

District Newsletter

January
2024

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

What's Inside the Newsletter?

| | | | |
|--------|--|----------|--------------------------------|
| P. 1-2 | DG Brian Gertiser Message | P. 7 | MT Sight & Hearing Foundation |
| P. 2 | IP Dr. Patti Hill Message | P. 7 | Endorsed Projects |
| P. 3 | 1 st VDG Raleigh Peck Message | P. 8 | Special Notices |
| P. 3-4 | GST Report | P. 9 | Save the Dates-Upcoming Events |
| P. 4 | GMT Report | P. 10 | Websites |
| P. 5 | LCIF Report | P. 10 | Contact Information |
| P. 5 | PlusOptix Report | P. 11 | Club Anniversaries |
| P. 6 | Club Spotlights - Hamilton | P. 11 | District Meeting Dates |
| P. 6 | 2024 Peace Poster | P. 12-15 | Minutes – Oct 23 Cabinet Mtg |

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

District Governor Message - DG Brian Gertiser

Hello fellow Lions of District 37,

Although the white Christmases were a bit in short supply, what a December we had. The weather across the state was fabulous. Traveling to do club visits was so much easier with nice roads and sunny skies.

I do hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a great Holiday. The start to the New Year looks so promising and I am sure it will be a great new year. If you were traveling, my wish is that it was safe and fun.

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the Lionistic year already, the time is going fast. Soon it will be District Convention time. Please save the date and plan on coming to Havre, I am sure will be worth your time and effort.

I was at a club charter night recently and they were visited by another club that had come to take their bell back to the visiting club for a visit. Now I know some clubs get a little testy when this happens, but it is in the spirit of camaraderie that it is done. In fact, it was done a lot back in the day, just not so much now. Well, we had a really nice discussion on the merits of this little activity, both for the club being visited and the visiting club. It is a great opportunity to see and experience how other clubs conduct their meetings and what activities they are involved in. This is quite similar to the experiences that I and the Vice Governors are receiving on our visits around the state. Every club is doing some wonderful projects and fundraisers in their communities, and it is fun to witness it.

Deb and I are closing out the year with a visit to the Central Coast of California. It was nice to get out of the cold for a bit. While we were here, we experienced quite the storm surge, the worst in years. It did remind me of the extreme power of nature. It also reminded me of the power of Lions Clubs worldwide. Just like a cup of water is small, but a wave is so powerful, Lions individually can do something, as a worldwide organization we can change the world. In the mail this week were raffle tickets for the Montana Sight and Hearing Foundation. They are raffling off a Polaris Ranger. This is a major fundraiser for the Montana Sight and Hearing Foundation. I urge all of you to step up and help sell these tickets.

Speaking of the MS&H Foundation, if your club has someone in need of hearing aids or help with sight, and are unable to assist, be sure to contact the foundation for help.

Be sure to look at the District Convention information and plan on coming to Havre this April 19th and 20th and mark it on your calendar.

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!
Let's think of others this holiday season.*

Dear Lion,

Every day, we're changing lives for the better. With every life we change, we are Changing the World. The best part of our mission is that we're doing it together, as a global community of caring and dedicated Lions and Leos.

The greatest gift we can give is our care and our kindness, and our kindness means even more to people and families in need during the holiday season. You can make the holiday season brighter by planning a project to fight hunger in your community or make a gift to our global foundation, LCIF. Your contributions will make a profound difference in someone's life.

Yours in service,

Dr. Patti Hill
International President

1st District Governor Message – 1st DG Raleigh Peck

HAPPY NEW YEAR LIONS

I hope everyone's holidays were at least as awesome as mine as my son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons celebrated Christmas with us. And what a great year 2023 was. This Lionistic year I'm visiting the great clubs in the northwest third of the state, and what a ball it is. I had the opportunity to induct 11 new Lions so far and had the distinct pleasure to help award the Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Peggy Tobin while in Sunburst. I got to Fairfield a little early and got to help them with highway cleanup. The Choteau club utilizes a club safety officer and refreshed us on gun safety for hunting season and before we left, he covered bear safety as they have several resident grizzly bears in the area. Whitefish club wowed me with how they doubled the size of their club in the last year with an energetic membership/engagement team.

Please make sure to brag your club in locally with any means necessary. From traditional paper and radio to digital means like Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok and others. These are some of the best ways to increase membership is by awareness. And most importantly, share your projects and fundraisers on MyLion and montanalions.org. I wish everyone lots of health and happiness in 2024 and I'll see you all at convention in Havre this April.



GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service

January, 2024

From July 2022 thru December 2023, 42 of Montana's 59 Lions Clubs have reported 748 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. **Great Falls Electric City:** vision assistance to those in need, Plusoptix vision screening, hearing aid assistance; **Havre:** aluminum recycling, support for food bank, Project Pride, Salvation Army bell ringing, support for Leader Dog, Hoops for a Cause; **Huntley Project:** SNAP donation, eye glass collections, support for Leader Dog, support for Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation; **Shepherd:** Dress a Child, Memorial Day Service, Senior's BBQ, food basket collection; **Sidney:** Meals on Wheels, Christmas Wreath sales, posting flags on special days, Quilling Picnic Shelter rehab.

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

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, peggyt@northerntel.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, 1st vice presidents, cabinet members, zone and region chairpersons and through newsletter articles and postings to the district website.

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

DOES YOUR CLUB NEED A JOLT?

Global Membership Team - January 2024

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 call or text 406-425-3785 for information and/or schedule a date. **We look forward to helping your Club.**

LCIF – January 2024

Hello Lions, Leos and fellow humanitarians,

As we close 2023, I encourage you to reflect on everything we and our fellow District 37 Lions have accomplished this year through our acts of service and generosity. Together with funding from our global foundation (LCIF), Lions worldwide continued to create amazing impact in communities whenever and wherever we were needed. Congratulations on all that we have accomplished.

This month, Brian Sheehan, LCIF Chairperson, highlighted a story about how LCIF grant funds helped Nepal rebuild after a devastating earthquake struck in 2015, just as LCIF funds help fire and flood victims in Montana rebuild after these disasters.

As we enter a new year, please continue to be an ambassador for our global foundation and share with fellow Lions, Leos and others in District 37 how LCIF empowers our humanitarian service. Through LCIF, we can think bigger and implement projects that our individual clubs couldn't do alone. **Your donations to LCIF make this life-changing service possible!!**

If we averaged \$10 donations for every Lion in Montana and \$500 for every Lions Club in Montana this Lionistic Year, we would donate over \$45,000- a small percentage of what Montana has received from International every year for the past 10 years!!!

Go to <https://www.montanalions.org/donate/> to set up your LCIF donations.

Yours in Lionism,
Mike Tobin, LCIF Co-Chair District 37

PLUSOPTIX

PlusOptix Update – for the 2023 school year (August 2023 to June 2024), the state has screened 17,895 students with 2,304 refers. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!! I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to the following clubs for sending in screening numbers:

Billings Heights, Billings Lions, Butte Mile High, Cut Bank, Tobacco Valley, Flathead Valley, Fort Benton, Gallatin, Red Lodge, Seeley Lake, Sidney, Sunburst, Whitefish and Winnett.

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 9th St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; H. 406-253-1726: lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS - WE SERVE!!

Hamilton Lions

The Hamilton Lions Club engaged in two of our annual December activities.

On December 2nd Lion Tom Tunny put on his Santa suit and a number of Lions became elves handing out cookies to families. This free event takes place inside our local Murdoch's Home and Ranch store where pictures of kids, and pets, are taken with Santa. Donations amounted to over \$100 with Murdoch's also donating \$250.

December 12th eight members of our Club were joined by thirteen family and friends to entertain residents in five assisted living facilities. Many of these residents sang along with us which made it an enjoyable and rewarding evening for all. **We Serve!**



2024 Peace Poster

This year's Peace Poster winner was Mykayla Matson, a seventh grader from the Ennis school. In 2023 we only had entries from three clubs in our district. One of the complaints I hear is the shipping cost is too high. To that end, I will commit to getting the kits here to Montana and then to the clubs if you let me know how many your club needs.

The cost of the kits is \$11.95 and this year's theme is "Peace Without Limits". The Peace poster is a great way to get into the schools and start the students on the path of involvement with the community and your club.

Yours in Lionism

DG Brian

MT Sight & Hearing Foundation

Where are your Glasses Donation Boxes?

Lion Jessica Fausey has suggested that we add a section to the website that lists where glasses donation boxes are in each of our clubs' locations. She has received MANY requests asking where people can drop off glasses and a comprehensive list would be extremely helpful. Please send your drop off locations to Lion Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com.

Here are drop off locations that Jessica has received thus far:

Columbia Falls – Freedom Bank, Glacier Bank, Parkside Credit Union, & Whitefish Credit Union

Laurel – Orchard Cleaners (11 Montana Ave)

Red Lodge - First interstate Bank and the Dahl funeral home

Shepherd - Shepherd Community Center, Shepherd School, Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Billings Family Eyecare.

Sunburst – Library (can use book drop box if library isn't open)

DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

NEWEST ENDORSED PROJECT:

Diabetes- Now What? – PDG Dennis Kopitzke, djk_7491@rangeweb.net; PO Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

Florence Crittenton Home (Helena) - Lion Danielle Vincent; 4410 Crimson Ct, Helena, MT 59602; 406-202-1348; [craftycpa@gmail.com](mailto:crafty CPA@gmail.com); www.florencecrittenton.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind - PDG Jim Johnke, PO Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406- 928-3311; jrjohnke@gmail.com; www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog and DG Michael Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; 406-937-1215; miktob1951@gmail.com

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) – Co-Chairs

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

lionlarygarrison@gmail.com; www.lcif.org

PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482; 406-450-2780; miktob1951@gmail.com

Lions Gift of Sight, (Actively Endorsed) - PDG Dan Sturdevant, PO Box 275, Clancy, MT 59634; 406-439-9297; sturdydan@gmail.com; www.opthalmology.umn.edu

Montana Association for the Blind – Lion Rhonda Cochrane, 1802 West Park, Anaconda, 59711; 406-490-2669; rhondacochrane67@gmail.com; www.mabop.org

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation – Lion Jessica Fausey, PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; lionjessicafausey@gmail.com; www.mtlionsshfnd.org

Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance – PDG Mike Collins; 40 Meadowlark Drive, Kalispell, 59901; 406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net

SPECIAL NOTICES

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.

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 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.

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 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



48th 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 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; governor-D37@gmail.com; 2bjgert@gmail.com

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

2nd VDG Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729;
C: 406-570-6742; 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

JANUARY

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Cascade | 01/25/1958 |
| Denton | 01/26/1955 |
| Eureka-Tobacco Valley | 01/16/2014 |
| Glendive | 01/10/1944 |
| Hamilton | 01/27/1930 |
| Helena Gold Rush | 01/09/1984 |
| Hot Springs | 01/23/1940 |
| Missoula South Side | 01/15/1964 |
| Sun River Valley | 01/05/1966 |

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| MLSHF Board Meeting | Jan 13 th Great Falls 9:00 am |
| District Cabinet Meeting | Jan 13 th Great Falls 10:00 am |

Both meetings will be held at the Montana School for the Deaf & Blind located at 3911 Central Ave, Great Falls, MT, 59405

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 27th St, Billings MT

Attendees: DG Brian Gertiser, PDG Dan Sturdevant, 1st VDG Raleigh Peck, 2nd 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. Corrina 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 3rd 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 1st 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 100th 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 13th, 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