

District Newsletter

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

August
2025

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Montana Lions on the Move: Building on a Strong Foundation

From the Governor's Desk DG Corinna Christensen–August 2025 “Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead”

Dear Lions of District 37,

This Lionistic year, we proudly embrace the powerful motto of our International President A.P. Singh: **"Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead."** These words remind us that leadership and service are inseparable—two sides of the same coin. When we serve with heart, we inspire others to lead. When we lead with humility, we create a path for others to serve.

This is **not** about statistics. It's not about numbers on a report. It's about **people—neighbors, families, youth, and seniors—whose lives are changed through the kindness of Lions like you.** We are here for one purpose: **to serve our communities.**

People are not joining our district. **They are joining YOUR CLUB.** Your community. Your mission. And that's why **District 37 exists to support YOU.**

So here's the question:

How can District 37 help your club thrive?

What do you need—resources, ideas, training, a helping hand? If there's a spark of inspiration you're ready to turn into action, **reach out to us**. We are here to amplify your impact, not to manage your work. Let's work together, side by side.

And here's an exciting challenge from IP A.P. Singh:

“Add one new member to each club by the end of August.”

Just one! Think about that neighbor who's always lending a hand. That teacher who loves youth development. That retiree who wants to give back. **One new Lion can make all the difference. YOU can do it!**

Let's keep the spirit of service burning strong across District 37. Let's lead with purpose and serve with joy.

Together in Lionism,

DG Corinna Christensen

District Governor 2025–2026

[Montana Lions District 37](#)

406corinna@gmail.com

406.570.6742



From the Immediate Past District Governor's Desk IPDG Raleigh G. Peck–August 2025

Hello Lions,

As I begin my term as Immediate Past District Governor, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Serving as your District Governor has been one of the most rewarding and educational experiences of my life. From club visits to district events, it was an incredible journey—one that I will always cherish.

Over the last two and a half years, I've had the privilege of visiting nearly all **57 clubs** in our district. Meeting so many dedicated Lions and learning about the amazing service projects happening across our communities was truly inspiring.

☒ **Reflecting on Our Goals**

When I began this year, **LCI** set some ambitious targets for our district:

- **1 new club**
- **147 new members**
- **Net gain: -8 members**

I wasn't satisfied with a goal that anticipated a membership loss, so I submitted a revised target of **+14 net growth**. While we ended the year at **-4**, I'm proud of the effort and collaboration that brought us closer to success. It may not have been the number we hoped for, but it's a clear step forward.

A huge thank-you goes to **Zone Chair Margaret Baylinson**, who in the final week of June helped launch **two new club branches**, each with **six new members**. Without those 12 new Lions, our final net would have been **-12**. Margaret's leadership helped us turn the tide.


☐ **Strengthening Communication**

One of the key goals I had this year was to **improve communication** across the district. By utilizing our district Zoom account, we started **monthly Zone Chair meetings** and **monthly Governor Team meetings**. These meetings allowed us to share ideas, solve challenges, and stay better connected. I truly hope these sessions continue—because they made a real difference.

☐ **Recognizing the Backbone of the District**

Our **committee chairs** do a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work that often goes unnoticed. I want to say a heartfelt **thank you** to each of you. Your dedication and hard work keep this district running smoothly and professionally.

And to our **Zone Chairs**—you are the vital bridge between the clubs and the Governor Team. The role of Zone Chair may only require **2–3 hours a month**, but I firmly believe it is one of the **most important roles in the Pride**. Every zone deserves an active, engaged Zone Chair, and I encourage Lions who are looking to make a difference to step into this role.

 **Special Thanks** - To my Governor Team—**Corinna Christensen** and **Jon Kimble**—thank you. The amount of work you both put in this year is impossible to summarize in just a few lines. Your support made all the difference.

I also want to recognize two individuals who were pillars of strength for our district:

- **Peggy Tobin**, our **District Administrator**, who did so much to make my job easier.
 - **Steve Dogiakos** (Steve D), our new **District Treasurer**, who has been a phenomenal asset—not only with finances, but also as a leader in **social media and technology**. Steve, your contributions have helped modernize how we operate and communicate.
-

I'm Still Here to Help

Though my time as DG has ended, my commitment to this district is far from over. I look forward to helping the **new Governor Team** and supporting Lions across our district—especially in the **eastern region**. If there's anything I can do for you or your club, please don't hesitate to reach out. I don't have all the answers, but I've met so many incredible Lions who do, and I'm always happy to connect you.

Together We Serve

Thank you again for all that you do—for your clubs, your communities, and our greater mission. It has been my honor to serve as your District Governor.

Yours in Service,

Raleigh G. Peck

Immediate Past District Governor



President's Message Lead to Serve, Serve To Lead with International President A.P. Singh

As we begin our new Lion year, now is the time to think about your goals and how to achieve them. The key is leadership and service. That's why our message this year is "Lead to serve, serve to lead" — because serving and leading are inseparable, and each drives the other.

When we act as servant leaders, we act with purpose. As the largest service organization in the world, Lions are already leaders in service, yet we have so much more to do. We need to grow our clubs so we can serve more people, have more impact and create a better world for us all.

So, let's get this year started off right by working together to make this a year of strong leadership, compassionate service, exceptional growth and enormous success.

Together we serve,

A.P. Singh
International President

From the 1st Vice District Governor's Desk

1st VDG Jon Kimble—August 2025

Dear Lions of Montana District 37,

I hope this message finds you all in great spirits! I recently had the privilege of attending the Lions International Convention 2025 in Orlando, Florida. The energy and dedication of Lions from across the globe were truly inspiring, and I'm excited to share some highlights and initiatives that can benefit our district.

A key moment at the convention was the address from our International President, A. P. Singh. He challenged every Lions Club to expand its membership this month. His inspiring motto, "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead," reminds us of the power and impact we have as service leaders in our communities. Membership growth is essential not only for our sustainability but for our ability to serve effectively. Let's take up this challenge—together, we can make a substantial difference!

District Governor Corinna Christensen, 2nd Vice District Governor Gary Lewis, and I are committed to building on the vision set forth by Past District Governor Raleigh Peck. We are focusing on expanded marketing and enhanced membership strategies for our organization. This is an exciting journey, and I urge each of you to think of creative ways to invite new members to join our Lions family.

Remember, every new member brings fresh ideas and perspectives that fuel our mission to serve. Consider hosting community events—like service days or informational sessions—that showcase the impact of our work. Let's shine a light on the incredible difference we make together!

As we embrace these initiatives, I want to reiterate my enthusiasm for the potential we hold in this Lions Year. Let's strive for greatness, exceed our goals, and continue supporting one another as we serve our communities.

We look forward to visiting our Lions Clubs this year and furthering this mission.

Have a great Lions Year, District 37! Together, we can lead and serve in ways that make a lasting impact.

Yours in service,

Jon Kimble
1st Vice District Governor
Montana Lions District 37

Lions International Convention, Orlando 2025

District Governor Corinna

"Why on Earth Would You Go to Orlando in July?"



To meet thousands of fellow Lions from across the globe, that's why! There's truly no better way to celebrate the spirit of *We Serve* than being immersed in a sea of Lions united in service, laughter, and culture.

Over 750 District Governors gathered to complete our final day of training, which ended in an epic celebration—international cuisine, music from every continent, and dancing that tested both rhythm and knee joints. (Important note: DG Corinna has confirmed she *does NOT* have the "Moves like Jagger," and her knee reminded her of that for several days.)



Convention Highlights:



International Parade: A definite favorite, especially enjoying the parade alongside a new Lion friend from Nigeria. The joy and unity were unforgettable.

Special DG Luncheon: Zone 3 Chair Margaret joined me for a wonderful meal and leadership fellowship with DGs from around the world.



Leo Chair Victory: Lion Adrian Miller (Eureka) secured a coveted VIP seat after some seating chaos in general admission. A BIG win!

Crowd Spotter Extraordinaire: VDG Jon Kimble put his height to good use as the official spotter...helpful when navigating convention crowds.

International Dinner: PID Dave Hajny and Lion Marie enjoyed a delightful evening with Lions from Romania, Slovenia, and Poland (who, by the way, spoke excellent English and better jokes).

Nepal Lions Celebration: A jaw-dropping announcement from the Nepal Lions...113 new clubs formed within the *first two weeks* of the Lionistic year! Their secret? Dance parties, food, and service. Who knew that was the winning formula?



Most Memorable Moment:

DG Corinna officially became DG *during* the DGE ceremony...when her "Elect" ribbon was ceremoniously pulled off by none other than Lion Mom, Marie. A full-circle moment filled with pride.

A special thank you goes to PID Ben Apeland for stepping up and pulling the "Elect" ribbon for our neighboring District Governor, DG Peggy from Idaho. It was a kind and generous gesture that exemplifies the camaraderie and support that defines our Lions family.



And as amazing as the experience was, there's truly no place like home. I'm grateful every day that my home is Montana and that some of my best friends are Montana Lions.


With pride in service,
DG Corinna Christensen
District Governor, Montana Lions District 37
Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead.

GLT Report - PDG Mike Collins


Global Leadership Team Coordinator – August 2025
“Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead”

Dear Montana Lions,


Are you ready to sharpen your skills, ignite your passion, and step forward as a stronger Lion? Then **join us for the 2025 Wyoming Lions Leadership Institute**, happening **September 5–7, 2025**—and this year, it's easier than ever to attend!

 **Where:** Allen H. Stewart Lions Camp on Casper Mountain, Pine Bluffs, Wyoming


 **When:** September 5–7, 2025

 **Cost:** Just **\$150** – and that includes **ALL meals and lodging!**

This is one of the best values in leadership development across our Lions landscape. You'll spend three meaningful days growing with fellow Lions, learning leadership strategies, and discovering new ways to serve your club and community more effectively.

 As **International President A.P. Singh** reminds us, this year's global theme is:
“Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead.”

Now is the time to step forward and live that motto—whether you're a new Lion with big ideas or a seasoned leader looking to reignite your drive.

 **Your club may even have funds available for leadership training. Just ask.**
Investing in your growth as a Lion is an investment in your community's future.

Let's show our Montana pride and send a strong delegation! Whether you're preparing for a future club office or simply want to be more effective in service, this institute will equip you with the tools and confidence you need.

Registration is open now—and space is limited. Don't wait! Let's make Montana shine at this regional institute. [Wyoming Lions Leadership Institute Application Link](#)

Another great learning opportunity. USA/Canada Leadership Forum in Atlantic City, NJ Sept 18-20th. More information here. <https://lionsforum.org/>

In service and leadership,
PDG Mike Collins
Global Leadership Team Coordinator – Montana

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team
Global and Montana Membership - August, 2025

GROWING LION LEADERS 3

I've been describing what the clubs should be doing to make a Lions leader, but I will describe what a Lion member should be doing to learn how to be a leader in whatever endeavor you pick, including a Lion leader. You might ask why should I want to a Lions leader. My reply would be, you will gain the skills for all aspects of your life. You've probably already gained the skills that are necessary to fulfill your lifestyle goals. If so you were exposed and taught and demonstrated by many people in your life, a teacher, parent, or a relative or friend. It is time to pay it back, so they say.

At the recent district Lions convention, I learned that you can be a member, but when you become a leader you accept the responsibility to fulfill the duties associated with that position. Remember you still are a member.

Learning is something that occurs over your lifetime. This can be accidental, planned or both. Let's face it accidental learning happens haphazardly. Both good and bad. Planning to learn is so much more predictable.

You should plan to learn Lions Leadership skills in various ways. You can volunteer to be an assistant service chair with an eye to learning the ropes to finally become the chair. With the responsibility that is associated with the position. Then you can show an interest in being on the club's board of directors. You could, at any time suggest a new service project and lead that effort to serve others. By doing this you will gain the skills and confidence to be a Lions leader.

You could attend leadership training that the district and International both offer. Some are in person or online. District 37 website <montanalions.org> has online training for new members, president, secretaries, and treasurers. District 37 has a two-day leadership course that is free to all who want to attend that is a wonderful event to learn specific leadership skills and meet other Lions who want to also learn those skills. Watch for the announcement. It is usually held in early October. You can attend a USA/ Canada Forums, which are held in a different location every year. It is a three-day event that you can chose from over 40 presentations, two each morning and two in the afternoon. The subject matters are compelling and useful.

I encourage you to be not only well-informed, but learn the skills that you may become a Lion Leader. The current leaders are hoping to be replaced, and you, just might be the one to replace a current leader. The goal of the Leader is to train their replacement. New blood is always invigorating and life giving to any organization.

BECOME A LEADER

Lion Richard Gessling
406-425-3785



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



District 37 IS #1!!!!

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

August 2025

Congratulations District 37!! You did it!! Of the eight single Districts in CA1, we have ranked 4th in LCIF fund raising for the past several years and District 50 (Hawaii) as always been 1st. However, this past Lionistic year, (2024-2025) **WE RANKED FIRST!!**

District 50 had a goal of \$41,686 and District 37 had a goal of \$46,172. District 50 raised \$55,887, a 134% increase of \$14,201. We raised \$59,281, a 128.4% increase of \$13,109, beating Hawaii by \$3,394. **This is the first time in the History of District 37 that we reached our LCIF fund raising goal!!**

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH to all the clubs that donated \$5,000 to qualify for the Community Impact grant of 15% and all those that are making personal monthly donations - it all adds up!

I believe this next year will be even better. I look forward to visiting with each of you and all the clubs. You all do make a difference in the communities in our District.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Mike Tobin
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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

August 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 28
- Assistance Provided: 15
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$17,610.72
- Applications Received From: Billings, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Coram, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Livingston, Missoula, Sidney, 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.

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

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.

District Marketing & Membership - Steve Dogiakos

TURN YOUR CLUB INTO A CONTENT-CREATING MACHINE

When our clubs build a ramp, conduct a vision screening, or run the pool concession stand, those moments matter. Yet many neighbors still say, "I didn't know the Lions did that!" Entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk (folks call him *Gary Vee*) offers an easy idea we can borrow:

**Record one good story,
then share it in several small ways.**

You don't need fancy gear: just a phone with a camera, a willing volunteer, and the steps below.

1. Capture the Big Story

- **Pick one project.** Maybe your club's next food-box packing.
- **Hold the phone.** Film ten minutes: Lions at work, the committee chair explaining *why* it matters, and a quick "thank-you" from the recipient.
- **Keep it steady.** Rest the phone on a table or ask a younger Lion to hold it. Good sound and clear faces are more important than Hollywood quality.

2. Share the Whole Thing

- **Post the full video** on your club's Facebook page and/or YouTube channel.
- **Send the link** in an email to members who missed the project or to local newspapers looking for stories.

3. Create Smaller Pieces...One at a Time

You can turn that single video into several short items without touching complicated software:

1. **Audio-only version.** Most phones let you “save audio.” Email the file to members who like to listen while driving.
2. **Written recap.** On YouTube, click the three dots under your video and choose “**Show Transcript.**” Copy and paste the words into a club newsletter or the District 37 website.
3. **Short clips (under 1 minute).** Use the free “Clip” button on YouTube or ask a tech-savvy Lion to trim a powerful moment, perhaps a homeowner’s smile when the ramp is finished. Post that snippet as a Facebook Reel, Instagram Reel, or TikTok.
4. **Photo stills and quotes.** Pause the video, take screenshots of the best scenes, and add a caption like “*Service from the heart: Choteau Lions, July 2025.*” Share one picture every few days.

4. Stretch It Out

- Schedule posts ahead of time using Facebook’s built-in “Schedule” option.
- One Saturday project can fill your club’s news feed for the next two or three weeks.

5. Ask for Help

- **Grandkids, college students, Leos, or newer Lions** love this kind of thing; give them the job of “Media Lion.”
- If there's enough interest, I'll host a monthly "Office Hours" for clubs to check-in about their digital marketing question. Leave a comment below on this blog post.

Why Bother?

- **Visibility.** The more our communities see Lions in action, the easier it is to recruit new members.
- **History.** Videos and written recaps create an archive future Lions can look back on.
- **Pride.** Sharing good work reminds us, and each other, why we serve.
- **Best-kept secret.** Lions Club members and the service we provide to our communities are our best-kept secrets. Telling these stories lets our neighbors discover all the ways we give back.

Montana Lions have never hidden from hard work; let’s stop hiding our *stories*. Pull out that phone, press record, and let the world watch the good we do.

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

Cascade Lions Diabetes Awareness Walk

On Saturday, June 14th the Cascade Lions Club hosted a Diabetes Awareness Walk to help shine a light on a disease that affects millions across the country.

A total of 21 adults, 8 children and 5 dogs participated in the mile-and-a-half walk around the town of Cascade. Along the route, walkers stopped at stations providing educational materials and tips on recognizing the signs of diabetes and the importance of early detection.

Organizers emphasized that education is key to identifying and managing diabetes. When all was said and done the Cascade Lions Club raised \$1,300 that will go toward helping kids attend the Montana Youth Diabetes Summer Camp where they can learn more about living with the condition in a supportive environment.



Helena Lions Fourth of July Flag Ceremony

Centennial Park in Helena Montana was the scene of the celebration of the American flag and its history. There was a large excited crowd watching as the flag was delivered by a DNRC helicopter. A Scout troop carried the flag from the helicopter to the flagpole and helped slowly to raise the flag as the history of the flag was told.

The Helena Lions Club with assistance from the Gold Rush Lions club arrived early with our mobile kitchen. BoarsHead donated hotdogs and Franz donated buns through Safeway. We cooked the hotdogs from 9:00am until 12:30pm. As each batch of hotdogs were cooked, they were placed in buns, wrapped in foil and placed in coolers to keep them warm.

At 12:30PM, we started giving the 1,200 hotdogs away. Within 15 minutes they were all handed out!



Kalispell Lions Club News

The Kalispell Lions are proud to present two Lions with the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

Congratulations to Lion President Naomi Valentine and Lion Angie Olson-Sutton!!



Seeley Lake Honors Leaders

We give out all kinds of awards to dedicated Lions within our organization. Some are fun awards like the Repeat Offenders award or Rookie of the Year award. However, sometimes members just go above and beyond the "We Serve" credo to really serve their community. In that case we have the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) is the backbone of our foundation. Presented to those who donate US\$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others, it's a tremendous contribution to humanity and to the legacy of our founder, Melvin Jones.



This year we were proud to present the award to to a husband and wife team of Lions Cheryl and Gary Lewis for all the time and effort the they donate not only to the club but to the town of Seeley Lake. We are lucky to have them and we lean on them for their past experiences to help guide us along the way. Both have served as President over 8 times over the years and several committee chairs. Currently Lion Gary is our 2nd Lieutenant Governor while Lion Cheryl is assisting in the duties of our Treasurer.

We thank them sincerely for all they do for us!

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 AS OF AUGUST 1ST.

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; PO Box 523, Seeley Lake MT 59868-0523; C:406-677-4072;
slk3018@blackfoot.net

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

AUGUST CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

226 years of service! WOW!

Baker	08/29/1946
Ennis	08/30/1948
Huntley Project	08/30/1954

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	August 2, 2025 @ 9:00am MT School for the Deaf and the Blind, Great Falls, MT
District Cabinet Meeting	August 2 2025 @ 11:00am 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

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 Witcher-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