

District Governor Newsletter

July
2023

DG Brian Gertiser
1st VDG Raleigh Peck
2nd VDG Corinna Christensen
Montanalions.org

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District Governor Message - DG Brian Gertiser

As I sit here wondering what I should write about in my first newsletter article, I am enjoying a great view out my window. The flowers are blooming, and the grass has a deep green from plenty of rain. I cannot help but think how blessed I am to live in the great state of Montana.

For those that do not know me, I am Lion Brian Gertiser. My wife Deb and I live in Bozeman. I moved here forty years ago this month from Michigan. Deb is a 4th generation Montanan. Her great grandfather came up the Missouri in a steamer to Fort Benton. Deb and I have three sons between us, having blended our family together twenty-nine years ago.

Back to looking out the window, this is what I do when reminiscing at times. I joined the Bozeman Gallatin Empire Lions Club in May 2001, without really thinking about where it was going to take me. Through the years I have met some great Lions and was able to participate in some fun and interesting activities. Lately, as I have been preparing for the role as your District Governor, those opportunities have been even greater. From Eureka to Sydney, I have traveled around this great state meeting Lions that are doing some truly amazing things for their community. I was also blessed to meet Lions from around the world in Saint Charles during my District Governor training. It was amazing to find such commonality in all these strangers, that really weren't strangers.

I am truly excited and humbled to represent our great state as your District Governor for the next Lionistic year. I know I have a tremendous amount of help and support, and for that I am extremely grateful.

One last thought, as our motto says, "WE SERVE" so let us point the way to service and share the wonderful experiences we all have had in Lions with all your friends, and acquaintances. There must be someone out there that is wanting what we have, just ask.

So, this is my challenge to all the Lions in Montana. I will ask that each one of you ask two people if you can share what the wonderful world of Lions is. Let's not keep it a secret, let's not make them beg to have us tell them about the good stuff.

Respectfully,
DG Brian Gertiser

WHY REPORT SERVICE

In presenting this topic to clubs, I often get the feeling that this is not a priority. I am going to give a few reasons why we ask the clubs to perform this task:

Grow Partnerships

Collaborating with other organizations in your community, i.e. Kiwanis, Rotary, etc, is a terrific way to increase the visibility of your service projects. When approaching potential partners, your club's service reports provide tangible evidence of your club's effectiveness to help persuade other organizations to join with you.

Inspire Service

Your reported service projects can be viewed within our district and around the world. That means your club's creativity and impact can inspire Lions and Leos to embrace new causes and serve in new ways. Reports also help Lions International staff identify best practices to share globally.

Inform Decisions

Documented club achievements reveal what is working and what is not. For example, what if your diabetes education program is growing in attendance, but your annual club fundraiser is shrinking? Reviewing past service reports helps your club make better decisions, including choosing service activities and setting realistic goals .

Remember – in Montana, **WE SERVE**

Respectfully,
IPDG Scott Dornfeld

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY

As of July 1st, I begin the task of serving as your district administrator/secretary. PDG Dennis Kopitzke has been a huge help to me as I prepare to take over the position that he has served in since 2019. These are BIG shoes that I have to fill!! Thank you PDG Dennis for all the work you have done for District 37 for so many years, and thank you for all the assistance you have provided to me.

I and my husband, PDG Mike Tobin, have been members of the Sunburst Lions Club since October of 2011, and we are honored to serve our community with such a great group of fellow Lions. I served as the Club Secretary and later the Club Treasurer.

During the implementation of the new District Website (www.montanalions.org) I offered to do some of the mundane tasks such as maintaining and updating the club directory information and publishing the newsletter each month. We are now starting a new Lionistic year and I will be updating the website directory and it is vital that all of our clubs complete their new officer reports AND make any changes in myLCI for addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for those officers. Otherwise I cannot provide accurate information on our website. I will only be using the information in myLCI to update the website. If you do not have access to myLCI, please forward me your PU101 form.

My contact information is as follows:

Mailing Address - PO Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; Cell Phone - 406-461-4206;
email, peggyt@northerntel.net

In Service,
Lion Peggy Tobin

CELEBRATE SUCCESS June-July 2023

Hello, Lions!

I can't believe my year as your international president is already coming to a close. But when I look back at the places I visited and the many faces I saw, I am humbled by the sheer scale of the work we do as Lions. We've had such incredible success!

As we bring this Lion year to a close, let's take a moment to reflect on our year and all the good work that we did.

Remember, success can take many different forms. Yes, success is when you complete a meaningful service project or raise the required amount of funds to keep things rolling next year.

But when you are a Lion, success is also the smile you get from the girl entering kindergarten with a new backpack she got from Lions. Success is when the city council sees your tent up at the local fair and thinks of reaching out for help with a cleanup project at the park. Success is the young professional who joins because they were looking for a way to give back and found a welcoming home in Lions.

While it's our instinct to notice the things that need fixing, let's also notice all that is right. Here's to you, Lions. Serving as your international president has been the experience of a lifetime!

Make a great day,

Brian E. Sheehan

Brian E. Sheehan

International President, Lions Clubs International



Lions International

*Serving a
World in Need*

Lions International Honors Chef Jose Andres and World Central Kitchen With Humanitarian Award

(Oak Brook, Ill) - For his dedication to humanitarian service and world hunger relief, Chef Jose Andres, Michelin star culinary artist and founder of the World Central Kitchen nonprofit organization, will be presented with the 2023 Lions Humanitarian Award during the 105th Lions Clubs International Convention on July 10, 2023. World Central Kitchen CEO Erin Gore will accept the award on Chef Andres behalf.

Cooking from the heart is an Andres family tradition. The ambitious creative began his culinary journey alongside his parents at their home kitchen in Spain before the chef started formal training at one of the world's most notable restaurants, Ferran Adria's El Bulli.

Chef Andres immigrated to the United States in 1991 and has continued to change the world through the power of food at his dozens of award-winning restaurants and international humanitarian organization, World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that provides fresh meals in response to crises around the world.

The Lions Humanitarian Award is the association's highest honor, given to an individual or an organization with exemplary humanitarian efforts. This award comes with a Lions Clubs International Foundation grant for up to US\$250,000 to a charitable organization for continuing humanitarian activities. Chef Andres joins a distinguished list of prior recipients, including Mother Teresa, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Denis Mukwege.

"We are truly honored to present this award to Chef Jose Andres, whose work is changing lives and making a profound impact on the world," said Lions International President Brian Sheehan. "As Lions, we strive to ensure all communities have access to nutritious food. Not only is Chef Andres a highly respected mover and shaker in the culinary field, he is also a man of action in humanitarian efforts and truly shows the world that food can help us rebuild after even the most unthinkable challenges."

Chef Andres founded World Central Kitchen in 2010 to fill not only stomachs but hearts and minds, too. The nonprofit organization is often first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to crises while working to build resilient food systems with locally-led solutions. To date, World Central Kitchen has served more than 300 million meals around the world.

Learn more about the Lions Humanitarian Award and see our list of winners at <https://www.lionsclubs.org/humanitarian-winners>.

NEW CLUB WEBSITES-YOU CAN HAVE ONE TOO!

The new club websites are up and running! Deanna at Edge Marketing has set up the club level website template and created a video to explain how each club can make edits and updates to their website. Check out the Whitefish Lions' website at whitefishlions.com. Other clubs that will be up and running soon are the Bozeman Sweet Peas, Ennis Lions, Glendive Lions, Great Falls Sunrisers and the Helena Gold Rush Lions.

The development of each club website is being offered by Montana District 37 at NO COST! We have however, come to realize that each club will need a domain name in order to have the website. If you don't already have a domain name, Deanna can provide one for a cost of \$20/year.

If you are interested in getting a website for your club, please contact Peggy Tobin at peggyt@northerntel.net or call 406-461-4206.

ELECTION OF 2023-2024 CLUB OFFICERS AND RESOURCES FOR INCOMING OFFICERS

This is the time of year than clubs should have completed the process of electing club officers for the 2023-2024 Lions year that starts on July 1. Officers should have been reported to LCI prior to May 15, 2023. **If officers have not been reported please report the officers to LCI as soon as possible. If you are unfamiliar with this process, please to go Montanalions.org, click on "Training" and select the short, 10 minute video "Designating officers for the upcoming year in myLCI." In addition, if your officers have changed any of their contact information, that needs to be updated in myLCI as well or our website directory will not be accurate.**

As your club prepares for annual elections and to welcome a new leadership team, use these helpful resources to get your incoming officers ready to take the lead.

Standard Club Constitution & By-Laws – This document outlines the election process and describes key position within the club structure as outlined in the Standard Club Structure. No later than May 15 your club secretary should report the incoming officers and directors. Make sure to provide email addresses.

Standard Club Structure – Help your Nominating Committee know what positions are available in the new Standard Club Structure. The sample structure includes the officers, board of directors and standing committees.

Club Quality Initiative (CQI) – The CQI is a strategic planning tool that helps clubs identify opportunities for improvement. The program features several steps to help club operations become more efficient and find new directions.

Lion Portal Page – As LCI prepares to launch the new Lion Portal, Lions can prepare for this new digital experience by making sure their information is correct in **MyLCI**. Get news and updates about the transition on the **Lions Portal Page**.

Managing a Club (Club Officer Team) – Lions Clubs International has designed webpages, e-Books and resource to assist your club officers in their positions. Visit the Managing a Club (Club Officer Team) webpage to learn more about each of these key roles.

Contact LCI if you have any questions by phone at 1-630-468-7084 or by email at clubofficers@lionsclubs.org

District 37 Club Officer Training Videos

All Club officers: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfiAchdTuik>

Club President: Trainer PDG Mike Tobin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlyHa-hYzwl>

Club Secretary: Trainer Lion Peggy Tobin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdA1Zj0KngM>

Club Treasurer: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_E2y2RSeRdA

Short videos about how to do specific secretary or treasurer tasks on MyLCI/MyLion:

Activity Reporting in MyLion (23 minutes): <https://youtu.be/LoohFYDKy6u>

Monthly Membership Report in MyLCI (15 minutes): <https://youtu.be/mYIZyH8hMYA>

Designating officers for in MyLCI (10 minutes): <https://youtu.be/-wPPZq2IZSQ>

Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes): https://youtu.be/G3X_kyfPGpk

PLUSOPTIX

There is a new version, that just came out for the S12C. It is 8.0.1.0. You can download it to your machine if you have a wireless connection in your home. If you do up load the new version please let me know so I can keep my spreadsheet up to date.

Thanks Dave

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair

SPECIAL NOTICES

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: Any Lions club member can submit information associated with any type of Lions project or general club information. Please send in “word” format and/or photos in JPEG format to: Lion Peggy Tobin (your new district administrator) at peggyt@northerntel.net.

MONTANALIONS.ORG – PROJECT REPORTING

Clubs that have tried to report their projects or other information on the montanalions.org website have reported trouble with the software. This has been corrected. Try again to post under “news+> submit club news”. Report if this is not working to PDG Richard Gessling gesslingdds@gmail.com so we can get the application correct and easy to use. Thanks, this will be a help understanding what clubs are doing for fundraising and service projects.

2023 USA/CANADA FORUM

The 2023 USA/Canada Forum will be held on September 21-23 in Reno. For more information, to access the Forum website and newsletter go to:

www.Lionsforum.org www.lionsforum.org/newsletter

Information is also posted on the district website.

SAVE THE DATE: LEADERSHIP RETREAT

**The 2023 District Leadership Retreat will be held in Billings on
October 13 and 14**

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION BOSTON, JULY 7-11

LCI has made the official call for the International Convention and notice of proposed amendments. Detailed information on the issues can be found on the LCI website: www.lionsclubs.org

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2023 Boston, July 7-11

2025 Mexico City, July 4-9

2027 Washington DC, July 2-6

2024 Melbourne, June 21-25

2026 Atlanta, July 3-7

2028 Singapore, June 23-27

WEBSITES

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.

LCI website, lionsclubsinternational.org Look for: general information, service projects, membership, club improvement, online training, media and news releases, and LCIF.

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation website: www.mtlionsshfnd.org
Information regarding programs and sight, hearing and/or speech impairments.

CONTACT INFORMATION

DG Brian Gertiser, 10680 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715;
C: 406-539-0992; 2bjgert@gmail.com

1st VDG Raleigh Peck; 1575 10th Ave. SW, Sidney, MT 59270; H: 406-488-7447;
C: 406-480-5000; raleighpeck@gmail.com

2nd VDG Corinna Christensen; 130 Main Street, PO Box 1501, Ennis MT 59729;
C: 406-570-6742; W: 406-682-5001; 406corinna@gmail.com

District Secretary/Administrator; Peggy Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT, 59482;
C: 406-461-4206; H: 406-937-1215; peggyt@northerntel.net

District Treasurer: PCC Dan Krum, PO Box 213, Worden, MT 59088;
H: 406-967-3281; C: 406-671-4209; danmar@nemont.net

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

Billings Heights	07/23/1957
Cascade	07/25/1958

IMPORTANT DATES

Start of 2023-2024 Lions Year	July 1
International Convention	Boston, July 7-11
MLSHF Board Meeting	July 22, Boulder, 10:00
District Cabinet Meeting	July 22, Boulder, 11:30

MINUTES – APRIL 30, 2023 – CABINET MEETING
PDG Dennis Kopitzke – District Administrator/Secretary

April 30, 2023

Montana District 37 – Cabinet Meeting, April 30, 2023; 8:00 AM; Glendive, Holiday Inn

Attendees: DG Scott Dornfeld, DGE Brian Gertiser, 1st VDGE VDG Raleigh Peck, PID Dave Hajny, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Dennis Kopitzke, PDG Richard Gessling, IPDG Mike Tobin; 2nd VDGE Corrinne Christensen, Lion Peggy Tobin, Lion Jon Kimble

- I. Call to Order by DG Scott Dornfeld at 8:01 AM
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation: Lion Peggy Tobin
 - c. Introduction/Welcome – DG Scott Dornfeld
 - d. DG Comments – Excellent convention; thanks to Glendive Lions

- II. Minutes: Motion by PCC Dan Krum, second by Lion Jon Kimble to approve the January 21, 2023 minutes. Passed.

- III. Financial Report: PCC Dan Krum presented the financial report. PCC Dan Krum is authorized to reinvest \$107,000.00 in CD's paying a higher rate of interest. Motion by PID Dave Hajny, second by IPDG Mike Tobin to approve the reinvestment proposal. Passed.
 - a. Notes: The request for reimbursement for expenses incurred by attending a cabinet approve event must be submitted within 6 months after the event.

 - b. Lion Don Idso provided a convention report. All events went well, good attendance: 95 registrants, 16 displays, 33 clubs represented at the convention; auction funds will be split between LCIF and Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation

 - c. Banners will be delivered to the Havre Lions Club

 - d. Projectors: DG Scott Dornfeld, DGE Brian Gertiser and Lion Peggy Tobin each have a district projector

- e. Melvin Jones Fellowships – Motion by PDG Richard Gessling, second by IPDG Mike Tobin to allow DGE Brian Gertiser to provide 2 Melvin Jones Fellowships at district expense (\$2000.00) to deserving cabinet members. Passed.

Motion by PCC Dan Krum, second by IPDG Mike Tobin to approve the financial report. Passed.

IV. Additions

- a. WWW update and the creation of club websites - Motion by Lion Peggy Tobin, second by PDG Richard Gessling to approve \$1625.00 for the creation of a master template that will allow clubs to more easily create a club website. Passed.
- b. Leadership Retreat – Motion by Lion Peggy Tobin, second by PCC Dan Krum to provide \$10,000.00 in funding for the 2023 leadership retreat. Passed.
- c. Policy Update – Motion by PCC Dan Krum, second by PID Dave Hajny to approve changes to Article 6, Section A. Passed. A copy of the approved revision is provided as an attachment to the minutes

V. Old Business

- a. LCIF Grants (IPDG Mike Tobin)
 - i. Laurel – The grant has been closed
 - ii. Denton Ambulance Grant - \$75,000; delivery expected in the next few weeks
 - iii. PlusOptix – Funds are available for 7 clubs to purchase PlusOptix machines at a tremendous discount. Contact IPDG Mike Tobin or PDG Lary Garrison for more information.
 - iv. Tri-fold Brochure – PDG Lary Garrison will be working to re-activate the effort to create an updated tri-fold brochure
 - v. Business Plan – IPDG Mike Tobin will work on preparing an LCIF business plan for the district.

- b. Club Health Assessment (DG Scott Dornfeld) – Many clubs continue to not report their service projects; DG Scott is working with those clubs. Efforts will be made to encourage club secretaries to record their clubs service projects.
- c. Website (Lion Peggy Tobin) – information provided earlier in the meeting
- d. Club Officer Training (PDG Mile Collins) – Officer training programs continue to be available on the website and via you tube. LCI will be making major changes to content in the next few weeks. Website and You Tube will be updated.

VI. New Business

- a. Administrator's Report (PDG Dennis Kopitzke) – Written report provided to the cabinet. Lion Dennis will be leaving as administrator/secretary as of June 30, 2023.
 - i. Administrator Resignation – Motion by PCC Dan Krum, second by IPDG Mike Tobin to accept the resignation. Passed.
 - ii. Motion by 1st VDGE Raleigh Peck, second by PDG Richard Gessling to hire Tobin Trails Inc. and Lion Peggy Tobin to serve as district administrator/secretary. Passed. A contract for services was signed by Lion Peggy Tobin and DG Scott Dornfeld.
 - iii. Payment of Stipends – No action was taken regarding the issue
- b. Club Visitations - Efforts are being made to complete visitations; DG Scott has 4 visits remaining; VDG Brian has 4 remaining and VDG Raleigh has 6 visits remaining.
- c. 2023 Convention Report – Lion Don Idso provided a report earlier in the meeting. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available
- d. 2024 District Convention – Havre
- e. Incoming 2nd VDG – Lion Corinna Christensen
- f. District Director – Motion by IPDG Mike Tobin, second by 2nd VDGE Corinna Christensen, the 2023-24 district directory will be in electronic format, only. Passed.
- g. Zone/Region Reports – Lion Jon Kimble reported on the activities of the West Region. Bell raids continue in an effort to create interaction between clubs. Report from Lion Margaret Baylinson is included as an attachment.

h. Committee Reports – Nothing from GST, GMT and GLT. IPDG Mike Tobin has reported on activities of LCIF.

VII. Additional Items

a. IPDG Mike Tobin – Request has been made to add “Camp Patriot” as an endorsed project. Appropriate documentation will be provided to the Endorsed Projects Committee and a recommendation will be presented to the cabinet.

Next meeting: July 22, 11:30 AM, Boulder High School.

Adjournment, 1:40 PM

Dennis Kopitzke

PDG Dennis Kopitzke, District 37 Administrator/Secretary, April 30, 2023