## District Newsletter

October 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

### Greetings fellow Lions,

Fall is upon us and the changes around here can sure be felt. My wife Deb and I have been busy getting ready for the upcoming colder weather and ultimately the snow. I traveled to Reno for the USA/Canada Forum this month. These forums continue to be a great source of education and fellowship with other Lions from around the US and Canada. There is so much to see, do and learn and I suggest that everyone attend at least one.

The trip started pretty low key with an early morning flight to Salt Lake City and a long layover before my flight to Reno. The wonderful part of the layover was that as I waited for my next flight, I had the opportunity to meet and visit with other Lions from Atlanta, Iowa and Michigan. Upon arriving in Reno, I met up in baggage claim with our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor, Raleigh Peck, who flew in on another airline. While waiting for Raleigh's bag, International President Dr. Patty Hill also came by. It was nice to meet and have a brief visit with her.



We started the Forum on Thursday with the STRIDES walk, and while our Montana contingent tried to walk together, it was not to be. It was nice to see so many from Montana, including our two Vice District Governors and our three immediate past District Governors (Scott, Mike T. and Mike C.).

There were so many different seminars and subjects that it was difficult to choose which ones to attend. I focused on the ones that dealt with membership and attracting new members to Lions. In one seminar, I learned how to produce a Facebook Story Reel and instructors also went over what it takes to attract different age groups in Lions. I learned that there is a ton of information on the LCI website to aid clubs in attracting new members.

In another seminar, I met up with the group of Governors I was in class with at Saint Charles, and we got to compare notes on how, as Governors, our year is going thus far.

President Dr. Patty Hill provided a wonderful address. Her challenge to increase membership through Mission 1.5 was highlighted along with her vision of Changing to World. She is always inspiring to listen to and challenges us by what she is doing and has done.



Remember, we are all part of the greatest and largest service organization in the world and are all doing great work - sometimes small things, sometimes great things - but no matter what we do, WE SERVE and the world needs us. Just ask the residents of Maui and Florida. Lions clubs were there and are still there. Where there's a need there's a lion! Yours in Lionism,

District Governor Brian Gertiser



## Changing the World with International President Dr. Patti Hill

The purpose of my life on this earth is to help others achieve their potential. If I'm not doing that, I should be!

Changing the world is a journey. There's no middle and no end. There is, however, a beginning. With every small act of service, you contribute one step towards change. It's up to each of us to simply begin. Like rain filling a bucket, we can change the world one drop at a time.

In fact, we are all changing the world with every decision we make. Truly meaningful changes will occur when we are intentional about the kind of changes we want to make. When we strive to make positive changes—in our lives and in the lives of others—we put good into the world.

Lions have been doing our part to change the world for more than 100 years. In every project we do, with every donation we make, we contribute to positive change in our communities. As we fill our own buckets, our communities rise with us.

We are all connected. When we see that connection, boundaries and barriers disappear. We realize that while global challenges may seem daunting, there is always a place where we can begin. **The place is here. The time is now.** 

## **GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke**

Global Service Team Global and Montana Service October 2023



Leaders of LCI and our district encourages clubs to get involved in service projects. Below is a partial listing of numerous service projects in which Montana Lions clubs are involved. For more information on the projects contact PDG Dennis Kopitzke.

**Diabetes:** conduct diabetic vision screening, support Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance, get involved with Diabetes . . . What Now? Project, work with local senior center to promote diabetes education

**Hunger**: help at local food pantry; help with Meals on Wheels; help with a local food drive **Vision**: support Leader Dog, support Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, collect used eye glasses, get involved with vision screening through the Plusoptix program **Environment:** recycling projects, Adopt a Highway, Arbor Day tree planting, spay and neuter clinics

**Childhood cancer and support for children:** get involved with CASA, Special Olympics, pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House; Florence Crittenton Home, district Peace Poster contest

Other valuable service projects: support for Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, Relay for Life, Salvation Army bell ringing, holiday gift projects for families especially children. So far in 2023, 38 of Montana's 59 Lions Clubs have reported 546 service activities with LCI.

Keep up the great work!

Information on LCI suggested projects can be found at: <a href="www.lionsclubs.org">www.lionsclubs.org</a> Search: Service Project Planners.

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 <a href="www.montanalions.org">www.montanalions.org</a>; Click on Links, select MyLCI login; create a user name and password. 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.

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, <a href="mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com">pegtobin54@gmail.com</a>. Lion Peggy can post information to the district website and it can be included in the district newsletter.

Throughout the Lions 2023-2024 Lions year GST related information will be distributed to Montana Lions clubs through club presidents, secretaries, 1<sup>st</sup> 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; <a href="mailto:djk\_7491@rangeweb.net">djk\_7491@rangeweb.net</a>; Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

## **District Administrator/Secretary**

**CONGRATULATIONS DISTRICT 37!!** As of September 30<sup>th</sup> all of our club officers have been entered in MyLCI and our club directory on the website is up-to-date! If you are interested in a printed directory, there are several options on the website: Go to <a href="https://www.montanalions.org">www.montanalions.org</a>; Click on Contact Us/Directory, select the club or clubs and print the club directories; view the directory by zone, and print the zone directories you want, or download the entire district printable directory. Please note that we are working with Edge Marketing to get a better printable option for the various committees listed on the righthand side of the directory. It currently doesn't print both columns on a page.

We have been asking clubs to submit their news via the website "Submit Club News". You may be wondering why your post didn't show up! I just discovered that these submissions require several steps to be completed by your district officer team to actually get them posted on the website, which we were unaware of. Ironically, I had just created a new section in the District Newsletter called "Club Spotlight". I will be including some of the submissions made via the website in the newsletter as well as new posts on the website under Club News, and I ask all of our clubs to provide stories on how they are serving in their communities. If you want your club news to be both on the district website and the newsletter let me know. In Service, Lion Peggy Tobin

email address: pegtobin54@gmail.com; C-406-461-4206; H:406-937-1215

Mailing Address: PO Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482

## CLUB SPOTLIGHTS – WE SERVE!! CHOTEAU LIONS

Choteau has a brand new bandshell in their city park that was completed July 1st after countless hours of volunteer service by Lions and other members of the community that joined in the effort. This endeavor had an estimated cost of \$67,000. Their second project is a new tennis/pickleball court - cement has been poured and hopefully it will be completed this fall, and their THIRD big project is to replace and install new water filters at the Lions community swim pool. This will hopefully be completed in September before they finish draining the water for winter. **We Serve!** 







HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY BOB!! The Choteau Lions Club also celebrated their longest serving member, Robert "Bob" Nauck, who has been an active member of the Club since June 1,1950 (73 years!!). He is still active although, for the past year, he has lived in the extended care wing of the Teton Medical Center in Choteau. He is still the club's calling committee chairman and calls all members twice a month to remind them of their meetings. He receives and reads all the club and district meeting minutes and has attended two meetings in person during this past year. He is looked up to by all the members of the club, as Lion Bob has been a mentor for so many of the Choteau Lions. He taught school for 34 years, served as the club Secretary/ Treasurer for over 39 years, served on the pool committee since the 1960's. The list goes on and on! On September 20, 2023 Bob turned 100 years old. The club celebrated this event at their regular September meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> and were joined by PDG Mike Tobin and District Admin/Secretary, Peggy Tobin.

## **SIDNEY LIONS**

Sidney Lions partnered with the City of Sidney to renovate the picnic shelter at East Park, aka Quillings Park. We started in late October 2022. But the snow came, so we finished the project in May 2023. And the City was able to install the "Lions" in July 2023 that were purchased by our Club. We are planning to add a sun shelter soon to finish this valuable upgrade to a beautiful park that will continue to serve our community for years to come. **We Serve!** 



The Sidney Lions also helped at the Richland County Fair by driving the People Movers for two days, transporting people between the fair gate and their vehicles. Lots of opportunity to meet and greet people in our community, lending a helping hand. **We Serve!** 

They are also once again in the Richland County Schools doing vision screening in partnership with Richland County Health Department. They were at Sidney Middle School and Sidney High School at the beginning of school, with more fun screening planned during the upcoming months. Hard to believe school is back in session. Have a great year students! **We Serve!** 

## **HAMILTON LIONS**

The Hamilton MT Lions Club has donated \$1,000.00 to the Bitterroot Striker Youth Soccer Club to assist them in purchasing necessary equipment and for providing scholarships to kids which will enable any child who wants to participate in the opportunity to be on a team. Lindsey Dick, the Director of the Bitterroot Club, reports that almost 300 kids from preschool through middle school are playing this Fall. The Lions are proud of their part in promoting a healthy environment which teaches leadership and teamwork and lessons in life of success and defeat. **We Serve!** 







On September 21, several members of the Hamilton Lions Club spent two hours collecting litter and trash along a two-mile stretch of Hiway 93. This highway is the major north/south route through our beautiful Bitterroot Valley and is travelled by thousands of people, especially during the tourist season. **We Serve!** 

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 USA/CANADA FORUM

The 2023 USA/Canada Forum was held on **September 21-23 in Reno** and Montana District 37 was well represented! This event is the premier training event for Lions Club leaders worldwide, featuring seminars on building successful clubs and a wealth of shared experiences from thousands of Lion leaders.

#### Here are some of the comments from those who attended:

The USA/Canada Forum in Reno was filled with many adventures



including the musical "Cabaret." One of the best workshops was full of ideas for the Tailtwisters

with the presenter from NH, Past District Governor Sue Lindberg. Meeting new and old Lions has always been a highlight for me. Plan on attending one yourself.

PDG Melody, Winnett Lion

At the forum I, PDG Jim Johnke, was impressed during my visits with all the exhibitors. Also, the seminar, "An Autopsy of a Deceased Lions Club (why Lions Clubs Die)", was very informative of which all clubs could benefit from hearing this story. It was subtitled: Understanding the reasons why Lions clubs die and possible solutions from interviews with 100 lions worldwide.



Have

Fun!



I just got home from my 4<sup>th</sup> forum in Reno. I always come home inspired and grateful. The educational opportunities were fantastic. There are many thought-provoking sessions that I can bring back to my club and district. The most unforgettable part of the experience is the incredible fellowship. Meeting old friends, making new friends and being able to have great discussions with many amazing Lions is invaluable. I have a new sense of purpose and appreciation for our amazing Lions community and the work we do in our communities and the world. We Serve!

PDG Mike Collins



Mark your calendars! Next year's forum will be held in Louisville KY September 5-7, 2024. Other ongoing training opportunities for your new and upcoming club officers can be found at the Lions University. Yup, there's a link on montanalions.org under "links".

## LCIF - October 2023as

MY CHALLENGE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED! If you will remember in my last newsletter I challenged every club to try and donate \$100 to LCIF every other month. The Choteau Club has accepted the challenge and was the first to donate \$100 for the month of August. They do it every month for \$50 by passing an LCIF jar around during their meetings. I did a visit to the Big Timber Club and they also passed "the jar" by using an LCIF donation box that I provided and got \$50. Several of their members signed up for monthly donations. I am excited to see how some of the clubs are now leading the way! Your club can follow suit and be next – just pass the jar or hat or whatever container you want to use. It is just that easy and painless. If you need a container, let me know and I'll send you an LCIF giving box. Just send me whatever you collect and be assured that it will be credited to your club account for use toward a Melvin Jones recognition award. Time to get on board and get started. Happy Donating!

For those of you who did not attend the USA/Canada Forum in Reno, you missed a really great time. You learn a lot, meet great people and have a wonderful time. Next year it is in Louisville KY, the home of "The Derby" and near where they make Corvettes (Bowling Green) and I understand they have great Bourbon Distillers there since this is the official starting point of the Kentucky Urban Bourbon Trail. Taste test anyone? You may want to arrive a few days early or stay later just to see it all. Make your reservation now. See you all there.

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.

## **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 have taken advantage of this great opportunity are Billings Heights, Bozeman Sweet Peas, Ennis Lions, Glendive Lions, Great Falls Sunrise, Helena Gold Rush Lions, and the Sidney 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 after the first year. If you are interested in getting a website for your club, please contact Peggy Tobin at <a href="mailto:peggobin54@gmail.com">peggobin54@gmail.com</a> or call 406-461-4206.

## **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

## **District 37 Club Officer Training Videos**

These videos are all accessible via the district website, montanalions.org under "training". If you prefer, you can go to the direct U-Tube links below:

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=IIYHa-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): <a href="https://youtu.be/LoohFYDKy6u">https://youtu.be/LoohFYDKy6u</a>

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

Designating officers for in MyLCI (10 minutes: <a href="https://youtu.be/-wPPZq2IZSQ">https://youtu.be/-wPPZq2IZSQ</a> Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes): <a href="https://youtu.be/G3X\_kyfPGpk">https://youtu.be/G3X\_kyfPGpk</a>

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

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

# DISTRICT 37 ANNUAL CONVENTION The 2024 District Convention will be held in Havre April 19-20



48<sup>th</sup> Annual USA/Canada Forum Louisville KY September 5-7, 2024 "Setting the Pace"

## 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 <a href="www.montanalions.org">www.montanalions.org</a> to find a wealth of valuable information regarding almost every aspect associated with the operation of the district.

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

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation website: <a href="www.mtlionsshfnd.org">www.mtlionsshfnd.org</a> 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; <a href="mailto:2bjgert@gmail.com">2bjgert@gmail.com</a>

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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

#### **OCTOBER**

Billings 10/20/1921 Fort Benton 10/10/2005 Sunburst (formerly Coutts/Sweetgrass) 10/13/1934

## **UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES**

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 acknowleged Dan Krum's years of service as the District Treasurer, 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