

District Newsletter

November
2024

DG Raleigh Peck
1st VDG Corinna Christensen
2nd VDG Jon Kimble
3rd VDG Gary Bissell
montanalions.org

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“Where there is a need, there is a Lion” District Governor Message - Raleigh Peck

The Challenge and the Opportunity:

Bad news first: Lions populations in the U.S. have declined by over 50% since 1984, and in Montana, it's down by more than 30%.

Now, the good news: With your help, we're going to change that.

We've received a marketing grant to target communities across Montana that need or have had a Lions Club presence. As Melvin Jones said, "The only thing greater than the privilege of joining a Lions Club is helping build one."

How You Can Help:

Starting a branch club only takes five like-minded individuals, and we're calling on members like you to serve as Guiding Lions to mentor these new clubs. Training is quick and simple, and our goal is to have at least one Guiding Lion in every club in the district. This way, we can get back to actively serving our communities, not just raising money to give away.

If you're ready to make a difference—or know other Lions who are, even if they're too shy to volunteer themselves—please send me a note. Together, we'll grow our ranks, get back to impactful service projects, and make Montana a better place for all.

Yours in service

Lions SD37 Governor Raleigh G. Peck



President's Message Make Your Mark with International President Fabrício Oliveira

Dear Lion,

Great clubs bring fresh ideas, energy and a strong sense of purpose to our service, and our service gets even stronger when we invite people with diverse backgrounds and experiences to serve with us. When Lions serve together, we have a profound impact on the people we serve—and on the people who serve with us.

One of the best ways we are serving together is through *MISSION 1.5*. So embrace the opportunity to increase your impact, strengthen your club, and include even more of your community in your service.

As we shape the future of our great association, be bold, be welcoming, and above all be Lions.

At your service,

Fabrício Oliveira

International President

GET Report - IPDG Brian Gertiser

Global Expansion Team

Global and Montana Expansion - November, 2024

Greetings Lions of District 37 from IPDG Brian Gertiser. I am your Global Extension Team Leader. As most of you know, we have been challenged with growing the district and the Association as a whole. Mission 1.5 is the goal of achieving 1.5 million members worldwide. Our District is committed to assisting in achieving this goal. But we cannot do it without your help. If everyone would commit to bringing in just one new member to their club, we would have 60 new members in our district. And as we all know, we are not getting any younger and some of the projects we do are getting harder to do. New members would fix a lot of this problem.

Another way of growing our organization is to help form Branch Clubs. There are many towns in Montana that used to have Lions Clubs that no longer do so. Maybe in a town near where you live. Could it be that you would be willing to help get a branch club in a town near you?

If you could help me move this forward, I could use the help. If possible, the district needs someone from each of the regions from around the state. Give me a call at 406-539-0992 or email me at 2bigert@gmail.com

Yours in Service,
PDG Brian Gertiser

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling
Global Membership Team
Global and Montana Membership - November, 2024

I ASK

Has your club reviewed your income and service projects?

Is your income sufficient or holding you back?

Is each service project still needed or has it been reduced in scope because others have taken over some or all of the objectives?

Do you have enough active members to carry out the income needed or services?

I witness the revolving door of less members leading to fewer projects and/or income that begins a downward trend. Clubs can lose focus and don't know how to reverse those trends or don't take them seriously enough. Every club is very different and needs to develop a plan specifically for them to regain their strength and continue adequate funding and service to their communities.

I am willing to come to your club to facilitate a meeting that will help you find the solutions and determine what is the best way forward for your club. Your club will decide what is best for you after a self-inspection and develop ideas. Then you can pick how to move forward. I am not going to tell you what to do, but help you decide. I want your club to be the best it can be.

Thanks for reading this and call me if you have questions or would like to schedule a club visit to proceed.

PDG Richard Gessling Call 406-425-3785; Email gesslingdds@gmail.com

GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - November, 2024

During the next few months service projects involving our Montana Lions clubs will be highlighted. Examples from every club in the state will be provided. Information was posted on the LCI website starting in July 2020. For more information on each club contact club leaders. Contact information can be found on the district website: www.montanalions.org

Eureka (37): Adopt a Highway, Plusoptix vision screening, used eyeglass collection, food collection for local food bank, Thanksgiving food baskets, Christmas baskets, rifle raffle, park cars at the fair, playground construction; **Fairfield (0); Forsyth (34):** Community calendar, eyeglass collection, local springs project, diabetes education, Plusoptix, support for Samaritans Pantry, support for holiday movie, community cleanup; **Fort Benton (21):** Support for diabetes education, garage sale, support for community fireworks display, maintenance of wheel chair ramp, Plusoptix, cancer support, fair parking; **Glendive (27):** Used eyeglass collection, Makoshika State Park camp maintenance, DCC community fair, community gifts project, Lions youth camp; **Great Falls (0): Great Falls Sunrise (5):** Salvation Army bell ringing, senior citizen Christmas activity, rodeo program sales; **Hamilton (26):** Adopt a Highway, holiday caroling, bingo, large print books, library donation, donation to Daly hospital; **Havre (107):** Plusoptix, Lions track meet support, pheasant hunt breakfast, support for Havre food bank, campground cleanup, Pronto Pup sales, ADA ramp assembly at Clack Museum, aluminum can recycling, support or Missoula Children's Theater program, hoops for a cause, Salvation Army bell ringing; **Helena (1):** NAMI walk; **Helena Gold Rush (57):** Plusoptix, clothing drive, bowl for kids sake, food share donation, support for Florence Crittenton Home, Prickly Pear trail work, Sunshine Camp maintenance, support for CASA, support for Carroll College; **Hot Springs (0):**

Once clubs have chosen a service project and work has been done then the results of the club's efforts should be reported to LCI. Reporting is easily done via the Lion Portal. The club president, secretary, club service chair or club administrator can establish an account with the LCI portal and report club service activities. Go to the montanalions.org; click on "links", select Lion Portal. If you haven't yet created a login, click on "Don't have an account?". Otherwise, log into your account. To report the service activity, click on "Service". Then click on the blue box that says "Create Service Activity". Follow the prompts to complete the report.

LCI has the newest service webinar (**Creating and Managing Service Activities**), as well as other service webinars, posted to YouTube. Access via log in to LCI website, select "training videos" on the home page, which will lead you to the YouTube webinars.

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, pegtobin54@gmail.com. Lion Peggy can post information to the district website and it can be included in the district newsletter.

Additional service information will be distributed to clubs via email to club presidents and secretaries throughout the Lions 2024-2025 Lions year.

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



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

District LCIF Co-Chairs PDG Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin November 2024

From 2012 until 2024 LCIF approved \$602,596 in grants to District 37. From 2012 until 2024 District 37 Lions donated \$273,299.07 to the Lions Clubs International Foundation or 45.4% of what we received.

As of today, LCIF has awarded 12 grants totaling \$350,000 for US hurricane relief. Between July 1, 2024 and October 14, 2024 LCIF awarded 147 grants globally totaling \$2,828,653 under the cause of disaster relief. This includes refugee relief grants.

The last 2 hurricanes to hit the United States were both larger and more powerful than previous hurricanes to hit Florida and the southeast. Tornadoes used to stay on the ground for a few miles - now they may stay on the ground for 50 miles doing destruction with wider paths.

Because of the greater damage and increased costs, our foundation has increased the amounts awarded for grants. District Disaster Grants have increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000, Multiple District Emergency Grants from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and Matching Grants from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

We can all take pride for what our foundation does around the world, but it comes at a cost, and that cost continues each and every day. Mother Nature does not take a holiday, Cancer and Diabetes do not care what season it is, Community Needs continue to need to be assessed and met, and our youth will always need assistance.

We can all do our part, whether it is donating \$1 Million Dollars or \$1 Dollar, knowing that every penny we donate will go to either disaster relief or service projects! December 3rd is Giving Tuesday this year. Write a check and send it to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois 60523, call 1-630-571-5466, or go to donorassistance@lionsclubs.org, or contact PDG Mike Tobin or myself to answer any questions you may have. All donations are tax deductible.

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Lary Garrison
703 Conway St.
Billings, Mt. 59105
406-855-6997
lionlarygarrison@gmail.com

PDG Mike Tobin
P.O. Box 408
Sunburst, Mt. 59482
406-450-2780
miktob1951@gmail.com

PLUSOPTIX

PlusOptix Update – PlusOptix screening totals for school year Sept 2024 to June 2025: **10,242 screened with 1,643 refers. Fellow Screeners 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

November 2024

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2024 to October 30, 2024.

Applications Received: 44

Assistance Provided: 23

Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$25,798.00

Applications Received From: Augusta, Bozeman, Belgrade, Big Timber, Bridger, Choteau, Clancy, Clinton, Corvallis, Darby, Dillon, East Helena, Fortine, Great Falls, Hamilton, Helena, Highwood, Libby, Livingston, Missoula, Stevensville and Winifred.

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Fellowships

Foundation Fellowship: Foundation Fellowships can now be purchased by individuals. Foundation Fellowships are used to recognize outstanding Lions and other deserving individuals. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation endorses this Fellowship. The Fellowship award includes a lapel pin and a mounted certificate and may only be bestowed by a Lions Club on an individual or group of individuals with a donation of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

PID Fellowship: The PID Dave Hajny, PID Tom Lehman, PID Gary Tschache and Ben Apeland. Fellowships are now available. The fellowships recognize the contributions to Lionism made by PID's Dave, Tom, Gary and Ben. The new fellowships are a great way to provide recognition for a deserving Lion. Fellowships can be purchased for five hundred dollars (\$500) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Life Membership: A Life Membership to the Foundation, which includes a lapel pin and pocket card can be bestowed by an individual, group of individuals, Lions Club or can be purchased by an individual with a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Memorial or Honorarium: Remember a loved one or honor that special person by donating to the Foundation. What better way to remember or honor someone than having your donation live in perpetuity? Your Memorial or Honorarium donation is never spent; only the interest earned on these assets will be used to further the purpose of the Foundation.

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

Prepare for the Annual District 37 Dues Assessment

As November arrives, it's time for all club treasurers and secretaries in District 37 to start getting ready for the upcoming assessment of district dues. Here's a helpful guide to ensure your club is prepared.

Key Date & Membership Basis

District dues are assessed/invoiced on January 1st, but the key date to mark on your calendar is **November 1st**. The dues will be based on the membership recorded in the Lions Portal on that day. Make sure your club's membership records are up to date by November 1st to avoid any discrepancies in your dues calculation.

Dues Structure

Except for the District's lifetime members (see list at <https://www.montanalions.org/about/life-members/>), the dues are set at \$25 per member and are divided into three parts:

1. **Friendship Committee:** \$1 per member is allocated to the district's Friendship Committee. This committee not only fosters camaraderie and support within the district, but also attends to VIPs from Lions Clubs International, such as visiting International Directors. Additionally, the committee helps defray the costs of attending trainings, and attending Lions Club International events for some of the District Governor cadre.
2. **District Convention Seed Money:** The final \$1 per member is designated as seed money for the annual District convention, ensuring that this important event has the necessary funds to get off to a great start each year.
3. **District Operations:** \$23 of each member's dues go toward the district's operational costs. This helps support the various activities, programs, and administrative needs of District 37.

What You Need to Do Next

- **Update Membership Records:** Before November 1st, review and update your membership records in the Lions Portal. Make sure any new members are added, and all changes in membership status are correctly reflected.
- **Communicate with Your Club:** Remind your members about the upcoming dues assessment to keep everyone informed.
- **Prepare Financially:** Review your club's finances to ensure you can cover the dues based on your current membership. A little budgeting now can prevent financial strains later.

Timely and accurate dues assessments are essential for the smooth operation of our district. By keeping your records current and preparing financially, you contribute to maintaining the integrity and efficiency of our district's work.

If you have questions or need help updating your records, please reach out to Cabinet Treasurer Steve Dogiakos.

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

WINNETT LIONS TAKE PLUS OPTIX TO CENTRAL MT

Our Winnett Lions have been completing Vision Health Screenings throughout Central Montana this month. We have visited 16 public schools and two day care centers. Traveling close to 1,600 miles and screening nearly 900 students through 12th grade has been very rewarding. Many schools have told us that if you see students with glasses chances are they visited their eye doctor because of these screenings.

We have promoted Lions by wearing Lions attire and giving result letters to all parents. Having fun all at the same time has also been our goal.



LEO CLUB SERVICE REPORTING

All of our Leo Clubs should be reporting their service on the Lion Portal along with our regular clubs. The Leo Club Advisor, President and Secretary all have access to do their club reporting and this service reporting counts for our district too! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lion Peggy Tobin at 406-461-4206 or pegtobin54@gmail.com.

DISTRICT 37 FACEBOOK PAGE

We all know that Lions serve from the heart, and now we want to see YOU in action! Whether you're planting trees, organizing a food drive, helping out at a community event, or any other service activity, we want to showcase the amazing work our Lions are doing.

We're looking for candid shots of Montana Lions actively engaging in service. We appreciate the posed group photos that commemorate events but we want to see how you have captured the real moments that show the spirit of Lionism in action!

How to Participate:

1. Snap candid photos of Lions in action during service activities.
2. Share your photos via message to the District Facebook Page (<https://m.me/MontanaLions>).
3. Include a brief description of the activity and the names of the Lions involved.
4. Bonus points for Lions wearing Lions Club logos on hats, vests, shirts, etc.!

Let's fill our media with the heart and soul of our District's service efforts. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words—let's show the world the impact of the Montana Lions Clubs of 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

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

CLUB TREASURERS - TAX FILINGS FOR 501C3'S C4'S

Please remember that all Lions clubs with annual gross receipts less than US\$50,000 that are not required to file Forms 990 or 990-EZ must file the e-Postcard (also known as the 990-N). Please be advised this filing relates specifically to the 501(c)(4). If your Lions club has a foundation, which is a separate legal entity, the appropriate form will need to be filed as well. **If you are unfamiliar with this process, please see the short video noted below.**

DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS

These videos are all accessible via the district website, www.montanalions.org under "Training/Resources".

All Club officers: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

Club President: Trainer PDG Mike Tobin

**Club Secretary: Trainer Lion Peggy Tobin-Two Videos:
The Secretary Position and Training on the New Lion Portal**

Club Treasurer: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

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

Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes)

With the release of the new LionPortal, we have added links to some of the short videos provided by LCI – specifically Service Activities, How to Edit Members and How to Assign an Officer to replace the videos below which are outdated.

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

1st VDG Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729;
C: 406-570-6742; 406corinna@gmail.com

2nd VDG Jon Kimble; PO Box 1583, Seeley Lake MT 59868;
C: 559-352-1455; jkimble@wellhead.com

District Secretary/Administrator; Lion Peggy Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT, 59482;
C: 406-461-4206; H: 406-937-1215; pegtobin54@gmail.com

District Treasurer: Lion Steve Dogiakos, PO Box 631, Choteau, MT 59422;
406-203-4679

MINUTES – October 5, 2024 – CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, October 5, 2024; 10:30 AM; Great Falls, MT School for the Deaf and the Blind

Attendees:

In Person: DG Raleigh Peck, Lion Steve Dogiakos, 1st VDG Corrinna Christensen, Lion Marie Hajny; PDG Jack Beckman, PDG Mike Tobin, Lion Peggy Tobin, Raymond Gonzales– President of Fort Benton Lions

Via Zoom: IPDG Brian Gertizer, PDG Jim Jonke, PDG Dennis Kopitzke – GST, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Gary Bissell, IPID Ben Apeland, PDG Richard Gessling – GMT, PDG Mike Collins-GLT, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, IPD Dave Hajny.; Margaret Baylinson - Zone 3 Chair; Robert Jaquiss - President of Missoula Lions, Kim Tarplee - President of Winnett Lions.

1. Call to Order by DG Raleigh Peck at 10:30 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: Mike T
 - c) Introductions – all attendees introduced themselves noting their club and position
 - d) District Governor – no specific issues to bring up other than the agenda
2. Minutes: Motion by Steve D, second by Mike T to approve the July 13, 2024 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve reviewed the financial reports ending September 30, 2024, noting that we are in pretty good shape. Reminded everyone that expense reports are due within 60 days following the expense and to submit them directly to DG Raleigh. Steve reviewed his recommendation to change the policy manual to establish Article 3, Section D: Operating Reserve. The motion to approve the financial report was made by Mike T and seconded by Jack. Dave H asked for clarification of the stipends for the secretary and treasurer and discussed the format of the reports. Dave H had several questions/comments on the new reporting format. He noted that the Friendship Committee does not pay for the snacks at the leadership committee and Steve said he can recode, but that was where he was directed to put them. Steve offered to set up a separate entity for the Friendship committee. Raleigh recommended to take these issues to the Finance & Budget Committee. The motion to approve the financials was voted on and passed.

Dave H left the meeting.

4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 7 below – Peg requested to add approve current endorsed projects for the 2024-25 Lionistic year. Jack asked about the closed clubs. Brian will discuss this during his report.
5. Old Business
 - a. LCIF – Executive Meeting to close the LCIF Hunger Project Grant (see 5a below for final action on this item). Mike T reported that PDG Lary couldn't attend the meeting, but that he wanted to inform the Cabinet that all grants except the Bozeman Hunger Grant have been closed so District 37 has two Matching Grants available. Big Timber is looking at the possibility of one of them and PDG Lary will be attending their meeting on the 8th. He will also be visiting with the Shepherd Lions on the 14th, the Billings Heights on the 15th, the Laurel Lions on the 17th and possibly the Winnett and Roundup Lions on the 22nd. On the 23rd PIP Patti Hill will have a zoom meeting to give Grant updates including the new Vision Grant Program. He hopes to attend the next District Cabinet Meeting. Mike T added that he has met with Cut Bank and is scheduled to visit Ennis on the 9th. He

is also working with Cascade to set up a visit. Mike is working on a program to those clubs and the district that have a lot of money sitting in the bank. He would love to have the district lead this program so that he can pass that information on to the clubs – specifically to donate at least \$5,000 which opens up an immediate 15% (\$750 for a \$5,000 donation) back in a DCG grant from LCIF. When he does his club visits, he’s asking for money from clubs based on their financial condition and he recognizes that not all clubs can afford to do that. Raleigh agreed with this recommendation. Jack asked for clarification and discussion followed. Richard noted that it feels like Mike T is “strong arming” clubs and the district. Mike T assured him that he doesn’t strong arm the clubs and makes note of their finances prior to even suggesting the donation. However, he is definitely strong arming the district because he feels that the district needs to support its foundation in this manner and be an example to those clubs who can afford it.

Mike T moved for the district to donate \$5,000 to LCIF and Steve seconded the motion. Steve confirmed that this isn’t in the budget and asked if we need to refer this to the budget committee first? Mike C noted that this isn’t in the policy manual. Mike T noted that we won’t have everything in the budget. Raleigh asked PID Ben for his comments. Ben noted that this has come up many times and he agreed that there is nothing in our policy and bylaws that would keep us from doing this. However, there is an “unwritten” policy that the funds would be used for district. Mike C pointed out that there isn’t anything for an “unwritten” policy. Peggy noted that because of the benefits that our district receives from LCIF, that this donation wouldn’t even go against the “unwritten” policy. Jack asked if we need to have a policy change. Raleigh noted that there is nothing from LCI Legal’s point of view to preclude us from donating. Dennis noted that we have eight other endorsed projects and feels that they would all be worthy of receiving support from the district. Richard feels that the clubs are not very happy with the district and doesn’t feel this would be viewed favorably. Jim noted that this is the only endorsed project that gives back to the district. He favors doing something like this. Mike T agreed to amend the motion to include that it is a one-time donation for this year. Steve seconded the amendment. Jack asked and received confirmation that the district has funds for the donation. Raleigh did a roll call vote and the motion failed.

- b. Club Health Assessment – August Report – Raleigh pointed out the length of many club president rotations is very long and is concerned about the club being stagnant. Membership is currently at a - 2. Steve confirmed that the account balances are club balances owing LCI.
- c. Club Officer Training – Mike C reported that we will do another zoom club officer training although he hasn’t confirmed details with his team. He noted that we redid the secretary training and broke it into two segments including a new video of the Lion Portal. Raleigh confirmed that if officers do the training in the Lion Portal, that training will automatically be recorded. Mike C confirmed that he has reported all of the district officer training that has been completed.
- d. Appoint 3rd Vice District Governor –Raleigh noted that the policy manual was changed to include a 3rd Vice District Governor even though it isn’t acknowledged by LCI. The advisory committee has picked Gary Bissell. Richard asked why this is being appointed and not going through the election process that the other DG’s go through. Raleigh noted that this pilot program does not guarantee that the 3rd would move up to 2nd automatically. Mike T noted that this policy was given to the policy committee and was approved at the July cabinet meeting and is in the current policy manual. Richard feels that the 3rd VDG should have to run in an election. Steve read the policy. Steve moved to appoint Lion Gary Bissell to 3rd VDG. Mike T seconded the motion. Motion passed by majority vote.

- e. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Steve reported that the page has been updated since July and has increased our views. Peggy noted that the views on the website have increased exponentially. Steve also noted he most popular area of the website has been under “About Us”/Traditional Words which includes the Lions Creed, Prayers, toasts and the pledge of allegiance.
- f. 2025 District Convention – Raleigh noted that everything is set up with the Delta hotel. Dan is still waiting for the food costs which we need in order to determine the registration fees.

Steve went back to **item 5** to complete the action required for the Executive Meeting to close the LCIF Hunger Project Grant (see attached minutes). Steve moved to adopt the action of the executive committee. Mike T. seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- g. Approve the District Endorsed Projects – Lion Peggy read the list of the nine endorsed projects. Mike T asked what being an endorsed project does for these groups. Discussion followed regarding the process and an explanation of how the district has vetted the groups and therefore, the clubs can feel that their donations will be utilized correctly. Mike C moved to approve these endorsed projects for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and Dennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business

- a. Date of District Dues – Steve reported that he’s been asked by Club’s why we bill in January instead of in July as LCI does. The district bases the dues on the November membership rolls. Steve doesn’t care but wanted an explanation that he can pass on when asked the question. Mike C noted that LCI bills twice during the year in July and December. Mike T reported that this was done during his term because the clubs were confused about paying dues twice (once to LCI and once to the District in July). Steve thanked the group for the clarification.
- b. Membership and Marketing Proposal (see attached) - Raleigh noted that International President Fabricio is really pushing forming new clubs. Based on his travels, Raleigh feels that we need to do an entire revamp of the district’s processes to form new clubs and asked Steve to present his proposal to use a professional marketing agency to build membership (see attached). Steve noted that we are probably closer to \$120K (vs \$135K in proposal) over the next few years and reported that this proposal includes some hard advertising and has a paid position to assist in growing our membership. Raleigh reviewed the membership overview. Richard noted that he didn’t have a chance to review the proposal and Raleigh assured him that this is just a proposal and won’t be voted on today. Richard asked about the \$5,000 proposed in the budget already and Raleigh clarified that this was a grant that was applied for. Mike T noted that in a report that was given at a convention he attended, in most clubs the new members are generated by only one or two members of the club. He feels that doing a marketing campaign that will reach all of the population in Montana will be more effective than what the clubs are currently doing. Raleigh reiterated that this is a proposal and he asked that everyone review this over the next few months so that we can move it further along in January. Jack noted that he agrees with the general proposal and that 10 years ago he was DG and they tried to get a club formed in Lewistown and it did not succeed. He said that getting community involvement is critical to being successful. Raleigh is also asking that every club have a member that becomes a Guiding Lion. He has a trainer in Alberta who is willing to do zoom training. We have to have a culture change because we aren’t recruiting new lions. Delaware is bringing in lots of new clubs with young members. This will be on the January agenda.

7. Officer Reports

- a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations – Raleigh reported that he’s done most of his and will schedule the Billings Heights visit. He has a scheduling conflict with Missoula and VDG Jon will pick up that visit for him.

VDG Corinna has visited a handful of clubs – Lion Gary came with her to Big Timber. Steve noted that the forum being used to compile the notes from every club visit is going well. Richard asked if that could be available to him as they would really assist the GMT and Steve answered that Richard can be added. Gary has lined up three visits to Forsyth, Laurel and Joliet.

- b. Administrator/Secretary’s Report – Peggy reported that there are still two clubs who have not responded to any of her contacts regarding new officers for 2024-25: Denton & Plains. In addition, five clubs have not completed entering all of their officers and currently list only their club secretary: Fort Benton, Great Falls, Nashua, Scobey, and Whitefish. Multiple attempts have been made with the secretaries to complete this process. Per action taken at the July cabinet meeting, the emails previously listed on the directories have been removed from the directories. In addition, the menu options were updated following the leadership training to make the directory easier to get to by pulling it out of the “Contact Us” section and putting it on the top bar. Peg offered a big “Thank You” to Steve for updating it immediately! Peg reported that there has been a much higher rate of usage of the “Contact Us” section since providing the menu options to contact the various district officers instead of just the District Governor. The Eye Glass project information is on the “Donate” page. The revamped secretary videos are on the website under training/resources and the “Events” and newsletter both include the list of future USA/Canada Forums and International Conventions provided by PID Ben and the change from Mexico City to Orlando has been made on the website and will be noted in future newsletters.

c. Zone/Region Reports

Margaret – Zone 3 Reported that she has visited with Adrian with Eureka and they are working on a playground. They have adopted a highway and also got a Plus Optix machine. She also visited with Kalispell and the clubs are back meeting twice a month. They are working on their donations to various groups that they support. Margaret had a booth at the fair. She had those interested complete a survey and got over 100 responses of folks interested in Lions noting that Columbia Falls got two new members from the booth. The biggest issue was meeting times and she’s hoping to start a branch club that would meet at a different time. She reviewed a variety of other projects being done in her zone and noted that a zone meeting is scheduled for October 2.

8. Committee Reports – Raleigh would like to have all of the committees get more members to assist with their work.

- a. GET – Brian is working on a letter to send to club presidents and marketing chairs. Brian offered to assist Margaret with a branch club in Kalispell. Richard suggested that we reach out to diabetics that might be interested in branch clubs specializing in Diabetes.
- b. GMT – Richard reported that he visited the Butte Mile Hi club in September. They will start working on a branch club either at Montana Tech or other groups but they have some ideas. He visited with Missoula Southside and they want to get together with the other two clubs and have an event together to recruit for all the clubs. He has followed up with the clubs he has worked with and Joliet is the “winner”. Ray Carlson will be going to Plains and Hot Springs Lions clubs this month and possibly Dillon after, as they are more receptive to district assistance. Richard has heard from a

couple of clubs to do a diabetic meeting. Mike C reported that he tried to start an online Diabetics club that never took off. He noted that there are a lot of resources on LCI's website.

- c. GLT – Mike C reported that he felt the leadership training was very successful even though the numbers are lower than he would like, but the food and hotel costs were significantly lower than budgeted by having the training in Choteau. The reviews were the best we've ever had. There were discussions of having the next training in Lewistown or Fort Benton. Mike C also noted that Montana is supposed to host next year's VDG training. Lion Raymond noted that this is his first year as president of Fort Benton. They did a community gathering called "bridging Fort Benton". They discovered that there were 43 little clubs in Fort Benton. The feedback was "let's help each other" and a community calendar was created. They met with the school and presented a Leo program. Mike T noted that even though we may only get 8-10-12 attendees, we are getting attendance that we won't have without the leadership training. He doesn't feel that there is an option. Steve added that he got a lot of feedback from Choteau as it had a great impact on the community.
 - d. GST – Dennis reviewed his report (see attached). They have sent information to all the clubs that haven't completed entering their service projects, including a variety of resources for reporting service projects. He hopes to have reports from all of the clubs by the end of the year to share what other clubs are doing. Mike T noted that he always stresses doing the service reporting as it impacts LCIF. Raleigh asked if Dennis would also start working with the club service chairs.
 - e. LCIF – see above.
 - f. IPID Ben – complimented everyone for the robust meeting that has occurred today. He thanked all of the opinions presented today and he's very impressed with the membership program being developed. He noted that those who have been around a long time need to step out of their box and he's glad to be part of the district. Raleigh added that he appreciates the spirited conversation today and everyone's thoughtfulness.
9. Next meeting: January 11, 2024 at 10:30am – VIA ZOOM – Raleigh asked Mike C to set up the zoom meeting.
 10. For the good of the order – Jack is working with the MTSDB to put in a new playground
 11. Adjournment – Steve moved and Mike T seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:04pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin
District 37 Administrator/Secretary 10/5/24