

District Newsletter

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

September
2025

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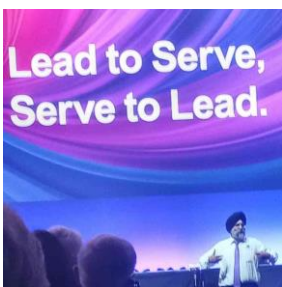
Montana Lions on the Move: Building on a Strong Foundation

From the Desk of Governor Corinna September 2025

Dear Montana District 37 Lions,

As we journey deeper into this exciting Lions year, I want to thank each of you for the **energy, commitment, and heart** you bring to service across our great state. From the mountains to the plains, Lions of Montana are living out our shared purpose in meaningful ways every day.

Leadership with Purpose – The Vision of IP A.P. Singh



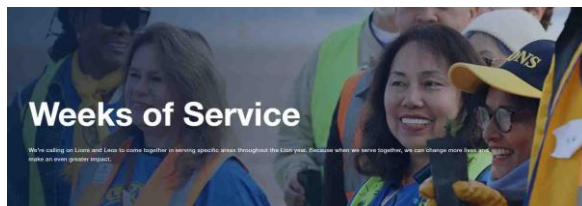
International President **A.P. Singh** brings us a powerful message this year: **"Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead."**

His vision encourages **long-time Lions to step up to new leadership roles**, mentoring and guiding others, while also **empowering new members to become leaders early in their service journey**. This is how we ensure our Lions Clubs stay strong, relevant, and ready to serve future generations.

The momentum is ours to keep going. Let's invest in each other's growth, share the load of leadership, and continue building a legacy of service that will stand the test of time. More information can be found in IP Singh's [Presidential Theme Book](#).

Plan Local Service for Global Impact

Under IP Singh's direction, we're aligning our service efforts with global priorities. Together, let's amplify your club's impact by participating in the LCI's ["Weeks of Service"](#):



- **Mental Health & Well-Being: October 4–12, 2025**
Host events that support emotional health, build community connections, and provide access to resources.
- **Hunger Relief: January 3–11, 2026**
Support food banks, host community meals, and create awareness around food insecurity.
- **Protecting Our Environment: April 18–26, 2026**
Organize clean-up events, recycling programs, or native tree plantings to help preserve Montana's natural beauty.

No act of service is too small. When we act locally during these global weeks of service, we become part of something much larger—a worldwide movement of Lions making a real difference.



The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is Coming Up

If you haven't already registered, there's still time to attend the **USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum** happening **September 18–20 in Atlantic City, New Jersey**.

This is one of the best opportunities we have to **grow as leaders, connect with Lions from across North America, and bring back new energy and ideas to our local clubs**.

Register today at: www.lionsforum.org

Whether you're a new member or a past club president, there's something valuable waiting for you there.

"Some people live an entire lifetime wondering if they've made a difference in the world... Lions don't have that problem."

That quote continues to inspire Lions across the globe, and it speaks directly to the heart of who we are.

As we move forward in service, **remember to have fun**. Celebrate each other's efforts, share laughter along the way, and take pride in knowing that what we do truly matters.

Let's continue to "**Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead**"—and always live out our motto:
WE SERVE.

With gratitude and pride,

DG Corinna

District Governor, Montana Lions



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



Dear Lion,

Whether you are a new Lion or have been a member for years, you are here because someone invited you to join. To help us grow our clubs and our service — and reach our *MISSION 1.5* goals — now it is your turn to invite someone else and share the joy that service brings.

Growth is essential for us to be able to continue to improve the service that Lions are known for around the world. We are a people-driven organization where service is at the heart of everything we do — and we need dedicated Lions like you to help us make an even greater impact together.

So invite friends and neighbors who have the heart to serve. Welcome diverse individuals and groups who will offer us fresh perspectives and energy. This is how we will keep our organization growing and thriving.

Growth benefits us all — our clubs, our communities and the people we serve. I look forward to seeing your club and your service grow.

Together we serve,

A.P. Singh
International President

GLT Report - PDG Mike Collins

Global Leadership Team Coordinator – September 2025

“Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead”

Dear Montana Lions,

Are you interested in learning more about Lions Leadership?

Then **join us for the 2025 VDG Regional Training , happening October 3-5, 2025 In Bozeman, MT**

Cost: Attendance is free – you or your club will need to cover your hotel and travel expenses.

This training is not just for current VDG's. Anyone interested in becoming a Vice District Governor in the future is welcome to attend.

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.

Please Contact me ASAP as the training is less than a month away.

In service and leadership,

PDG Mike Collins

District GLT Coordinator

Cell: 406-871-4176

Email: mikeacollins99@charter.net

GMT Report - PDG Richard Gessling

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership - September, 2025

REPORT ON PROGRESS

As humans we tend to quantify many things. How many years married, how many children, how much we earn, how much we save, credit scores. You get the idea, not a bad concept and it can be useful.

This year three Lions clubs in Montana ceased to exist, leading to loss of services to their communities. Since I was the district governor in 2015-2016, the district has lost 10 clubs. Lions International measures lots of issues including clubs. The most concerning to all of us is the net loss or gain of members and clubs over-all in our district. Over the last five years, our clubs and district have worked to reverse this trend. Two years ago, we had a net loss of four, one year ago we had a net gain of one, the year just ended showed a net gain of six. Not a large number, but significant because we have over-come the year after year loss of clubs and members. It was a difficult reality and necessary to turn around, like stopping a large stone from rolling down-hill.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER! Clubs and members have stepped forward to reverse the course we were on. You have made a difference. Why are membership numbers important? New members aren't just a number. New members help clubs with more hands to help with service, bringing new energy, bringing new ideas for service projects, and strengthening clubs in so many ways.

Many clubs are making membership gains, some have stopped the loss of members, and some are hanging on. More encouraging is that some clubs are reaching out to help clubs struggling with membership. Helping them with recruitment and service ideas.

As a district we should be celebrating our successes as we continue to add more members. As International President A.P. Singh stated "LEAD TO SERVE, SERVE TO LEAD". This is what we should be celebrating as each little step makes for a successful journey.

BECOME A LEADER

Lion Richard Gessling
406-425-3785

THANK YOU DISTRICT 37 LIONS!



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



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

September 2025

* District 37 was #1 as a single district donor to LCIF!

District 37 Clubs and Individuals donated \$59,281.50 in 2024-25.

District 37 finished 2 LCIF grants totaling \$117,356 in 2025-25.

3 Clubs qualified for a total of over \$2,800 in Community Impact Grants!

* Two questions:

How are you and your club going to support LCIF in 2025-26?

What does your community need that may qualify for an LCIF Grant?

* Answers:

Your club can do a special fundraiser for LCIF.

You as a Lion can make a single or monthly donation to LCIF.

You as a Lion can become a Legacy Society Member.

Go to lionsclubs.org, click on "Donate".

Mail a check to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois USA, 60523-8842

Contact us:

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

PDG Mike Tobin
P.O. Box 408
Sunburst, MT 59482
406-450-2780
miktob1951@gmail.com

Thank you for your past and future support for Lions Clubs International Foundation!

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

September 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 32
- Assistance Provided: 16
- 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, Superior, 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.

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

WINNETT LIONS SUMMER NEWS

It's been a busy Summer for our club! June activities included our annual Cancer Walk with \$3,500 made for Montana Cancer. We planted our Main Street flowers in our hanging baskets and the sidewalk pots.



In July we worked trimming and cleaning up the Postal Park. We removed rocks from an overgrown flower bed for the residents at the apartments so they can now plant flowers. August keeps us busy maintaining our Main Street flowers.



SEELEY LAKE CLUB NEWS

PARK STEWARDSHIP AWARD-MISSOULA COUNTY

Seeley Lake Lion Recognized by Missoula County for Stewardship –
Kai Williams | Aug 14, 2025

An enthusiastic crowd of Lions Club members, families and friends gathered at the Seeley Lake Lions Park on Wednesday, August 6th to witness Missoula County commissioners award a longtime Lion for his stewardship.

Rich Westin was the 2025 recipient of the Missoula County Parks and Trails Steward Award. A press release from Missoula County stated this award is given to people and organizations who dedicate years of service to building and improving facilities across the county for the public to enjoy.

Missoula County Commissioner Juanita Vero delivered a proclamation celebrating Westin's work with the Seeley Lake Lions Club to kick off the celebration.

"Richard has generously devoted countless hours to park upkeep, coordinated community events and helped add new amenities to benefit all who visit," Vero began. "Thanks to his tireless efforts, the Seeley Lake Lions Park has become a vibrant and welcoming hub for the community and will thrive for years to come."

When Westin took the floor at the edge of the pond, he was quick to state that his efforts were not made alone, and that he just happened to be "the latest guy to take the ball and run with it."

Seeley Lake Lion Mike Marshall told the Pathfinder Westin's work within the park lasts year-round, from summertime pond and trail maintenance to winter ice rink upkeep and more.

But for Westin, his passion for putting work into the community extends beyond trails, parks and scenic landscapes.

"If you're wondering why I do this, it's swinging right over there right now," Westin said as he nodded towards the children entertaining themselves on the playground, his hands full with plaques, awards and tokens of appreciation.

The kids in the community feel the impact of the Lions Club, too. Cassie Arroyo, 13, told the Pathfinder her favorite thing about the Lions Club is that "they're more trustworthy people."



GALLATIN EMPIRE LIONS – YOUTH FOOTBALL

The Bozeman Gallatin Empire Lions Club's Youth Football season is about to begin! Registration began August 20th with weigh in and issuing equipment – helmets, pants, shoulder pads and practice jerseys. Evaluations, team practice and first games will begin Sept 13th.



Registration



Helmets



Pants



Shoulder Pads



Practice Jerseys



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; jrjohnke@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 “Tri-Fold Generator” is 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

SEPTEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

170 years of service by two clubs!

Culbertson
Sunburst

09/13/1946
09/13/1934

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation October 18, 2025 @ 9:00am
Location To Be Announced

District Cabinet Meeting October 18 2025 @ 11:00am
Location To Be Announced

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 – August 2, 2025– CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Attendees:

DG Corrinna Christensen, 2nd VDG Gary Lewis, Lion Steve Dogiakos Treasurer, PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF Co-chair, PDG Lion Dave Falcon, Plus Optix, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, Lion Dan Krum, PDG Richard Gessling-GMT, PDG Melody Whitcher-Zone 14, PID Ben Apeland, Lion Peggy Tobin, Lion Marie & IPID Dave Hanjy, PDG Jim Jonke-Leader Dog.

VIA ZOOM - IPDG Raleigh Peck, 1st VDG Jon Kimble, PDG Mike Collins-GLT, Tom Naegele-Zone 5, Lion Adriane Miller-Leo Chair

1. Call to Order by DG Corinna Christensen at 11:06 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: PDG Melody Whitcher
 - c) Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and what role they have in Lions
 - d) District Governor – Opening Remarks
 - a. IP A.P. Singh's directives – DG Corinna reviewed the directives and discussed how Montana can apply these directives. How to create programs that will be a lasting legacy and make an impact for our communities in Montana.
 - b. District goals – DG Corinna passed out her pin and reviewed her goals. She wants to continue the great communication that was established by IPDG Raleigh – monthly zoom meetings, monthly governor fireside chats. The extension team is going to be an action team and get out and work in the communities – she reviewed the two new branches that Zone Chair Margaret was able to start in Columbia Falls and Kalispell. Where we have potential new clubs, we need to have guiding lions. She wants to complete the governor's manual which she wants to have it more modern – sync it to a calendar, etc. Noted that the 2026 District Convention with Jessica and Dev is off to a great start. DG Corinna provided a list of the current club visit schedule which is planned to have 75% completed by November. We are ready to “Lead to Serve and Serve to Lead” IPD Dave H recommended that Zone Chair Jerry be made 3rd VDG. Corinna noted that he has not agreed to the position yet. Melody requested that the DG's let the zone chairs know when club visitations are scheduled.
2. Minutes: Motion by Mike T second by Steve to approve the May 4, 2025 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve reviewed the financial reports as of June 30, 2025. The reports are still preliminary. He still needs to transfer the surplus funds which will result in a \$3k profit. Pluses included a much less expensive training in Choteau. Mike T moved to approve the financial report and it was seconded by IPDG Raleigh. Mike C noted a minor correction for officer training and Mike T amended his motion to include the corrections. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below – Steve requested that under Committee Reports, strike the “Marketing & Membership Committee” as they haven't met yet.
5. Officer Reports
 - a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations – (added - discuss approving the 3rd VDG position)
Jon is currently resolving some scheduling conflicts where clubs are meeting at the same day/time, etc. The group discussed the 3rd VDG position and its purpose (to spread out the club visits) and noted that it is not an official LCI position and costs are absorbed by the district. PID Dave noted that Jerry should not visit his own club (Havre). A motion is not required as this is in the policy manual, but it is good discussion. Discussion followed regarding the potential candidate/zone chair

Jerry Kuhn. PID Ben encouraged DG Corinna to pursue Jerry. PID Dave noted that in the future, some of the club visits could become Zoom visits as LCI considers decreasing costs.

- b. Administrator/Secretary's Report – Peggy reported that all clubs have their 2025-2026 officers recorded in the LCI portal with the exception of Bozeman, Roundup and Whitefish. Letters were sent to all club secretaries who had not completed the process in May and she believes that helped as all but 15 clubs had completed the process by the end of June. LCI extended the access to the portal for all 2024-2025 officers to July 31st which also helped. The website updates continued for clubs, district and international officers. The first year international directors should post early next week. Posting of club news as well as the newsletters for June, July and August are completed and Peg started a series of posts of the Helena Convention which will be ongoing. The newsletter format also continues to evolve and she requested comments/concerns/suggestions as we move forward.
- c. Zone Reports
Tom – Zone 5 – he liked the idea of providing pictures from the zone meetings. There are some Melvin Jones awards to pass out at upcoming club meetings. He hasn't had direct contact yet with White Sulphur Springs. ZC Tom reviewed some of the club events going on in the zone. Broadwater-Townsend has their fair coming up. Their charter night is August 27th. PDG Mike T requested that the Melvin Jones awards be given out in September so he can attend. Tom is still working on Wilsall. White Sulphur Springs meets the third Thursday of the month. 2nd DG Gary and ZC Tom will try to coordinate both being at that meeting. Melody – Zone 14 – no report. PDG Richard noted again that every Zone Chair should provide a written monthly report to the cabinet. DG Corinna will work with the zone chairs to complete the same google form that the DG's complete for their club visits.
- d. Committee Reports –
 - i. GET – Jon and Gary both attended the Las Vegas northwest GET training and Jon also attended the international convention. During a CA1 Leadership Zoom Call, during a breakout session, Jon spoke with Daniel Marnie Elkins who emphasized that Service is how we strengthen our communities and Membership helps us expand our service mission. Jon will be working on getting information out to all of the clubs. Mike C and Raleigh noted that they both submitted and were approved as guiding lions, but never got information back from LCI. DG Corinna has lions in Ennis who are willing to work with the potential Ruby Valley club.
 - ii. GLT – Mike C sent a report. The regional VDG training is scheduled for Bozeman October 3-5, but we are not going to hold our annual leadership retreat. Wyoming is putting on a retreat and District 37 leaders are invited to attend. Mike C is asking that the district reimburse the \$125 registration fee for anyone who attends. Raleigh moved and amended a motion to have the District reimburse a total of up to \$2,000 for registration and transportation to the attendees. Melody seconded the motion and Richard seconded the amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike also reported that he is planning to do club officer training with two zoom trainings – one in the fall and one in the spring and at the convention. Mike C is going to start a “new lions' orientation” zoom training to include history, LCI goals, etc.
 - iii. GMT – Richard – reported that he is going back over the clubs that he has been given to work with. We did lose three clubs but gained six members. We are headed in the right direction. We are supposed to be bringing up leaders and asked opinions on his newsletter articles. 2nd VDG Gary reported that he gathered a lot of information in Las Vegas. They were very gung-ho and he has a lot of information to go through. They pushed a lot of specialty clubs. DG Corinna described how a specialty club is very focused (narrow service).

We need to evaluate if this service would work in Montana. 2nd VDG Gary noted that they are working on a specialty club (Pickle Ball) in Seeley - not sure if it will be a regular club or branch club.

- iv. GST – DG Corinna announced that Lion Cheryl Lewis is taking on the GST chair position. Gary noted that she will be going on the club visits with him.
- v. LCIF – Mike T reported - Good News – In area H there are five single districts who compete among themselves. District 37 has never made it's LCIF goal until 2024-2025. We made \$59K, 129% over the \$49K goal. And we achieved 1st place!! (Hawaii was 1st place for the past several years). Our fund raising was very good. Bad news – the cabinet has not given a dime to LCIF. It's hard to go out to the clubs and ask for donations when the cabinet does not. Mike moved to have the cabinet give \$5,000 to LCIF this year. Richard seconded the motion noting that he voted against it previously. Raleigh asked if the district would get the 15% grant and the answer is yes. PID Ben asked if the goal is to supplement clubs that can't afford \$1,000 for a Melvin Jones but the district could match a gift and Mike confirmed that it is. Following more discussion of pros and cons, question was called and the motion passed.
- vi. Special Advisory Committee – PID Ben noted that the recommendations from the last special advisory committee have been reflected during this cabinet meeting. He likened the group to the club board meetings.
- vii. Policy & By Laws Committee – Mike reported that he totally spaced a meeting and will have a zoom meeting scheduled. Steve noted that there is now a tool to use for our documents – docs.d37.online.
- viii. Leos - Lion Adrian noted that the goal is to get kids involved in groups during the summer when Leos are not meeting. Raleigh reported that he is taking on the Sidney Leo's advisor position and will report back on getting their information onto the portal. Richard noted that they should also be at the conventions.
- ix. Leader Dog – Jim reported that Brian G is now his co-chair with Leader Dog. There are online live presentations available for the clubs to have at their meetings.

6. Old Business

- a. Club Health Assessment (see attachment) – Comments were made regarding the timing of the reports.
- b. Club Officer Training- already covered

7. New Business

- a. Proposed 2025-2026 Budget – review and approval – Comments were made regarding report format – i.e. didn't include the previous year's budget and size of print. Steve will send out a different format. Mike T. moved to approve the budget. Steve seconded the motion noting that the budget was reviewed by the finance committee and the DG group. Questions were asked and answered regarding advertising and the motion passed.
- b. D & O Insurance – Steve noted that PID Dave referred to D&O insurance which is not included in the LCI insurance. The cost is based on the number of clubs in the district and for District 37 (40+) the annual premium is \$1,250. Lion Marie moved to proceed with D&O insurance for all cabinet members. Steve will research the best pricing. Dave H reviewed some of the exclusions. The motion passed.
- c. 2025 District Convention – Columbia Falls – Mike C and Monte have offered to assist

8. Additional Items – none
 9. Next meeting – October 18, 2025 at 11:00am
 10. Adjournment – Corinna adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm. Motion passed unanimously.
- Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin, District 37 Administrator/Secretary 08/02/2025