

# District Newsletter

**November  
2023**

**DG Brian Gertiser**  
**1<sup>st</sup> VDG Raleigh Peck**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen**  
**Montanalions.org**

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

## **District Governor Message - DG Brian Gertiser**

Welcome to winter my fellow Lions. The old saying, “It’s winter when Montana says it’s winter” sure rang true this week. We received a good 12 inches of snow here in Bridger Canyon and the temperature stayed in the low teens for quite a few days.

In the past articles I have related my experiences at the International Convention and the USA/Canada Forum and the Leadership Retreat in Billings. All have been a great source of information to take to the district and the clubs.

This past month the Vice Governors and I have been making several club visits. The experience is truly amazing to say the least. Trying to convey to everyone the opportunities and help that is available to clubs around the State has been a priority of the District Leadership.

There are clubs I have visited that are doing some great service projects in their towns and areas, but the one consistent comment I and the Vices have heard is the need for new members, both for fundraisers and service projects. But more than that, think back to when you joined Lions, someone saw something in you that they knew the community would appreciate. Now is the time to share that with others, give someone in your community the same opportunities to give back.

There was a comment I found on FACEBOOK in response to a post, it basically went like this. How was your club doing twenty years ago? Was your club busy and active? Where will your club be twenty years in the future? Are there people in your club now who will carry the banner into the future? If not, maybe your club is at risk of aging out and disappearing from your community. If that happens, who will do all those service projects that I have witnessed

during my visits? It's not too late to start that conversation in your club. Please don't let your club age out because the you were afraid of change.

We have a great opportunity to carry forward, let's not miss it.

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!*

Our service is a promise to the world, and we can only truly fulfill it by expanding our membership and starting new clubs so we can give even more to the communities we serve. That's why **MISSION 1.5** is so important.

The Global Membership Approach provides the process and the resources to grow your district and clubs so we will always be ready to serve. But to be successful, we have to instill the **MISSION 1.5** commitment and enthusiasm at the club level. So get your Lions excited about growing their clubs and starting new ones so we can increase our impact. Make every club visit count. Use your district communications to let Lions know what we're trying to achieve and why it's so important.

Remember, you are part of a team—and a global network—so let them work for you. Depend on your district team and delegate responsibilities to get the right people contributing to success. Take advantage of the GAT, which can help you achieve positive growth in your clubs and reach your **MISSION 1.5** targets.

It will take every Lion working together to achieve your goals and establish a tradition of excellence. I'm counting on you to guide your district to success in achieving your district's goals. You are a proven leader. Now is the time to lead!

## GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke



Global Service Team  
Global and Montana Service  
November 2023

So far in 2023, 38 of Montana's 59 Lions Clubs have reported 546 service activities to LCI. Keep up the great work. Clubs are encouraged to appoint a club member to report activities to LCI. The following clubs have appointed a Club Service Coordinator: Billings, Choteau, Conrad, Forsyth, Fort Benton, Great Falls Electric City, Helena Gold Rush, Laurel, Sidney, Winnett.

In the coming months, club service projects will be highlighted and provide examples of the great service being provided to our community members.

**Billings Heights:** Christmas wreath sales, recycling; **Gallatin Empire:** Gallatin Valley Hunger Project, support for Leader Dog, Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, and PlusOptixs, food pantry, Santa Store; **Cut Bank:** Adopt a Highway, food pantry, blankets for the elderly; **Ennis:** support for Lions park, Christmas tree cutting, can pull tabs collection, used eyeglass collection; **Fort Benton:** holiday food baskets, wheel chair ramp, low income vision care, swim team sponsor, Torch Tribute for Cancer; **Forsyth:** hearing aid purchases for those in need, maintenance of clean water spring, maintenance of park pavilions.

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 <https://www.montanalions.org> and select "Links" and "MyLCI Login". If you don't have a login and password, click on "Register" below the login area to create a user name and password.

To report the service activity, log into MyLCI and 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, [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com). 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; [djk\\_7491@rangeweb.net](mailto:djk_7491@rangeweb.net); Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

# DOES YOUR CLUB NEED A JOLT?

Global Membership Team - November 2023

Montana Lions District 37 has a group of members willing to come to your club and help. We will facilitate a meeting to develop a plan for the club to move forward. This interaction will be without judgement or guilt on anyone's part. We will not be telling you what to do, but the club will decide its path going forward.

The steps we will address will be:

#1 What does your club do well?

#2 What can your club do better?

#3 What opportunities does the club possess?

#4 Pick the 3 most important things to do over the next few years.

#5 Identify What, Where, When, How and the one member responsible to get it done.

Our Goal is to strengthen Montana Lions Clubs to be their best. Contact PDG Richard Gessling email; [gesslingdds@gmail.com](mailto:gesslingdds@gmail.com) call or text 406-425-3785 for information and/or schedule a date. **We look forward to helping your Club.**

## BRANCH CLUBS

Did you know that Montana District 37 has a branch club? On October 26, 2020, a group of six friends who had a passion for Diabetes Awareness chartered a new Branch Club, sponsored by Sunburst Lions Club. They had contacted PDG Mike Collins (the current District Governor) to find out how they might be able to accomplish this. PDG Mike C. contacted then 1<sup>st</sup> Vice DG, Mike Tobin in Sunburst to find out if the Sunburst Lions Club, located 26 miles north of Shelby, would be willing to sponsor a branch club. PDG Mike T. took it to his local club and it was a unanimous decision to take on a branch club. What does it mean to “sponsor” a branch club? The most important thing to understand is that every member of a branch club is a member of the host club. They pay their dues to their host club just like any other member would. The Shelby Club elected their own officers, set up their own bank account and the club sent a check to their host club for all of their members’ dues.

### **Here’s how easy the process was:**

PDG Mike Collins and PDG Mike Tobin met with the soon to be members of the Shelby Lions Club and had them complete membership applications. The Sunburst Lions Club secretary created a branch in MYLCI where **EVERY** club has a tab for “My Lions Club” and under that tab is “Club Info” and right under their club name is a button labeled **“Manage Club Branches”**. When that button is clicked on, it will have “Add Club Branch”. Once the information is entered for the branch club, the sponsoring club can enter the members and attach them to the branch. Every Branch has its own officers, and the sponsoring club can set up the branch offices under **“local titles”** and then assign branch members as the President, Secretary, Treasurer and any other officers the branch decides to have.

Each year, the host club secretary needs to update any officer changes in the branch. The Button for “Manage Club Branches” now has a second option – “Edit Branch Club”. If the branch club grows to 20 members, it can now be chartered as its own club. Yes, the sponsoring club will lose 20 members, but the district gains a new club!

This could be a wonderful way to expand our membership into communities that want a Lions Club but can’t get to a 20+ membership to receive their own charter.

## LCIF - November 2023

### August BOD LCIF Grants Approvals

District 12 L - Lions Park Inclusive Playground - Matching \$100,000  
District 12 N - Equip East Tennessee Lions Eye Bank – Matching - \$100,000  
District 18 I - Equip Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation – Matching - \$50,000  
District 20 K2 - Equip Long Island Lions Eye Bank – Matching - \$14,075  
District 22 W - Upgrade Rehab Center for Disabled Vets – Matching - \$100,000  
District 25 C - Upgrade Camp Until-A-Cure - Diabetes - \$150,000  
District 26 M6 - Upgrade Children's Cancer Unit @ Mercy Hosp – Matching - \$37,500  
**District 37 - Purchase of 8 Plus Optic Vision Screeners – Matching - \$25,300**  
District 44 H - Renovation of Lions Camp for the Disabled – Matching - \$15,000  
District 5M 2 - Enhancement of Camp Sweet Life - Adventures Diabetes - \$37,500  
District 5M 7 - Construct Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf – Matching - \$100,000  
District 5M 8 - Renovate Staples Area Food Shelf – Hunger - \$32,850  
Multi-D 27 - Lions Eye Bank Wisconsin Guatemala Project – Matching - \$23,750  
Multi-D 32 - Equip Storm Eye Institute W/ OCT Machine – Matching - \$79,122  
**Grants total - \$865,307**

### **What does your community need?**

Contact myself, PDG Lary Garrison, [lionlarygarrison@gmail.com](mailto:lionlarygarrison@gmail.com) or PDG Mike Tobin, [miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com) to find out more about possible grant opportunities.  
Support LCIF at [donorassistance@lionsclubs.org](mailto:donorassistance@lionsclubs.org) or call 1-630-203-3836.

## PLUSOPTIX

**PlusOptix Update** – for the 2023 school year to date, the state has screened 10,140 students with 1,222 refers. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!

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.

Lion David Falcon,  
District 37 PlusOptix Chair  
314 9<sup>th</sup> St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; H. 406-253-1726: [lion.dfalcon@gmail.com](mailto:lion.dfalcon@gmail.com)



# CLUB SPOTLIGHTS - WE SERVE!!

## GLENDIVE LIONS

### GLENDIVE LION MELONIE BEELER QUALIFIES FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Lion Melonie Beeler has qualified for life membership in Lions Clubs International, because she has been a member of Glendive Lions for over 20 years (2-1-22) and has taken formal steps toward this achievement. Her desire to become a life time member of Lions is an indication of her commitment to on-going service in our organization. She has developed an extensive history of involvement in Glendive Lions over the years.



**LEADERSHIP:** Melonie served two terms as President of Glendive Lions (2006 & 2019) and is in line for president during the upcoming 2024-2025 year. She also served as secretary from 2002–2004.

**SKILL:** Melonie isn't always able to attend meetings because of her work in wealth management with Cetera Financial Group. Because of her background and expertise in finances, she is able to provide up-to-date information for our Glendive Lions Investment Committee. Because of "conflict of Interest" rules, she is not a voting member of the investment committee. However, the committee was able to guide our club in growing a foundation that is now gathering interest that we use to serve local needs, community benefits, and youth programs in Glendive.

**INTELLIGENCE:** Lion Melonie has always been forward thinking and offering ideas for service. One idea that she promoted successfully in our Club was the "Heart of A Lion Project", utilizing a life size sculpture of a Lion created by Pamela Haar. Volunteers from all walks of life are nominated and recognized for their service to the community with their names affixed to the statue pedestal.

**GENEROSITY:** Melonie is generous with her time and resources in supporting our Lions projects, whether it is helping to bringing flags to 1<sup>st</sup> graders, selling brats at the Lions Fair Booth, participating in the annual "Lions Live Auction", hosting the International Director at our District Convention in Glendive, setting up our "Basket Bash" fund-raiser, working on the Lions Scholarship Committee, or contributing to our "Adopt a Family" fund-raiser.

Melonie serves as an inspiring example to all Lions here in Glendive and elsewhere. She has served and will continue to serve with Lions to the benefit of our Glendive community.

**Congratulations Lion Melonie!!**

Glendive Lions built \$500 into their budget to help their local Food Bank. In addition, we hold pie raffles during our meetings for the months of November and December. For each weekly meeting, two Lions volunteer to bring pies to be raffled during the meeting. Lions members are quick to donate their money with a chance to win one of the pies. We expect to raise another \$500 for the Food Bank. It's a lot of fun . . . and calories! **We Serve!**

Once a month an interdenominational event, sponsored by several local churches, is held for Middle School and High School youth at our local high school. This is a faith-based event during which youth can enjoy a meal, participate in faith-based activities, and listen to a speaker. Our Glendive Lions chose one month to provide the meal. We served Mac and Cheese, cookies, bars and water. The food was well received, and we served 50 people. **We Serve!**

## COLUMBIA FALLS LIONS

The Columbia Falls Lions Club just finished two days of PlusOptix eye testing of C-Falls school kids at District Six. Ruder School had 308 tested with 22 referrals. Glacier Gateway had 429 testing with 58 referrals and 158 Jr. High students were testing with 21 referrals. The PlusOptix is done once a d year and put on by Flathead Valley Plus Optix. Special thanks to Dave and Teresa Falcon from Kalispell Sunrisers Lions who heads up this project. Plans are already being worked on for next years' testing. **We Serve!**





## ENNIS & SUNBURST LIONS

### NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED IN OCTOBER

#### Working toward Mission 1.5

The Ennis Lions Club welcomed eight new members into their club during October and the Sunburst Lions Club welcomed four new members making an even dozen new members.



### But that's not all!!

**An additional 51 new members have been added to date district wide as reported in MyLCI bringing the total of new members to 63:** Billings – 1; Cascade – 4; Chinook – 3; Choteau - 3; Columbia Falls – 4; Fort Benton – 1; Glendive – 1; Havre – 5; Helena Gold Rush – 1; Laurel – 1; Missoula 1; Missoula South Side – 2; Nashua – 1; Seeley Lake – 8; Sidney – 3; Sun River Valley – 4; Superior – 3; Townsend Broadwater County – 4; Wolf Point – 1.

## SHELBY LIONS

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Shelby Lions Club hosted it's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Diabetes Walk. Shelby Lions has been working to raise awareness and funds to help provide scholarships for those affected to attend Montana's one and only Type 1 Diabetes Camp. President Alexis Erickson encouraged participation - "Please come and bring your friends and family and learn more about diabetes along the way". Their most recent event to raise donations for the Diabetes (the camp and diabetes kits for the school) was their Boos & Ghouls Halloween Event where they served burgers, popcorn and offered karaoke, face painting, photography, games, a costume party and many treats! **We Serve!**



### DIABETES AWARENESS WALK

SHELBY LIONS CLUB

**SEPTEMBER 17TH 2PM**

- Roadrunner Trail
- Donations Welcome

• Donations go to Diabetes camp Scholarship for kids

- Ends at Shop City Road- Shelby Northern Transit shuttling walkers

**\$5 BRACELETS**

406-781-1482 for questions  
<https://www.mydiabetesalliance.org/t1dcamp>



**Shelby Lions Club  
Boos and Ghouls  
Halloween Event**

**October 29th  
3pm-7pm  
Located at the  
Shelby Elks Club**

**Burgers, popcorn,  
karaoke, face  
painting,  
photography, games,  
costume contest,  
and many treats!!**





## 2023 District 37 Leadership Retreat Billings, MT - October 13-14, 2023



The annual leadership retreat was held in Billings this year. Eleven Lions leaders from around the state joined our dedicated group of trainers for great learning sessions. We will be holding this training again next fall. Stay tuned for more information.

### DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

#### **NEWEST ENDORSED PROJECT:**

**Diabetes- Now What?** – PDG Dennis Kopitzke, [djk\\_7491@rangeweb.net](mailto:djk_7491@rangeweb.net); 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:craftycpa@gmail.com); [www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

**Leader Dogs for the Blind** - PDG Jim Johnke, Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406- 928-3311; [jjohnke@gmail.com](mailto:jjohnke@gmail.com); [www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog](http://www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog) and DG Michael Tobin, Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; 406-937-1215; [miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com)

#### **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) – Co-Chairs**

PDG Lary Garrison, 703 Conway Street, Billings, 59105; 406-855-6997;

[lionlarygarrison@gmail.com](mailto:lionlarygarrison@gmail.com); [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)

PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482; 406-450-2780; [miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com)

**Lions Gift of Sight**, (Actively Endorsed) - PDG Dan Sturdevant, Box 275, Clancy, MT 59634; 406-439-9297; [sturdydan@gmail.com](mailto:sturdydan@gmail.com); [www.opthalmology.umn.edu](http://www.opthalmology.umn.edu)

**Montana Association for the Blind** – Lion Rhonda Cochrane, 1802 West Park, Anaconda, 59711; 406-490-2669; [rhondacochrane67@gmail.com](mailto:rhondacochrane67@gmail.com); [www.mabop.org](http://www.mabop.org)

**Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation** – Lion Jessica Fausey, Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 253-1737; [lion.jfalcon@gmail.com](mailto:lion.jfalcon@gmail.com); [www.mtlionsshfnd.org](http://www.mtlionsshfnd.org)

**Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance** – PDG Mike Collins; 40 Meadowlark Drive, Kalispell, 59901; 406-871-4176; [mikeacollins@bresnan.net](mailto:mikeacollins@bresnan.net)

## **SPECIAL NOTICES**

### **PEACE POSTER & ESSAY DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

The deadline for clubs to send in your winning Peace Poster & Peace Essay Contest winners to the DG Brian Gertiser is November 15, 2023.

### **TAX FILINGS FOR 501C3'S C4'S**

The calendar year end is just around the corner which means it's about the time of year when clubs need to complete their tax filings including the 990-N (see training video above) and, if you have one, the required filings for your 501C3 foundations.

### **UPCOMING LCI DUES CALCULATIONS**

Please remember that your upcoming dues from LCI will be calculated based on your club membership roster in MyLCI ending on 11/30/2023. These dues will be at the same rate that the July 2023 dues were charged at and reflect ½ year's dues from January through June of 2024. It's important that you remove any members that are no longer in your club and add any new members prior to 11/30 in order to pay the correct dues.

### **DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS**

**These videos are all accessible via the district website, [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) under "Training" (soon to be renamed "Club Resources" with links to "Training" and "Club Documents").**

All Club officers: Trainer PDG Mike Collins  
Club President: Trainer PDG Mike Tobin  
Club Secretary: Trainer Lion Peggy Tobin  
Club Treasurer: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

Short videos about how to do specific secretary or treasurer tasks:

Activity Reporting in MyLion (23 minutes)  
Monthly Membership Report in MyLCI (15 minutes)  
Designating officers for in MyLCI (10 minutes)  
Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes)

### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Any Lions club member can submit information associated with any type of Lions project or general club information. The deadline is the last day of each month. Please send in "word" format and/or photos in JPEG format to: Lion Peggy Tobin at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com).

### **NEW CLUB WEBSITES-YOU CAN HAVE ONE TOO!**

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 [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com) or call 406-461-4206.

## SAVE THE DATES:

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

**MD C CONVENTION**  
April 26-27, 2024 Lethbridge, AB



**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

## **DISTRICT WEBSITE & AVAILABLE LINKS:**

Visit the district website at [www.montanalions.org](http://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.

**MyLCI Login** –The access point to your Lion Account (for Members, Club Officers, District Officers).

**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 Brian Gertiser, 10680 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715;  
C: 406-539-0992; [2bjgert@gmail.com](mailto:2bjgert@gmail.com)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:danmar@nemont.net)



## **CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

### **NOVEMBER**

Butte Mile Hi	11/15/1973
Havre	11/13/1952
Hysham	11/04/1960

## **UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES**

MLSHF Board Meeting	Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> Great Falls 9:00 am
District Cabinet Meeting	Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> Great Falls 10:00 am

## MINUTES – October 15, 2023 – CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, October 15, 2023; 10:30 AM; Perkins, 825 N 27<sup>th</sup> St, Billings MT

Attendees: DG Brian Gertiser, PDG Dan Sturdevant, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Raleigh Peck, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen; Lion Marie Hajny PID Dave Hajny, PDG Dennis Kopitzke, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Mike Collins, PDG Richard Gessling, IPDG Scott Dornfeld, PDG Lary Garrison.

VIA Zoom: Lion Peggy Tobin, PDG Mike Tobin, Regional Chair Jon Kimble, Zone Chair Margaret Baylinson, Lion Jessica Fausey.

1. Call to Order by DG Brian Gertiser at 11:30 AM
  - a) Pledge of Allegiance
  - b) Invocation: PDG Lary Garrison
  - c) Introduction/Welcome – PDG Dennis introduced guests from Forsyth - Leanna Schwend & Sarah Pratt. District Governor Opening Remarks –DG Brian thanked everyone for making the effort to be here.
2. Minutes: Motion by Dan, second by Lary to approve the July 23, 2023 minutes. Passed.
3. Financial Report: Dan presented the financial report ending September 30, 2023. He noted that the revenue doesn't come in until January and the months following. Motion by Mike C., second by Dennis to approve the financial report. Motion Passed.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item VII below. There were none.
5. Diabetes Education Proposal – Leanna Schwend & Sarah Pratt. Leanna is the owner of a pharmacy in Forsyth. She and Sarah have developed a cloud-based program for diabetes education. Their goal is to complement other programs. The program has shown to have an 80% retention level and is broken up into various areas that can be done in short amounts of time. They are seeking \$40,000 to be able to provide the program to everyone. It is estimated that by 2050 one in three Americans will be diabetic. Mike C. noted that the company is a for-profit instead of non-profit. Leanna & Sarah both agreed that they would be willing to provide financial reports. Dan reminded us that we cannot donate money. We can endorse the project and the clubs can donate to the project. Lary noted that there is a possibility of receiving a grant if the criteria is met. Dennis moved to have the district endorse the project. Corinna seconded the motion. Mike T. noted that LCIF does give to for-profit companies. Following further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
6. Old Business
  - a. Grants: **Plus-Optix grant update** – Lary reported that we requested eight machines for \$50,600. We applied for a grant for 66% and received a grant for 50%. We are \$7,867 short from what the clubs have committed to pay. We have over \$12k available from the community impact grant, and would have \$4-\$5k left in the grant if we use some of it for the Plus Optix machines. In addition, we should receive another \$4-5k this year through annual LCIF giving that does not exceed single donations of \$5,000. Lary moved to commit \$7,876 from the district Community Impact Grant to offset the difference in the cost. Following discussion, Raleigh seconded the motion and it passed.
  - b. Club Health Assessment – Brian led a discussion on the health assessment report. He will meet with the Baker Club and Raleigh and he will meet with Great Falls Club who has discussed closing. Discussion

of various options (become a branch club, etc.) were discussed. Brian noted that the district is down net one. Further conversation including Jon regarding East Missoula. Per Scott, Missoula Southside is another club that had agreed to go for one more year last year.

- c. Website – Peggy reported that all 60 clubs have completed their new officers and the website has been updated with information current per that in MyLCI. She has also entered all of the current officers from MyLCI that DG Brian has completed. Deanna worked with her to improve the ability to print the various cabinet/committee directories located in the directory section of the website. Deanna was also able to add the Membership Application form to Documents located under Organization on the website so that our club secretaries don't have to go hunting for it on LCI's website. Peggy noted that eight clubs have profiles set up for club level websites. Hamilton has also expressed interest. Finally, after hearing from Cheryl in Hamilton that their club news submission hadn't reached the website, Peggy contacted Deanna and discovered that the processed was not getting completed and there were about 10 news submissions in "limbo". Peggy contacted all of the members who had written the submissions to let them know what happened and asked permission to publish some in the newsletter and some on the website. If the news was no longer timely, she asked for a follow up report on the activities involved.

Additional requests for website: update the cabinet member list; check with Deanna on having a password protection for directory section; button to request a "club in my area" and use Richard's contact info until further notice.

- d. Club Officer Training – Mike C. reported that we will go back to Zoom for club officer training. We will have to redo the training videos when the new system is realized (currently scheduled for January).
- e. Leadership Retreat Report – Mike C. reported that the retreat was completed this weekend and had 11 participants. The total cost is going to be about \$9k but isn't cost effective for 11. Following discussion, Lary moved to continue the program at least through next year. Dave doesn't feel we should do only a year at a time. Lary amended his motion to be three years. Raleigh seconded the motion and it passed.
- f. 2023-24 District Directory – See Peggy's Website Report above.
- g. Endorsed Projects – MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, MT Youth Diabetes Association, Florence Crittenton Home, Leader Dogs for the Blind, LCIF, Lions Gift of Sight and MT Association for the Blind. Richard moved and Dan seconded to continue these Endorsed projects. Following discussion, the motion passed.

## 7. New Business

- a. Endorsement of PID Manoj Shah for LCI 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. Raleigh. moved to endorse PID Manoj Shah and motion was seconded by Richard. Motion passed. Brian will sign and send out the letter.
- b. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – tabled until next meeting (Jessica had to leave the meeting).
- c. Administrator's Report - Peggy reported that she has had a busy 1<sup>st</sup> quarter as the District Administrator/Secretary. Starting in July she published the July Newsletter, began updating the website with new officer information from those clubs who had reported their 23-24 officers, and attended the International Convention in Boston. There were several sessions to provide insight into how the new website would work. Following the July Cabinet meeting she finalized the minutes, emailed them to the district administration group (thank you for the reminder Dennis!) and sent follow-up emails to the

endorsed project chairs so that we could complete the endorsements at the next cabinet meeting. The directory updates continued and she published the August newsletter and a video of photos from the International Convention. September highlights were a club visit to Choteau to honor Bob Nauck who turned 100 and to write a newsletter article for the Choteau club. She attended the Reno USA/Canada Forum where we learned that the website was now slated to be launched in January. Peggy reported that she was finally able to get in contact with the clubs who had still not updated their officers on MyLCI and completed the entries in MyLCI as she was granted Administrative status and can now assist with club officer entries. She was working on some new features for the newsletter to include Club Spotlights and simultaneously learned the clubs had been attempting to publish news on the website, but the process was not getting completed. Consequently, she published some of those submissions in the October newsletter along with an article on the Choteau club and Bob's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. She also did several Club News posts from the information she found with Deanna's help in the website back office. Dave requested that the various "pieces" of the old club directory be printed out and a PDF be made that would provide all of the club directory information in one place.

- d. Club Visitations – Raleigh reported on his club visits and scheduled visits which will total eleven through October. Corinna has set up some visits but hasn't started them yet and Brian reported that he has completed six visits. Mike T. reported that he visited Choteau and Big Timber, and both clubs have taken on his challenge of donating \$50/month for LCIF.
- e. 2024 Convention – Brian reported that the hotels have been set up in Havre for the convention. He has asked the Havre chair to meet with Glendive and Sidney. There was discussion regarding an international guest.
- f. Policy Review – Dave wants to go through the entire policy manual. Dave, Mike T, Peggy and Brian are now on the Constitution & ByLaws committee and will begin the review process.
- g. LCIF – Mike T. requested some assistance to get Denton to complete their letter to close out the grant that was under his governorship. Lary said he has been talking to Carla and he will contact her. Corinna also offered to help as she has Denton on her list of clubs to visit. It was agreed to have the executive council vote on closing out the Denton grant once the letter is received, as opposed to having the entire cabinet re-convene. Brian reported that all of the equipment has been received for the Bozeman grant but the city hasn't signed off on it yet. Scott reported there is about \$700 left over on that grant.
- h. Tri-Fold Brochure – Lary sent the information to Brian as the grant is something he has to apply for. Richard feels that we need this for achieving our membership growth. Corinna said she can print them out for her club and wondered why we don't just have each club print their own. Mike C. noted that it would be too late in the year to get a grant like the one they used for the magnetic signs. Richard wants to update the brochure, put it on the website so clubs can customize it and print off their own copies. Mike C. moved to update the tri-fold brochure and get it on the website. Motion was seconded by Richard and passed. Based on this decision, a grant would not be required at this time.

i. Zone/Region Reports

Jon reported that he is meeting with the Missoula clubs previously discussed. The Seely Club is continuing to prep for the winter (putting together sand bags, etc.). They completed a playground last year where they had a zone meeting. Margaret's audio wasn't working so we missed her report.

j. Committee Reports



- a. GMT – Richard reported that they are currently made up of himself, Jon Kimble & Dela Chatriand and are hoping to have one more member from the East. They have reviewed information with Richard Stevenson and done zoom meetings with DG Brian. Their plan is to work with a club that is willing to meet with them and have a five-year plan. Richard noted the five steps that they would try to achieve with the club selected. It's a slow process and requires one on one. He is meeting with Joliet and his contact there is very open.
- b. GLT – See Mike C's. reports above
- c. GST – Dennis is working with the 19 clubs that have not yet done any activity reporting. The list of clubs is in his written report. Brian feels that Dennis's articles for the newsletter are helping and that we are making progress.
- d. LCIF – Lary asked for anyone visiting Denton & Bozeman to assist by asking them to send in their reports hopefully with pictures so they can be put on the website and newsletter.

8. Additional Items

- a. None

Next meeting: January 13<sup>th</sup>, Great Falls, 10:00am

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm

NOTE: I received the following information from Jessica in a separate email that I didn't see until after our adjournment:

Plus Optix Report: Five clubs have turned in screening totals - 6,518 with 674 referrals. The Flathead Valley Lions have screened to date - 3,677 with 493 referrals. Clubs - please make sure your PlusOptix machines are on versions 8.0.2.0.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin  
District 37 Administrator/Secretary, October 15, 2023