

# District Newsletter

April  
2025

DG Raleigh Peck  
1<sup>st</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen  
2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Jon Kimble  
3<sup>rd</sup> VDG Gary Bissell  
[montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org)

## What's Inside the Newsletter?

P. 1-2	DG Raleigh Peck Message	P. 12	Endorsed Projects
P. 2-3	1stVDG Corinna Christensen	P. 13	Official Call for Election
P. 4	IP Fabricio Oliveira Message	P. 13	Club Delegate Formula
P. 4	GMT Report	P. 13	Online Registration Information
P. 5	GST Report	P. 14-15	Registration Form
P. 6	LCIF Report	P. 16	Nomination Form Hall of Fame
P. 7	MT Sight & Hearing Foundation	P. 17	Memorial Form
P. 8	Plus Optix Report	P. 18-19	Convention Bid Form
P. 8	Message from Convention Committee	P. 20	Special Notices
P. 9	Message from District Treasurer	P. 21	Websites
P. 10	Club Spotlights: Sunburst	P. 21	District Officer Contact Information
P. 11	Did You Know? Lions Trivia	P. 22	Club Anniversaries
P. 11	Leo Club Service Reporting	P. 22	District Meetings & Conventions
P. 11-12	District Facebook Page	P. 23	USA/Canada Forums/LCI Conventions
		P. 24-28	Minutes-January 11 <sup>th</sup> Cabinet Mtg

**Where there is a need, there is a Lion”**  
**From the Governor’s Desk – DG Raleigh Peck**

April 2025

## Lions of District 37: Get Ready for an Unforgettable Convention!

Lions, mark your calendars! Our much-anticipated District 37 Convention is just around the corner, happening May 2-3 in beautiful Helena, Montana. This year’s event promises an exciting mix of fun, learning, and camaraderie. Attendees will enjoy a historic train tour around town, and on Friday morning, the beloved Vigilante Parade will bring energy and spirit to the streets. We also need every club to bring a fantastic auction item—something that people will love to take home! Proceeds will support the Montana Sight and Hearing Foundation and LCIF, helping us expand our impact. And don't forget to join the PDG’s after-hours social for some extra fun and networking!

Beyond the festivities, we have a packed agenda designed to strengthen our clubs and leadership. Our business sessions will cover key updates, and Saturday’s Speed Learning session will provide an innovative, fast-paced way to gain insights and sharpen our impact. Plus, we have an incredible lineup of speakers who will inspire and motivate us to continue our mission of service. This convention is an opportunity to connect, learn, and take our commitment to new heights.

As we approach the final stretch of the year, let's finish strong! We are actively working on a new club in the Lakeside area, and we encourage all Lions to look at their surrounding communities for opportunities to grow. Where can we add a Club Branch? Remember, we only need five new members to start one! Let's work together to induct new Lions, load them into the portal, and ensure every club ends the year with positive membership growth. See you in Helena—let's make this a convention to remember!

Thanks for all you do.

**Yours in Service,  
DG Raleigh G. Peck**

## Vice District Governor Message From the Desk of 1st VDG Corinna Christensen

### Why Sponsor a Leo Club?

Lions and Leos grow stronger **together** through mentorship, partnership, and fellowship. Sponsoring a Leo Club is a powerful way to invest in the future of Lionism—by empowering young people to lead, serve, and grow.

With **Leo Club Awareness Month** just around the corner in **April**, now is the perfect time to explore the many benefits of Leo Club sponsorship. Leos bring fresh energy, innovative ideas, and passion to the Lions family. In turn, Lions offer guidance, experience, and support to help Leos thrive as community leaders.



Visit the [Positive Youth Collaboration](#) webpage to find tools that help foster successful relationships between Lions and Leos.



[Watch this inspiring video](#) to hear from Leos and Lions around the world about the impact Leo Clubs have had on their lives and the lives of those they serve.



[Ready to sponsor a Leo Club?](#) Our website provides a clear step-by-step guide to help your club get started. You'll be amazed at how rewarding it is to mentor the next generation of service leaders.



## Mark Your Calendars: District 37 Convention – May 2–3 in Helena!

I can't wait to see so many of you at our [District 37 Convention in Helena, Montana](#) this May! The Convention Committee has been working diligently to create a powerful weekend of **learning, connection, and collaboration**.

One special part of the convention will be our **Memorial Presentation**, honoring Lions who have passed. Please be sure to submit the names and photos of your club's departed members via the [Montana Lions Website](#) so they can be recognized with the dignity and gratitude they deserve.

---

### Looking Ahead to 2025–2026

As we begin to look toward the next Lionistic year, I want to hear from **you**. What goals, projects, or initiatives do you want to see at the district level?

Also, if you've ever considered getting more involved, I encourage you to volunteer for one of our **district-level leadership roles**. Whether it's serving as a **Zone Chair**, or becoming a part of the [Global Action Team \(GAT\)](#), **Global Membership Team**, **Global Service Team**, or **Global Leadership Team**, your time and talents are vital to our continued success.


Let's continue to Make Our Mark—in our communities, in our clubs, and in each other's lives.



**Yours in Service,  
Corinna Christensen**

Vice District Governor, Montana Lions District 37

 [406corinna@gmail.com](mailto:406corinna@gmail.com)

 406-570-6742



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

Dear Lion,

To ensure a thriving organization, we must continue to innovate and involve even more people in our service. One of the best ways to achieve both is by increasing the number of young Lions and Leos. This will help us reach our *MISSION 1.5* goal and set us up for a bright future.

So, collaborate with your club to ensure it's a welcoming, inclusive and energizing place that will attract young people – and all people who want to serve.

The next generation of Lions starts now!

At your service,  
**Fabrício Oliveira**  
International President

### **GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling**

Global Membership Team  
Global and Montana Membership - April, 2025

#### **SPEED LEARNING AT THE CONVENTION It will be fun and informative!!**

Are you unfamiliar with speed learning? At the convention in Helena May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be having multiple speed learning opportunities. At each table there will be a presenter with a topic that should be interesting to all Montana lions. The presenters will have both old and new ideas to help your clubs be great.

You should go to as many as you can. A prize raffle will be held for the Lion who attends the required number of topics. Each presentation will be from 8-10 minutes. My topic will be “ the art of creating leaders”. As Lions, we state that one of the advantages of becoming a Lion is that we train leaders. For a club to be successful year after year, we need to make sure that we are training members to become leaders.

I look forward to seeing you!  
Questions? Richard Gessling 406-425-3785

# GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - April, 2025

## **BENEFITS OF REPORTING SERVICE**

### **How do clubs and districts individually benefit from reporting service?**

- Reporting services helps transfer knowledge and best practices to our club's future leaders.
- Reporting service is a matter of local pride. Reporting puts your club on the map as leaders in your community, and it's an important way to share success with other clubs in your district and around the world.
- A high percentage of clubs reporting service is a sign of a healthy district.
- Reporting service allows you to become eligible for service awards.

### **How do clubs and districts collectively benefit from reporting service?**

- Reporting shines a light on how and where local clubs are making a difference. This elevates the profile of Lions Clubs International as a global service club organization.
- Service reports provide tangible evidence of our global engagement and impact to prospective partners of Lions Clubs International. These relationships strengthen the organization and yield benefits at the local level.
- People want to participate in real, visible change. Service reporting allows clubs to continually engage communities, tell stories more effectively and ultimately grow their member base.

### **How does reporting service benefit the people we serve?**

- Service data helps everyone understand the needs of communities around the world and now our Lions and Leos are serving those needs. Reporting service helps transfer knowledge and best practices to your club's future leaders.
- Service data enables Lions Clubs International to identify best practices than can be shared globally.
- Service reports show lions and Leos around the world are using funds from Lions Clubs International Foundation grants to serve their communities. This visibility encourages Lions and Leos to think creatively about their own projects and apply for LCIF grants themselves.

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 and report club service activities. Go to the: [www.montanalions.org](http://www.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". The click on the blue box that says "Create Service Activity". Follow the prompts to complete the report.

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, [pegto54@gmail.com](mailto:pegto54@gmail.com) for posting on the district website and district newsletter.

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.

---



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**

## District LCIF Co-Chairs PDG Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin

April 2025



Spring has sprung, it's already April, and I am not fooling. As I write this article, I noticed that my Lilac bush has started to sprout and it's snowing - stupid Lilac bush. But with spring's arrival, most clubs are already starting to plan on their big fund raiser for the year. That being said, please think about your foundation-LCIF. Maybe do an additional fund raiser just for LCIF so that when you come to District Convention your Parade of green amount will be even larger.

Thinking of Convention, if you haven't already registered you better get it done now. It's going to be a lot of fun. I for one have not seen the vigilante parade for years. Don't forget the officer leadership training, (President, Secretary, Treasurer) that will be presented beforehand and get a free night hotel stay if you register and attend the training.

**You do have a big decision to make!** Your LCIF co-chairs have a challenge for you! Mike is willing to have his beard and mustache shaved (special note: My wife has never seen me in our 47 years without a mustache) and Lary is willing to have his head shaved (not that he has that much hair anyway). We want to see which one of us can garner the most pledges and donations for LCIF. Bring your cash and place your bets!!

See you at convention!

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

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

# MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

April 2025

## Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2025 to March 27, 2025

- Applications Received: 14
- Assistance Provided: 4
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$3,909.04
- Applications Received From: Billings, Bozeman, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell and Missoula

## 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 PID 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.

## \*Club Contribution – CHANGE as of January 1, 2025\*

For over eight years, the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation has not made any changes to the club contribution towards applications. However, due to the increase in the cost of hearing aids and other services over that time, the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation voted at the January board meeting to increase all club contributions towards applications *from \$200.00 or 10% of the total cost, whichever is greater **to \$300.00 or 10% of the total cost, whichever is greater.***

Thank you for your continued support of the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation.

# PLUSOPTIX

**District 37 PlusOptix Update** – PlusOptix screening totals for school year June 2024 to June 2025: **31,063 screened with 3,974 refers. Great Job Everyone!**

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair  
314 9<sup>th</sup> St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; C. 406-253-1726: lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

## From the 2025 District Convention Committee

From Committee member Cory Sena

Montana District 37 theme is “We Serve Better Together”

Join over 100 currently registered fellow Lions members in Helena on May 2-3 to build fellowship, share in the successes of our clubs, learn from International and local speakers, and just have a great time!

If you are in town Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, join us at Speakeasy 41 to enjoy local Irish music.



Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, is a day of fun and comradery!



Take a hike in the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city park in the US, shoot some clay targets, watch a parade put on by the local high schools, take a trolley tour of historic Helena, learn fun details about the Capitol, and then put your green back on for the Irish Social and shell out some green during the Silent and Live Auctions!



Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we get down to business!

Listen to Helen Keller challenge us to be ‘Knights for the Blind’, listen to one of our Canadian neighbors discuss the ‘Queen of the Jungle’, see and hear about how Lions have enabled training Jackson to help his owner who is sight limited.

We will finish the night raffling off the MLS&HF UTV, enjoy a great meal, hear from an International Director and socialize in to the wee hours!

See you soon!





## From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

### Why Data Security and “Bus Proofing” Your Lions Club Bank Account Matters

If you are a Lions Club officer, you might already know how important it is to handle money responsibly. Whether your club raises funds through raffles, pancake breakfasts, or community projects, it is your duty to keep those funds safe. That is why data security and something called “bus proofing” should be part of your regular club routine.

#### What Is Data Security Hygiene?

Data security hygiene is like personal hygiene—but for your club's information. Just like brushing your teeth helps prevent cavities, good data habits help protect your club from problems like fraud, identity theft, or hackers. These problems may seem like something that only big businesses deal with, but small groups like Lions Clubs are also at risk.

Here are a few basic data hygiene tips:

- Use strong passwords that are hard to guess. A mix of letters, numbers, and symbols is best.
- Use a secure password manager such as Bitwarden, Keypass, or Lastpass to store login data
- Change passwords when officers change.
- Avoid using the same password for more than one account.
- Do not share login information in emails or texts.
- Enable two-factor authentication if it is available.

These small steps go a long way in protecting your club's bank account and online tools like email, QuickBooks, or cloud storage.

#### What Is “Bus Proofing”?

“Bus proofing” is a funny term, but it means something serious. It is the idea that if one person got hit by a bus tomorrow (or just became unavailable), someone else could step in and keep things running. In a Lions Club, this usually means making sure no one person is the only one with access to the bank account, bookkeeping system, or passwords.

This matters a lot. Sometimes, organizations get stuck because only one person knew how to log into the bank. That person might move away, get sick, pass away, or just forget the password. Suddenly, nobody can access the bank. That can bring club work to a stop and make it hard to pay bills, reimburse members, or file reports.

Here is how to make your club bus-proof:

- Make sure at least two officers are listed on the club’s bank account.
- Keep a shared, secure list of passwords using a tool like Bitwarden or 1Password.
- Store important documents—like EIN paperwork, bank statements, and bylaws—in a shared folder that is backed up.

Your Lions Club works hard to raise money for good causes. Taking a little time to set up smart data security habits and bus-proof your bank access protects that effort. It also helps new officers take over smoothly when the time comes.

It may not be the most exciting topic, but it is one of the most important. Good data hygiene and bus proofing make your club stronger, safer, and ready to serve.

# CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

## SUNBURST LIONS HAVE A ROARING MARCH!

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Sunburst Lions Club hosted a free **Pancake Supper** to the community and surrounding area. The club's tradition of celebrating Fat Tuesday started many years ago and even during Covid the club did a "take out" meal. After a two-year hiatus, the meal was put on for FREE (as opposed to a free will offering) and yet our generous community still left money on the table which more than covered the cost of groceries. Another wonderful use of our Sunburst Community Center!

The Club's **Annual Birthday/Anniversary calendar** was available for pick up to all who came to the dinner and many club members deliver the rest.



On March 15<sup>th</sup>, twenty-three North Toole County High School students and five adults attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Prom Dinner**. The meal was prepared and served by a dedicated group of lions who put in over 80 hours to provide a beautiful setting at the Sunburst Methodist Church complete with china and crystal on the tables and decorations honoring the western theme of this year's prom. Salad, French Onion soup, Prime Rib and Stuffed Salmon, baked mashed potatoes, a roasted vegetable medley topped off with tiramisu and raspberry sweet cream desserts were the menu selections. The pastor and his wife joined in the fun.

(Go to the Sunburst Lions Facebook Page for more information)



## DID YOU KNOW? LIONS TRIVIA

### APRIL IS LEO AWARENESS MONTH

Here are five ways to celebrate April Leo Awareness Month:

1. Share Leo Stories on your **Social Media**
2. Attend **Online Leo Training Webinars** – April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Leo Advisory Panel will be hosting it's annual Leo Advisory Panel Symposium
3. Host a **New Member Induction Ceremony** on World Induction Day (the last Saturday in April)
4. Do a **Service Project and report it (see below)**
5. Recognize Leo Members for their hard work with **Leo Certificates of Recognition** available from the Lions Club Supplies Store.



## 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](mailto: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 MT Lions Clubs of District 37!

### DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

**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:crafty CPA@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; [jrjohnke@gmail.com](mailto:jrjohnke@gmail.com); [www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog](http://www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog) and PDG 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 School for the Deaf & Blind Foundation** – Lion Mark Willmarth, 220 38<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Great Falls MT 59404; 406-899-6110; [mark@visionwestmt.com](mailto: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](mailto:mikeacollins@bresnan.net)

## **OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE CONVENTION**

The annual District Convention shall be held on May 2 and 3, 2025 in Helena, Montana. The convention starts as registration commences on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Delta Hotel by Marriott Helena Colonial.

## **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. **(NOTE: for the 2025 convention, that date is April 1<sup>st</sup>.)** 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.

## **CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

The cost has increased to \$175 as of April 1st. The hotels must be booked by April 15th to take advantage of the group convention rates. Go to [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) to register online or download the registration form on pages 13-14 of this newsletter.

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

**ALL OF THESE FORMS ARE EASILY COMPLETED ONLINE AT**  
**[www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org)**

See specific locations listed on each form below.



**2025 MONTANA DISTRICT 37  
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM  
MAY 1-4, 2025  
Helena, 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	
LIONS MEMBER - Early Bird By 3/31/2025	\$150.00		2 Meals & Auction Social
LIONS MEMBER – After March 31 Starting April 1 at 12:01 AM	\$175.00		2 Meals & Auction Social
COMPANION – COVERS ALL MEALS  Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00	\$100.00  Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00		<b>Saturday Lunch Buffett &amp; Banquet Dinner Chicken Cordon Bleu</b> List Food Allergies _____ We will Attempt to Accommodate.
LIONS MEMBER - Friday & Saturday-Social & Banquet Dinner	Included with Paid Registration		List Food Allergies _____ We will Attempt to Accommodate.
<b>TOTAL DUE NOW</b>			

CONVENTION MUGS RESERVE BY 3/31/2025	\$25.00/each Payable at Registration	Indicate # of Mugs to Reserve Price includes a free beer chip
---	---	--

**PLEASE TRY TO REGISTER ONLINE AT [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org)**

**If you Mail in your Registration: MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO HELENA LIONS CLUB. SEND WITH REGISTRATION FORMS TO HELENA LIONS REGISTRATION, PO BOX 1077, HELENA, MT 59624-1077 or email to Lion Byron Beley [byronbeley70@gmail.com](mailto:byronbeley70@gmail.com)**

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

**CREDIT CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_**

**(“MONTANA LIONS DIST 37” will show as the transaction on bank/credit card statement.)**

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

**Registration Refund Policy:** Any refund request must be communicated to DG Raleigh Peck no later than April 18, 2025. Registration may be transferred from one club member to another, within the same club.

<b>Training Planned</b>	<b>Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		
Club Officer Training –Delta Hotel Offered <b>9:00am – noon</b> Free Montana State Capitol Tour 9am & 3pm	Club President Club Secretary Club Treasurer Zone Chair Roundtable	Included with Paid Registration. Thursday night hotel will be reimbursed if requested.	<b>Select Training &amp; Number in Party</b>
<b>Convention Events Planned</b> <b>Registration, Trainings, Live &amp; Silent Auction</b>	<u>Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup></u> Registration Opens 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM <u>Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup></u> Registration 8 am-10 am		<b>Select Event &amp; Number in Party</b>
Live & Silent Auction 6:00 PM Appitizers, Cash Bar Delta Hotel	Speed Learning	Included with Paid Registration	
<b>Optional Events</b>			
Friday–VIGILANTE PARADE 12:00pm Noon <b>Tour Train 2:30pm;</b> Helena Tour Train 1½ hr. tour of Historic Helena Sites <b>Free Montana State Capitol Tour</b> 9am & 3pm (also available on Thursday)	On Your Own  Guide Provided for Both	Tour Train: <b>Separate Fee paid at site \$11.00</b> <b>Minimum of 30 pre-registrations needed</b>	
<b>Golf, Trap Shooting, Biking, Hiking</b> Bill Roberts GC 406-442-2191; Fox Ridge GC 406-227-8304; Green Meadow CC 406-442-5750; Helena Gun Club 406-458-9920 Biking & Hiking Info at Convention Registration	*Weather Dependent	Separate Fee paid at site, call for tee times for golf and/or reservations at Helena Trap Club	
Local Shopping	On Your Own	Separate Expense	

**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: Lions Byron Beley 406-594-0126 or Tom Naegele 406-594-1833.**

**HOTELS –SET-UP your own reservations--- all hotels have a block of rooms under: MT State Lions Convention or a Code. Room rates do not include 8% tax or \$2/night fee. Hotels have Complimentary Breakfast Available.**

**Delta Hotel by Marriott Helena Colonial (CONVENTION HOTEL) 2301 Colonial Dr 406-443-2100**  
\$169.00 King or Dbl (+ Tax)

**Fairfield Inn & Suites/Marriott: 2150 E 11<sup>th</sup> Ave 406-449-9944 Till April 15<sup>th</sup>: \$160.00 King or Dbl (+ tax)**  
**Use Code: MLDN**

**Super 8 Motel/Wyndham: 2200 11<sup>th</sup> Ave –Helena 406-443-2450 Till April 15<sup>th</sup> : \$119 King; \$139 Dbl (+Tax)**

**Days Inn Helena/Wyndham: 2001 Prospect Ave 406-442-3280 Till April 15<sup>th</sup>: \$159 King or Dbl (+ tax)**

**La Quinta Inn Helena: 701 Washington Street 406-204-3934 Till April 14<sup>th</sup>: \$159 King or Dbl (+ tax)**

# Nomination Form - 2025 District 37 Hall of Fame

Must Be Received by the District Governor 30 Days prior to start of the 2025 District Convention which will start on May 2, 2025.

Forms can be submitted online at  
<https://www.montanalions.org/hall-of-fame-nomination/>

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.



# MEMORIAL FORM

Forms can be submitted online at  
<https://www.montanalions.org/memorial-necrology-service/>

The chairs for the Memorial/Necrology Service at the District's annual convention are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_

# DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION BID FORM

This form must be received by the District Governor, 30 days prior to the start of the current year convention. Forms can be submitted to:  
District Governor, 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).

**OR**

**Forms can be submitted online at  
<https://www.montanalions.org/convention-bid/>**

The district convention will be held on May 2-3, 2025. 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.

## 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](http://www.montanalions.org) under "Training/Resources". **THE TRAINING VIDEOS HAVE BEEN UPDATED WITH THE 2025 ZOOM TRAINING COMPLETED IN MARCH**

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:

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.

### 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 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](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com) or call 406-461-4206.

## 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.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Sidney, MT 59270; H: 406-488-7447;  
C: 406-480-5000; [raleighgpeck@gmail.com](mailto:raleighgpeck@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729;  
C: 406-570-6742; [406corinna@gmail.com](mailto:406corinna@gmail.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Jon Kimble; PO Box 1583, Seeley Lake MT 59868;  
C: 559-352-1455; [jkimble@wellhead.com](mailto:jkimble@wellhead.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> VDG Gary Bissell; 3921 S. Tanager Lane, Billings MT 59102;  
H: 406-694-3792; [g\\_bissell@yahoo.com](mailto:g_bissell@yahoo.com)

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

## APRIL CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

347 years of combined service!

Superior	04/03/1952
Townsend Broadwater County	04/03/1952
East Missoula	04/12/1967
Choteau	04/26/1927
Dillon	04/26/1979

## UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MLS&HF Board Meeting	April 26, 2025 @ 9:00am – VIA ZOOM
District Cabinet Meeting	May 03, 2025 @ 9:00am – Convention Site

## MULTIPLE DISTRICT C ANNUAL CONVENTION

**2025 Multiple District C Convention will be held in Medicine Hat at the Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Auditorium  
April 11-12, 2025**

## DISTRICT 37 ANNUAL CONVENTION

**2025 District Convention will be held in Helena at the Delta (Colonial Inn) Hotel  
May 2-3, 2025**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE  
MONTANA LIONS WEBSITE AT  
<https://www.montanalions.org>**

**Use the link below to find out what Helena has to offer:  
<https://helenamt.com/>**

## **UPCOMING USA/CANADA FORUMS**

**USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUMS CAN BE RELATED TO ALL AREAS OF YOUR LIFE – NOT JUST LIONS**

**2025 Atlantic City, NJ – September 18-20**

**Registration is open online at**

**<https://members.lionsforum.org/event-5804241/Registration>**

2026 Memphis TN – September 3 - 5

2027 Huntsville, AB – September 16-18

## **LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE**

**2025 Orlando, FL - July 13-17 (Updated)**

2026 Hong Kong – Jul 3-7

2027 Washington DC – July 2-6

2028 Singapore -June 23-27

2029 Minneapolis, MN

2030 San Antonio TX

2031 – Helsinki Finland

# MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2025– CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Montana District 37 Cabinet Meeting, January 11, 2025; 10:30 AM; VIA ZOOM

## Attendees:

DG Raleigh Peck (Benevolent Dictator Raleigh), 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Corrinna Christensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Jon Kimble, 3<sup>rd</sup> VDG Gary Bissell, Lion Steve Dogiakos, PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF, PDG Lary Garrison,-LCIF, Lion Dave Falcon, Lion Marie Hajny; PDG Brian Gertizer-GET, PDG Richard Gessling-GMT, Mike Collins-GLT, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, Rob Shaffer – Zone 1, Margaret Baylinson - Zone 3, Bob Graves- Zone 8, PDG Melody Whitcher-Zone 14, IPID Ben Apeland, IPID Dave Hajny, Kim Tarplee, President of Winnet Lions, Naomi Valentine-President of Kalispell Lions, Lion Peggy Tobin (Note: PDG Dennis Kopitzke was on the call but couldn't get connected)

1. Call to Order by DG Raleigh Peck at 10:30 AM
  - a) Pledge of Allegiance
  - b) Invocation: PDG Lary Garrison
  - c) Introductions – Raleigh briefly introduced Naomi Valentine, President of Kalispell Lions to the rest of the attendees
  - d) District Governor – Opening Remarks – everything that we are receiving from International is focused on membership growth and retention which involves recruiting new members, young members, and starting new clubs.
2. Minutes: Motion by Steve, second by Mike C to approve the October 5, 2024 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve asked if there are any questions regarding the financial reports ending December 31, 2024 or his comments that he sent with the reports. We are receiving dues earlier than in the past. Raleigh asked that everyone check on both the Lions Portal and montanalions.org to ensure that everything is correct. Steve responded to Raleigh's question regarding a negative net profit, noting that as dues come in that will go positive. We have about \$25k outstanding dues. Gary moved to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Dave F. The motion to approve the financials was voted on and passed unanimously. Steve added that there is a better payment processing system for the convention (stripe) and we would be able to use it outside the website as well. It was agreed that this change would not require cabinet approval as the convention expenses are already in the approved budget.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 7 below – there were none
5. Officer Reports
  - a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations –Raleigh logged in a bunch of miles doing visitations and enjoying club celebrations  
Corinna – had some great DG visits and also lots of miles going west. She will go to St. Charles for DG training.  
Jon – Jon has completed all of his club visits except Sunburst who is having an event in the spring that they would like him to come for. He's doing online training  
Gary – Has three clubs left and his visits have gone well except Huntley Project.
  - b. Administrator/Secretary's Report – Peggy reported that she continued to update the website on a regular basis with directory changes, updates to the organization to include the 3<sup>rd</sup> VDG, finalizing the committees, posting club news as well as the newsletters for November, December and January. The website is continually evolving as we try to make it as user friendly as possible. She has fielded both phone and email inquiries that have come from the website contacts. A discussion should



probably take place as to whether we want the “General Mail Box” option to include all of the officers. Peg also noted that she has been working with Lion Tom Naegele of the Helena Gold Rush Club and has provided prior year convention programs, budgets, and other data that will be necessary in order to set the convention up on the website for registration for the 2025 Convention. Steve has offered to look into other credit card options.

c. Zone/Region Reports

Rob-Zone 1 - reported that he’s been meeting with his clubs – some are doing well, some are struggling. One piece of feedback is from the secretaries regarding the new Lion Portal and how difficult it is to navigate and find things. The zone is battling membership. Peggy noted that there is secretary training available on the MT Lions website. We are also planning online secretary training in February and will be training Friday morning at the convention.

Gary – Zone 11– has been visiting clubs and confirming that they are submitting their hours of service and working on the portal. Raleigh noted that about 55% of the clubs are entering service.

Melody – Zone 14 – Melody talked to Denton and they have many service projects and always invite new members. Winnet does an annual calendar. Roundup is very active and has had several projects and is talking to many potential lions.

Margaret – Zone 3 – She has visited all of her clubs and they are all doing well. Whitefish is the biggest club at 54. She said they have some issues but are getting them straightened out. They have changed the time from noon to 5:30 to increase their meeting participation (1<sup>st</sup> meeting went from 4-5 to 15). She presented years of service pins. She’s trying to get all the clubs together to do a service project.

Bob – Zone 8 – He’s been out of the district a great deal, but is going to try to get together with the clubs and get things in order.

Raleigh added that when you are out visiting in your zone, be on the lookout for lions that have the potential to participate at the district level.

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

i. GET – Brian reported that they are working on Mission 1.5. There are five different sessions and he is working on being a certified Guiding Lion. They would like to get a couple of clubs started so zone chairs, please contact Brian if you have any potential areas where a team could go. They are working on Manhattan as a couple of bank employees are interested in a club. In Bozeman, they are working with Best Buy who is interesting in having a cyber club for technology. Richard asked about getting Chester as a branch under Havre. Brian is working with Havre as they need a push. Brian is also working with a member that may work with George to get a branch in Livingston.

ii. GMT – Richard reported that some clubs are doing better and some aren’t. For us to be better as a district, we need more members to become Guiding Lions and we need more of the zone chairs to be active. The job description for zone chairs is the longest list of any position. We are jumping ahead of ourselves to get new clubs without having the resources available. Raleigh noted that Lary is our one and only guiding lion. We need some passion.

Steve asked what clubs need further assistance, and discussion followed regarding a Bozeman club, Butte Mile Hi, and Missoula Southside. There was also a club in Bonner. Raleigh got a letter from LCI indicating that Missoula Southside is officially closing. Bob got hold of the secretary yesterday, and she confirmed that their final meeting will be a recognition meeting in April. They believe that three of the members will migrate to the downtown Missoula club. Dave Hajny noted that he had a lengthy discussion with Judy Lehman, who said she was ready to quit lions, which would be a huge disservice to a long-standing Lion such as Judy.

- iii. GLT – Mike C. reported that we will do zoom club officer training sometime this month or in early February. We will do club officer training at the convention. We are starting to work on the leadership retreat, but there's a twist. District 37 is hosting VDG training in the next lionistic year that we could combine with our training. It has to be held where there's a major airport – Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell. This will be discussed at their planning meeting on Monday.
- iv. Dave Falcon – Plus Optix – the state is doing very well. He had 15 clubs out of 25 that are reporting – better than usual. About 26,300+ screenings and 3,127 referrals. The referrals have increased-up 2% to 12%. The northwest is almost done with theirs. He's been helping Scott D. in Billings who is starting to screen there. Steve noted that his club has not gotten a machine and asked how to get screenings for Choteau. Dave recommended contacting Cut Bank. Peggy noted that Sunburst usually joins with Cut Bank. Melody recommended that members in the club who are interested should participate (Steve noted that it's he and Bob). Dave F. said he will also assist. Melody added that she talked to an eye doctor who noted that children are experiencing too much “screen” time which is what has increased the referrals. Lary reported that Missoula Southside has machines that they might be willing to donate to another club. Steve will contact Judy Lehman. Raleigh recommended that our clubs invite other clubs to their meetings.
- v. GST – Raleigh reviewed Dennis's report (see attached), and he noted that he knows that many of the clubs that are listed as not reporting service are DOING service. We need to get them on the portal as service reporting is really easy and very necessary. He also noted that Plentywood and Superior are both receiving Mission 1.5 badges.
- vi. LCIF – Mike reported that he hasn't done much in December with Christmas, but will start club visits back up in January. He also reported that the district is over ½ of their commitment already this year. Lary added that we are at 56% of our goal and Mike and Lary confirmed that we have never accomplished that before this early in the year. All of the grants are available as we currently don't have any open grants. Last year LCIF reported that there were almost three weather disasters/month – Canadian cold snap, typhoons, landslides, etc. This year we have the fires in California and there was a super typhoon that hit Taiwan on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Raleigh challenged everyone to go to LCIF and set up a monthly donation.
- vii. Advisory Committee – Ben noted that we haven't had a meeting but will be setting one up soon.
- viii. Policy & By Laws Committee – Peggy reviewed the three changes. Steve had requested two of the changes and he reviewed them. (See attached). Dave H asked if the dues would be reduced by the \$1 tax and Steve responded “no”. There was additional conversation

regarding the cost of the convention startup fund of \$3,000. It was noted that these proposed changes are to clean up verbiage to reflect what is actually being done. Mike C noted that MDC's convention startup funds represent about \$50/participant and far exceed the \$3,000 that we are discussing.

- i. Steve moved and Jon seconded to accept the changes to Article 4, Section E: Correct "Chapter" to "Article"
- ii. Jon moved to accept the revision of Article 8, Section F: Convention Startup Fund. Steve seconded and motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Article 3, Section D: New – Operating Reserve – Steve moved and Corrina seconded to accept this new section to Article 3. Richard requested an amendment to remove the word "Board" and replace it with "Cabinet". Mike T moved and Mike C seconded to approve the changes. The motion with the amendment passed unanimously.

## 6. Old Business

- a. Updates to Policy Manual – see above
- b. 2025 District Convention – Raleigh reported that there have been two meetings thus far. It is tentatively scheduled to have the Delta Hotel in Helena. Helena is getting assistance from the Helena Gold Rush club and Townsend-Broadwater. They are working very hard to finalize the registration so it can be in the February newsletter. He noted that they are hoping for the registration fee to be at \$100. The international guest has been confirmed. There will be a leader dog representative there with his dog. Mike C. noted not to forget MailChimp for getting the word out to all members. Mike C. also reported that he is still talking to the Columbia Falls club for the 2026 convention. He will be meeting with them next week. Steve noted in "chat" that Choteau is still interested in pursuing the 2027 convention.
- c. Club Health Assessment – December Report – Raleigh quickly reviewed the report noting that two clubs that were nearing "status quo" are now ok. Richard noted that the report is lagging behind the actual activity that has occurred.
- d. Club Officer Training – Mike C – See Committee Reports
- e. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice District Governor – Raleigh is looking for names for the 3<sup>rd</sup> VDG position and also for any awards. Mike C. noted that Raleigh needs to form a nominating committee.
- f. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Steve noted that we are continuing to post and the page is going strong.

Naomi had to leave the meeting at 12:25.

- g. Membership and Marketing - Proposal – Richard doesn't believe that we are ready to do this yet. The District needs to get stronger - have active zone chairs and guiding lions to make sure we can keep the lions we have before we get new ones. Mike T disagrees – he feels that we need to start marketing or else we will just sit and talk about it. Lary agrees with Richard that until we get support for what we want to do, we are throwing good money after bad. We can hire someone but you have to have someone to follow up with the new clubs. He used Lewistown as a great example. The problem that we hit Covid, and no one could be with the club and as soon as they didn't have the support, the club went away. Raleigh noted that the physical distances between clubs makes the support very difficult. Lary feels that if we find an area to build new clubs, we should focus on just

two or three locations – it can't be district wide initially, and we need at least two guiding lions for each new club. Dave H. 3<sup>rd</sup> page of the proposal – Membership Overview – was questioning the numbers and Steve noted that he pulled the numbers right out of LCI. Steve described the \$50,000 as being a sub-contractor and the cost would include travel expenses, etc. He also suggested rewording the plan to be one-year with the option to renew for a second year assuming that it is being productive. Richard noted that the plan will need to be fleshed out more. Steve said that he would withdraw the proposal if it isn't going anywhere. He noted that we have a lot of money that needs to be used in our operations because we are a non-profit and we need to be spending down the cash we have. The operating reserve does provide a use of some of the funds. That's the conversation he was hoping to get going based on DG Raleigh's goals. We need to not be sitting on money, but instead put it back into our goals. Dave thinks the plan just needs some fine tuning. Peggy recommended a smaller committee to do the fine tuning. Mike C. feels that if we go out and start something, we will get people that will be willing to help, but there has to be a plan for them to execute. If we ask for guiding lions, they need to have a plan to execute in their area. Richard agreed. You can't start a club without a plan. Steve feels that we need to get some major marketing for the entire district to remind everyone of who/what Lions is...radio, etc. Richard agreed. "They" don't know about us".

Raleigh reported on the marketing grant that we got. Steve said that we've spent \$500 (which the district needs to match). Steve's recommendation is to form a committee to use the marketing grant. We need a more focused approach. Jon asked to be on the committee and Raleigh said that Corinna will also be on it. Steve noted that we have had two signups from Lewistown and six showing interest in Somers.

7. New Business

a. Growth meetings –

- i. Guiding Lions meetings, Zoom
- ii. Area G Growth Workshops, Zoom
- iii. Status of membership grant – see notes above
- iv. Peace Poster Contest – Raleigh noted that there isn't anything written down for the governor's duties regarding the Peace Poster Contest, selecting 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes, etc.

Mike C. reminded us that there needs to be a newsletter reminder to nominate the Hall of Fame awards.

8. Additional Items – N/A

9. Next meeting: May 4, 2025 at 9:00am – Convention hotel

10. Adjournment – Jon moved and Mike C seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:06pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin  
District 37 Administrator/Secretary 01/11/2025