

District Newsletter

DG Corinna Christensen
1st VDG Jon Kimble
2nd VDG Gary Lewis
montanalions.org

July
2025

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Montana Lions on the Move: Building on a Strong Foundation From the Governor's Desk DG Corinna Christensen—July 2025

Dear Lions of District 37,

Thank You, Governor Raleigh from Incoming Governor Corinna

As we turn the page into a new Lionistic year, I want to take a moment to extend heartfelt gratitude to our 2024–2025 District Governor, Lion Raleigh Peck, for his exceptional leadership and steadfast commitment to Lions of Montana.



Governor Raleigh truly was a ***Servant Superhero***

His vision and work ethic helped strengthen our district in many ways—but one of his lasting contributions is the groundwork he laid for improved communication. His implementation of consistent monthly Zoom meetings with Zone Chairs and regular Governor Team meetings created stronger connections, better collaboration, and increased support across the state.

On a personal note, I want to thank Governor Raleigh for being an incredible mentor. Throughout the past year, there wasn't a single time I hesitated to reach out to him for advice or guidance. His willingness to lead with heart, humility, and humor has left a mark on me, and on this district.

As I step into the role of District Governor, I intend to build on the foundation Raleigh has set. There is still much to do, but thanks to his efforts, we're already well on our way.

And Raleigh... happy fishing and enjoy time with your family! Just don't be surprised when I keep calling. I still have your number!

Mission 1.5 – Growing Lions in Montana

This past month, I had the privilege of traveling to the *Mission 1.5 Summit* alongside my superhero Governor Team: **First Vice District Jon Kimble** and **Second Vice District Governor Gary Lewis**.



It was a powerful and energizing experience. One that confirmed the incredible potential we have here in Montana to grow our service through growing our membership and clubs.

Mission 1.5, the mission to grow Lions membership to 1.5 million members internationally by 2027, isn't just a number, it's a **mindset**. It's about expanding our impact by reaching more people, creating new clubs, and strengthening our existing ones. And why, you may ask? Simply put, it comes back to our motto: **"We Serve."** And the only feeling better than serving is **helping others** get involved in service. Montana needs more Lions. The world needs more Lions.

YOU are Montana Lions District 37!

I want every Lion across Montana to know this: **You are not alone**. Your Governor Team, your Cabinet, especially your Zone chairs, and your fellow Lions across this district are here to support you. Whether you're growing a club, launching a new project, navigating a challenge, or dreaming big for your community, **we want to help**.

Please reach out anytime. You, the Lions of Montana, are the heart of this organization. You are our *bosses*, so give us direction! Let us know what you need in your clubs and communities.

....and don't forget to have fun!

Yours in service,
Lion Corinna Christensen
District Governor 2025–2026
[Montana Lions District 37](#)

406corinna@gmail.com

406.570.6742



President's Message

Make Your Mark with International President Fabrício Oliveira

Dear Lion,

As I come to the end of my presidential year, I want to thank you all for making your mark through your dedicated service. Every time you served your community and invited a new member to join our mission, you helped us continue our legacy as the world's greatest service organization.

While you celebrate your incredible accomplishments, now is also the perfect time to prepare your new officers for their roles and your clubs for the new year.

Congratulations once again on your achievements! I look forward to seeing how you continue making your mark as a Lion, every day, with every act of service.

At your service,
Fabrício Oliveira
International President

Meet the 2025-2026 International President

“Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead”

IP AP Singh



Incoming International President A.P. Singh, of Kolkata, India, is a practicing chartered accountant and has family business interests in automobile dealerships and has three children.

A Lion since 1984 and a member of the Calcutta Vikas Lions Club, IPE Singh has held many positions within the association, including district governor and council chairperson. He has served as GMT international coordinator for four years and as a member on a number of ad hoc board committees. He was chairperson for the 2017 DGE seminar in Chicago, USA, and has served as faculty at more than 50 ALLIs/RLLIs, RLLIs, FDIIs and LCIP certification programs. He has also served as multi-national coordinator for Campaign SightFirst II, CA leader for Campaign 100, member of the LCIF Steering Committee and as chairperson of the National SightFirst Committee of India. Vice President Singh has participated in and presented seminars at Area Forums in all constitutional areas. He was the co-chairperson of the Organizing Committee for the ISAAME Forum in Kolkata, India.

In recognition of his service to the association, Vice President Singh has received numerous awards, including multiple International President's Awards, as well as the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association grants its members. He is a major gift donor for Campaign SightFirst II and Campaign 100, and a progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Vice President Singh is accredited with the initiation of various service programs in collaboration with other trusts, foundations and corporate houses. He has worked on establishing a web-based Lions leadership development platform, a micro-finance program, and has organized multiple large-scale online events to keep Lions engaged.

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership - July, 2025

GROWING LION LEADERS 2

Growing a lion leader begins with the new member induction. They have decided to help their community by joining a Lions Club. They hear a bit about the International Lions founding and the international services during the induction ceremony. After they receive their pin, the entire club should make them feel welcome.

Next the sponsor or membership chair should have a session with the new member or members. This should be about the specifics of your club, how the club operates and the service projects, Montana District Lions and the International Lions organization. Don't forget about LCIF and answer any questions they might have.

Our "montanalions.org" website is easy and has an enormous amount of information that will inform them more completely about Lions. Tell them about the monthly newsletter and encourage them to explore and receive current news and information. They can read about what other clubs in Montana are doing for service and might give them an idea of a new service project for your Club.

They should be encouraged to attend the Montana Lions Convention. Unfortunately, I have heard clubs discourage attendance. I don't know why this is controversial as it is a wonderful opportunity to meet other lions from not only Montana but from other states and Canada. If they are reluctant to attend on their own, a club member should offer to attend with them and share some of the expenses. I found out how great Lions conventions could be by attending my first in Medicine Hat, Canada. My club elders told me to go. I went by myself with great trepidation. What I found is they have a lot of fun, raise a lot of money, and I gained much knowledge about Lions. I have continued to attend. I'm still learning.

JUST ASK" Your friends and new acquaintances. GROW your club.

Lion Richard Gessling
406-425-3785



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



District 37 - #1?

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

July 2025

Of the 8 single districts in the United States Montana District 37 has been #4 for the last several years while Hawaii District 50 has been #1 every year. But that may change this year.

As of this evening, June 27th, District 37 has \$2,125 more in support for LCIF than District 50 with only 3 days to go before the end of this Lionistic Year! This year District 37 has 4 clubs, Ennis Lions, Sidney Lions, Sunburst Lions and the Billings Heights Lions Club, that have qualified for a Community Impact Grant of 15% of their support dollars which they can use for matching funds or a community project. The Sidney Lions are also close to qualifying.

Our Lions Clubs International Foundation has supported District 37 projects with over \$120,000 this past year while we have supported our foundation with \$56,491.50 so far this year. Currently, we have over \$200,000 in proposed grants to be presented for approval. This includes 2 Matching Grants, and 2 Hunger Grants that we are aware of.

Lions Clubs International Foundation deserves our support and Mike and I want to express our deep-felt appreciation for the support from individual Lions and Lions Clubs over these past years. I would be remiss if I did not mention that only 5.4% of individual Lions and 59.6% of District 37 clubs supported LCIF this past year, while 17.6% of individual Lions and 75.9% of clubs in District 50 supported LCIF this year.

When was the last time your club arranged for a Lions Clubs International Foundation presentation of at least 30-45 minutes to outline the opportunities your foundation has to offer your club and how you and your club can support your foundation? **FIRST, BEFORE WE COME WE ARE GOING TO ASK YOU WHAT IDEAS YOU HAVE AS TO YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS AND WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.** Please understand that it would take that much time to adequately go over any one of the grants available to your club. Consider also that the time you give us compared to the time we give you with our presentation and travel to and from your club.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Lary Garrison
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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

July 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2025 to June 26, 2025

- Applications Received: 26
- Assistance Provided: 8
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$16,349.20
- Applications Received From: Billings, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Coram, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Livingston, Missoula, Townsend 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.

POLARIS RAFFLE

The annual raffle sponsored by the MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation culminated at the Helena Convention on Saturday night when International Director, Robert “Ski” Marcinkowski from Fairbanks, Alaska pulled out the winning raffle ticket. The winner was Lion Steve. The Raffle netted the foundation \$18,400 and represented the 3rd highest profit since they started the ATV Raffle. (The highest profit was received right after COVID).



Pictured to the left – MLSHF Treasurer, Monte Weissner, ID “Ski” and DG Raleigh



Pictured above – Jim Jonke and Lion Steve

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

WELCOME TO THE NEW LIONISTIC YEAR!

As we turn the page to another year of service, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to District Governor Corinna, First Vice District Governor Jon Kimble, Second Vice District Governor Gary Lewis, and all of our dedicated club officers across District 37 a successful, inspiring, and rewarding year ahead.

Your commitment and leadership make a powerful difference in our communities, and I look forward to working together to support the financial health of our clubs throughout the coming months.

Start the new fiscal year strong by working through this checklist:

- ☒ Review prior year's ending balances and carry over amounts
- ☒ Confirm all signers on club bank accounts are correct and current
- ☒ Reconcile year-end bank statements to make sure no outstanding transactions
- ☒ Prepare and present a beginning-of-year financial report to your board and club
- ☒ Ensure your club's annual 990/990-N filing is up to date if the fiscal year ended June 30
- ☒ Verify any bonding/insurance coverage for club officers, if required
- ☒ Check dues invoicing from Lions Clubs International
- ☒ Update your club budget for the year, including anticipated expenses and fundraising plans
- ☒ Confirm your membership roster is accurate to avoid paying dues on dropped members
- ☒ Review club governmental filings with the [Montana Secretary of State](#) to ensure good standing with state
- ☒ Familiarize yourself with the [Lions Club Treasurer e-book](#) and resources in the [Lions Club Treasurer Page](#)

ZONE & CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

Zone 5 Report – July, 2025 – Zone Chair Tom Naegele

June 11, 2025 - Approximately 30 Helena, Broadwater/Townsend and Gold Rush Lions and Family members attended the Helena Senators vs Great Falls Chargers American Legion Baseball Game on June 11th. This was a social, fund raiser and new member recruitment event. Approximately 750 players, coaches and fans attended. \$560.00 was raised in the 50/50 raffle with \$250.00 going to the Helena Senators American Legion Baseball Program. Helena Lion Scott Cromwell threw-out the first pitch and NO ONE was hurt. One new Helena Lions member was recruited and several others are considering joining Lions.



Great club interaction and FUN was experienced. Each club communicating their planned events for the summer months of 2025. The Helena Senators won the game 5-2.

June 26, 2025, I attended the Townsend Broadwater County Lions Club meeting. Lion President Richard Heida presided with 7 Club members, 3 guest and I in attendance. Funds were donated to Miss Townsend Rodeo and the 150 Broadwater County Youth Soccer Kids. July 17th is "Touch of Summer Event" and Broadwater Fair and Rodeo is August 8-9-10. Much work has been done in upgrading their club trailer for future service activities. Upgrade to the club's procedure and using the MLS&HF form for future local sight and hearing applicants was voted on and the forms will be upgraded a bit with the club's contact information. I did share the May Club Assessment information along with LCIF Melvin Jones Donation and Nomination and the Club Excellence Award forms. Their next meeting is July 25th at the Mint Café.

During 2024-2025 I attended 3 Helena Lions and 10 Helena Gold Rush meetings, but did not attend any White Sulphur Springs Lions meetings. I spoke to 3 members of the White Sulphur club by phone and/or email. I have committed to be Zone 5 Chairperson in 2025-2026.

Helena Lions Club has 34 members and is doing well and has also completed extensive work to their 2007 Trailer Food Trailer. Busy Summer July 4th Centennial Park Flag Raising event, Last Chance Stampede Fair & Rodeo with concerts, Elliston Lions Sunshine Camp work.

Helena Gold Rush is also doing well with 21 members, on meeting recess till September 4th, 2 MJF Awards in process, Helping Helena Lions at 4th of July and Stampede events, First Annual Corn Hole Fundraiser and membership recruitment event at Lewis & Clark Brewery August 10th, Carroll College Ticket Scanning in the fall.

Townsend Broadwater with 22 members celebrates their Charter Night on August 27th and Townsend Fall Fest is October 3-5.

White Sulphur Springs currently has 14 members.

Zone 8 Report – July, 2025 – Zone Chair Bob Graves

May 19, 2025 – Zone 8 clubs including Choteau, Fairfield and Sunburst met at the Senior Center in Choteau to share their club projects, ideas for future zone projects and pizza! Zone Chair, Bob Graves did a great job of outlining the goals of having in-person Zone meetings as it was the first in-person meeting that had been held in several years. The next meeting will be hosted by Fairfield.



Zone 8 Clubs: A total of 464 years of serving - 178 members strong!

Choteau – 98 years old – charter date April 26, 1927 – currently has 41 members

Conrad – 96 years old - charter date December 10, 1928 – currently has 37 members

Cut Bank – 95 years old – charter date December 6, 1929 – currently has 23 members

Fairfield – 85 years old – charter date February 26, 1940 – currently has 31 members

Sunburst – 90 years old – charter date October 13, 1934 – currently has 46 members

Choteau Lions Club Launches \$10-Grand Pool Payout Raffle to Support Community Swimming Pool

The Choteau Lions Club is excited to announce the launch of its brand-new fundraiser: the [\\$10-Grand Pool Payout Raffle](#). This dynamic new raffle replaces the club's long-running "Trip of the Month" raffle, which successfully supported the club's projects for over three decades.

The Pool Payout Raffle aims to help sustain and improve the Choteau Lions Swimming Pool while continuing to fund vital community Lions Club projects like park improvements and youth programs.

Here's how it works:

- Tickets are \$100 each or 2 for \$150
- A grand prize drawing for \$10,000 will be held on August 14, 2025

Two early bird drawings will add excitement and more chances to win:

- July 4th: a BBQ grill plus 50 lbs. of Montana beef
- July 31st: a CZ Redhead 20-gauge shotgun

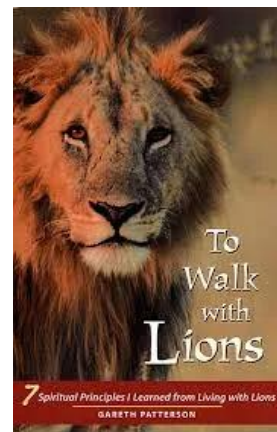
Local pools are more than recreation: they are community anchors, providing safe, healthy summer fun for kids and families. The Choteau pool is no exception. With the cost of maintaining and operating community pools rising each year, support from programs like this raffle makes a tremendous difference.

Purchasing tickets is easy! Tickets are available online at <https://choteaulions.club/10k-affle>.

DID YOU KNOW? LIONS TRIVIA

To Walk with Lions: 7 Spiritual Principles I Learned from Living with Lions Paperback — by [Gareth Patterson](#) (Author)

“To Walk with Lions” describes the seven spiritual principles of the lion: **Self-Reliance, Loyalty, Fellowship, Willingness to Care, Unconditional Love, and Courage.** Do these traits sound familiar? There’s a reason that we are called LIONS!



What is the main purpose of the Lions Club International?

Our mission is to empower Lions clubs, volunteers and partners to improve health and wellbeing, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian service and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding. And we fulfill it every day, everywhere we serve.

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) – Heather Green; Deputy Development Director, 3404 Cooney Drive, Helena, MT 59602; 406-438-1749 or 406-413-7042;; heatherg@florencewcrittenton.org; 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

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

ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

IF YOU HAVE NOT ENTERED YOUR OFFICERS FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR, PLEASE CALL LION PEGGY TOBIN AT 406-461-4206 OR EMAIL HER AT pegtobin54@gmail.com !! YOU WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE LIONS PORTAL UNTIL THIS ISSUE IS RECTIFIED.

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 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 photos) to: Lion Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com.

WEBSITE UPDATES

The new "Tri-Fold Generator" is now available for clubs to create their own club brochures using a tri-fold format that your club can use to share your information to prospective new members. You will find it under Training/Resources on the website.

The club-level website is still being offered by Montana District 37 at NO COST! If you don't already have a domain name, Deanna can provide one for a cost of \$20/year after the first year. If you are interested in getting a website for your club, please contact Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com or call 406-461-4206.

DISTRICT WEBSITE & AVAILABLE LINKS:

Visit the district website at www.montanalions.org to find a wealth of valuable information regarding almost every aspect associated with the operation of the district. In addition, the “Links To” on the district website will take you to the websites below:

LCI website - Look for: general information, service projects, membership, club improvement, online training, media and news releases, and LCIF.

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

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation*: Information regarding programs and sight, hearing and/or speech impairments.

LCIF* (Lions Clubs International Foundation) – Information regarding the Lions Clubs International Foundation and all of the focus areas – Vision, Youth, Disaster Relief, Humanitarian, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer, Environment and Hunger.

Lions University – Find out about year/round training provided by the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

***Please note that the district website also provides a “Donate” button to donate to MT Sight & Hearing Foundation AND the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).**

DISTRICT OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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

1st VDG Jon Kimble; PO Box 1583, Seeley Lake MT 59868;
C: 559-352-1455; jkimble@wellhead.com

2nd VDG Gary Lewis;

District Secretary/Administrator; Lion Peggy Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT, 59482;
C: 406-461-4206; H: 406-937-1215; peggtobin54@gmail.com

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

JULY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

68 years of service!

Billings Heights

07/23/1957

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

2026 DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 17-18, 2026

COLUMBIA 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 Corrinna Christensen, 1st VDG Elect Jon Kimble, 2nd 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 3rd 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 19th 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 14th.

- 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 29th. Several members are transferring to one of the other clubs.
- b. Club Officer Training- See above
- c. 3rd Vice District Governor – Raleigh reviewed the issues with the previous 3rd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 3rd VP (see attachment). Ben reported that the board meets in October and they make a recommendation of their choice for the 3rd 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 3rd 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