

District Newsletter

February
2024

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

Hello fellow LIONS, what month this has been. With the wacky weather, holiday hangover, time seems to be flying by. It seems that I just finished the last Newsletter and here I am writing another.

Right now, I am flying home from a quick visit to visit my Mom in Michigan. Her birthday was this month, she turned 96. It was good to see her again and she is quite well for now. One of the items I have been working on lately is the District Convention with the HAVRE Club.

I encourage you and your club to make plans on attending. This year our international guest will be PID Jennifer Ware. She has held multiple positions in Lions and is a wealth of knowledge. I think we will enjoy having her here.

We will also have multiple workshops, including those for Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers. They will be conducted by Lions that have a wealth of experience and knowledge that will be able to help those of you that are stepping up to these positions. If there is anything special topic that you would like to cover, just send me an e-mail and I will be sure to do my best that we address it.

The convention registration is now available on the district website. (<https://www.montanalions.org/>). Please take the time to seriously consider coming. You will be able to register directly on the website, or download the registration form, complete it and mail it to Havre.

The Vice Governors and I continue to do our club visits and should be done soon. Some clubs may take a little longer, but we want to see them all. It has been a pleasure meeting all the Lions from around the state.

That's it for now, look for the convention information that you will be receiving via email. Remember we are all Lions and WE SERVE.

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 Lions,

Every journey begins with the first step. Changing the World begins with Lions taking that bold first step together. We have the power to make the world a better place. It's an incredible responsibility, one from which everyone benefits, including us.

I encourage you to take an important step by inviting new members to join us in service. More members mean more service and more ways to serve our communities. Real change is truly possible when we all join together and work toward a better world.

So, let's give others the opportunity to change the world with us as Lions.

Yours in service,

Dr. Patti Hill
International President

1st District Governor Message – 1st DG Raleigh Peck

Hello Montana Lions

Well, here we are in 2024 and already a month in. Busy and so brutally cold there for a few days. I do hope everyone stayed warm and was able to help those who were challenged to stay warm also. Remember, We Serve.

I wasn't able to attend the January cabinet meeting as we lost my mother just 2 months short of 93 and her funeral was that day. And I don't know if it was any colder or blowing harder anywhere than it was in Glasgow that day. Thanks to everyone who could attend via the zoom meeting.

As I'm currently 1st VDG for all you Lions here in Montana, I do hope you will attend Convention in Havre and give me your vote. I am not trying to be your next governor; I am training diligently to be your governor. There has been at least two meetings a month and many online classes to help me along the way. I will be in St. Charles, IL the last week of the February to finalize the training. Then the real fun begins-working with all of you.

This upcoming Lionistic year will be very focused on membership retention and of course, building towards Mission 1.5. I would love to see us build Montana back up to 1700 members. I call it my Vision 1.7 since we Lions are focused on vision and hearing.

Don't forget to come with me to International Convention the end of June in Melbourne. I've promised to buy a beer for everyone that attends my Governor Induction. Should be lots of fun. But isn't everything we do as Lions fun?

Make it a Great Month of February and WE SERVE.

Lion Raleigh

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team
Global and Montana Service
February, 2024

The work of our Montana Lions clubs to provide a wide variety of service activities to communities is appreciated by your community members. Keep up the great work.

During the past few months service projects involving some of our Montana Lions clubs have been highlighted. Included in this article are several more examples of the great service our clubs are providing to their communities. **Columbia Falls:** community food drive, support for local scouting organizations, sponsorship of youth basketball team, organization and support for summer concert programs, support for Plusoptix; **Townsend:** support for local Easter egg hunt, support for Florence

Crittenton Home, handicapped accessible swings at local park, support for American Legion and Little League baseball, involvement in Plusoptix vision screening; **White Sulphur Springs:** Arbor Day tree planting, volunteer work at senior center and at local food bank, support for EMT training, Plusoptix vision screening, support for Florence Crittenton Home; **Winnett:** local cemetery maintenance, church landscaping work, Adopt a Highway, involvement in Peace Poster contest, CARE baskets, spay and neuter clinic, involvement in Plusoptix program.

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 www.montanalions.org; Click on "Links" and select "MyLCI login". If you don't have a login, click on "Register" and 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, 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, 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 - February 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.**



Lions Clubs International **FOUNDATION**

February 2024

"IT IS BETTER TO BE PART OF THE WHOLE THAN TO BE THE WHOLE OF THE PART"

Frederick Douglass

This was Frederick Douglass's response to why he returned to the United States from England and Ireland where he was treated with great respect. Douglass knew he could stay in England and be The Whole Of The Part, writing of the injustice of slavery in the United States, yet he knew he would be more effective as Part Of The Whole back in the United States working with others to abolish slavery.

If your Lions Club is a part of the whole- your Lions Club is utilizing all the resources afforded through District 37 and Lions Clubs International. If your Lions Club is the whole of the part- it has limited itself to it's community resources!

The beauty of Lions Clubs International and its Foundation is your Lions Club's ability to have a meaningful impact on the local, state, national, and international scene—grants from several hundred dollars to over one hundred thousand dollars are available to assist clubs and districts with humanitarian and disaster relief.

SO ARE YOU AND YOUR LIONS CLUB A PART OF THE WHOLE, OR, ARE YOU AND YOUR LIONS CLUB THE WHOLE OF THE PART? When did you or your Lions Club last participate in District or International activities? When did you or your Lions Club last donate to our Lions Clubs International Foundation?

PDG Mike Tobin and I have challenged every Lion to make a minimum \$10 donation- and every Lions Club a minimum \$500 donation to our Lions Club International Foundation this and every year!

Be A Part Of The Whole by donating 1-630-203-3836, or online at www.LCIF.org/donate, or at donorassistance@lionsclubs.org, or mail a check to LCIF, 300 W 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Yours in Lionism, PDG Lary Garrison, Dist. 37 LCIF Co-Chair

PLUSOPTIX

PlusOptix Update – for the 2023-24 school year (August 2023 to January 2024), the state has screened 24,362 students with 3,078 refers. Thank you to everyone for sending in totals!

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

Butte Mile Hi – 50 Years

The Mile-Hi Lions Club celebrated its 50th year charter Anniversary on Saturday, Dec 16th at the Springs of Butte. We were joined by our District Governor and his wife, our First Vice District Governor and his wife, our Past International Director and many other members of clubs from around our District. Since the club's chartering in 1973, its members have worked on a number of projects in the local community, such as, the rest stop project, sight screenings, Adopt-A-Highway, Paint the Town, walking trail shelter - just to name a few. Proceeds from past fundraising events have gone to scholarships, the food bank, individuals in need of eyeglasses, local non-profits and many, many, more.

We are proud of our club's 50 years of service to our community. The Lions club members thank everyone who contributes to this important work. You are truly helping Lions make a difference.

The Mile-Hi Lions Club meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Perkins in Butte. Lions clubs are a group of men and women who identify needs within their community and work to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved with the Mile-Hi Lions Club, please contact jnville@yahoo.com (Jim Newville Club Secretary) or Shane Tenhold Club President at shanet17@gmail.com.

Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. **We Serve and We Have Fun!**



Seeley Lake – The Bell Raid

A Lions tradition occurs periodically, mostly when the extroverts of one Lions Club want to venture out and get involved with the members of another Lions Club in their District. **The (Bell) Raid**. There is not a lot in the published history of club activities but, usually, you can speak with a member of a club who recalls “Oh yeah, we used to have raids too. In those days, we stole the gavel!” etc. Anecdotes suggest the tradition dates to the 1960’s but we hope to be educated as to how far back the tradition *really* goes. Though the coveted item may change (banner, gavel, bell, etc.) the rules appear to be the same. Five members in good standing - do not forget your current membership cards! - must travel on the raid and attend the target club’s meeting. The plunder is surrendered at the end of the meeting and, to recover, three members in good standing (cards again!) of the victimized club must travel to and attend a meeting of the original raider club; the stolen item recovered at the end of *that* meeting. When revenge stirs in the hearts of the leadership of the originally raided club, an eight-member war party may travel to, not only recover the ransomed item but, steal an item from the originally offending club.

It is all good fun! Practically, the exchange yields much more than just a pleasant evening, sharing a great meal with great people and some good-natured ribbing. Service activities and ideas are shared, sometimes, with a “why didn’t we ever try that?” wonder. If a fundraiser is in progress, the visitors may choose to support that activity as well. Service is shared!

Montana Lions District 37’s own Seeley Lake Lions Club has recruited a cadre of raiders. Originally, proposed to coax our neighboring Lions to attend a grand-opening of our park playground in 2023, we stole nine bells over the course of the winter of 2022 – 23 with the expressed intention of getting the recovering raiders to come to the opening-day events. It was a remarkable success, and we hope our guests had as much fun as we did!

Thanks to our Raider Committee Chair, Lion Tim Berry, the following roster comprises the “Pirate Pool.” Lions Gary and Cheryl Lewis, Samantha and Marcos Arroyo, Pete and Rachel Feigley, Clay and Sharon Creek, John and Sherry Fulton, Rob Shaffer, Liz Brit, Jennifer Willis, Wendy Dalrymple, Steve Bowen, Boyd Gossard and Jon Kimble - some of them are pictured on our most recent raid to the Butte Mile-High Club on their 50th Charter Night!

We Serve and We Have Fun!



Ennis - Flooding

Ennis Lions Park Faces Third Year of Floods: Community Response Strong

Ennis, Montana - January , 2024 - The Ennis Lions Park, nestled along the Madison River, grapples with the aftermath of the third consecutive year of flooding due to anchor ice, causing a gorge. The floods, though challenging, have elicited a remarkable response from the citizens of Ennis and the Town of Ennis. The community has rallied together in previous years, demonstrating unwavering support for the restoration and maintenance of the park. The floods, caused by the Madison River's anchor ice, have presented significant challenges to the park's infrastructure and landscape.

Yet, the Ennis Lions Park remains a cornerstone of the community, renowned for its scenic beauty and recreational offerings. The enduring resilience shown by residents and local authorities underscores the commitment to preserving this invaluable asset. Looking ahead, the Town of Ennis and its citizens are steadfast in their resolve to undertake necessary repairs and revitalization efforts come springtime. The collective efforts aimed at safeguarding and enhancing the Ennis Lions Park reflect the community's deep-rooted connection to its shared spaces.

As the park embarks on the journey of recovery and renewal, the resounding message of solidarity and resilience echoes throughout the town. Together, the citizens of Ennis stand united in their dedication to preserving the beauty and vitality of their beloved park for generations to come. **We Serve!**

Ennis Lions Club Welcomes New Members

Ennis, Montana - January 2024 - The Ennis Lions Club proudly announces the addition of new members Bryce Dorst and Don Carlisle. Bryce Dorst was sponsored by his Lion Mom, Dee Loveland, while Don Carlisle joined under the sponsorship of Mike Delaney, known for his exceptional recruitment skills.

The Ennis Lions Club, dedicated to community service, welcomes Lion Bryce and Lion Don. Their commitment to service aligns with Lions International's Mission 1.5, focusing on increasing worldwide membership to be 1.5 million members by July 1, 2027

Increased membership enriches the Ennis Lions Club's legacy of service. The EIGHT new Ennis Lions members added in 2023-2024 so far will join a network dedicated to Lions International's Mission emphasizing environmental stewardship and community welfare.

For more information and updates, please visit ennismtlions.org.

and We Have Fun!



MT Lions 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 we have received thus far:

Billings

Eyemart Express, 795 King Park Dr. Ste 3

The Eye Clinic Surgicenter, 2475 Village Ln. #202

1st Interstate Bank, 401 N 31st St.

Billings South Side Senior Center, 901 S. 30th St.

Walmart Supercenter Optic, 649 Main St.

Choteau

Choteau Ace Hardware - Lions Box – 408 Main St S.
Choteau Senior Center – Bucket – 29 Main Ave N
Skyline Lodge Apartments – Bucket – 424 7th Ave NW
Mountain Front Family Vision Center – Bucket – 913 4th St NW #9123
Augusta, MT Antique & Gift Shops - 2 Buckets -

Columbia Falls

Freedom Bank, 530 9th St W
Glacier Bank, 822 Nucleus Ave
Parkside Credit Union, 1015 9th St W
Whitefish Credit Union, 405 9th St W

Laurel – Orchard Cleaners, 11 Montana Ave

Red Lodge – First interstate Bank, 401 SE 4th St
Dahl Funeral Home, 708 S. McGillin Ave

Shepherd - Shepherd Community Center, 5541 Haynes Rd
Shepherd School, 7842 Shepherd Rd
Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5515 Carey Ave
Billings Family Eyecare, 1540 Lake Elmo Dr STE 1

Sunburst – North Toole County Library, 201 1st St S.
(can use book drop box if library isn't open)

District 37 – Club Officer Training

District 37 will be offering Club Officer training via the Zoom meeting platform in February of 2024. The training will consist of 4 separate webinars. This training is highly recommended for all incoming club officers including any officers that may be repeating their position.

Session 1: Tuesday, February 13th - 7:00pm – All Club Officers - 1.5 Hours. Trainer – PDG Mike Collins. Recommended for all incoming and current club officers for the 2021-2022 Lions year.

Register Here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdOyurz8oHdMo_QetLbC1IomhF7PpcgGj

- Know some Lions history
- Describe the Lions Club International Structure
- Describe standard club leadership structure.
- Identify the duties and responsibilities of each club officer.
- Be familiar with the Standard Club Constitution and Bylaws
- Understand Meaningful Projects
- Know what a good meeting is
- Be familiar with the LCI Suite, My LCI, MyLion and the Lions Learning Center

Session 2: Thursday, February 15th - 7:00pm - Club Secretaries – 2 Hours. Trainer – Lion Peggy Tobin.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqdeGoqzksEtZRAU1j35-ZHHSVtdRDu3o6>

- Secretary Responsibilities
- Secretary functions before, during, after meetings
- Membership & Officer reporting – Hands-On training for MyLCI
- Activity Reporting – Hands-On MyLion

Session 3: Monday, February 19th - 7:00pm - Club President – 1.5 Hours. Trainer – PDG Mike Tobin.

Register Here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqf-CqzotG9x7LzSmUsPbmnYMOw22vGk6>

- President Responsibilities
- Leadership
- Where to find Resources
- Things to do and not to do
- How to enjoy your year

Session 4: Tuesday, February 20th - 7:00pm - Club Treasurers – 1.5 Hours – Trainer – PDG Mike Collins.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkd-CurT4pEtfLe4Po-PHlsy7trj3gUv2>

- Treasurer Responsibilities
- Club Accounts & Budgets
- Member Dues
- Payments
- Financial Policies
- Financial Records

These will be live on-line interactive training sessions. This does require online access from a computer or tablet with speakers. You can participate without a microphone but would be limited to typing any questions. These webinars will be recorded and made available for people who are unable to attend.

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; 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

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE!!

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

February

Bozeman Gallatin Empire	02/24/1969
Fairfield	02/26/1940
Kalispell Sunrisers	02/03/2069
Nashua	02/12/1952
Plains	02/23/1944

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MLSHF Board Meeting	April 21 th Havre, TBD
District Cabinet Meeting	April 21 th Havre, TBD

Both meetings will be held at the Best Western Havre Inn & Suites (on the hill), 1425 US-2, Havre, MT 59501

MINUTES – January 13, 2024 – CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, January 13, 2024; 10:00 AM; VIA ZOOM

Attendees: DG Brian Gertiser, PDG Dennis Kopitzke, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Mike Collins, PDG Richard Gessling, PD Melody Whitcher, PDG Jim Johnke, PDG Lary Garrison, PDG Mike Tobin, ID Ben Apland, Zone Chair Robert Jaquiss, Regional Chair Jon Kimble, Zone Chair Margaret Baylinson, Lion Jessica Fausey, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Peggy Tobin, IPD Dave Hajny. Scott Doney & Jim Bennet from Havre

1. Call to Order by DG Brian Gertiser at 10:00 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: PDG Lary Garrison
 - c) Introduction/Welcome – Brian is going to recommend that going forward, our January Cabinet meeting always be a Zoom meeting and we don't have to worry that meeting in person.
2. Minutes: Motion by Dan, second by Lary to approve the October 15, 2023 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Dan presented the financial report ending December 31, 2023. Net income is still negative which won't come in until the end of this month. He will be sending out the Dues bills at the end of January. Brian asked if the CD we have has a decent return. Dan reported about the CD we have in bonds. Brian asked about looking at other options that are currently offering up to 5% or more. Dan noted that he didn't want to move anything out of the current investment until the loss had been regained (currently \$18K). Motion by Dan, second by Mike T to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 7 below. There were none.
5. Old Business
 - a. Club Health Assessment – Brian asked if there are any observations, questions or suggestions on the report. Richard said he will add his comments during his GMT report. Richard noted that Hot Springs Club will be folding and it's important that we are holding our own.
 - b. Website/Admin Update – Peggy reported that she completed the October Cabinet meeting minutes which were sent to the cabinet for any changes or additions and forwarded to district administration. The Tri-Fold was re-worked utilizing Ennis's word document from Corrina and the photos that Richard had of the previous District document. She updated the "Endorsed Projects" list and completed the November, December and January Newsletters, adding a new section for "Club Spotlights". The newsletters were posted to the website and Mike C. email blasted the links out to his list. The club anniversaries are now all in an excel spreadsheet by month to make gathering that information for the newsletter easier. She had a much larger number of club posts and other posts during the quarter following the discovery that several club news submissions from the website were missed. The Events were updated to include this Cabinet meeting, District 37 Convention in Havre, the MD C Convention in Lethbridge and the 2024 USA/Canada Forum in Louisville KY. As more information on these events is provided, she adds that to the event. She responded to several emails with updated phone and/or email addresses for officers in clubs or changes in other information including corrections on the endorsed projects list. She provided a mailing list for the MTLSHF for them to send out the raffle tickets. She also worked with club secretaries who contacted her for assistance with the activity reporting. Peggy reported that we continue to evolve and improve the website. She shared her screen to show the updates in the directory that now include the Leo and Branch Clubs, updated "buttons" on the Donate page to provide

2023 Grant Awards provided by Lary and soon, a list of where to drop of eye glasses under the MTLSHF. She also reviewed the new “training/resources” page which now includes the documents which will hopefully be easier to find.

- c. Club Officer Training – Mike C. reported that we still planning to do Zoom for club officer training in February when he gets it scheduled. Training is also going to be available at the convention.
 - d. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Brian – Peggy noted that we don’t have a link on the website for the District Facebook page. Jessica reported that she originally started a District Facebook page but was no longer set up as an administrator. Mike C. was set up as a backup on the page because they used it for ads. He will see if he can get Jessica re-added as an administrator. Brian asked about some of the other platforms. Mike C. noted that TicTok is mostly a video sight and Instagram is now part of Facebook. Jessica said that those clubs with Facebook need to tag the District Facebook page so that she doesn’t have to go hunting for the posts. Brian is going to have a session at the convention on these various platforms and how to hash tag, etc.
 - e. Club Visitations – Brian reported that they are going fairly well. Corrina is behind but she and he will get together when she gets back from her training.
 - f. Tri-Fold Brochure – Richard would like to get feedback on the Tri-Fold document from the cabinet.
6. New Business
- a. 2024 Convention – Jim Bennet shared his screen with the 2024 registration form (thanks to Glendive for sharing theirs). They asked about the Memorial Service and who the contacts are. Melody has requested to step down after many, many years of service. Brian confirmed that there will be several training sessions. Jim provided a preliminary budget with a profit of \$1,650 - see attached report. He asked about the convention pin as he didn’t know what it was – Ben could assist. Jim did request the \$3,000 of seed money from the district. Dan K let Jim know he can send him the request for the funds.

They have about 50 rooms blocked out - The Best Western Havre Inn & Suites on the hill is the convention hotel and 35 rooms are blocked there. Across the highway is the American with blocked rooms. He’s also working with Best Western Great Northern for additional rooms. Nothing else is currently on the calendar for that weekend. Brian recommended emailing the registration form every other week. Mike C. can send the email via mail chimp but he can’t do an attachment so Peggy will put the form on the website and provide the link for the emails. Dave Falcon has invited his rep for Plus Optix and she will want about 20 minutes for a presentation and a table for her. Following discussion, it was agreed that the presenters will not be charged for tables or meals. MTLSHF, MT Youth Diabetes and some of our other endorsed project reps will want to have a table. Peggy recommended contacting all of those reps to find out who is coming. Jim said that he should have room for 8-10 tables. Jim J. noted that they will have a Polaris for raffle and Jim B. said there is an overhang at the doors outside where it could be parked. It was noted that Jenny Ware will be the International Guest Speaker.

- b. Policy Review – Dave H. reported that we are still finalizing the changes and he’ll send it out when it’s ready for cabinet review. The changes will be approved at the April meeting.
- c. LCIF Business Plan – Mike T reported that our LCIF donations are 100% over the prior year and we are at 25% of our goal for the year which is a first. We are making progress on having monthly donations from the clubs. He asked why the district isn’t giving to LCIF which it can do. Dan Krum disagreed because it would be spending lion member money. Mike T noted that according to LCI Legal, dues are

administrative dollars and can be spent on whatever the district wants. We can't spend dues on a lion member for personal expenses. Mike T. also noted that the district could have donated \$1,000 to the for-profit Diabetes – What Now? He confirmed that neither the By-Laws nor the Constitution restrict spending. Mike moved that District 37 donate \$1,000 to LCIF. Robert J seconded the motion. Lary asked that if we do this, do we want to do a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Mike said we can. Brian's question is "will the clubs feel that if the district donates will they feel like they don't have to". Mike T feels that if the District donates then the clubs would have an example to follow. Lary noted that there is \$5,000 of credit available to assist other clubs with \$500 of credit for Melvin Jones awards. Richard recommended continuing the conversation at the April meeting. Mike T. moved to table the motion until April and Robert seconded it. Dave H. recommended forming a committee to discuss this topic and have a recommendation for the April Cabinet meeting. Motion tabled.

Lary has not heard anything else from the Bozeman grant. Denton has still not closed out the grant for the ambulance and they MUST do that by April or lose the funds. Brian signed the form for LCIF for Plus Optix. We will order the machines as soon as he gets the funds from LCIF. Dave H. noted that the zones use to have auctions to raise funds for LCIF. Lary is going to work with Broadview to become a branch club.

7. Officer Reports

a. Zone/Region Reports

- i. Margaret – Zone 3 – Reported that she has visited with the clubs via phone. Adrian is interested in forming a branch club – the clubs are either early morning or noon meetings and they want to have a branch that could meet in the evening. They are also looking at the possibility of having a booth at the county fair in Kalispell and forming a "have coffee with a Lion" group. She is also looking at going to the schools to get them interested in the Peace Poster & Essay programs. Brian noted that he will be working on getting the kits so that clubs don't have to pay the high shipping costs.
- ii. Robert reported on Missoula's Christmas tree sale and noted that he is still willing to be Zone 1 Chair – he just has traveling limitations – Brian will call him.
- iii. Peggy noted that Kenny Seymour – Zone 12 – provided a written report (see attached).

b. Committee Reports

- i. GMT/Club Health Assessment – Richard reported that he has done two facilitations – one in Joliett and one with Great Falls Sunrisers. He talked to the Electric City Club and they don't even know if they want help. Jon Kimble has been working with East Missoula and has worked with Southside for assistance with that club. Eureka has lost half their membership and Richard asked Dave Falcon to check on that – the club cleaned up their membership list and removed snow birds who have not paid their dues. Richard's committee is also checking with White Sulphur Springs to see if they might be interested in forming a club. Dela will check with Chester regarding becoming a branch club. Richard also reported that Billings Heights may be interested in a visitation to Roundup in regards to becoming a branch club.
- ii. GLT – Mike C. will start the leadership retreat committee back up when he returns from his vacation.
- iii. GST – Dennis sent a copy of his quarterly report (see attached). There are still 18 clubs that haven't sent in a report in 18 months. He will also get in touch with clubs that are behind in reporting service activities. Peggy offered to assist with contacting clubs.
- iv. LCIF – - already covered
- v. Plus-Optix – Dave F. reported that he has been getting calls from the school nurses to get assistance with the Plus Optix. He noted that 21,890 screenings have been completed. There

have been many referrals, but most are on Medicaid so they aren't requesting assistance. We will have about 45 machines around the state when we get those from the grant. Dave F. also reported that clubs that closed have given their machines to school nurses. Richard asked about the legality of the machines going to them, and Dave F. said they are off our books and we don't have any control over them as the clubs owned the machines. Brian noted that there are three clubs that would like to have machines. Dave H. suggested that letters go to the school nurses to see if we could get the machines back when they no longer want them. Mike T. suggested that, if possible, it would be great to present the new machines to the clubs at the convention.

8. Additional Items – Brian noted that we are actually up three members for the district.

Next meeting: April 21, 2024, Havre, Sunday morning

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin
District 37 Administrator/Secretary, January 13, 2024