

District Newsletter

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

December
2025

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Montana Lions on the Move: Building on a Strong Foundation From the Desk of Governor Corinna December 2025

Reflections of Gratitude

from District Governor Corinna Christensen,

In this season of Thanksgiving, I find myself pausing—hands around a warm mug, heart full and reflecting on how deeply Lions has blessed my life. The gratitude runs so wide and wild it feels like it could spill over the Montana river banks.

It begins at home. My Lion Mom... the first woman Lion in the Ennis Lions Club, the first woman President, my biggest encourager, and also the first person to look me square in the eye and say “bologna” when I need it. Every good Governor needs one of those.

Or perhaps that role is shared with PID Dave...Lion Dad...my sage compass who somehow manages to keep me on the Lions International straight-and-narrow with equal parts humor and steadfast support.

And then... the Ennis Lions. Too many extraordinary hearts to list individually. You have lifted me, steadied me, cheered me on, and laughed with me through this journey as District Governor. You’ve made “Gov” feel less like a title and more like a team.

A special thank you to Lion Julie...my fearless, loyal travel partner who many of you have now met. She brings entertainment, encouragement, and the kind of friendship that makes long roads feel short.

To every Lions Club in District 37: my gratitude for you is immeasurable. Traveling our great state of Montana and visiting your clubs has reminded me again and again that your service is powerful, personal, and beautifully unique. **“Your Club... Your Way”** isn’t just a slogan—it’s alive in every act you take to strengthen your communities.

To the District Cabinet: thank you for your steady guidance, your nudges, your reminders, your calm behind-the-scenes orchestration that keeps this district humming like a well-tuned fiddle.

And to the 2026 Convention Committee in Columbia Falls...you’re knocking it out of the park. I cannot wait for April 17–18. Keep that creative fire burning.

As we continue forward, may we all remember the heartbeat of our year: **“Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead.”**

With a thankful heart at Thanksgiving...



WE SERVE.

With heartfelt gratitude,
DG Corinna Christensen
District Governor, Montana Lions District 37

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



Dear Lion,

The Lion journey is different for each of us, but one thing is the same: being a Lion changes you. As you serve, you're not only improving the lives of others, you're discovering your own potential.

Every act of service shows you the power you have to make a difference. Every role, every project, every effort teaches you leadership, compassion and growth. Each of us has something valuable to offer — and Lions help bring that out.

Lions are inclusive, so invite someone to join you on your Lion journey today. We want as many people as possible to be part of what we build and the good that we do. Together, we will strengthen our organization, the communities we serve and ourselves.

Together in service,

A.P. Singh
International President



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



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

December 2025

GIVING TUESDAY- December 2nd

Giving Tuesday began in 2012 as a partnership between the 92nd Street Y and the United Nations Foundation to create a day of giving in response to the rise of commercialism after Thanksgiving. It was launched as a social media campaign to encourage people to 'do good' by donating to charities, volunteering, or taking other actions to support their communities, and has grown into a global movement.

The movement has grown significantly since it started in 2012, with billions of dollars raised for charities worldwide. In 2023, U.S. donors gave \$3.1 billion in one day, and millions more donated goods or volunteered.

Your Lions Clubs International Foundation provides grant monies for Childhood Cancer, Hunger, Vision, Diabetes, Youth, Disaster Relief, Humanitarian Efforts, and the Environment. Your support does so much for so many in so many ways!

Judy and I each make a recurring monthly donation to LCIF. We both are members of the LCIF Legacy Society. We will both make a special Giving Tuesday donation to LCIF. Will you and your club members also give a \$5-\$10 donation toward Giving Tuesday, on or about Tuesday December 2nd.

If any member has, or will, make a recurring donation of \$10 or more each month the Foundation will recognize you with a special pen as well as an annual pin showing your continued support to be sent out next Spring.

Donations can be made at: donorassistance@lionsclubs.org, or by calling 1-630-203-3836. Or send a check to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL, 60523-8842 USA. Thank you for your previous and future support.

Feel free to contact us with any questions, or to schedule a club visit to showcase the many grant possibilities available from LCIF.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Lary Garrison, LCIF Co-Coordinator

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
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MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

December 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 41
- Assistance Provided: 22
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$32,027.72
- Applications Received From: Billings, Belgrade, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Coram, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Livingston, Manhattan, Missoula, Sidney, Superior, Townsend, Trego and Whitefish

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.



Help Support Your

MONTANA LIONS SIGHT & HEARING FOUNDATION

YOU COULD WIN ME!! Contact a Lion for tickets.

**2025 Honda Side by Side 520 with Windshield and Dump Box. Color –
Red**



Tickets: \$20.00 each or 8 for \$100.00

Drawing: April 18, 2026

Need not be present to win

Thank you for Supporting the Foundation!

Return ticket stubs and money to:

Lion Monte Weisser
533 West Arizona
Kalispell, Montana 59901

PlusOptix

December 2025

DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026: **11,808 students screened with 1,537 refers as of November 2025.**

NOTICE REGARDING S12 BATTERIES:

Some of our Plus Optix S12 users have had issues with batteries so I wanted to send a reminder to all:

The correct battery for the S12 is Eneloop, part number #BK-3MCDA8BA. They can be purchased on Amazon. Batteries should be changed out every two years and it is also important to NOT use old batteries with new batteries. Finally, NEVER use non-rechargeable alkaline or lithium batteries! I am always available if you have any questions.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair

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



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!

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

GREAT FALLS SUNRISE CLUB Receives Northwestern Energy Award

Northwestern Energy joined the Great Falls Sunrise Lions Club for their annual fundraiser in September. Eleven NWE employees assisted with set up, serving food and cleaning up afterwards. The time and effort of those 11 employees resulted in an \$1,100.00 donation to the club (\$100 per employee who participated). This is a win – win for Great Falls Sunrise Lions - additional hands to help **AND** a donation for their community service!

In the photo pictured from left to right are:

Shawn Etzweiler, Community Relations Specialist from Northwestern Energy.

Lion Bob Stubbs, President

Lions Charley Hibl and Mike Schmit current and former Northwestern employees.



NorthWestern Energy has an Employee Volunteer Program that encourages employees to volunteer by providing paid time off and granting funds to the organizations they serve. For individual volunteers, NorthWestern Energy can donate up to \$400 per year to an organization, while teams of at least three employees can earn a \$100 donation per employee.

Program highlights

- **Paid volunteer time:** Employees are given paid time off to volunteer.
- **Grant money for organizations:** The company provides grant money to the nonprofits employees volunteer with.
- **Individual volunteer grants:** Employees can earn up to \$400 annually for an organization they serve.
- **Team volunteer grants:** When at least three employees volunteer together for a special event, NorthWestern Energy donates \$100 per employee to the organization.
- **Employee choice:** Employees can choose the charities they want to volunteer for and NorthWestern Energy will support those efforts.

To learn more about this program, go to <https://northwesternenergy.com/in-your-community>

SEELEY LAKE CLUB NEWS

Receives Membership Satisfaction Award

Yay Seeley Lake Lions Club!!!

Seeley Lake Lions Club was the proud recipient of the Membership Satisfaction award from our International President Fabricio Oliveira. For our little town in Montana to be recognized in this fashion is truly an honor.

All of the members are part of this and the reason we continue to succeed in Seeley Lake. This award is not frequently given. We are hot!!

Once again because of our hard work and drive to sustain and increase our membership, we have been recognized by the International President for the great work we continue to do. I can't stress enough the importance of continuing to get out the word about our club and getting new members in to help move us into the future. Remember, every little bit helps when it comes to the activities we perform in our town and that comes from you, the members. Thank you for all that you do.



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 Dr., 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 make changes to your club officers, meeting locations and/or meeting dates & times in the Lion Portal, please send a note to Lion Peggy Tobin, District 37 Secretary at pegto54@gmail.com or call/text 406-461-4206 so that she can more efficiently update the District website. The club directory information on the website is used by the district governor's team to plan visits, set up meetings, and provide updates.

Thank You!

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 pegto54@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 pegto54@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

DECEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

893 years of service!!

Forsyth	12/03/1924 – 101 years!
Columbia Falls	12/03/1952
Missoula	12/04/1928 – 97 years!
Shepherd	12/05/1967
Cut Bank	12/06/1929 – 96 years!
Bozeman Sweet Pea	12/08/2004
Conrad	12/10/1928 – 97 years!
Seeley Lake	12/11/1978
Big Timber	12/12/1925 – 100 years!
Great Falls	12/20/1922 – 103 years!
Roundup	12/22/1925 – 100 years!

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

District Cabinet Meeting January 10th @ 9:00am VIA ZOOM

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation January 20th @ 6:00pm VIA ZOOM

2026 DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION – Make Your Reservations!

Dates: Friday, April 17, 2026 – Saturday, April 18, 2026

**Convention Hotel: Cedar Creek Lodge –
Columbia Falls, Montana**

When calling to make reservations at Cedar Creek Lodge, please call 406.897.7070. Mention Lions Convention right away. This way you will not get transferred to central reservations where they are not able to provide the smoking rate of **\$109.89** a night w/ tax. Please keep in mind Cedar Creek is only setting aside **50** rooms for the Lions Convention.

If Cedar Creek Lodge is not for you, that is ok! Other lodging options will be distributed soon.



Questions: Lion Jessica Fausey | LionJessicaFausey@gmail.com | 406.253.1737

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**

2026 Memphis TN – September 3 - 5
2027 Huntsville, AB – September 16-18
2028 Grand Rapids, MI – To be announced
2029 Shreveport, LA – To be announced

MINUTES- October 18, 2025-CABINET MEETING
Kopper Kitchen, 3472 US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell, MT
Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Attendees:

DG Corinna Christensen, 1st VDG Jon Kimble, 2nd VDG Gary Lewis, GST Chair Cheryl Lewis, Zone 1 Chair Rob Shaffer, Lion Steve Dogiakos Treasurer, PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF Co-chair, PDG Lion Dave Falcon, Plus Optix, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, PID Ben Aplan, Lion Peggy Tobin, Lion Herb Cartmell - Columbia Falls

VIA ZOOM – IPDG Raleigh Peck, PDG Brian Gertiser-Leader Dog Co-Chair, PDG Richard Gessling-GMT

1. Call to Order by DG Corinna Christensen at 11:00 AM
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation: Lion Cheryl Lewis
 - c. Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and what role they have in Lions
 - d. District Governor – Corinna noted that it has been a great first quarter. She and her governor's team have been burning up the highways around the state and attending Forum in Atlantic City.
2. Minutes: Motion by Steve second by Jon to approve the August 2, 2025 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve reviewed the financial reports as of September 30, 2025. Mike T moved to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Jon. The motion passed unanimously. Richard asked what the interest is for the surplus funds. Steve noted that it's about 4% average as it is stepped out over time following further discussion motion passed unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below – Zone Chair Reports added in Item 5.
5. Officer Reports
 - a. DG/VDGs – Club Visitations – Baker was discussed. Their secretary was in an accident and they need some support to complete reporting etc. Raleigh offered to keep trying to work with them and recommended contacting the club administrator as he hasn't gotten response from the President either. Richard noted that he has tried for a couple of years and couldn't get any response. Jon reported that they work the fair and it might provide an avenue for recruiting new members. Jon provided details on his visit. They have a wild game dinner that is their largest fund raiser, etc. Potential district support for Baker to provide a park bench sign through grants and/or district funding.

Corinna, Jon and Gary provided an overview of their club visits. Corinna noted that most of the clubs are doing well but could use more members. She highlighted specific clubs such as Bozeman (noon club) and Helena Lions Club noting ongoing efforts to improve reporting and engagement.

- b. Administrator's Report – Peggy reported that the website has continued to be updated for the 2025-26 fiscal year including the completion of the international officers/directors and the addition under the About/Organization of District Awards. Bozeman, Roundup and Whitefish still do not have their officer slates entered into the Lion Portal. The newsletter email format has been adjusted so that the entire article is no longer listed in the email – pictures were distorted, etc. and the goal is to drive more viewers to the website. The emails will now list the article with a "Read on the District 37 Website" link. Raleigh added that the Leo application form has been added to the website. He also needs the Charter application form added. He emphasized the need for clubs to complete the applications and report service hours. It was also noted that we need to collect memorial forms for deceased members which can be done via the website or the paper form in every newsletter.

PID Dave Hajny joined the meeting via zoom. Zone 3 Chair Margaret Baylinson joined the meeting in person.

c. Committee Reports

- i. GET- Jon reported that Joliet, Shephard and Seeley Lake are looking to begin Leo Clubs. Corinna noted that Margaret is going to be engaging with the campus club.
- ii. GLT: Corinna reported that the VDG training in Bozeman was really great. Dave H asked what the cost was. Steve said he has the hotel bill/catering bill - \$8,200. Gary L (and several others) said the food was great. Corinna noted that we were budgeted for \$10,000.
- iii. GMT: Corinna noted that she's very encouraged by the membership report – we are now at +19. Club secretaries are being asked to keep rosters current and update their membership as changes occur. Richard is also encouraged about the new members and will be visiting Hysham (November 4th) and Forsyth (December 1st). Jon noted that he also needs to visit Hysham and is scheduled for November 18th but could reschedule and join Richard on the 4th. Margaret noted that the Campus Club has several projects.
- iv. GST– Cheryl reviewed her report. She has teamed up with Gary's club visits and its working well. She noted that there are significant barriers due to lack of computer access and expertise and emphasized the importance of follow up! Steve asked how many clubs are utilizing an admin/service chairperson to assist with the service reporting. Cheryl responded that there are very few.
- v. Zone Chair Reports – **Zone 1** - Robert reported that most of his activity has been focused on East Missoula. Seeley Lake helped them with a BBQ and he was surprised by the number of younger folks that came. He noted that Hamilton and Missoula have been doing better with reporting. He is hopeful that he has a line on a potential new club. Steve noted that there is a one-year redemption period to re-start the Southside Missoula Charter. There was additional conversation on specialty club opportunities. **Zone 3** – Margaret said that her clubs are very strong with some concerns for aging clubs. She noted that Adrian is working very hard with Eureka and the Columbia Falls branch club is focusing its efforts to support the children's cancer center. **Zone 5** Lion Tom provided a written report via email.
- vi. LCIF – Mike T reported that the district is on schedule at the end of the first quarter with 25% of the budgeted donations received. Fairfield has submitted a grant and it is close to being submitted for approval – just waiting for a few more questions to be answered. Seeley Lake may have an application in the spring. Another application has been sent to LCIF to see if it is feasible. Mike then presented Raleigh the LCIF Presidential Award for Goal Achievement! He has talked to four clubs that do not have a Melvin Jones. Three are very receptive and he will begin club visits again now that he can drive.
- vii. Advisory Committee -- Ben described how the Advisory committee is formed and that its role is leading and guiding. Their next meeting is Friday, December 5th at 9am by zoom.
- viii. Marketing & Membership Committee -- Raleigh reported that requests for proposals were sent out and four proposals have been received. Richard expressed concerns about weak proposals and suggested reissuing requests for proposals. Raleigh is planning to set up meetings between the four companies and the committee. The budget is approximately \$30,000 based on the dues increase that was implemented when we became a single district. Richard asked if there's an infrastructure being created to manage an influx of new members/clubs. Corinna feels that we have a room full of

people who are able to help. We are smart and we can figure it out. Raleigh noted that he is a guiding lion as are Lion Dave and Jessica in the Flathead area.

6. Old Business

- a. Club Health Assessment - September – Richard noted that it hasn't changed much except positive growth. Discussed the clubs that are over 90 days. Steve noted that Plains hasn't paid their District Dues – Gary & Cheryl will follow up with them. Dave H. suggested creating a pool of "money" to provide awards to clubs that grow by a certain number/percent. It was noted that some clubs like Kalispell had added 10 members while others remain stagnant. Various ideas were discussed including inviting clubs to participate in a 3-4 month program aimed at increasing membership with potential rewards. Mike T suggested that the district offer to pay the dues for any new members that are brought in during the next three months. We have a DCG grant that is over \$14,000 available for this effort. It was decided to create a "Club Growth Challenge Committee" to decide the best approach to take with this endeavor.
- b. 2026 District Convention– April 17th & 18th. Jessica reported that she has completed a sponsor letter to businesses in Columbia Falls (to start with) which they hope will provide funding to cover a lot of the convention costs. Following discussion, Steve moved to open a district convention account at Glacier Bank and authorize Steve D, Jessica F and Angelina Luke as the signers for the 2026 convention. Gary L seconded the motion. Mike T noted that the \$3,000 of budgeted convention funds would be placed in that account. The motion passed unanimously. The convention hotel, Cedar Creek Lodge, has 50 rooms (double occupancy rate \$109.89). The budget for all of the convention rooms, refreshments for meetings, etc. is \$2,806.89 Total food budget from the Kopper Kitchen will be \$9k. The hospitality room, vendor spaces etc. will be cozy. There could be an outside space with rented heaters depending on the weather. Glacier International Lodge next to the airport will also have some rooms reserved at approximately the same price to ensure that there are enough rooms available. Herb will be designing the pin for the convention. He said that some of the ideas include "bridging the gap".

7. New Business

- a. Peggy read the Letter of Endorsement for Third VP candidate. Mike T moved to approve the Letter of Endorsement for Robert Rettby. Ben seconded the motion. He met the candidate at the forum in Atlantic City. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Additional Items – Open Discussion

- a. Jon asked if there's a way to correct a lion's years of service and Corinna said to provide her the information and she will work on that with LCI. Jon also got clarification on how a club gets the DCG grant from Mike T who noted that they have to do \$5,000 in ONE year which then triggers a grant available for the entire LCIF donations for both the current and past years.
- b. Steve noted that "go fund me" website created charity donation pages for every charity in the US without permission from the charities. They take 16% off the top of every \$\$ spent with them. He will be sending out a newsletter post with information on how to remove the page.
- c. Dave recommended that during club visits, clubs should be informed about D&O insurance. Montana Non-profit Association (MNA) has great rates.

9. Next Meeting - Zoom Winter Meeting will be held January 10th at 9:00 am

10. Adjournment - Steve moved to adjourn at 1:20pm. Motion seconded by Jon. Motion passed unanimously.

UPCOMING EVENTS: District 37 2026 Convention – Columbia Falls – April 17-18, 2026