

# District Newsletter

June  
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)

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

June 2025

Good morning, Lions of District 37,

As we near the close of this Lionistic year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for helping make it a strong and impactful year for Montana Lions. Your dedication to service and community continues to inspire.

While we’ve had many successes to celebrate, I must also acknowledge a few disappointments. As many of you know, we began this year with the loss of the Great Falls Electric City Lions Club, and as of today—May 30th—we have now also lost the Missoula Southside Lions Club. While it’s reassuring that many members from both clubs have transferred to nearby clubs, these closures still weigh heavily.

If I’ve had the pleasure of visiting your club, I do regret I have missed a few, you’ve likely heard me speak about the alarming decline in Lions membership across the United States—down by 50% over the past 40 years. That’s why one of my goals this year was to encourage the formation of at least a couple of **Club Branches**. Starting a Club Branch requires just five new members—far more achievable than launching a full club of 20. Of course, we welcome and need new full clubs too, especially since we’ve lost more than ten clubs since adding Eureka over a decade ago.

Imagine how much easier and faster our impactful service work could be with more hands and more clubs in every Montana community. That's why I'm issuing this challenge: **let's each recruit at least one new Lion before our year ends on June 30**. Better yet, ask them to bring a friend or family member along. New members bring not only extra hands, but fresh ideas that keep our clubs dynamic, innovative, and sustainable.

We cannot allow our District to continue shrinking. Let's take bold steps now to ensure our future is bright.

If you haven't yet met your incoming District Governor, Corinna Christensen, I assure you she is ready to hit the ground running. She will continue the work we've begun and help lead us toward a bigger, stronger Lions District in Montana—**The Last Best Place**.

Thanks again for all you do,

**DG Raleigh G Peck**  
SD 37 Montana  
[raleighgpeck@gmail.com](mailto:raleighgpeck@gmail.com)  
406-480-5000  
WE SERVE

## **District Governor Elect Message**

### **From Your District Governor Elect - Corinna Christensen**

June 2025

Dear Lions of District 37,

What an incredible time we had at the **Montana Lions Convention in Helena** this May! My heartfelt **thank you** to the **Helena Lions**, **Helena Gold Rush Lions**, and **Townsend Lions** for putting on a fantastic and well-organized event. Your hospitality, energy, and commitment to Lionism made for a truly memorable gathering. If you have not attended a convention - or have not been to one in a few years - consider attending next year in **Columbia Falls**. It is already shaping up to be a memorable event.

It is an **honor** to serve as your **District Governor Elect**, and I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to support **each and every one of you** in the coming year.

I want to circle back to a long standing theme that the Lions have touted:

**“Your Club, Your Way”** — with the full support of your **District Team** and **Lions International**.

As we approach the final month of the Lionistic year, I encourage each club to focus on two key things:

- ◆ **Finish the year strong** – Celebrate your accomplishments, complete those final service projects, and share your impact with your community 🙌📢
- ◆ **Plan for a smooth transition** – Let's set up our incoming officers for success by offering guidance, encouragement, and a solid handoff 📝🤝

Also, don't forget to share your **victories** and your **lessons learned** – both are equally valuable in making the next year even better 💡🏆.

📞 I am actively reaching out to fill remaining **Zone Chair positions**, so...

**Don't be surprised if your phone rings** 📱📞

And please be open to a conversation – Zone Chairs are vital to our communication, support, and teamwork across the district.

Finally, I want you to know that I am always available — no matter the size of your question, concern, or idea. 💬 Whether by **phone, text, email**, or yes, even **good old-fashioned snail mail** 📧, I'm here for you.

Let's move forward together into a year of purpose, pride, and service.

**We Serve.** 💙💛

With Lion heart,

**Corinna Christensen**

District Governor Elect – District 37



406-570-6742



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



## **President's Message**

### **Make Your Mark with International President Fabrício Oliveira**

Dear Lion,

“We serve” is more than just a motto. It’s a way of life for Lions and reflects our mission to the world. Lions are known for our dedication, service, kindness — for going above and beyond for people in need.

So let’s continue to do what we do best — serve our communities. And remember, with more members, we can do even more service, so invite others to join your club and the incredible work you do. This is how we will make our mark and keep serving those who need us the most.

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

**TO: Newsletter Editor, Lions District 37**  
**FROM: Immediate Past Council Chair, Multiple District C**

**Thank You for a Wonderful District Convention in Helena**

Dear Editor,

Please extend sincere thanks to the Lions of Montana for their warm hospitality and outstanding efforts in hosting the District 37 Convention in Helena this past weekend.

From the moment of arrival, it was clear how much thought and dedication had gone into organizing the event. The fellowship, engaging sessions, and welcoming atmosphere all contributed to a memorable and meaningful experience. It was a pleasure to connect with fellow Lions, share ideas, and celebrate the service we are all so passionate about.

The Lions of Montana can be proud of the exceptional convention they delivered. Helena proved to be a wonderful host city, and the event was a true success.

Yours in service,  
**Lion Brent Johnson**  
**Immediate Past Council Chair, Multiple District C.**

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

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership - June, 2025

### **GROWING LION LEADERS**

This will be a continuing discussion from my speed learning presentation at the convention. By “Putting meat on the bones”. Our Montana Lions District is not growing the leaders we need to keep and improve our district. This is evident by not being able to fill our zone chairs positions, Club presidents that are presidents longer than one or two years, and members holding club officer positions for multiple years. To grow leaders, leaders need to allow for succession, replacing one’s self.

Let’s start with club service projects. A new lion needs to be immediately included in service, not by saying come and help but giving them a duty, or by a club member taking them on as an assistant. Club Members tend to have the same duties over multiple years. Incorporating the new member might mean giving up your current duty, but hopefully you move on to another duty. Let’s face it, change is hard for humans. A chair of a service project should also change after a few years allowing another to grow their leadership skills. The replacement could be a vice chair for a year prior to moving up.

These small steps need to be continued to “GROW A LION LEADER”. I hope you catch my drift and keep moving from position to another and keep the flow moving. This will keep every member engaged and help recruit new members and keep the current members engaged. Doing this should keep your club strong and encourage club and personal growth. The International Lions state that we create leaders. Let’s make sure we do our part.

Lion Richard Gessling  
406-425-3785

## **GST Report - PDG Dennis Kopitzke**

Global Service Team

Global and Montana Service - June, 2025

All Lions, but especially those interested in global service (GST) should take time to review the information on the newly revised LCI website. The site provides information in the Member Resource Center associated with our global causes: childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, humanitarian projects, hunger, vision and youth.

To access GST information on the Lions Clubs website: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org); go to member "Log In". Once logged in, you will have access to the Member Resource Center. Go to the "Service" link where you will find our Global Causes; Programs and Resources.

Emphasis is placed on a variety of programs such as: advocacy for causes, diabetes camps, diabetes support groups, Strides for Diabetes, Type 2 diabetes screening, Lions Eye Banks, recycling glasses, eyeglass recycling centers, Sight First, Lions Quest, and youth camps and exchanges.

Resources are also provided in the Service Journey section: the service launch pad includes ready to go planning resources that help you serve the causes your club cares about. The resources can be used to help create, support and promote virtually any Lions service project.

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". Then click on the blue box that says "Create Service Activity". Follow the prompts to complete the report.

Service Tool Kit: The tool kit provides: quick start ideas, Club Quality Initiative instructions; club and community needs assessment, development of local partnerships, fundraising guide, why service reporting matters.

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



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**



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

June 2025

WOW, if you didn't attend the District 37 convention you missed a great one. Thank you Helena Lions Clubs. I want to thank all that attended and helped this District attain and exceed it's Monetary LCIF Goal (\$47,000) for the first time since we became a single District. Thank you all so much.

### **Lions Are There When Disaster Strikes**

Natural Disasters can strike anywhere at anytime. Communities throughout our District rely on Lions to assist in recovery efforts. Lions provide FOOD, SHELTER and HOPE. We have a tremendous capacity to serve, whether that's through direct service, training or funding through an LCIF Grant. Have a great summer.

Personal Note: Why does it seem the atmosphere is always cooler now? Your LCIF Chairs put out a challenge at the 2025 Convention – and it was accepted.



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

June 2025

## Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2025 through May 28, 2025

- Applications Received: 22
- Assistance Provided: 6
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$11,853.16
- Applications Received From: Billings, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Coram, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, 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

June 2025

**District 37 PlusOptix Update** – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2024 to June 2025: **37,299 screened with 4,522 refers.**

Great job all! Have a super summer.

Thank you,  
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](mailto:lion.dfalcon@gmail.com)

## 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 District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

## Budgeting for a Successful Lions Year

As we approach the end of the current Lionistic year, it's time for every club in District 37 to take a thoughtful look at the year ahead - and that starts with your budget.

Whether your club holds a major fundraiser, operates a community pool, or simply focuses on service and fellowship, having a clear financial plan ensures you can meet your goals, support your projects, and remain in good standing with both Lions Clubs International and the District.

### Why Budget Now?

District policy encourages clubs to finalize their budgets by June 30 so the incoming board can hit the ground running in July. A well-prepared budget lets you:

- Plan ahead for known costs like LCI and District dues
- Allocate funds for new service projects
- Ensure proper reserves for contingencies
- Avoid financial surprises

Even if your club operates on a shoestring, a budget provides structure, transparency, and accountability.

### What to Include

Here's a short checklist of key budget items your club should review or include:

- **LCI & District Dues** – Remember that District 37's dues include a per-member assessment, as well as contributions to things like the Friendship Fund and Convention Fund.
- **Officer Travel & Training** – If any members plan to attend the USA/Canada Forum or District trainings, consider budgeting for travel stipends.
- **Service Projects & Events** – Outline costs for annual or new initiatives. It's a great time to review what's working and what needs adjusting.
- **LCIF Donations** – Don't forget to build in a commitment to support our foundation.
- **Club Supplies** – Name badges, pins, or club awards? Plan for those line items.
- **Contingency or Reserve** – Even a modest reserve helps weather unexpected expenses. As a general rule, I recommend a reserve of 3-6 months expenses of your *highest expense months*.

### District Budget Preview

On the District level, I want to share that DGE Corinna, the District Finance Committee, and I have been diligently working on the proposed District budget for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. We're aiming for a balanced, transparent, and mission-aligned budget that supports leadership development, membership growth, club support, and meaningful service across Montana. For your planning purposes, the District Dues will remain at \$25 for the coming fiscal year.

We're excited to present it at the first Cabinet Meeting of the year for review and approval - stay tuned.

### Need Help?

If your club has never built a formal budget or if you want a second set of eyes, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm happy to share templates or meet with your board. Let's make this next Lionistic year one of strong planning and even stronger impact.

# CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

## Defibrillator Donation to Canyon Creek School from Billings Heights Lions

The Billings Heights Lions were doing Plus Optix screening at the Canyon Creek School located between Billings and Laurel. They were asked if the club could help with the purchase a defibrillator for their school as they did not have the funds in their budget. The school nurse said she would purchase a unit herself if no aid was available. The Billings Heights Lions decided that their club could purchase a refurbished unit for about \$750.

The school nurse purchased a two-year service contract through a donation to the club's foundation. This unit is capable of youth and adult usage and was delivered May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.



## Sidney Lions - May Service



The week of May 11 was a full week of service for Sidney Lions. We started out by giving away three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors.

On to help serve lunch for Boys and Girls Club of Richland County. Sidney Lions Track meet attracted more than 100 students, where they got to participate in track and field events of running, high jump, long jump, and softball throw, with lots of help from our Leos Club.



We topped off the week by awarding 65 students the Lions Scholars certificate, given to Sidney High School students who obtained a 3.5 GPA or better for the first three quarters of the 2024/2025 school year. This honors event is done in partnership with National Honor Society. We serve!

## DID YOU KNOW? LIONS TRIVIA

### JUNE TRIVIA FOR TAIL TWISTERS

For all you Tail Twisters in District 37, Lions Club International trivia can focus on the organization's history, structure, service programs, and key individuals. A Tail Twister's goal is to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at club meetings. Darcie Jo Jurenka with the Helena Gold Rush Lions was the Tail Twister at the 2025 District 37 Convention. She exceeded the Tail Twister goals - so much so that she received the Tigger Award from ID "Ski".



Here's a sample of some trivia questions that can be fun and at the same time provide great information for the new members:

#### History and Structure:

1. **Q:** In what year was Lions Clubs International founded? A: 1917.
2. **Q:** Who founded Lions Clubs International? A: Melvin Jones.
3. **Q:** Where was the first Lions Club International Convention held? A: Chicago, Illinois.
4. **Q:** What is the motto of Lions Clubs International? A: "We Serve".
5. **Q:** What is the name of the charitable foundation of Lions Clubs International? A: [Lions Clubs International Foundation \(LCIF\)](#).

### 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) – Heather Green; Deputy Development Director, 3404 Cooney Drive, Helena, MT 59602; 406-438-1749 or 406-413-7042;; [heatherg@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:heatherg@florencecrittenton.org); [www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

**Leader Dogs for the Blind** - PDG Jim Johnke, PO Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406-928-3311; [jjohnke@gmail.com](mailto:jjohnke@gmail.com); [www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog](http://www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog)

**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** –Doug Robinson, President, 406-217-2857, 1711 Avenue F, Billings MT 59102; [president@mabsop.org](mailto: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](mailto:lionjessicafausey@gmail.com); [www.mtlionssshfnd.org](http://www.mtlionssshfnd.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)

# 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!

\_\_\_\_\_



## **SPECIAL NOTICES**

### **ALL CLUB SECRETARIES**

**ALL 2025-26 CLUB OFFICERS MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE LION PORTAL BY JUNE 30TH**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL LIONS CLUBS OFFICERS FOR THE 2025-26 YEAR MUST BE REPORTED TO LCI NO LATER THAN JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>!! THERE ARE TWO METHODS AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETING THIS TASK.**

- 1. Log into the Lion Portal and complete the process online (see video on [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org)).**
- 2. Complete a paper PU101 document available at [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org) and send it via email or regular mail to the district secretary, Peggy Tobin, at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com) or PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROCESS, PLEASE CALL PEGGY TOBIN AT 406-461-4206!!**

### **ALL CLUB TREASURERS**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT LCI DUES WILL BE INCREASING JULY 1, 2025. THE INCREASE WILL BE \$2/YEAR (\$1/6-MONTH BILLING CYCLE) FOR FULL MEMBERSHIPS. NOTE: New members are charged at a prorated amount depending on date joined.**

### **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”.**

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 – 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;  
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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

## **JUNE CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

**128 years of combined service!**

Whitefish	06/01/2009
Winnett	06/05/1991
White Sulphur Springs	06/17/1985
Turner Hogeland	06/30/1985

## **District C2 LCIF Gala – Lethbridge West Lions**

**June 18, 2025**

### **An Evening of Fellowship Information & Fundraising!**

 **Date: June 18, 2024 5:30 pm-9:30 pm**

 **Location: Countryside Barn Event Centre**

 **103042 RR23-5, Lethbridge County, AB T0L 1S0**

 **Theme: Western BBQ – Dress in Your Best Western Attire!**

 **Featuring Special Guest Speaker: Past International President Dr. Patti Hill, Current Chair, Lions Clubs International Foundation**

 **Enjoy a Delicious Bar-B-Q Dinner**

 **Silent Auction & Raffles**

 **Supporting LCIF's Global Humanitarian Efforts**

Ticket's can be purchased at [montanalions.org/events/district-c2-lcif-gala-lethbridge-west-lions/](https://montanalions.org/events/district-c2-lcif-gala-lethbridge-west-lions/)

## **UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES**

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	August 2, 2025 @ 8:00am MT School for the Deaf and the Blind, Great Falls, MT
District Cabinet Meeting	August 2 2025 @ 10:00am MT School for the Deaf and the Blind, Great Falls, MT

## **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 – May 4, 2025– CABINET MEETING Chair  
Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

**Attendees:**

DG Raleigh Peck, DG Elect Corinna Christensen, 1st VDG Elect Jon Kimble, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Elect Gary Lewis, Lion Cheryl Lewis, Lion Steve Dogiakos, PDG PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF Co-, PDG Lary Garrison,-LCIF Co-Chair, Lion Dave Falcon, Plus Optix, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, Lion Dan Krum, PDG Richard Gessling-GMT, PDG Brian Gertizer-GET, PDG Mike Collins-GLT, Diabetes Chair, Rob Shaffer – Zone 1, Margaret Baylinson - Zone 3, Bob Graves- Zone 8, PDG Melody Whitcher-Zone 14, Tom Naegele-Zone 5, IPID Ben Apeland, Lion Peggy Tobin, Convention Committee members - Lion Cory Sena, Lion Jack Berry, PDG Jack Preston, Choteau, PID “Ski”, DG Janice “Ski”, Fairbanks AK, Lion Adriane Miller – Eureka, PDG Jim Jonke, Leader Dog Chair, PDG Marie & IPID Dave Hanjy, PDG Pauline Cooper & VCC Christine Lank

NOTE: several attendees came and went and not all were there at the beginning of the meeting.

1. Call to Order by DG Raleigh Peck at 8:00 AM
  - a) Pledge of Allegiance
  - b) Invocation: PDG Lary Garrison
  - c) Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and what role they have in Lions
  - d) District Governor – Opening Remarks
2. Minutes: Motion by Mike C second by Jon K to approve the January 11, 2025 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve asked if there are any questions regarding the financial reports as of April 28, 2025 or his comments that he sent with the reports. We are still waiting on Baker, Plains and Whitefish for payment of dues. Culbertson’s payment was sent but not received at time of meeting. PDG Richard asked for details on the GMT advertising. Steve noted that it was the Facebook project that we received the grant for and Steve will move it out from under GMT. Mike T moved to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Lary. The motion to approve the financials was voted on and passed unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below – there were none
5. Officer Reports
  - a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations –Raleigh picked up two more club visits. He will visit Seeley Lake the end of May. Corinna want to meet with Jon & Raleigh to discuss the last couple of missing clubs. Raleigh will set up a governor’s zoom meeting to finalize. Corinna noted that Raleigh has been great with zoom communications with his team and the zone chairs. Corinna didn’t have any visits – she has three left. She will be at Butte Mile-Hi next Tuesday to do inductions for three new members. Jon reported that he completed his last club visit at Sunburst which included inducting eight new members.
  - 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 February, March, April and May. The website is continually evolving as we try to make it as user friendly as possible. Peg also noted that she continued to work with several of the Helena Convention team and assisted with preparation and execution of the election process. In preparation for the 2025-2026 updates on the website for club officers, she intends to send letters, PU101 forms and stamped return envelopes to those clubs who did not report their officers on the portal in 2024-2025 in an attempt to get 100% reporting completed by the end of July. Short discussion regarding breaking up the newsletter to be during the month.

c. Zone Reports

Bob-Zone 8 - His zone meeting will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> in Choteau

Margaret – Zone 3 – Kalispell has put a lot of energy into the Lakeside club. She feels that there needs to be individual contact with folks who expressed interest. Jon noted that there was a conflicting community meeting the same night which may have caused lack of attendance. Mike C and Jon went to the chamber meeting in Lakeside that was the same night. There are also leads in Hungry Horse, Martin City and Coram. Raleigh recommended that they have our new club consultant, Lion Al Hedstrom from Bermerton WA, work with them. Margaret is also working at Flathead College with Destress Days. She has more than 10 students and are working through the steps to start a club. They have had two meetings.

Richard requested that the Zone chairs submit a written report if they cannot attend the cabinet meetings. Steve has set up a Google Form for collecting club visits that is available to Cabinet Officers who do club visits and Zone Chairs.

Melody – Zone 14 – Melody reported that all three clubs are doing beautification of main street. Roundup is very good reporting in the newspaper. Winnett is inviting all of the members of the other service organizations to attend a meeting and they will be passing out their trifold to all the attendees. She is thinking about a “ranching” branch in the area. There is another group in town who could become a Lions club as the insurance would be a huge benefit.

Corinna reported on the Fort Benton Leo club which re-started with four members and now club have approximately 11-12 members.

Tom – Zone 5 - Talked to White Sulphur Springs and they are working on how to hook up with Wilsall for a branch club.

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

- i. GET – Brian – Livingston is still a challenge. They are getting a lot of “I’m too busy” which has been a frustration. He has met with Best Buy and is working on creating a cyber club. He feels that Polson would still be a great location for a club even though they lost that club before. Mike C said they are currently working with Lakeside, Big Fork, etc. which are closer to Kalispell. Lary reported that George is working with a couple of folks. Discussion followed regarding regional GET resources.
- ii. GLT – Mike C. reported that we held zoom training in March with about 16 participants. We had about 20 participants at the in person training at the convention. The Learn Center did not initially work on the portal. He also reported on the Regional VDG training for the Western region which will be held the first weekend in October in Bozeman. This will push our district leadership training to next year. Each participating district will request their own grant to cover their costs. He is working with Melissa Washburn. The agenda won’t be specified until July when new officers are in place. Dr. Patti Hill has accepted the invitation to participate. ID Gary Roadifer will also be assisting. Cory Sena asked if our district leadership could also attend and the answer is yes. Mike C. also noted that The Cascade Lions club is doing Diabetes Walk on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

- iii. GMT – Richard has visited 11 clubs and they are doing well. Joliet is doing very well. He will be visiting Laurel next week. Raymond Carlson is also on his committee. Richard called on the membership chairs but didn't get any assistance from them. We need more people/leaders at the district level. We need to have leadership succession in little steps starting at the club level so that they eventually move into district leadership. On the plus side we have six guiding lions in training. Melody noted that we need to remind ourselves that we are doing a good job.

Pauline Cooper thanked the District for the friendship and Lions Attitude that came from our convention. "Keep on doing what you are doing". Raleigh thanked Pauline and Christine for their participation with convention. Christine noted that in Alberta, they are empowering their PDG Association to work with their clubs. A short recess followed for members to take a break and say "goodbye".

- iv. GST – See attached report. DG Raleigh reviewed the report noting that 29 clubs attended the convention which means 29 did not. Conversion occurred regarding Fairfield's high level of activities, but refuse to do activity reports.
- v. Dave Falcon – Plus Optix –Dave had already left the meeting.
- vi. LCIF –. With the giving from the clubs from Parade of Green, the auctions (split with MTS&HF) the beard challenge, etc. of approximately \$11,500 as a result of the club visits that Lary and Mike have been doing. Monthly giving was \$200/month and is now \$1,200/month and Mike has five new applications. Their goal is to continue to increase personal monthly giving. Lary noted that their total is approximately \$50,000 – 108% of their \$46K goal. Since separating into a single district, this is the first time we have achieved our goal. We have been receiving grants in excess of \$100,000. Kalispell is interested in a diabetes camp grant; Glendive is looking at a hunger grant with El Salvador; Seeley Lake is looking at a hunger grant for a new food bank. Lary asked the cabinet for a budget for mileage/travel reimbursement as they continue to visit clubs. Be sure to check in with Mike and Lary who can provide club members their individual account balances, etc.
- vii. Leader Dog – Jim reported that they have had a great response of almost \$8,000 to Leader Dog from Parade of Green. PDG Brian Gertizer will be a co-chair for Leader Dog. The winner of the Side by Side was Steve Edwards from Chinook.
- viii. Special Advisory Committee – no report
- ix. Policy & By Laws Committee – we need to reorder a few of the new items in the index to match the order they are in. Steve will be submitting changes of some of the convention institutional knowledge for future committees. ID "Ski" noted that there are different ways to set up convention chairs (they do five years in advance and the convention chair determines where the convention will be held instead of doing convention bids from the clubs).

## 6. Old Business

- a. Club Health Assessment (see attachment) – DG reported that Missoula Southside will be officially closing as of May 29<sup>th</sup>. Several members are transferring to one of the other clubs.
- b. Club Officer Training- See above
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice District Governor – Raleigh reviewed the issues with the previous 3<sup>rd</sup> VP and expense reports that were submitted that were incorrect and asked for cabinet resolution. Bob G recommended that the visitations be confirmed prior to taking any action. Lary noted that both Gary

and his wife have had health issues. He will work with them to get the reports straightened out. Dave H moved to write it off. Mike T seconded the motion. Motioned carried with 2 nays. Corinna noted that we have some candidates for 3<sup>rd</sup> VDG, but no commitments yet. Mike C moved to continue the program next year. Corinna seconded the motion. Steve recommended that the process be very transparent. Mike T noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice is in the policy and can be continued. Motion was withdrawn. Steve moved to have a nominating committee to bring forth names for the 3<sup>rd</sup> vice. Following review of the policies he motion was withdrawn as there is already a procedure.

- d. Updates to District 37 Facebook Page – Steve reported that it is going well – pictures from the convention have been posted and we are running ads thanks to the grant received.
- e. Approve the Marketing & Membership Committee to proceed with their “Request for Proposal” (see attachment). Steve moved and Jon seconded to submit RFP’s to get proposals. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. District Vests – Raleigh noted that vests are still available. Dave H moved to get more vests embroidered. Mike T seconded and motion carried unanimously.

## 7. New Business

- a. Approve continuation of Administrator’s contract for Tobin Trails Inc for 25-26. Steve moved and multiple seconds were received. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Approve Treasurer stipend increase for 25-26 year – Corinna proposed that Steve’s stipend go from \$200 to \$300/month. Mike T moved to put the new stipend in next year’s budget. Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- c. 2025 Convention Report – Lion Jack thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Gold Rush and Broadwater clubs assisting. Leslie’s Hallmark donated flowers for the head table. Special thanks to Cory. Dan added that we would not have had such a great convention without Cory. Raleigh noted that the convention team made his job so much easier. Cory reported that it took a team of 11 members plus many additional folks who contributed. He will attend the first meeting with Columbia Falls to assist. He has committed to assist next year with improving the process. He is willing to champion a digital filing system with a convention email to assist with future conventions.

Initial Report: 136 registrations – 128 actually attended the convention. Did have 4 cancellations 3 days prior and they received credit. 37 came to the pre-convention event (vs 10 estimated).

Friday events – Hike – 2; Trolley – 22; Capital tours – 10+; took BJ to the Trap Shoot. Officer Training – 20-22 attended. The Round Table for zone chairs – over 20 people came for over two hours.

Saturday am – 110 attendance – 126 at the banquet – Total revenue - \$35,850. Sponsorships totaled \$3,800; Mugs raised \$1,050. Auction Results: \$5,255 – live auction; \$2,455 - silent auction with more to process. Total auction: (\$8,200 total for square processed Friday). \$575 was paid to the auctioneer. Convention is currently \$1,300 to the good. Most districts fund conventions with auctions. Any additional funds could go into a pot for future conventions. Feedback – Cory did not receive a single comment nor were any surveys completed. Cory is planning to send out survey’s for feedback from both attendees and non-attendees. Final report to be submitted to District. Tom thanked Raleigh for all his assistance as well as Ben, Peggy and Mike C.



- d. 2026 District Convention - Columbia Falls – Margaret reported that there is already a committee and the first meeting is scheduled for June. April 10-11, 2026. Mike Collins will also assist with the committee.
  - e. Endorsement of PID Tony Benbow for LCI 3<sup>rd</sup> VP (see attachment). Ben reported that the board meets in October and they make a recommendation of their choice for the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP. Because he was in Australia and the convention was in Australia, and he was recommended but not endorsed. Mike T moved to support the candidacy for 3<sup>rd</sup> VP. Mike C seconded the motion. Call for question. Motion carried. Additional copies of the letter should go to Frank Moore, Jim Irving, LCI Fabricio leadership, AP Singh, Mark Lyon Patti Hill.
  - f. Endorsed Project Contact Information Requirement – Mike C recommends that the policy committee provide an update the policy to require a confirmation of current contact information at least annually.
8. Additional Items – N/A
9. Next meeting: August 2, 2025 11:00am following the MTL&H at 9:00am at the MT School for the Blind in Great Falls.
10. Adjournment – Steve moved and Mike C seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:45am. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin  
District 37 Administrator/Secretary 05/04/2025