

District Governor Newsletter

September
2023

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

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“Where there is a need, there is a Lion”

District Governor Message - DG Brian Gertiser

Here it is the end of August already. It seems that summer just gets started and before we know what happened, the kids are headed back to school. I hope everyone was able to get out and enjoy our Montana summer - ours are the best!

I am at my sister's house writing this. I came to visit our Mom who is aging, and I was able to bring Toby, her little dog that now lives with Deb and I. It's been a great trip, but I am anxious to get home to Montana.

A big goal of Lion President Patty Hill's is Mission 1.5. The goal is to increase membership to 1.5 million members over the next four years. District 37 has accepted this challenge we hope you and your club will too.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/mission-to-grow>

One of the ways that is suggested for membership growth is to increase the number of clubs in our district. I think that a better way might just be to grow the number of branch clubs. There are a number of small towns in Montana that could use a Lions Club, maybe the next town over. Or, how about starting a virtual club. There are so many ways to grow our membership - we just need to start.

USA Canada Forum is just around the corner. This is another great opportunity to receive all kinds of training and information on making your club and yourselves better Lions. This year's Forum is in Reno, NV September 21st through the 23rd. You can find registration information on the district website (montanalions.org) under "events".

Speaking of leadership training, District 37 is having a Leadership retreat in Billings in October. This would be a great opportunity for District Lions who are in club leadership positions to receive some extra training. Contact PDG Mike Collins for more information.

This month, the Vice Governors and I will be starting our club visits. Please let us know if there is a particular day that your club would like us to visit and we will do our best to fit it in our schedule.

I sure hope you all have a great month in Lionism, "We Serve"
District Governor Brian Gertiser

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

As we move into the new Lions year, clubs are being asked to give serious consideration to increasing their service activities and increase reporting those activities to LCI.

LCI encourages clubs to get involved in service projects associated with: diabetes, hunger, vision, environment and childhood cancer as well as other local projects chosen by the club.

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 MyLCI. The club president, secretary, club service chair or club administrator can establish an account with LCI and report club service activities. Go to the www.lionsclubs.org; MyLCI link; create a user name and password. The same log in information can also be used for access to MyLion.

To report the service activity select the "MyLion icon"; select "Report Past Activity: click on "Report"; complete the reporting form; hit OK and the reporting is complete

Throughout the Lions 2023-2024 Lions year GST related information will be distributed to Montana Lions clubs through club presidents, secretaries, 1st vice presidents, cabinet members, zone and region chairpersons and through newsletter articles and postings to the district website

For more information contact: PDG Dennis Kopitzke, GST Leader; djk_7491@rangeweb.net; Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

District Administrator/Secretary

The website directory is continuing to be updated to reflect the 2023-2024 officers as well as the District level leaders. **PLEASE** go check your club information that is on the website to ensure that it is correct and up to date. If you have not yet completed your PU101 information (hopefully by logging onto MyLCI and entering your new officers) please do so as soon as possible. If you are a new secretary and this is Greek to you, please give me a call or email me at my new email address: pegtobin54@gmail.com.

My other contact information is as follows:

Mailing Address - PO Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; C-406-461-4206; H:406-937-1215

In Service,
Lion Peggy Tobin

LCIF - September 2023

Greetings District 37,
GOOD NEWS - the August 2023 LCIF Board of Trustees meeting recently concluded. I am pleased to inform you that Matching grant (MAT22752/37) was approved for \$25,300 to purchase PlusOptix Vision screeners. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your dedication to humanitarian service. The additional screenings that can be accomplished with these new screeners will be an immense help to our children's health. Thank you for all you do.

On August 30, 2023 Hurricane Idalia slammed into the Florida Gulf Coast as a major Category 3 hurricane, leaving destruction in its wake. Buildings were submerged almost entirely, and many homes and businesses crumbled to the ground. The storm quickly moved east into South Georgia, creating even more devastation. When a natural disaster strikes, we, as Lions are ready to help. Right beside us is Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), our global foundation. LCIF is mobilizing funds to empower Lions in the impacted areas to help their communities recover.

Your donations make a difference when our communities are impacted by natural disasters. Your generous donations to LCIF's Disaster Relief Funds, specifically reserved for disaster relief, Helps all Lions continue to serve.

If your club wants to learn more about LCIF, contact you District LCIF Chairperson and schedule a Club visit.

Michael Tobin, miktob1951@gmail.com, 406-450-2780.

Changing the World with International President Dr. Patti Hill



Changing the World begins with us, but we're not supposed to do it alone. Collaboration is the key to delivering meaningful and lasting outcomes in your community. That's why inviting more great members just like you can help your club and community reach their full potential.

Let's start with planning ambitious service that addresses the biggest challenges facing our communities. Then, let's bring in new members to help us make an even bigger impact.

You know the difference one Lion can make. You know the difference your club has made. Together, we are changing the world one life, one relationship and one community at a time.

Yours in service,

Dr. Patti Hill
International President

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! If you don't already have a domain name, Deanna can provide one for a cost of \$20/year. The district will pay for 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.

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-hYzwI>

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

Hello Fellow Lions:

The new school year is starting soon, please take the time to update your PlusOptix machines. The newest version is 8.0.2.0. This new update is supposed to help with the S-12 machine from shutting down after 90 screenings or so.

Please remember to send me your numbers from your screenings. I will need from you the number of students screened and the number of refers.

Thank you and have a great school screening year!

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 at pegtobin54@gmail.com.

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 CONVENTIONS

2024 Melbourne, June 21-25

2026 Atlanta, July 3-7

2028 Singapore, June 23-27

2025 Mexico City, July 4-8

2027 Washington DC, July 2-6

2029 Minneapolis MN

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; pegtobin54@gmail.com

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

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST

Culbertson	09/13/1946
Great Falls Electric City	09/15/1958

IMPORTANT DATES

Start of 2023-2024 Lions Year	July 1
USA/Canada Forum	Reno, Sept 21-23
MLSHF Board Meeting	Oct 15, Billings, Doubletree 9:00
District Cabinet Meeting	Oct 15, Billings, Doubletree 10:30

MINUTES – July 22, 2023 – CABINET MEETING
Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, July 22, 2023; 11:30 AM; Jefferson County High School Library, 312 South Main, Boulder, MT

Attendees: DG Brian Gertiser, 2nd VDG Corinna Christensen; PCC Dan Krum, IPDG Scott Dornfeld, PDG Mike Collins, ID Ben Apeland, Zone Chair Margaret Baylinson, PID Dave Hajny, PDG Dan Sturdivin, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Marie Hajny, Lion Peggy Tobin

VIA Zoom: Regional Chair Jon Kimble, 1st VDG Raleigh Peck

1. Call to Order by DG Brian Gertiser at 11:30 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: Zone Chair Margaret Baylinson
 - c) Introduction/Welcome – DG Brian Gertiser asked attendees to introduce themselves.
 - d) DG Comments – DG Brian noted that we need to set goals and he announced Mission 1.5 from IP Patti Hill. He and his Vice District Governors have all signed up for this which means that District 37 needs to achieve a net increase of 125 members over the next two years. Our number one goal will be to stop the bleeding and start building clubs. Brian also noted that he hasn't assigned all of his zone chairs – his goal is to find zone chairs who have a passion for membership growth.

2. Minutes: Motion by Mike Collins, second by Dan Krum to approve the April 30, 2023 minutes. Passed.

3. Financial Report: Dan Krum presented the financial report ending June 30, 2023.
Notes: Interest on investments is turning around and income vs expenses is pretty close to budget
Ben Apeland acknowledged Dan Krum's years of service and that we should be looking for someone who would like to serve the district in that position.

Motion by Dan Krum, second by Scott Dornfeld to approve the financial report. Passed.

Dan provided copies of the 2023-2024 budget and discussion followed. Mike Collins moved to approve the budget, Dan seconded the motion and it passed.

4. Additions
 - a. Shepherd Lions request for banners
 - b. Endorsed Projects – we only have received MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation and Montana Youth Diabetes Association
 - c. Vests & Pins

5. Old Business

- a. LCIF Grants –Scott noted that Lary said Denton is still waiting for their ambulance. Brian reported that the kitchen equipment for Bozeman’s grant is being installed. Laurel – The grant has been closed
Denton Ambulance Grant - \$75,000; delivery expected in the next few weeks
- b. Club Health Assessment - Brian reported that Anaconda has paid out all funds and is officially closed.
- c. Website Peggy reported that the current year information for the international and district level organizations has been updated as well as club directories – 13 clubs have not yet completed their PU101s. She added there was an additional cost for the club level websites that wasn’t in Deanna’s original quote and that is the purchase of a domain name if clubs didn’t have one. Peggy asked that the first year’s \$20 fee/club be paid by the district since it wasn’t in the initial information. Dave moved to pay the 1st year’s domain name cost of \$20 for those clubs who have utilized the club website from Edge Marketing. Mike seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- d. Club Officer Training (Mike Collins) – Officer training programs continue to be available on the website and via you tube. Mike noted that we will have club officer training after the release of the new program. Dave recommended that we focus training on a regional level. Mike noted that another training project is Zone Chair training regionally.

6. New Business

- a. Administrator’s Report (PDG Dennis Kopitzke) – Written report provided to the cabinet.
- b. Club Visitations – Brian and the VDG’s will be completing a plan for club visits.
- c. 2023 Convention Report – Brian will send a copy to Havre and will establish a convention committee to assist – Mike Tobin was recommended to work directly with the club. Dan moved to split the profit with Glendive per policy. Mike C. seconded the motion and it passed.
- d. Mission 1.5 – Ben noted that this is a two-year program. Brian is setting up four GMT’s and the region chairs have to be membership driven.
- e. 2023-2024 District directory – Already discussed
- f. Cyber Insurance Policy – Mike reviewed the exposure that exists on our website vs having personal information (health, SS#, etc). Item tabled until Mike Tobin gets pricing information.
- g. Policy Review
- h. LCIF Business Plan – Mike T. is in Chicago – table until next meeting
- i. Tri-Fold Brochure – Lary is in Chicago – table until next meeting
- j. Zone/Region Reports
Jon reported that he had a Western Regional meeting which coincided with a park dedication and had a good club turn out (gave clubs a chance to retrieve their bells). He also noted that the firewood raffle was completed.

Margaret reported that most clubs have quit meeting over the summer. She went to Eureka to meet with Adrian. She noted that Columbia Falls will have a float for

Heritage Days next week. The Whitefish club is doing well – they have recruiting nights which are spearheaded by a member who is a veteran.

Committee Reports – Brian noted that Richard is willing to be one of the four GMTs.

7. Additional Items

- a. Shepherd Lions request for banners – Ben has a banner that might work.
- b. Endorsed Projects – we only have received MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation and Montana Youth Diabetes Association. Peggy will contact the other five before any action is taken.
- c. Vests & Pins – Dave recommended ordering six more. Dan moved and Margaret seconded that we order six more vests. Brian recommended having matching shirts to wear at conventions and forums. Brian will look into this and email the cabinet. Ben has sold 75 sets of the district pin set.
- d. Dave reported on our involvement in the pilot program (accountability team) on how we are going to promote leadership in the district. The committee is made up of the four GMT's, GLT (Mike C) and GST (Dennis K). Dave H has offered to chair the advisory committee and schedule monthly meetings. Discussion followed on the Governor's Manual that Mike Collins is working on.

Next meeting: October 15, approx. 10:30 am, Billings, Doubletree Hotel.

Adjournment, 2:20 PM. Moved by Mike seconded by Scott.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin
District 37 Administrator/Secretary, June 22, 2023