nbr.: _____
Sponsor Email Address: _____

Nomination Qualification Criteria

Date Candidate Joined Lions: _____
Candidate's Current Club: _____
List of all clubs in which the candidate has held membership: _____

List Past Club Offices Held: _____

List Current Club Offices Held: _____
District Positions Held: _____
LCI Positions Held: _____
List all Lion's awards and honors received: _____

Is the Lion a Life Member of District 37? _____ of LCI? _____ How long _____
How many new members has the candidate sponsored? _____

State reasons why this member is worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

List any other information that may be applicable.

Include any applicable news articles.

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

3rd VDG Gary Bissell; 3921 S. Tanager Lane, Billings MT 59102;
H: 406-694-3792; g_bissell@yahoo.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

MARCH CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

278 years of combined service!

Sidney	03/01/1971
Red Lodge	03/03/1947
Plentywood	03/10/1986
Bozeman	03/18/1954
Wolf Point	03/26/1990

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 IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE
MONTANA LIONS WEBSITE AT
<https://www.montanalions.org>**

**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 Corrinna 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 Whitcher-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