

District Newsletter

May
2024

DG Brian Gertiser
DGE Raleigh Peck
1st VDGE Corinna Christensen
2nd VDGE Jon Kimble
Montanalions.org

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“Where there is a need, there is a Lion” District Governor Message - DG Brian Gertiser

Greetings fellow Lions and friends,

What a month it has been!

Lions International launched the new Lions Portal, District 37 had our convention in Havre. We had the fourth Cabinet meeting of this Lionistic year and finally, several of us traveled to Lethbridge Alberta for the Multiple District (MD) C Convention.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the new Portal, I strongly recommend you spend some time exploring the new and improved connection to Lions from around the world. Club Secretaries and Presidents are going to find the new Portal easier to use and containing a lot of useful information. It will take a little time and effort to fully understand and get comfortable with it, but I feel it will be worth it in the end.

The Havre Lions Club did a fantastic job of putting the convention on, we had close to 110 participants. They started out with a great community gathering at a local brewery where one dollar from every pint sold was donated to their club and the club sold 1,500 Pronto pups. It was great to see the community come out so strongly to support the Lions.

Friday kick-off to the convention was another great time. We started with officer training where twenty-five Lions participated. That afternoon, quite a number went on a tour of Havre underground. We also had a group of lions sorting eyeglasses for a District Service Project. Twelve boxes of sorted grasses were delivered to Billings to ship all over the world. That evening we had the introduction of our International guest, PID Jenny Ware from my home state of Michigan. Over \$3,700.00 was raised in the auctions to support LCIF and Montana Sight and Hearing Foundation.

The convention continued on Saturday at MSU Northern and was a wonderful experience starting with the Boy Scouts presenting the colors and presentations from Plus Optix, Leader Dogs, and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind Foundation (our newest endorsed project for District 37). Following the business meeting and lunch, we had the memorial service honoring 19 lions who had passed away since our last convention. Presentations continued for LCIF and Social Media as well as an interesting recounting of the history of the Multi-District and later our single District 37 by Eric Buttle. He has gone back close to a hundred years and we have a lot to be proud of.

The banquet was a nice affair with tasty smoked brisket prepared by the staff at the MSU Northern culinary staff. Awards were presented to many deserving Lions that have volunteered for our District and Clubs over the years. The Hall Of Fame medal went to Lion John Robert "Bob" Nauck of the Chouteau Lions Club. PID Jenny presented Dave Falcon, Jessica Fausey and Peg Tobin with International Presidential Certificates of Appreciation. This is the fourth highest designation available to the Lions and was well deserved. PDGs Mike Collins and Dan Krum received a Presidential Leadership Medal for the work they have done for their clubs and the District. All very well deserved. Thank You again for all that you do.

All in all, the feedback I received was extremely positive and I owe a debt of gratitude to the Havre Lions Club for their hard work.

Sunday after the Convention we had our final Sight and Hearing Foundation and Cabinet meeting of the year. Lion Jessica Fausey was renamed administrator for the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, and a report was given on the Ranger raffle. The Conrad Lions club was the winner. Congratulations to all.

At the cabinet meeting, Lion Steve Dogiakos was voted in as our new treasurer starting next year. He is going to have some big shoes to fill as Dan Krum has been doing a phenomenal job for a number of years. We also approved the updated policy manual that will clear up some confounding verbiage and procedures.

Our next Cabinet meeting will be in Great Falls, July 13th at the School for the Deaf and the Blind and I sure hope to see you there.

Yours in Service,
District Governor, Brian Gertiser

DGE Message - Raleigh Peck

Happy May Day Montana Lions

As we near the end of our Lionistic year, I'm working harder than I have in years getting ready for next year as your District Governor. Trying to finalize plans on how to grow our District and have a lot more fun. The District Cabinet is pretty much set, but we need a few more zone chairs. If you or anyone you know, loves to meet other lions and share ideas, I'd love to have you on the team. Don't be afraid to give me a call, text or an email raleighgpeck@gmail.com, 406-480-5000.

The District Convention in Havre was so much fun. Got to have Pronto Pups twice, delicious both times. And a few local beers really topped them off. Our International guest Jenny Ware was incredible. So friendly and willing to help anywhere we asked. 1st VDGE Corinna and myself were responsible for the Memorial service and PID Jenny jumped right in to help us by handing out the roses. Her presentation at the banquet was one of the best I've heard yet. If you've never been to convention, I don't know what you're waiting for. Next year's convention will be in Helena and we promise it will be one to remember. Everyone is always so nice and always having fun.

Just before the convention I managed to stop and see the Chinook Club and the day after I got home, I ran up to Scobey to hand out a few more Monarch Chevron Awards. Looking forward to a big year, and with so many great Lions behind me, I know it will be GREAT!

Yours in Lionism,
DGE Raleigh

Pictured below are three 40-year pin awards presented to:

Carl Susag



Perry Wolfe



Rex Gaustad



1st VDGE Message-Corinna Christensen

Dear Fellow Lions of Montana District 37,

I trust this message finds you well and filled with the same passion for service that drives us all in our Lions journey. It's an immense honor for me to step into the role of 1st Vice District Governor Elect, and I am eagerly looking forward to the year ahead, working alongside each and every one of you.

The recent activities of the Ennis Lions have been a source of inspiration for us all. Their proactive approach to community engagement sets a shining example for Lions across our district.

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to my own Ennis Lions for their tireless efforts in preparing for the upcoming spring and summer events on our Lions calendar. Their active participation in Earth Day celebrations with a work party at the Ennis Lions Park underscores their commitment to environmental stewardship and community involvement. The strong turnout of Lions and friends at the work party reflects the deep-rooted sense of camaraderie that defines our Lions family.

April was indeed a bustling month for Lions across the district, with the District 37 convention in Havre and the Multiple District C Convention in Lethbridge. I must say, the Havre Lions were exceptional hosts, and their hospitality made the convention truly memorable. I'm also thrilled to share that we were honored to have PID Jenny Ware, our international guest from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, join us. PID Jenny's enthusiastic spirit and invaluable assistance with award presentations added a special touch to the convention.

I'm excited to share that the Montana Lions will be hosting a leadership retreat this fall—an opportunity for us to further enhance our leadership skills and deepen our impact in serving others. I encourage all interested Lions to reach out to me, PDG Mike Collins or your club officers to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

As we move forward, I want to assure you all that my commitment to serving our district remains unwavering. Throughout May and June, I will continue my visits to several clubs around the district, eager to connect with each of you and learn more about the incredible work you're doing in your communities.

In closing, let us continue to embody the Lions motto of "We Serve" in all that we do. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve and in the communities that we proudly call home.

Yours in service,
Corinna Christensen
1st Vice District Governor Elect, Montana 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,

When you became a Lion, you also became a leader. Lions and Leos lead their communities in service and bring people together to achieve greater outcomes than we can alone.

Every time you invite a new member, or we charter a new club, more people are helped, and more communities are served. We are making a tremendous impact all over the world thanks to your leadership.

So, let's continue to grow our impact and share your amazing projects on social media to encourage others to join you. Take an online course to enhance your skills and encourage others to do so, as well. Let's continue to be the leaders that our communities and world need us to be.

Yours in service,

Dr. Patti Hill
International President

GLT Report - PDG Mike Collins

Global Leadership Team, April, 2024

THE NEW LION PORTAL HAS LAUNCHED

Many of you may have received the email regarding the new Lion portal launch. Here are the details of the timing of the launch. We do not know when everyone will be receiving the invitations to access the new Lion Portal, but here is some important information to prepare you for launch.

Phased rollout for Lion Account Users

Our target launch window is April 15 – May 13*. During this time, all current Lion Account users will receive an email inviting them to access the new Lion Portal**. We're doing this phased rollout to ensure staff are available to provide the best support possible and offer you a positive introductory experience.

- **April 12 and beyond:** MyLion, MyLCI and Insights are no longer available.
- **April 15 – May 13:** Invitations to access the new Lion Portal sent via email on a rolling basis to existing Lion Account users.

Please note: User permissions will not change. In other words, those who can report service, access member data and other key functions remains the same.

- **May 13 and beyond:** All visitors attempting to access the previous digital tools will be automatically redirected to the new Lion Portal.

*Dates are subject to change. Our number one goal is to create a positive experience for Lions and Leos. If determined more time is required to ensure the product is in an optimal state, the dates may be adjusted accordingly.

**If you don't see the email in your everyday inbox, please check all spam and junk folders for it first before contacting Member Support.

Note that the new Lion Portal will require a unique, unshared email, and phone numbers will no longer be supported as a log in credential.

Information and resources

Be sure to visit lionsclubs.org/portal-updates for the latest information and resources, which includes handy how-to videos for help accessing the new portal once you've received your Lion Portal invitation email.

We appreciate your support and thank you for your continued service as we prepare for the new Lion Portal – together.

Sincerely, Sue Ben
Chief of Technology, Lions International

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - May, 2024

As we move into the last two months of the 2023-2024 Lions year there is much to do to finish this year and move into 2024-2025.

This is the time of year that clubs should be electing their 2024-2025 club officers. Providing service to our communities is the most important function of every Montana Lions Club. Consider selecting a club Lions to serve as your Club Service Chairperson. LCI has a wealth of information regarding the role of your CSC. LCI provides resources such as the GST Toolbox and GST Team Toolbox.

The toolboxes provide information on our global causes: diabetes, hunger, vision, childhood cancer, environment, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. Ideas for service programs associated with the following are provided: type 2 diabetes, Lions Eye Banks, vision screening, Lions Kids Sight, eyeglass recycling, youth camps, diabetes camps, diabetes support groups.

All this and more can be found on the newly revised LCI website. A Lions Portal has been created that should make the website easier to use. To use the portal: go to the LCI website; login using your current account information; or if a new website user set up an account with a user name and password. When finished you will enter the portal and find access to club information, our constitutional area and your account. The portal also has information regarding frequently asked questions, training videos, helpful resources and a special link to record your club's service projects.

Many clubs reduce their activity during the summer months but the summer is still a great time to do outdoor service projects or to continue meeting as part of a club picnic, BBQ, meet at the fair, establish a fair booth to promote your club, meet at a rodeo or other summer event.

For more information contact: PDG Dennis Kopitzke, GST Leader;
djk_7491@rangeweb.net; Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-853-8695.

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team, May, 2024

New Trifold, Planning

First, I want to thank the team at EDGE (our website developer). Owner Deanna Johnson and Dustin Stewart did a wonderful job making this document easy to use and our clubs now have a tool to help recruit new members and describe how they serve their communities.

I've been traveling to clubs and helping them decide what they should be doing to be vibrant and I can also help them decide what service projects they should develop moving forward. I am only a facilitator in this project and let the club decide what would be best for them.

One thing I have identified that is hindering club health is that very few clubs have a plan. Businesses have plans and determine projects that will make the business a success. If they don't they will fail. The same is true for Lions Clubs. It is true a Lions club is not a business. However, if a Lions Club is not evaluating what they are currently doing - services projects and fund raising - they will start to decline. Times change, businesses know this and change needs to happen to keep being successful. Lions clubs need to do the same.

Too often we keep doing service that has been handled by another group of the government and is not needed. If more funds are needed for projects should they consider a different approach or increase their effort with the same fund raising. A Lions club should be reviewing their current service projects and fundraising goals every so often to keep up with our slogan "WHERE THERE IS A NEED THERE IS A LION". If your club is stuck and in need of a plan, you can evaluate and figure it out on your own or get of hold of Richard Gessling. I have been helping clubs like this and will continue to do so with my team. We can come to your club and facilitate planning. Your club will be renewed and be on its way to be the best club you can be and become more successful. My hope is for all Lions Clubs in District 37 to be the best they can be.

Richard Gessling, email "gesslingdds@gmail.com" (406)425-3785.

PLUSOPTIX

PlusOptix Update – for the 2023-24 school year (August 2023 to March 2024), the state has screened 34,526 students with 4,195 refers. Thank you to those folks that sent in screening numbers after the convention.

Great Job!

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair

314 9th St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; H. 406-253-1726: lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation
Where are your Glasses Donation Boxes?
Now available on the website under “Donate”

Go to <https://www.montanalions.org/eye-glass-drop-off-locations/>

Please continue to send your drop off locations to Lion Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com or Jessica Fausey at lionjessicafausey@gmail.com



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

May 2024

GIVING IS A PART OF SERVING!!

Can you believe it's already May which means spring has sprung (even though it is currently snowing)? School is almost over for the 2023/2024 year, and the District 37 convention is in the rearview mirror. Speaking of the convention, if you didn't go, you missed a grand time. Next year's convention will be in Helena so put it on your calendars and start planning now.

From your District 37 LCIF co-chairs' perspective the convention was a great success. The donations going to LCIF totaled \$10,590 between personal, club, and auctions. We had 13 people sign up for monthly donations totaling \$235 a month for the next year and beyond, \$4965 from auction and \$5390 from the parade of greens. These donations put the District 25% closer to its goal over last year. A really big **Thank you** for all that donated. This money will go a long way when someone in need, needs help. Those that did a monthly donation received a free LCIF T-shirt, but not to worry there are still some left. All you need to do is schedule a visit from your local LCIF coordinator and do a monthly pledge. Monthly giving is the easiest and most painless way to donate to LCIF on a continuing basis.

Special Note: if your club is interested in giving a Melvin Jones recognition to someone, maybe the District can help you over the hump to get to the required amount. Get ahold of your LCIF coordinator to see what we can do.

Michael Tobin - 406-450-2780, miktob1951@gmail.com
Lary Garrison - 406-855-6997, lionlarygarrison@gmail.com



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



Fighting Diabetes in Montana

Lions in Montana, USA, worked alongside the Montana Diabetes Youth Alliance and utilized a US\$40,000 LCIF Diabetes Grant, combined with a US\$5,000 District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG), to develop a four-and-a-half-day overnight camp that helped participants build diabetes self-management and leadership skills, as well as develop peer support networks. Nearly 200 children between the ages of eight and 17 participated in the camps within the first two



years of operation. They and their family members received valuable lessons and resources on diabetes management and nutrition.

UN Goal Alignment: Good Health and Well-Being; Reduced Inequalities; Partnerships for the Goals

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023 | LCIF



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE HONORING CHOTEAU LION STAN RATHMAN



In the annals of the Choteau Lions Club's storied history, few have left as indelible a mark as Lion Stan Rathman. This year, we celebrate an extraordinary milestone—65 years of service by Rathman, whose leadership and unwavering dedication have not only shaped our club but also profoundly impacted our community.

Joining the Choteau Lions Club in the early years of his illustrious journey, Rathman quickly demonstrated a commitment to service and community upliftment. Perhaps his most notable contributions are the establishment of the Choteau Lions Club Swim Team in 1957 and his longtime stewardship of the Choteau Lions Club Pool, both of which have fostered a nurturing environment for local youth activities and

community engagement.

His leadership prowess was recognized early on, propelling him to serve as President of the Club on three separate occasions. Under his guidance, the Club strengthened its community service efforts and expanded its reach and impact within the Choteau area.

The highlight of this year's celebration came during the regular meeting of the Choteau Lions Club held on April 15th at John Henry's Restaurant. In a momentous occasion, Rathman was awarded the prestigious 65 Years of Service Chevron by Lions Clubs International. This honor not only celebrates his long-term commitment but also highlights the standard of excellence and dedication that he has maintained throughout his tenure.

"Lion Stan Rathman's extraordinary dedication and leadership have left an indelible mark on our club and community," remarked President Mary of the Choteau Lions Club. "His commitment to service and community development exemplifies the core values of the Lions Club, and his legacy will inspire future generations."

As we reflect on Lion Stan Rathman's 65 years of service, it becomes clear that his contributions go beyond mere participation. They weave a narrative of commitment, leadership, and lasting community impact, embodying the spirit and mission of the Lions Club. His story is not just one of personal achievement but a testament to the profound influence one individual can have on the lives of many. Stan Rathman's legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire current and future Lions, reminding us all of the power of service and the impact of leadership.



Montana Lions Visit Multiple District C Convention April 26-27, 2024

Dear Montana Lions,

We are excited to share with you the highlights from the recent Multiple District C Lions Convention held in the beautiful city of Lethbridge, Alberta. Several of our dedicated members traveled north to join our Canadian Lion friends for a weekend filled with camaraderie, learning, and service. Attendees from Montana included PID Dave Hajny and Lion Marie Hajny, Governor Brian Gertiser, 1st Vice District Governor Elect Corinna Christensen, Havre Lion President Jerry Kuhn and Havre Lion Mark Rowlatt.



One of the highlights of the convention was the opportunity for PID Dave Hajny and Lion Marie to reconnect with old friends and for all Montana Lions to forge new friendships within the Lion community. The sense of unity and shared purpose was palpable as Lions from both sides of the border came together to serve.

We were deeply honored to have Lions International President, Dr. Patti Hill, in attendance. Her presence served as a reminder of the global reach and impact of Lions Clubs International. Dr. Hill's insights and encouragement inspired us all to continue our commitment to service.



The convention featured enlightening presentations on various topics. Inspirational speaker Kimberly Lyall shared valuable insights on leadership, while Flexahopper Plastics Ltd. provided valuable information on sustainability in plastics—a crucial issue in today's world. We were also moved by the presentation from not4sale.ca, shedding light on their mission to rescue children from the sex trade—an issue that requires our attention and action.



A special mention goes to Lions Marie and 1st VDGE Corinna for their remarkable donation of shoes to "Soles4Souls." Their generosity embodies the spirit of service that defines our organization.

Throughout the convention, we had the opportunity to learn from esteemed speakers such as Dr. Digvir S. Jayas, President of the University of Lethbridge, as well as representatives from Lions Quest, DogGuides of Canada, and STARS Emergency Transport & Education. These informative talks enriched our understanding of various community needs and how we can address them effectively.



Lions Mike and Peggy Tobin joined us for the banquet Saturday night. We were pleased to witness the recognition of many deserving Lions and Leos through various awards presented during the convention. Their dedication and commitment to service are truly commendable. Three NEW LIONS were spontaneously inducted...very fun to witness.



At the PDG Breakfast, Governor Brian was inducted by IP Patti as the newest honorary member of the Past District Governors.

As we reflected on our experiences, it was interesting to observe the subtle differences in approach between our Canadian Lion friends and ourselves. While our Canadian counterparts may be a bit more formal in their dealings, we are united by our shared passion for the Lion Motto: "WE SERVE."

Overall, the Multiple District C Lions Convention was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication of all involved. We return home reinvigorated and inspired to continue serving our communities with passion and purpose.



Yours in service,
1st VDGE Corinna Christensen
Montana Lions District 37

DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

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

NEWEST ENDORSED PROJECT:

Montana School for the Deaf & Blind Foundation – Lion Mark Willmarth, 220 38th Ave NE, Great Falls MT 59404; 406-899-6110; mark@visionwestmt.com;
<https://www.msdbmustangs.org/about-us/foundation/>

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

MEMORIAL FORM

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

Complete the information ASAP for the upcoming District 37 convention!!

The chairs for the Memorial/Necrology Service at the District's annual convention are the 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors. During the service they will be recognizing deceased Lions' service and years as a Lion, where we will be asking a club or family member to assist by receiving a memorial rose.

We are asking each club's help in securing information about the deceased Lion. We would like to have members of the club or family members in attendance for the service, as well.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

Deceased Lion's name: _____

Club's name _____

Number of years as a Lion: _____

Service projects involved in: _____

Club Offices held: _____

District Offices held: _____

Awards: _____

Please include the Lion's photo. Return no later than March 31st.

Submitted by: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you!

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 under "Training/Resources". With the release of the new LionPortal, some of this information is outdated and new videos will be provided as soon as possible.

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.

WEBSITE UPDATES

The new "Tri-Fold Generator" is now 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. You will find it under Training/Resources on the website.

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 or call 406-461-4206.

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.

LionPortal –NEW The newly released access point to your Lion Account (for Members, Club Officers, District Officers, Activity Reporting and all things Lion).

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; peggtobin54@gmail.com

District Treasurer: PCC Dan Krum, PO Box 213, Worden, MT 59088;
H: 406-967-3281; C: 406-671-4209; danmar@nemont.net

MAY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Chinook	05/05/1925
Deer Lodge	05/22/1984
Great Falls Sunrise	05/25/1966
Helena	05/03/1933
Kalispell	05/04/1942
Laurel	05/25/1976
Scobey	05/18/1936

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MLS&HF Board Meeting

July 13, 2024, 9:00am, Great Falls, MT
School for the Deaf and the Blind

District Cabinet Meeting

July 13, 2024, 10:30am Great Falls, MT
School for the Deaf and the Blind

MINUTES – April 21, 2024 – CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, April 21, 2024; 10:00 AM; Havre, Best Wester Plus Havre Inn & Suites and VIA Zoom

Attendees:

In Person: DG Brian Gertiser, DGE Raleigh Peck, 1st VDGE Corinna Christensen, 2nd VDGE Jon Kimble, IPDG Scott Dornfeld, PDG Jim Johnke, PCC Dan Krum, Lion Steve Dogiakos, PDG Mike Collins, PDG Richard Gessling, PDG Lary Garrison, PDG Mike Tobin; Lion Marie Hajny; IPD Dave Hajny. Lion Jessica Fausey, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Peggy Tobin, Lion Bob Graves from Choteau, Lion Jim Bennet from Havre.

Via Zoom: Zone Chair Margaret Baylinson,

1. Call to Order by DG Brian Gertiser at 10:00 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: PDG Lary Garrison
 - c) Introductions – all attendees introduced themselves noting their club and position
 - d) District Governor - Opening Remarks – review of the convention and noted that the “theme” of the convention became “youth and childhood”. Brian briefly reviewed his year as DG. He felt that while he was governor, everyone on his cabinet was doing their jobs so well that he didn’t feel the job was overwhelming.
2. Minutes: Motion by Mike C, second by Dan K to approve the January 13, 2024 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Dan reviewed the financial report ending April 17, 2024. All of the dues are in with one check in the mail. Net income is over \$6,000. Most of the budgeted items were close to budget. Brian asked if there is anything that needs to be done with the CD’s. Dan noted that the two investments have lost \$20k and his proposal is that when Steve takes over in July, that he reinvests those funds in something that would work better for the district. Motion by Mike T, second by Dan to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

Raleigh noted that all of the financial responsibilities will move from Dan Krum to Steve Dogiakos and the other two signatures on the account will be the District Governor, Raleigh Peck and Administrator Peggy Tobin. These changes will be effective July 1, 2024.

4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below.

Plus Optix report by Dave F (moved from 6,b,v)

Dave reported that he received a request to refer students with a non-dominant eye (see attached letter) and that the foundation has rejected the proposal. Mike C moved to not support “Solutions in Low Visions”. Raleigh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
5. Old Business
 - a. LCIF – outstanding grants

Lary reported that he has ordered the Plus Optix machines. He and Mike T will deliver them to the clubs when they are received. Mike T reported that he has received the final report for the Denton grant. Mike C moved to approve the closing documents for the Denton grant. Seconded by Mike T and passed unanimously.

Mike T reported that there are \$5,886 of MJF funds and twelve clubs that have not received a MJF award. He also noted the balances that each club has available (see attached report). Dave H noted that

the credits should be transferred when a club has achieved the amount required to complete the process. Raleigh moved that we give clubs that have never had a MJF \$250 from the credits available. Dan seconded the motion. Discussion followed and Mike T and Lary noted that they would like to have the authority to implement the plan not to exceed the total funds available. Raleigh amended his motion to be up to \$500 to make up the difference. Corinna seconded the amended motion. Mike C called for question. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Report from Jerry Kuhn for 2024 Convention. Jerry said that he has heard nothing but positive comments from their club. As treasurer for the convention, he will have a final financial report soon and will forward it to Brian. He has cut two checks – one for LCIF and one for MLSHF. Live auction raised \$3,730. There were 112 registrations but final attendance was 104.
- c. Club Health Assessment – March Report – Brian reported that we are off the mark from his goals. He noted that we are going to lose Great Falls Electric. Richard reported that quite a few of the members have transferred. Raleigh added that they are going to try to relaunch the club charter within the next year. Richard, Brian and Raymond Carlson will form a GMT team and work with seven towns that have Lion parks with no club. Brian finalized that the district still has work to do. We are currently +4. NOTE: The plus optix machine from Great Falls Electric has been turned in and will go to another club. Steve asked if the number of members is the only matrix used to measure a club’s health and several responded that it is a combination of many things including activity reporting, paying dues etc.
- d. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Jessica reported that she and Mike C are the only ones currently set as administrators on the District Facebook page and recommended that Steve be added to the account and Raleigh recommended that the entire governor team be added. Clubs need to tag the District Facebook page so that Jessica and the other administrators don’t have to try to follow all of the other clubs. Mike C will look into setting up an Instagram page.
- e. Website/Admin Update/Tri-Fold –Peggy noted that the Tri-Fold/Lions Brochure Builder Tool is now available on the “training/resources” page. There was discussion on whether the brochure could also be adapted for Leo Clubs. Mike C noted that the training videos were updated following the February zoom trainings for Club officers, President, Secretary and Treasurer. Unfortunately, they are now out of date with the launch of the new Lion Portal. He also noted that there are videos available from LCI for the Lion Portal that we may be able to put on the website instead of redoing them ourselves.
- f. Club Officer Training – Mike C. reported on the training provided Friday morning at convention and had 19 participants and that the only cost is one night for the hotel room. Mike T reported that every participant in the Presidents’ training was actively engaged and Peggy agreed that her training was well received. Mike C is working with Raleigh to have Zone chair training.
- g. Club Visitations – Corinna reported that Butte Mile Hi wants to rebuild, but she has concerns. East Missoula needs assistant with reporting. Missoula Southside had concerns about their health. Dillon has their lobster project in progress and Ennis has offered to assist with it. Corinna will provide Richard with contacts for Dillon. She has four to five visitations left. Raleigh has all but four completed – He did Chinook Tuesday night. His biggest challenge is Sun River as none of his phone calls have been returned from any of the members. Brian has Hysham and Joliet to do. Richard noted that Joliet has been renewed and got five new members. Brian also reported that he requested and received additional funds for club visits from LCI.

6. New Business

- a. Administrator's Report – new contract for Tobin Trails Inc for the 2024-2025 District 37 Secretary/Admin position. Mike C and Jim recommended to increase the contract by \$100/month. Dave H moved and Raleigh seconded to increase Peggy's contract by \$100/month. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Treasurer – new contract for incoming treasurer Steve Dogiakos. Dan just worked on a stipend of \$200/month and did not have an actual contract. Steve was fine with that. Jon moved to continue the stipend of \$200/month for Steve. Lary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. 2024 Convention Report – Jim – see above. Mike C recommended updating the Convention Manual. Lary recommended that there be more auction items.
- d. 2025 Convention Report – Helena - Raleigh said the tentative date of the last weekend in April or first weekend of May.
- e. 2026 Convention – Mike C reported that they are working on Kalispell/Columbia Falls and Choteau
- f. Corinna moved to endorse Gary Roadifer for International Director. Mike T seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- g. Proposal for new Endorsed Project – Montana School for the Deaf and Blind – Mike T moved to endorse the project and Mike C seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Lary noted that we used to have Camp Make a Dream as an endorsed project and he would like to add it back in. Dave H recommended that they resubmit an application/letter requesting endorsement.
- f. Policy Review – Dave H. reviewed the recommended changes from the Policy committee. Richard moved to accept the changes to the policy manual and Mike T seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- g. Officer Reports
 - a. Zone/Region Reports
 - i. Margaret – Zone 3 reported that she has visited all the clubs and had two zone meetings. Eureka is back (many members are snow birds) and are getting ready for a celebration of the founding of Eureka. Will have handouts and brochures to assist in increasing their membership. They are also working on a playground. Adrian Miller is working on a virtual Leo Club but they haven't met all the criteria. She also reported on several projects being done by the Whitefish, Columbia Falls and Kalispell.
 - ii. Jon – Western Region Chair – reviewed the activities of clubs in his Zone – lots of activity going on in the communities. They all reflect that they haven't done the activity reporting and Jon has made them all aware of the importance of reporting.
- h. Committee Reports
 - i. GMT/Club Health Assessment – Richard reported that Brian and Ray Carlson will be joining him next year in the GMT efforts. He has a U-Tube video for a template on how to approach the clubs with the ability to have the clubs come to their own decisions on what they want. Lary reported that George Chenowith has had a series of strokes and has been moved to a long term care facility. Lary suggested that he try to start a club in Lewistown which George expressed interested in. Lary moved to have the district pay George's dues if he can get four members to start a branch in Livingston. Motion seconded by Richard. Dave H moved for a friendly modification to provide a \$100 cash seed money. Lary accepted the friendly motion and Richard noted that the funds would come from GMT. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. GLT – See above
 - iii. GST – Dennis sent a copy of his quarterly report (see attached).
 - iv. LCIF – See above – Mike will provide a status of LCIF donations in the May newsletter
 - v. Plus-Optix – See above

- i. Additional Items –
Third-Vice District Governor – Dave H reported that a third Vice DG is being discussed. According to the by-laws we will need a special convention to have a vote to add a third Vice DG to take some of the pressure off of the current DG team. Dave will move this along as quickly as possible.
- j. Next meeting: July, 13, 2024 at 10:30am at the MT School for the Deaf & Blind in Great Falls.
- k. Adjournment - Lary moved and Raleigh seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:15pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin

District 37 Administrator/Secretary, April 21, 2024