

# District Newsletter

DG Corinna Christensen  
1st VDG Jon Kimble  
2nd VDG Gary Lewis  
[montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org)

January  
2026

## What's Inside the Newsletter?

P. 1-2 DG Corinna Christensen Message	P. 14-15 Club Spotlights:
P. 2 <b>2026 Convention Hotel Information</b>	Billings, Bozeman GE, Missoula
P.3-4 Peace Poster Winners Announced	P. 16 Endorsed Projects
P. 4 IP A.P. Singh Message	P. 17 Memorial Form
P. 5 GMT Report	P. 18 Special Notices
P. 6 LCIF Report	P. 19 Websites
P. 7-8 Messages From the District Treasurer	P. 19 District Officer Contact Information
P. 9 MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	P. 20 Club Anniversaries
P. 10 MTLSHF Raffle-2025 Honda Side by Side	P. 20 District Meetings
P.11-12 Leader Dog-Leading the Way-Jan 2026	P. 20-21 LCI Conventions/USA/Canada Forums
P. 13 Plus Optix Report	P. 22-24 Minutes-October 18 <sup>th</sup> Cabinet Mtg
P. 13 District Facebook Page	

## Montana Lions on the Move: Building on a Strong Foundation

### Message From District Governor Corinna Christensen January 2026

As we welcome 2026 with fresh energy and optimism, I want to thank every Lion across District 37 for the service you have continued to provide throughout your communities. **You are the heart of Lions**, and it shows in every project, every act of kindness, and every person you serve.



One of our global priorities this month is hunger relief. I encourage all clubs to join our **Hunger Week of Service from January 3 through January 11**. Lead projects that address every aspect of hunger, including food security, community meals, food pantry support, and even agricultural assistance. Do not forget to capture your efforts. Clubs are invited to submit hunger-focused service videos by January 23, 2026 for an opportunity to be featured in the Weeks of Service Video Showcase. If you need ideas, I encourage you to watch the standout entries from our recent [Mental Health and Well-being Showcase](#). You will be inspired.

Have you visited [LionPortal.com](http://LionPortal.com) lately? It continues to improve each month with new features, training tools, resources, and service ideas. You may have heard me mention my favorite form of "R & D". Research and Development? Nope. **Ripoff and Duplicate!** Lion Portal is the perfect place to learn from successful club initiatives around the world or to reach out to the club in the next town for ideas. Work smarter and utilize the tools at your fingertips.

Additionally, remember that you can start at [MontanaLions.org](http://MontanaLions.org) for EVERYTHING Lions. There is News, Training, Directory, Links, and **so much more.**

Looking ahead, I am very excited for our District 37 Convention in Columbia Falls on April 17 and 18. This will be another outstanding opportunity to collaborate, learn, grow, and yes, do more R and D. We have incredible Lions in our district, and when we come together, our collective strengths shine even brighter.

New Year. New Clubs. New Lions. New Projects. New Leadership Roles. Let us make 2026 the best year ever for service in Montana. Together, **"We lead to serve and serve to lead."**



Yours in service,  
DG Corinna Christensen  
District 37 Montana Lions

Pictured at "**Lion Lake**" near Hungry Horse Dam

## **MONTANA LIONS DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION – 2026**

**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!

Alternate Hotel: Glacier International Lodge –  
Kalispell, Montana



Glacier International Lodge is located adjacent to Glacier Park International Airport, 7.5 miles from the convention hotel. 20 rooms will be set aside at **\$99.00** a night plus tax. Phone number 406.751.9000.

Questions: Lion Jessica Fausey | [LionJessicaFausey@gmail.com](mailto:LionJessicaFausey@gmail.com) | 406.253.1737

# Celebrating the Future of Peace

## District 37 Peace Poster Winners Announced

Each year, Lions Clubs around the world participate in one of our most meaningful youth initiatives: The Lions International Peace Poster Contest. This inspiring program encourages children aged 11 to 13 to express their visions of peace through art. It is a powerful way to engage youth, support creativity, and promote Lions' global message of unity and service.

We are proud to announce the Montana District 37 winners of the 2025–2026 Peace Poster Contest, themed "Together as One." The entries were outstanding, and the judging process reflected the thoughtfulness and artistic talent of students from across our state.

### District 37 Peace Poster Contest Winners

#### First Place Winner: Josie Hensley

Helena Christian School | Sponsored by Helena Lions Club (President Jack Berry)

Josie's powerful poster has been forwarded to Lions International Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, where it will compete with entries from around the world.



#### First Runner-Up: Sylvia Rea Fanelli

Ennis School | Sponsored by Ennis Lions Club



#### Second Runner-Up: Jessica Haas

Ennis School | Sponsored by Ennis Lions Club



A special thank you to Lion Jim Forsberg of the Ennis Lions Club for his long-standing leadership in coordinating the Peace Poster program in Ennis. With the exception of a couple of years while serving as club president, Jim has been a dedicated champion of this contest for decades and continues to make it a meaningful opportunity for youth in his community.

### What's at Stake?

Each district winner advances to the international competition, where they are eligible for major honors:

The Grand Prize Winner receives:

- A \$5,000 scholarship
- An invitation to attend Lions Day at the United Nations in New York City
- Recognition at the Lions International Convention, where their artwork is displayed

This is a life-changing opportunity for a young artist to represent their school, community, and district on a global stage.

### Looking Ahead to 2026

We strongly encourage every club in District 37 to consider sponsoring a school or classroom in next year's Peace Poster Contest. It is a rewarding and effective way to connect with students, promote peace, and increase the visibility of Lions in your community.

Start planning early. Peace Poster Kits are available in the spring through the Lions Store and it is easier than ever to get the peace poster kits...they are available to download so you do not have to pay for shipping! The deadline for club submissions is November 15, so early outreach to local schools is important.

You do not need to be an artist to lead this effort — just a Lion who believes in youth and the power of peace.

### Questions?

If your club would like help getting started or has questions about the process, please contact District Governor Corinna Christensen or Lion Jim Forsberg. Both are happy to assist and provide resources to help you bring this program to your community.

Together, we can grow this meaningful tradition and celebrate the creative voices of Montana's youth.

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



Dear Lion,

Lions are known the world over as being agents of positive change. We identify problems and work to find solutions.

Throughout the year, you've made plans. You've focused on growth. You've served. Now it's time to reflect on what worked. And what didn't. By reviewing your areas of strength and adapting to obstacles, you and your club will be able to serve better, serve more and create your path to success.

As you work to serve your community and meet your goals, it's also important to take the time to recognize your achievements. Celebrate each victory with your club, motivate each other — and watch your service impact grow.

Together in service,

**A.P. Singh, International President**



**I believe  
the world  
is one big  
family,  
and we  
need to  
help each  
other.**

## **Global Membership Team**

Global and Montana Membership  
January 2026

### **Connecting Clubs and Lions to One Another**

As I have traveled to Lions Clubs across Montana over the past 11 years, I have observed that while some clubs are thriving, others are struggling with membership. One thing remains constant, however: every club is providing wonderful service to its community.

Recently, I have been tracking analytics from our website, [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org). These analytics show how many members visit the site, what pages they view, and how long they stay. What I've noticed is that, unless it is close to convention time, relatively few members visit the website in any given month.

I have also looked at convention attendance. Last year, only half of our 58 clubs had at least one member attend the state convention.

Not surprisingly, many of the clubs that are struggling are also the ones not visiting the website or attending conventions. As a result, these clubs can become isolated—from other clubs and from the district as a whole.

Because of this, I ask those of you who regularly attend conventions to reach out to those who do not. Encourage them to attend this year's convention. Consider traveling together or sharing a room. For many Lions, attending a convention alone for the first time can feel like a big step.

Sometimes all it takes is an invitation.

**Just ask.**

Richard Gessling, GMT Chair





**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**



## **District LCIF Co-Chairs PDG Mike Tobin & PDG Lary Garrison January 2026**

Happy New Year District 37 Lions! Throughout 2025, Lions and Leos around the district have continued to serve Montanans, improving their lives and our communities through your generosity. LCIF grants have empowered our clubs in this district to reduce hunger, restore vision, help communities recover, rebuild after disaster, and so much more.

Thanks to your dedication and support, we are making strong progress toward our fundraising goals this fiscal year. As we move forward in 2026, please keep inspiring others to support LCIF and explore grant opportunities to expand your Club's impact on your community. Remember to invite new donors to make their gifts to LCIF in recognition of Melvin Jones' 147th birthday. Every donation makes a difference to someone in need and helps us leave our mark on our communities.

Now is the time to schedule a new recurring LCIF donation. Schedule an online monthly donation of \$10 or more or a recurring annual donation of at least \$120 to qualify for new recognitions available at the end of the Lion year.

**Your contributions to LCIF bring us all closer to success!**

**<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/donate>**

Yours in Lionism,  
PDG Mike Tobin  
P.O. Box 408  
Sunburst, Mt. 59482  
406-450-2780  
miktob1951@gmail.com

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

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

# Messages from the District Treasurer

January 2026

## UNDERSTANDING DISTRICT 37 DUES FOR 2025-2026 LIONISTIC YEAR

District 37 will issue its annual dues invoices this month (see article below on the process). This is a good time to clarify how dues work at both the district and international levels, since the structure can feel complicated if you do not see the entire system at once.

### District 37 Dues: \$25 Per Member

Every Lion in Montana is assessed \$25 per year to support the work of District 37. This figure is based on the official Lions census as of November 30, which means that clubs are billed according to the number of members recorded on that date.

District dues fund the administrative and operational needs of the district itself. This includes officer training, communication, compliance, and the support systems that help clubs function. District 37 covers only the clubs inside the borders of Montana. The district tries to strike a balance between being frugal and being able to deliver the support expected of us.

### Lifetime District Membership Option

Clubs and members sometimes ask about a permanent, fixed-fee option. Like Lions International, District 37 does offer a lifetime membership, priced at 10 times the annual dues, which is currently \$250. Once paid, no future district-level dues are assessed for that individual.

All other members simply remain at the standard \$25 annual rate.

### International Dues: How Regular Lions Are Billed

At the Lions Clubs International level, Regular members pay \$50 per year. LCI splits this amount into two equal charges:

- \$25 on July 1
- \$25 on January 1

This covers the full Lionistic Year (July–June).

LCI also offers several reduced-rate categories, including:

- Household Membership
- Student Membership
- Leo-Lion Membership
- And a small number of additional classifications

These categories each carry different dues amounts or discounts.

If your club needs the current proration guide for LCI dues, LCI provides a detailed table here:

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/v2/resource/download/79863852>

### Why Dues Matter

District dues and international dues each support different parts of the Lions organization.

LCI dues support global operations, insurance, program development, and international administration.

District dues support Montana-specific leadership, training, and coordination. Both levels are necessary for Lions to deliver service and to maintain the shared infrastructure that makes Lions service possible.

## 2026 District 37 Membership Invoices Sent via QuickBooks Online

Happy New Year!

District 37 membership invoices have now been sent electronically using QuickBooks Online. These invoices were emailed directly to club Treasurers, with Presidents and Club Administrators copied whenever that information was available. In cases where a Treasurer or President email address was not listed, the invoice was sent to the Club Secretary or the next officer listed in the directory to ensure timely delivery. In the rare cases where no officers were listed or no officers had emails, those invoices were mailed directly.

Please note the following details so you can easily identify a legitimate invoice:

- Sender email: [quickbooks@notification.intuit.com](mailto:quickbooks@notification.intuit.com)
- Sender name: District 37 – Montana Lions

This is the standard email address QuickBooks Online uses to deliver invoices. If you see an invoice matching the details above, it is coming from the District and is valid.

That said, healthy skepticism around financial emails is reasonable and encouraged. If you ever want to verify the legitimacy of an invoice or have questions about what you received, I strongly encourage you to contact the sender directly. In this case, that is me. My phone number is listed in the District Newsletter, and I am always happy to confirm or walk through an invoice with you.

Thank you for your prompt attention to District dues and for the work you do to keep your clubs running smoothly. Clear communication and accurate records make all of our jobs easier.

Dues can be paid electronically via the link in the invoice email, or by sending a check to:

*District 37  
PO Box 202  
Choteau, MT 59422-0202*



# MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

January 2026

## Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2025 to December 27, 2025

- Applications Received: 48
- Assistance Provided: 22
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$34,025.72
- Applications Received From: Billings, Belgrade, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Coram, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Lakeside, 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.**

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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

# LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

From “Leading the Way” Leader Dogs for the Blind Newsletter - January 2026

Happy new year, Lions! Whether your resolution is to travel more, explore new shops and stops in your community, or recruit more members for your Lions Club, we support you and wish you an amazing year.

## Share Teen Programs With Your Community

At Leader Dog, we’re already preparing for our summer programs for teens aged 16-17. High school-aged teens and their parents are beginning to plan for the summer, and we are ready to fill our halls.

**Each summer, we offer two programs for teenagers who are blind, both free of charge including travel, room and board:**

**Teen Summer Camp** is a 1-week program in June. Up to 24 teenagers from across North America will come together for **a week of fun, leadership development, and community**. For many teens, our summer camp is their first opportunity to build friendships with other teenagers who are blind. While at Leader Dog, they will rock-climb at our local Lions Bear Lake Camp, practice safe night travel, enjoy bonfires, and even practice archery.

Applications for Teen Summer Camp are open now and will be accepted until April 3, 2026. Visit [LeaderDog.org](https://LeaderDog.org) and click ‘Client Programs’ to learn more and apply.

**Teen Orientation & Mobility** is a 1-week program offered in three sessions over the summer. **Teens will work one-on-one with a certified orientation and mobility specialist (COMS)** to learn the skills they need to map out walking routes in their community, independently cross the street, and thoughtfully problem-solve when they come across obstacles or route changes. **Each teen brings a support person, usually a parent, who spends the week learning how to best support their teen** and how to help them advocate for themselves as they grow into independent young adults.

Applications for Teen Orientation & Mobility are open now. Visit [LeaderDog.org](https://LeaderDog.org) and click ‘Client Programs’ to learn more and apply.



## Lion Mike: From Leader Dog Employee to President's Award



After twelve years as an employee in Leader Dog's philanthropy department, Lion Mike retired. Soon after, he realized just how much he missed being on the Leader Dog campus. So, what did he do? Signed up to volunteer, of course!

In December, **Lion Melissa Weiss, President & CEO, recognized Lion Mike with the Leader Dog President's Award.** This award is given to one Lion each year in recognition of acts of service supporting the cause of Vision with Leader Dog.

Mike, an active Lions Club member, now serves in our client services department, fielding phone calls from prospective and current clients. He helps with frequently asked questions, applications and other logistics questions or concerns. He also supports Lions events on campus, including Lions Tour Experiences and Summer Visits.

**"There is a common thread that runs through everyone who volunteers or donates to Leader Dog. It is an undeniable passion to empower people who are blind or visually impaired to travel safely and independently. If you share this passion, I encourage you to volunteer, donate or, better yet, do both."**

**– Lion Mike Dengate**



### A Fact & A Quote

**Fact |** In 2025, Leader Dog launched the Alumni Board. This powerful initiative builds a dynamic and inclusive client community by fostering meaningful connections among Leader Dog graduates. The Alumni Board ensures that the client's voice and perspective are actively represented.

**Quote |** "We are doing our work for the clients. If it wasn't for the clients, Leader Dog wouldn't be here. So being able to listen, collaborate and learn from each other, that's the best part of being involved." (Alumni Board Chair Juanita Lillie, pictured with Leader Dog Resi)





# PlusOptix

January 2026

**DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE** – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026: **15,007 students screened with 1,826 refers through December 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 Happy New Year!

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair  
314 9<sup>th</sup> St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; C. 406-253-1726: [lion.dfalcon@gmail.com](mailto:lion.dfalcon@gmail.com)



## **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

## BILLINGS LIONS CLUB NEWS COOKING FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Lions Sue Hanson and Richard Gessling of the Billings Lions Club, along with a friend prepared and cooked three meals for 30 people. The meals were frozen to be used when necessary by the staff. We got a tour of an apartment that was an example of the accommodations.

The Ronald McDonald House has added many new units over the years and now has close to twenty. Our club last year and this will be donating food and presents to the Ronald McDonald House at our Christmas Party.



## BOZEMAN GALLATIN EMPIRE LIONS CLUB COOKING SUMMER & WINTER

The Bozeman Gallatin Empire Lions provided Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Popcorn, Candy and soft drinks at the Bozeman Stampede Rodeo.



They put their cooking skills to work again for the recent Christmas Stroll, serving Brats & Hot Dogs – definitely not as warm outside!





# MISSOULA LIONS SERVE!

## Plus Optix Screening

This fall the Missoula Lions provided vision screening for 2,073 kindergarten through eighth grade. This was all coordinated by Lion Paul Buck.

## Christmas Tree Sale

Missoula Lions sold Christmas Trees from November 29th through December 9th. Over 251 volunteer hours resulting in \$26,000.00 raised for local projects.



## 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](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com).

## **DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS**

**Diabetes- Now What?** – PDG Dennis Kopitzke, [djk\\_7491@rangeweb.net](mailto:djk_7491@rangeweb.net); PO Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

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

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

**Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)** – Co-Chairs  
PDG Lary Garrison, 703 Conway Street, Billings, 59105; 406-855-6997; [lionlarygarrison@gmail.com](mailto:lionlarygarrison@gmail.com); [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)  
PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482; 406-450-2780; [miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com)

**Lions Gift of Sight**, (Actively Endorsed) - PDG Dan Sturdevant, PO Box 275, Clancy, MT 59634; 406-439-9297; [sturdydan@gmail.com](mailto:sturdydan@gmail.com); [www.opthalmology.umn.edu](http://www.opthalmology.umn.edu)

**Montana Association for the Blind** –Doug Robinson, President, 406-217-2857, 1711 Avenue F, Billings MT 59102; [president@mabsop.org](mailto:president@mabsop.org); <https://www.mabsop.org/>

**Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation** – Lion Jessica Fausey, PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; [lionjessicafausey@gmail.com](mailto:lionjessicafausey@gmail.com); [www.mtlionsshfnd.org](http://www.mtlionsshfnd.org)

**Montana School for the Deaf & Blind Foundation** – Lion Mark Willmarth, 220 38<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Great Falls MT 59404; 406-899-6110; [mark@visionwestmt.com](mailto:mark@visionwestmt.com); <https://www.msdbmustangs.org/about-us/foundation/>

**Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance** – PDG Mike Collins; 40 Meadowlark Dr., Kalispell, 59901; 406-871-4176; [mikeacollins@bresnan.net](mailto:mikeacollins@bresnan.net)

# MEMORIAL FORM

Forms can be submitted online at  
<https://www.montanalions.org/memorial-necrology-service/>

The chairs for the Memorial/Necrology Service at the District's annual convention are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors. During the service they will be recognizing deceased Lions' service and years as a Lion, where we will be asking a club or family member to assist by receiving a memorial rose.

We are asking each club's help in securing information about the deceased Lion. We would like to have members of the club or family members in attendance for the service, as well.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

Deceased Lion's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club's name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years as a Lion: \_\_\_\_\_

Service projects involved in: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Club Offices held: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

District Offices held: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please include the Lion's photo. Return no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_

## **SPECIAL NOTICES**

### **ALL CLUB SECRETARIES**

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 [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@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 SEE THE RECENT POST NOTING THAT DISTRICT DUES WILL BE DELIVERED VIA QUICKBOOKS ONLINE! ALSO KEEP A LOOKOUT IN THE PORTAL FOR YOUR JANUARY 1ST STATEMENTS FROM LCI WHICH WILL REFLECT THE 2ND HALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DUES OF \$25/LION**

### **DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS**

**These videos are all accessible via the district website, [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) under "Training/Resources".**

All Club officers: Trainer PDG Mike Collins  
Club President: Trainer PDG Mike Tobin  
Club Secretary: Trainer Lion Peggy Tobin  
Club Treasurer: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

**Short videos about how to do specific secretary or treasurer tasks:**

Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes)

**With the release of the new LionPortal, we have added links to some of the short videos provided by LCI – service Activities, How to Edit Members and How to Assign an Officer.**

### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Any Lions club member can submit information associated with any type of Lions project or general club information. **You can submit Club News ANYTIME via the website under News/Submit Club News.** Here's the link <https://www.montanalions.org/submit-club-news/> You are also welcome to email your news (hopefully with photos) to: Lion Peggy Tobin at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com).

### **WEBSITE UPDATES**

**In Addition to the "Tri-Fold Generator"** for clubs to create their own club brochures, additional documents have been added under Training/Resources including Leo Application forms!! If you have trouble finding a resource and it's not currently available on the website, please contact Peggy Tobin at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com) or call 406-461-4206.

The club-level website is still being offered by Montana District 37 at NO COST. If you are interested in getting a website for your club, please contact Peggy Tobin at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com) or call 406-461-4206.

## DISTRICT WEBSITE & AVAILABLE LINKS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## DISTRICT OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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C: 406-570-6742; [406corinna@gmail.com](mailto:406corinna@gmail.com)

1st VDG Jon Kimble; PO Box 1583, Seeley Lake MT 59868;  
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2nd VDG Gary Lewis; PO Box 523, Seeley Lake MT 59868-0523;  
C: 406-677-4072; [slk3018@blackfoot.net](mailto: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](mailto:peggtobin54@gmail.com)

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

## **JANUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

**517 years of service!!**

Sun River Valley	1/5/1966
Helena Gold Rush	1/9/1984
Glendive	1/10/1944
Hot Springs	1/23/1940
Eureka-Tobacco Valley	1/16/2014
Cascade	1/25/1958
Denton	1/26/1955
Hamilton	1/27/1930

## **UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES**

District Cabinet Meeting                      January 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am VIA ZOOM

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

## **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**

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>) and Forsyth (December 1<sup>st</sup>). Jon noted that he also needs to visit Hysham and is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> but could reschedule and join Richard on the 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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**