

# District Newsletter

**March  
2024**

**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**

The Eides of March are upon us. I always felt that once March was halfway through, then winter's grip was mostly over. So, every year I look forward to March 15<sup>th</sup> with a bit of hope and optimism. February has always been a rough month for me, the long cold spells and in the line of work I did, I was getting tired of the long grind that the cold always brought. This year, February brought about even more challenges than normal as my mother passed away early this month. As sad as it is, she had a great and long life, and it was wonderful that I was able to be there with her till the last.

During my travels both to Michigan and Florida I was able to visit with a number of wonderful people along the way. What was striking is the comments about how there used to be a Lions Club in their town, but the club folded or stopped. I asked them, “What happened”? Universally the answer was the same, “No new members joined our club, and everyone just got too old”. Across Montana there a number of Lion's Parks without a Lions club still in their town. My mission is to try and rejuvenate these clubs.

I see this happening and so does LCI, and that is why International President Patty Hill has initiated Mission 1.5. Mission 1.5 is a comprehensive effort to increase membership to 1.5 million members worldwide.

Recently, I was on a Zoom call with our area GAT members discussing the various efforts and projects in each of our Districts. One of our members has had an excellent year recruiting new members and starting new clubs. Long and short, he simply carries a brochure about Lions and a membership application with him wherever he goes. If you would like to find out more about how he does this, I have included his email address.

DG Lynn Grabow did a fantastic job in sharing his method of a referral system in order to engage new members!! He has given me permission to provide you with his email. [lynn.grabow57@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.grabow57@gmail.com).

Additional resources can be found on the district website under Training/Resources <https://www.montanalions.org/training/> including the New Membership Application form. We are also finalizing the ability to create your own club tri-fold brochure via the district website.

The LCI website includes a new Member Resource Center and can be found here: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center>

Please plan on coming to Havre for the District Convention. This is a great opportunity to meet and greet other Lions from around the state and discuss how they are having successes with growing their clubs. Plus, the Havre Club has promised a great event and I know it will be.

Our primary purpose is to SERVE, we cannot do it alone, and there are a lot of people who are looking for a purpose, we need to find them and show them what we have found in Lionism.

Yours in Lionism,  
District Governor, Brian Gertiser

## Vice District Governor Message 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Raleigh Peck

Hello Montana Lions for sunny, snowy Sidney Montana.

I hope everyone enjoyed the beautifully warm February we had, but here in the east as I write this on March 3<sup>rd</sup> it's a dang blizzard.

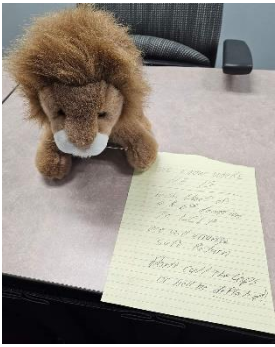
As I mentioned last month, I am diligently training to be your next SD37 Governor. That included going to Saint Charles, IL last week. I was put in an amazing group of FVDG's called Group 33, which included incoming Governors from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and me. It was truly an exciting week.



We arrived Monday evening and started work early Tuesday morning. That evening we had a tornado warning and a fire alarm go off about midnight. Woke up again about 2:30 to freezing rain and hail beating on the window. Found out Wednesday morning there was

actually tornado touchdowns just a couple miles from the Q Center we were staying at.





Wednesday involved an abduction. Another group down the hall put a stuffed lion on a display outside their classroom. One of our team commandeered it and I was assigned to write the ransom note requiring a \$50 donation to LCIF. We worked on being a whole leader and managing people as well as club chartering strategies. LCIF, action planning and how to lead change.

The absolute best part was meeting so many like-minded people/Lions from all over the world.



The kidnapped lion was never harmed but was in danger of disappearing. Before lunch on Thursday we had no response from the Texas/Oklahoma group who brought him. We increased the threat just before lunch. When we returned, the box he was hidden in was gone. We were quite worried he was actually gone. The team



from HQ was cleaning up and picked up the boxes from all the class room. Luckily one from our group was actually back early as caught them to get him back. I again was asked with fashioning a noose and our group leader hung him on the class sign outside his groups' classroom. After the last break we went and admitted to the hostage taking event. We did collect the \$51 dollars they raised and ourselves came up with \$126 for a total of \$177 to LCIF.



It was a Great learning event I will remember forever and reminds if that Everything I've done is Lions was always fun.

VDG Lion Raleigh

## Vice District Governor Message 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen

Lions of Montana District 37 Newsletter  
Greetings from 2nd Vice District Governor, Lion Corinna Christensen  
Dear Fellow Lions,

As we find ourselves moving swiftly into the last third of our Lionistic year, it brings me immense joy to witness the incredible dedication and service displayed by Lions across our beautiful state of Montana in Lions District 37. Each club has exemplified the Lions motto, "We Serve," in remarkable ways, leaving a lasting impact on their communities and beyond. Here are just a few highlights of the outstanding work and camaraderie I've had the privilege to witness:

- **Superior Lions:** Who knew post-meeting ax throwing could be both exhilarating and a bonding experience? The Superior Lions sure do know how to have a great time while strengthening their club spirit.
- **Denton Lions:** Their successful grant process for a new ambulance truly demonstrates the power of Lions coming together to address critical needs in their community. Well done, Denton Lions!
- **Hot Springs Lions:** I had the pleasure of learning about the unique "Ognib" fundraiser from the Hot Springs Lions, showing once again that creativity knows no bounds when it comes to serving others.
- **Sweet Pea Lions:** Combining an excellent meeting with the heartwarming gesture of preparing Valentine's Gift Bags for seniors, the Sweet Pea Lions embody the spirit of compassion and service.
- **Helena Gold Rush:** Celebrating their 40th Charter Event, the Helena Gold Rush Lions showcased their enduring commitment to service and the community throughout the years.
- **Seeley Lake Lions:** They've shown me firsthand how service and fun can go hand in hand, setting a wonderful example for Lions clubs everywhere.
- **Cascade Lions:** Not only did they enjoy an amazing meal, but their productive meeting speaks volumes about their dedication to making a difference in their community.
- **Hamilton Lions:** Not to be outdone, the Hamilton Lions have been bustling with fantastic service ideas and engaging tail twister activities, bringing joy and inspiration to their meetings and community initiatives.
- **Butte Lions:** While they remain steadfast in their belief in the Lion cause, they are facing challenges in recruiting new members—a struggle mirrored in various clubs worldwide.



Furthermore, I've been actively promoting International President Patti Hill's "**Mission 1.5**" for worldwide membership goals. It's inspiring to see our collective efforts aimed at expanding our reach and impact globally.

Additionally, discussions surrounding the **Montana Sight and Hearing Foundation**, as well as the **Lions International Foundation**, have been fruitful. I encourage all clubs to explore avenues for donating to these foundations and take advantage of the grants available to further our humanitarian missions.

As we continue our journey of service, let us draw inspiration from these remarkable achievements and renew our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we can uphold the legacy of Lionism and embody the true spirit of "We Serve."

In Service,  
Lion Corinna Christensen  
2nd Vice District Governor  
Montana Lions, District 37





## 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,

This incredible planet is our home and taking care of this earth starts with each of us. As we celebrate Earth Day on April 22, I encourage you to inspire others to join you in an environmental service project, such as planting trees, reducing waste or cleaning up a beach. There are so many ways that you and your club can make a real impact on our planet, and we have great resources on our website that can help you get started.

Caring for our environment is one of the most important issues that we're facing, so let's all work to ensure the health of our planet and of our communities so we can look forward to a brighter tomorrow.

Yours in service,

**Dr. Patti Hill**

**International President**

## GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team; Global and Montana Service - March, 2024

Montana Lions District 37 supports eight endorsed service projects. In this article 4 endorsed projects will be highlighted. An article in the April edition of the newsletter will be feature the other 4 projects. Additional information is available on the district website: [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org). Use the tab "About" then click on "Our Causes".

**Diabetes . . . Now What** (Forsyth): The project's **vision**: close the gap in diabetes self-care by providing supportive and positive education that meets individuals' needs, wherever they may be on their journey towards living a healthy and thriving life with diabetes. The **mission** is to provide an elite, innovative and pragmatic education guide while incorporating evidence-based best practices that currently few have access to, and deliver to the world through our digital solution. **Contact**: Leanna Schwend, Box 289, Forsyth, MT 59327; 406-351-2117; leannaschwend@gmail.com; [www.sugarbeatenterprise.com](http://www.sugarbeatenterprise.com)

**Florence Crittenton Home** (Helena): The Florence Crittenton in Helena is a private organization that has worked with young families for over a century. While our **mission** has always remained much the same, the implementation of services (residential, family healing, child enrichment) to meet the needs of society and our community. The home has adapted to change to meet the most current needs of our generation, giving families the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive together. **Contact:** Lion Danielle Vincent; 1205 Daybreak Street; Helena, MT 59602; 406-202-1348; craftycpa@gmail.com; [www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

**Leader Dogs for the Blind:** Millions of people are blind or visually impaired and do not have the means to travel independently. Our **programs** are designed to change that. Leader Dog's programs give people the tools, skills, and confidence to travel independently. Our Orientation and Mobility (white cane skills) and Guide Dog program are for people 16 or older whose daily travel is impacted by vision loss. Teen Summer Camp and Youth Orientation and Mobility are for teens 16 and 17. All our programs are free. If vision loss is holding you back, we can help. **Contact:** PDG Jim Johnke, Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406- 928-3311; jrjohnke@gmail.com; [www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog](http://www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog); [www.LeaderDog.org](http://www.LeaderDog.org)

**Lions Clubs International Foundation:** LCIF supports Lions' compassionate works by providing grant funding for their local and global humanitarian service projects. The LCIF **mission** is "To support the efforts of Lions clubs and partner in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants." LCIF is active in promoting projects involved in vision, youth disaster relief, humanitarianism, diabetes, childhood cancer, environment, and hunger. **Contacts:** PDG Lary Garrison: 703 Conway St., Billings, Montana 59105, C. 406-855-6997; [lionlarygarrison@gmail.com](mailto:lionlarygarrison@gmail.com); PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst, MT 59482; C. 406-450-2780; [miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com); [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)

For more information on Montana and Global service contact: PDG Dennis Kopitzke, GST Leader; [djk\\_7491@rangeweb.net](mailto:djk_7491@rangeweb.net); Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-853-8695.

## **SO YOUR CLUB MIGHT NOT NEED A JOLT**

Global Membership Team - March 2024

PDG Richard Gessling

Have you had a meeting where you evaluate what you are doing and also discuss what your members would like to start doing. Planning is an important part of a successful Lions Club. Maybe your club has plateaued. If you would like to discuss how the Global Membership Team (GMT) of District 37 can help, you can contact me. I am willing to discuss your club's situation and give you suggestions that you can explore or I can come to a meeting and facilitate a planning session for your Club. Success is not by accident it takes planning. I have done 4 planning sessions with clubs the last two months and they were well received.

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.**



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**

## March 2024

As we continue through our 2023-2024 year, with spring just around the corner, the clubs will start thinking about their summer projects. Please remember that, through LCIF, you can think bigger and implement projects that your club couldn't afford to do alone. **Your donations to LCIF makes a life-changing service possible.**

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

Personal giving is one of the best ways to start giving. If each District 37 Lion was to give donate \$10 a month to LCIF, that would be \$15,200 donated to LCIF, not to mention the personal donation totals you would receive towards your own personal Melvin Jones recognition plaque.

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

LCIF enhances our service impact on both our local and global communities, empowering us to help people when they need us the most. When you support LCIF, you are playing an important part in increasing our collective impact in all of Montana.

Yours in Lionism  
Michael Tobin  
District 37 LCIF Co-Chair

## PLUSOPTIX

**PlusOptix Update** – for the 2023-24 school year (August 2023 to February 2024), the state has screened 24,636 students with 3,108 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.

If you have PlusOptix S-12's and are attending the convention in Havre, please bring it to the convention for the rep to look at and see if any updates are needed.

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

### Joliet Lions – Four New Members

Four new members were inducted to the Joliet Lions Club at the February meeting. Guest attendees were Membership Chair/District GMT Richard Gessling and Zone Chair Kenny Seymour. New members include Kyle and Christine Lorash, Katie Callahan, and Janice Ward. Sponsors of new members are Casey Weber and Flo McMasters. **Congratulations Joliet!!**



**NOTE:** To submit Club News, go to the district website at [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) and click on News/Submit Club News (all the way at the bottom of the list). Complete the form and upload up to four photos and click “Send”.

## OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE CONVENTION

The annual District Convention shall be held on April 19 and 20 in Havre, Montana. The convention starts as registration commences on Thursday at 7:00 PM at the Best Western Plus Havre Inn & Suites.

## CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA

Policy Manual, Article 8, Section B: Club Delegate Formula

Each chartered club in good standing in Lions Clubs International and this District shall be entitled in each annual convention of this District to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each (10) members, who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the International office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members. Each certified delegate, present in person, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote only on each question submitted to the respective convention. All eligible delegates must be members in good standing of a club in good standing within the District.

Montana District 37 grants full delegate status to each past district governor who is a member of a club in such district independent of the club delegate quotas.



## DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

### NEWEST ENDORSED PROJECT:

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

**Leader Dogs for the Blind** - PDG Jim Johnke, PO 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, PO 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, PO 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, PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; [lionjessicafausey@gmail.com](mailto:lionjessicafausey@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)

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Remember, early registration for the District 37 Convention in Havre ends **MARCH 29, 2024**. The cost will increase from \$85 to \$110 on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The hotels must be booked by the same date in order to take advantage of the group hotel rates. See the registration below or go to [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) to register online or download the registration form.

Additional forms attached are the Convention Bid Form, and Hall of Fame Nomination



**2024 MONTANA DISTRICT 37**  
**CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**  
**APRIL 19 & 20, 2024**  
**Havre, MT**

NAME & TITLE:	
COMPANION NAME & TITLE:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
CLUB NAME:	
VOTING MEMBER:	YES / NO Voting Member must bring Lions Membership Card with Lions Number

Registration	Check or Credit Card - PAYMENT DUE WITH REGISTRATION FORM	Indicate # Attending in Each Category Below	Banquet Entree - Smoked Brisket
<b>LIONS MEMBER -</b> Early Bird By 3/29/2024	\$85.00 Covers all Meals		
<b>LIONS MEMBER -</b> After 3/29/2024	\$110.00 Covers all Meals		
COMPANION – COVERS ALL MEALS	\$60.00		List Food Allergy _____ We will Attempt to Accommodate.
<b>LIONS MEMBER -</b> SATURDAY- SOCIAL & BANQUET	Included with Paid Registration		List Food Allergy _____ We will Attempt to Accommodate.
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>			

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO HAVRE LIONS CLUB. SEND REGISTRATION FORMS TO HAVRE LIONS - REGISTRATION - PO BOX 248, HAVRE, MT 59501 or email to bigjimbenett@gmail.com.**

**CIRCLE CREDIT CARD TYPE: MASTER CARD, VISA, AMERICAN EXPRESS or DISCOVER**

**CREDIT CARD NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 ("Montana District" will show as transaction on bank/credit card statement.)

**EXPIRATION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CVV:** \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Refund Policy: Any refund request must be communicated to DG Brian Gertiser no later than April 12, 2024.  
 Registration may be transferred from one club member to another, within the same club.

<b>Training Planned</b>	<b>Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - noon</b>		<b>Select Training &amp; Number in Party</b>
Club Officer Training – Offered Friday, April 19th 9:00am - noon	Club President Club Secretary Club Treasurer	Included with Paid Registration. Thursday night hotel will be reimbursed.	
<b>Events Planned</b>	<b>Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> Afternoon</b>		<b>Select Event &amp; Number in Party</b>
MSU – Northern Campus Tour	Guide Provided	Included with Paid Registration	
Havre Beneath the Streets 120 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave 406-265-8888	On Own	Separate Fee	
Golf – Beaver Creek Golf Course 5656 US Hwy W 406-265-4201	*Weather Dependent On Own	Separate Fee	
Local Shopping	On Own		

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** During the District Convention, we will be recognizing deceased Lions members at the Memorial Service. Club Presidents or Secretaries are asked to complete the Memorial Form located on montanalions.org web site under “Events” or “News” tabs.

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR CLUB PROVIDE ONE ITEM/ BASKET FOR THE SILENT AUCTION WHICH WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FRIDAY EVENING SOCIAL.**

**THE PARADE OF GREEN WILL BE HELD DURING THE DISTRICT CONVENTION.**

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT JIM BENNETT – [bigjimbennett@gmail.com](mailto:bigjimbennett@gmail.com) or 406-301-3918 OR SCOTT DONEY – [scott@ddrmt.com](mailto:scott@ddrmt.com) or 406-262-2595.**

**HOTELS – all hotels have a block of rooms under: Montana State Lions Convention Best Western Plus Havre Inn & Suites (CONVENTION HOTEL)**

1425 US Highway 2 – Havre 406-265-2888

King & Double Queen Rooms - \$108 + Taxes (Rates valid 4/19 - 4/21)

Includes: Refrigerator/Microwave, Pool, Spa & Fitness Room, Hot Breakfast

**AmericInn by Wyndham**

2520 US Highway 2 - Havre 406-395-5000

King & Double Queen Rooms - \$125.00 + Taxes (Rates valid 4/19 - 4/21)

Includes: Refrigerator/Microwave, Hot Breakfast, Pool & Spa, Pet Friendly - First Pet Free

**Best Western Plus Great Northern inn**

1345 First St. – Havre - 406-265-4200

King & Double Queen Rooms - \$108.00 + Taxes (Rates valid 4/19 - 4/21)

Includes: Refrigerator/Microwave, Hot Breakfast, Pool & Spa

## DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION BID FORM

**Also available on the district website at <https://www.montanalions.org/events/> and can be submitted directly from the website**

This form must be received by the ***District Governor***, 30 days prior to the start of the current year convention (2023-2024) District Governor, Brian Gertiser, 10680 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715; C: 406-539-0992; [governor-D37@gmail.com](mailto:governor-D37@gmail.com); [2bjgert@gmail.com](mailto:2bjgert@gmail.com) The district convention will be held on April 19-20, 2024. The approval/non-approval of the bid will be made at the current year district convention.

Please print.

Date of Bid Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Bid for Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Bidding Club(s): If this bid is being jointly made by more than one Lions Club, please list all clubs as bidding clubs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Convention Headquarters: \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address and Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Nbr. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of full-service motel rooms: \_\_\_\_\_; meeting rooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Campsites: \_\_\_\_\_



1. Location and seating capacity for the following activities

Activity	Capacity	Location
Social	_____	_____
Business Sessions	_____	_____
Breakfasts	_____	_____
Friday Night Social	_____	_____
DG Banquet	_____	_____

2. Attach information as to what makes your area an attractive site for a District Convention. Please note items of interest in and around your community.

3. Organizational support has been obtained from:

Other Lions Clubs: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Clubs: \_\_\_\_\_

Levels of Government: \_\_\_\_\_

Chamber of Commerce/Board of Trade: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel/Convention Bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Convention experience of Chairperson and others:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Name of host club: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairpersons signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Attach a copy of minutes of club meeting where the motion was passed authorizing this bid.

NOMINATION FORM  
DISTRICT 37 – HALL OF FAME

**Also available on the district website at <https://www.montanalions.org/events/> and can  
be submitted directly from the website**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidates Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidates Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidates Phone Nbr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidates Immediate Family and Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nomination Sponsor & Phone Nbr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination Qualification Criteria**

Date Candidate Joined Lions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Current Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
List of all clubs in which the candidate has held membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List Past Club Offices Held: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List Current Club Offices Held: \_\_\_\_\_

District Positions Held: \_\_\_\_\_

LCI Positions Held: \_\_\_\_\_

List all Lion's awards and honors received: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is the Lion a Life Member of District 37? \_\_\_\_\_ of LCI? \_\_\_\_\_ How long \_\_\_\_\_

How many new members has the candidate sponsored? \_\_\_\_\_

State reasons why this member is worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

List any other information that may be applicable.

Include any applicable news articles.

**NOTE: This form/application must be filed with the District Governor at least 30 days prior to the start of the District Convention to be held April 19-21. 2023-2024 District Governor Brian Gertiser, 10680 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715; C: 406-539-0992; [governor-D37@gmail.com](mailto:governor-D37@gmail.com); [2bjgert@gmail.com](mailto:2bjgert@gmail.com)**

**MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation  
Poster for MLSHF Raffle**



**Help Support Your  
MONTANA LIONS SIGHT & HEARING FOUNDATION  
YOU COULD WIN ME!!** Contact a Lion for tickets.



**2024 Polaris Ranger 570 with Roof**

Tickets: \$20.00 each or 8 for \$100.00

Drawing: April 20, 2024

\*Need not be present to win\*

*Thank you for Supporting the Foundation!*



Return ticket stubs and money to:  
Lion Monte Weisser 533 West Arizona Kalispell, Montana 59901



## **Where are your Glasses Donation Boxes?**

### **Now available on the website under “Donate”**

Please continue to send your drop off locations to Lion Peggy Tobin at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto: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.

#### **Chinook**

Finley's Food Farm, 400 Indiana

#### **Choteau**

Choteau Ace Hardware, 406 Main St S  
Choteau Senior Center, 29 Main Ave N  
Skyline Lodge Apartments, 424 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Mountain Front Family Vision Center, 913 4<sup>th</sup> St NW#9123

#### **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

#### **Corvallis**

Ravalli Family Eye Care, 1031 Main St.

#### **Cut Bank**

Parkview Senior Center, 715 E Main St  
Dr. Mark Stanchfield, 226 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

#### **Darby**

Library, 101 1/2 S. Marshall St.

#### **Eureka**

Senior Center, 310 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E  
Eureka Elementary, 335 6<sup>th</sup> St E  
Fosters Fitness Center, 1151 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E  
Logan Health Center, 304 Osloski Rd

#### **Forsyth**





First State Bank of Forsyth, 880 Main St.

### **Great Falls**

Neil Swift at Floors and More 920 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. No

Many of the Optometrists in Great Falls have donation boxes like the one pictured to the right (this one is at Dr. Ozog's office located at 1417 9<sup>th</sup> St S)



### **Hamilton**

Big Sky Eye Care, 820 W. Main St

Rocky Mountain Eye Center, 120 S. 5th St.

Bitterroot Drug, 211 Main St.

Trail West Bank, 224 Pickney St.

Opportunity Bank, 711 S. 1st St.

First Security Bank, 100 W. Main St.

Bitterroot Health Eye Clinic, 300 N. 1st St.

Hamilton Senior Center, 820 N. 4th St.

Ravalli Fun Center, 300 Skeels Ave.

Daly-Leach Chapel and Crematory, 1010 W. Main St.

### **Havre**

Havre Optometric Clinic, 416 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave

Elks Club, 321 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

### **Laurel**

Orchard Cleaners, 11 Montana Ave

### **Red Lodge**

First interstate Bank, 401 SE 4th St

Smith-Olcott Funeral Chapel, 201 N. Broadway

### **Shelby**

Dr. Larry Bonderud, 865 Oilfield 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

### **Stevensville:**

Family Pharmacy, 3804 Eastside Highway

Valley Drug and Variety, 301 Main St

### **Sunburst**

North Toole County Library, 201 1<sup>st</sup> St S.

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

## SPECIAL NOTICES

### ELECTION OF 2024-2025 CLUB OFFICERS

This is the time of year than clubs should be in the process of or starting the process of electing club officers for the 2023-2024 Lions year that starts on July 1. LCI asks that officers be reported to LCI no later than May 15 of this year.

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

It's about the time of year when clubs need to complete their tax filings including the 990-N and, if you have one, the required filings for your 501C3 foundations. **The deadline is May 15th.** See the training video info below.

### DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS

**These videos are all accessible via the district website, [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) under "Training/Resources". The officer training was held again via zoom in February and new videos will be posted soon.**

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. **You can submit Club News ANYTIME via the website under News/Submit Club News.** Here's the link <https://www.montanalions.org/submit-club-news/> You are also welcome to email your news (hopefully with photo) to: Lion Peggy Tobin at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com).

### WEBSITE UPDATES

The district website now has additional resources located on the "Training/Resources" page. Please note that we are currently working on a new "Tri-Fold Generator" that will be available for clubs to create their own club brochures using a tri-fold format that your club can use to share your information to prospective new members.

The club-level website is still 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

**REGISTER ONLINE NOW!**  
**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>!!**

**MD C CONVENTION**  
April 26-27, 2024 Lethbridge, AB  
**PDF Fillable Registration Form available on the**  
**MD C Website at [mdclions.org](http://mdclions.org) and [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org)**



**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; [governor-D37@gmail.com](mailto:governor-D37@gmail.com); [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; [raleighgpeck@gmail.com](mailto:raleighgpeck@gmail.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729;  
C: 406-570-6742; [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

### March

Bozeman	03/18/1954
Plentywood	03/10/1986
Red Lodge	03/03/2047
Sidney	03/01/1971
Wolf Point	03/26/1990

## UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MLSHF Board Meeting	April 21 <sup>th</sup> Havre, TBD
District Cabinet Meeting	April 21 <sup>th</sup> 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 Aplan, 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 Joliet and one with Great Falls Sunrises. 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