

District Newsletter

May
2025

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”
From the Governor's Desk – DG Raleigh Peck
May 2025

Hello Lions,

What a beautiful way to welcome the spring season! As the days grow longer, our time in this Lionistic year grows shorter. I need your help now more than ever. With just two months left, I'm asking you to stay engaged, stay motivated, and keep reaching out. This is not the time to ease up—not in service, and definitely not in membership. Every new member brings energy, fresh ideas, and helps build the kind of strong, active clubs our communities need.

When I started this year as Governor, I had a couple of goals in mind: launch one new club and grow our district by at least 14 members. I probably should've shared that with you earlier. LCI's current projection shows our district finishing the year with eight fewer members than we started with—and frankly, that's not acceptable. With all the tools we have and the heart this district shows, we should be moving forward. That's the spirit behind Mission 1.5. It's not just about numbers—it's about believing we can grow again and doing the work to make it happen.

Right now, we've got a team on the ground in Lakeside, working to start what could be our first new club in ten years—and it's picking up steam. One of the most effective ways to support

that kind of growth is the club branch model. You only need five members to start one. Branches set their own meeting times and choose their own service projects—and many go on to become full clubs. It's a practical, flexible way to expand our reach, and it fits right into the Mission 1.5 mindset: meet people where they are and invite them into something meaningful.

We need Lions willing to be Guiding Lions, mentors, and community connectors. Help spot the places where a branch could take root, or a new club could grow. Let's turn the trend around. Let's be the reason our district grows stronger this year—not just in numbers, but in purpose.

And please—don't forget to report new members and service activities in the Lions Portal. That's how we tell our story and make sure the impact we're making gets counted and recognized.



Let's finish strong. Let's grow—together.

Thanks for all you do,
DG Raleigh G Peck
raleighgpeck@gmail.com
406-480-5000

Vice District Governor Message From the Desk of 1st VDG Corinna Christensen May 2025

 **Let's Stay Fired Up and Finish Strong!** 

Dear Lions of District 37,

 As we head into the final stretch of this Lionistic year, now is the time to **stay fired up and finish strong!** Let's reignite that passion for service and dig into what it means to be a Lion in your community. But what exactly *is* your community? 

Is it your town?



Your zone?



The entire district?



Or even our broader Lions International family?



The answer is simple: yes. It can be any—or all—of the above. There's no wrong answer when it comes to serving where you're needed most.



This is the perfect time to get creative and think outside the box. What new projects could benefit your area? What long-standing traditions could be reimagined? And perhaps most importantly—what can we learn from each other?





One of the greatest compliments a club can receive is to inspire another. I was reminded of this 💡 recently while traveling to a charter celebration with our neighbors to the north in Canada. Past International Director Dave Hajny shared that a club there had learned about the Ennis Lions Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt and decided to organize one of their own. That one idea sparked a ripple effect—and it's a tradition that many clubs here in Montana proudly continue as well!



Maybe an egg hunt fits your community. Maybe something entirely different would make a bigger impact. Either way, let's borrow freely from each other. As *DG Raleigh Peck* often says: do your "R & D" —**Rip off and Duplicate!** There is power in sharing, and there's no need to reinvent the wheel when Lions across the globe are doing incredible work we can learn from.



So, as we charge forward into these final months, take a moment to look around. What's working in other clubs? What could work in yours? What bold move can **you** do to **"MAKE YOUR MARK"**, as we were asked to do at the commencement of this Lionistic year from our International President Fabricio Oliveira?



Let's finish this year with momentum, creativity, and a whole lot of heart.



Yours in service,
Corinna Christensen
1st Vice District Governor
Lions District 37



✉ 406corinna@gmail.com

☎ 406-570-6742



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

Dear Lion,

As Lions, the service we bring to others begins at home, right in our own communities. Whether it's running a local food drive or providing clean water, Lions see a need and we meet it.

No one knows your community like you do, so what else does your community need? Can you bring in new Lions to help you do even more?

Remember, your service will not only improve your local communities, it can also inspire others to join you. Be sure to keep inviting new members, initiating new projects and finding new ways to make your mark.

At your service,
Fabrício Oliveira
International President

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team
Global and Montana Membership - May, 2025

SPEED LEARNING AT THE CONVENTION

It will be fun and informative!!

Are you unfamiliar with speed learning? At the convention in Helena May 2nd and 3rd 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 - May, 2025

As we move into the last two months of the 2024-2025 Lions year there is much to do to finish this year and move into 2025-2026.

There is the time of year that clubs should be electing their 2025-2026 club officers. Providing service to our communities is the most important function of every Montana Lions Club. Consider selecting a club Lions to serve as your Club Service Chairperson. LCI has a wealth of information regarding the role of your CSC. LCI provides resources such as the GST Toolbox and GST Team Toolbox.

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

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; 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.

Send information associated with your major service projects to Lion Peggy Tobin, pegtobin54@gmail.com for posting on the district website and district newsletter.

For more information 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
May 2025

"The needs of our world are many, but many of these needs will be met because of you!" I am confident that your generosity will inspire others, and together we can continue to make meaningful change in our world. The Foundation and our beneficiaries are grateful for your support."

Yours in Service, Dr. Patti Hill, Lions Clubs International Foundation Chairperson

"UNTIL THE LION LEARNS TO WRITE, EVERY STORY WILL BE ABOUT THE HUNTER"
An Old African Saying

Two District 37 projects completed with LCIF support during 2024 were equipment for a Food Bank in Bozeman and the purchase of eight new PlusOptix Screeners for 7 Lions Clubs. How many clubs and Lions have written or said anything about these projects? These grants were for \$94,000 and \$25,000 respectively- BUT - that is not the whole story and I am as guilty as anyone for only telling half the story. These were actually 50/50 grants which required matching funds from the sponsoring clubs.

We should be talking about \$200,000 and \$50,000 projects sponsored by both LCIF and the local Lions Clubs! Since 2012 when we in District 37 restarted the applications for matching grants District 37 has received \$547,000 which means Montana Lions matched that \$547,000 for a total of \$1,094,000 in project funding + \$60,000 in disaster relief grants which do not require matching funds. We Lions must tell the world about our accomplishments or the story is just about the need we met.

The needs of the world are many, and the costs of those needs increase every year. We are all aware of the annual increase in the number and costs of disasters that occur, and this coming year is expected to follow the same pattern which demands continued support. Montana projects will not be immune to these increases.

Please join PDG Mike Tobin and me in giving a monthly or annual donation to Lions Clubs International Foundation as well as a bequest in your will or trust to continue our service into the future. I do not remember who said this but it is appropriate. "Don't give until it hurts-give until it feels good". Visit lcif.org/donate or send a check to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL. 60523-8842 USA, or call 1-630-203-3836 or go to lcif.org.

Don't let the hunter (the need) be the story - Make the story about the Lions!!
Mike and I Hope To See You At The Convention, PDG Lary Garrison, LCIF Co-Chair

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

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

May 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2025 through April 26, 2025

- Applications Received: 20
- Assistance Provided: 5
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$9,855.12
- Applications Received From: Billings, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Coram, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Livingston, Missoula and Trego.

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.*

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation is looking to purchase an enclosed trailer to use to haul the current ATV the Foundation is set to raffle off as our yearly fundraiser. Specs for the trailer: 14' of 16' (preferred) long x 7' tall. If you have a trailer to sell or know of anyone looking to sell a trailer, please have them reach out to PDG Dan Sturdevant at 406.439.9297.

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

Plusoptix

May 2025

District 37 PlusOptix Update – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2024 to June 2025: **35,034 screened with 4,266 refers.**

Just want to say **THANK YOU** to the District for doing a great job!!

Please have totals turned in before the convention in May.

Thank you,

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair

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

From Dande-Lion - The Tail Twister



Hello: I am the Dande-Lion from the Winnett Lions Club.

At the 2024 Montana convention, I was the Tail Twister. I am so looking forward to all the fun that this year's Tail Twister will bring to the convention. Wonder if they will be part of the Speed Learning sessions as well.

See you all soon! PDG Melody

How's Your Club Website?

When I get invited to club and District events to speak and celebrate something with them, I prefer to visit the appropriate website relating to those Lions and their community. Recently after such a visit I was visiting with one of the club presidents about various project ideas. Here's his response:

Well I also googled you to find out something more about you. When I did, I saw the information about the Ennis Lions Easter Egg hunt. As a result, we just celebrated our first Easter Egg hunt for the kids here. It was so much fun and the kids loved it. We can't wait for next year's Easter.

Hearing how simple it was and rewarding for their club and community, it just makes me wonder what is available for all of us. We forget how easy it is to share our skills with each other. Is it time for your club to seek out what some of the other Lions are up to? Give it a shot. Lion Dave Hajny

From The 2025 District Convention Committee

Montana Lions District 37 Convention Program

Thursday, May 1

- **6:30 pm** – *Pre-Convention Social* at Speakeasy 41 (Irish music)
 - **7:00 pm** – *Early Arrival Registration* (Outside Judicial Room)
-

Friday, May 2



8:00 am–5:00 pm – Registration (Outside Judicial Room)



Officer Training Sessions:

- 9:00 am – Club Officer Training (Executive Room)
- 10:00 am – Zone Chair Round Table (Governor Room)
- 10:30 am – Treasurer (Executive), President (Judicial), Secretary (Legislative)



Optional Helena Adventures:

- 9:00 am – Capitol Tour or Mt. Helena Hike
- 11:00 am – Trap Shoot
- 12:00 pm – Vigilante Parade
- 1:30 pm – Mt. Helena Hike (second option)
- 2:00 pm – Trolley Tour



5:00–10:00 pm – *Irish-Themed Social* (Judicial–Legislative–Executive Rooms)

Includes:

- Governor's Welcome
 - Appetizers Buffet
 - Silent & Live Auctions
 - Irish Culture Demos
 - Presentation by Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
-

Saturday, May 3



6:00 am – Breakfast on your own



7:00 am – Registration resumes



8:00 am – *Business Session* (Executive Room)

Includes:

- Officer Nominations
- Helen Keller Presentation
- Keynote: VCC Christine Lank
- Presentations, Memorial Service, and Voting



12:00 pm – Lunch (Executive Room)



1:00 pm – Afternoon Programming

- Speed Learning, Town Hall Debate, and Bear Pit Q&A with Int'l Director
- MLSHF Presentation and Business Wrap-up



6:00 pm – Social & Entertainment (Legislative–Judicial Rooms)



7:00 pm – Banquet Dinner (Executive Room)



8:00 pm – Keynote: International Director Marcinkowski



Governor's Awards & Convention Close

Sunday, May 4



8:00–10:00 am – *Cabinet Meeting* (Governor Room)

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

LIONS EASTER IN SEELEY LAKE

In District 37 Seeley Lake Montana, the kids in town are waiting for the Easter Rabbit to arrive on April 19th with the Easter Chick to plant all the plastic eggs around for them to gather and break open to find their surprises. The eggs are stuffed the night before with the help of 20 Lions and about 6-8 Leos. It only takes a few hours but is definitely worth it.



Roughly 1,000 eggs are stuffed and there are special eggs that contain a piece of paper that says "Prize" on it. This egg is brought back to the base for each age group for a special gift bag and a 12" chocolate bunny.

The age groups are split up into 0-3, 4-6 and 7-9. We also have a scavenger hunt in another park for the older kids that like the challenge.



Seeing the smiles on all the kids makes it so much fun. Roughly 300 children come out for the event that we hold every year .



SWEET PEAS CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY


The Bozeman Sweet Pea Lions will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on June 3rd, 2025. We would love to have you celebrate with us. Please see the invitation below.



DID YOU KNOW? LIONS TRIVIA

MAY TRIVIA – MT District 37's 10th Anniversary

In 2015, a reorganization of District 37 between Alberta and Montana was completed, and Montana became Single District 37.

The FIRST convention for our new single district was held  in HELENA MT!

As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we will again be meeting in Helena.

Do you know who our district governors have been for the past 10 years? Just in case you don't, here's the list of those dedicated Lions:

2015-16 - Richard Gessling
2016-17 - Acting DG - Lary Garrison
2017-18 - Lary Garrison
2018-19- Dennis Kopitzke
2019-20 - Verna Love
2020-21 - Mike Collins
2021-22 - Mike Tobin
2022-23 - Scott Dornfeld
2023-24 - Brian Gertiser
2024-2025 – Raleigh G. Peck

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; 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; jjohnke@gmail.com; www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog

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 –Doug Robinson, President, 406-217-2857, 1711 Avenue F, Billings MT 59102; president@mabsop.org; <https://www.mabsop.org/>

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation – Lion Jessica Fausey, PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; lionjessicafausey@gmail.com; www.mtlionsshfnd.org

Montana 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

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 1st.)** 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.

NOTE: If clubs have "households", the number of members eligible for the delegate calculation will be less than the total number of club members. Each household with 2 members will only count as one for this calculation.

Please note that ALL club delegates MUST be entered into the Lion Portal by your club secretary or other official with access and letters printed to bring to convention. Here's a link to a short video which provides instructions for this process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcDtN5Cjmt8&t=28s>

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 to register is still \$150 and there is still time to participate in this annual event. Go to www.montanalions.org to register online or download the registration form on pages 13-14 of this newsletter.

**ALL CONVENTION FORMS ARE EASILY COMPLETED ONLINE
AT www.montanalions.org**

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 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". **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.

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

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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

3rd VDG Gary Bissell; 3921 S. Tanager Lane, Billings MT 59102;
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District Secretary/Administrator; Lion Peggy Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT, 59482;
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District Treasurer: Lion Steve Dogiakos, PO Box 631, Choteau, MT 59422; 406-203-4679

MAY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

511 years of combined service!

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

DISTRICT 37 ANNUAL CONVENTION

**2025 District Convention will be held in Helena
at the Delta (Colonial Inn) Hotel
May 1-4, 2025**

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

District Cabinet Meeting May 04, 2025 @ 8:00am – Convention Site

**REGISTRATION IS STILL 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/>**

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

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

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), 1st VDG Corrinna Christensen, 2nd VDG Jon Kimble, 3rd 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 3rd 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 (1st 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 3rd. 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. 3rd Vice District Governor – Raleigh is looking for names for the 3rd 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. 3rd 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 1st, 2nd, 3rd 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