

# District Newsletter

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

February  
2026

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## Message From District Governor Corinna Christensen February 2026

### "Leading with Heart: Service, Empowerment, and Community"



**Dear Lions, Leos, and Community Partners,**

February is a month where compassion takes center stage. As Lions, we continue to lead with heart—empowering others, uplifting communities, and embracing new opportunities to grow. With the year well underway, now is the time to deepen our impact through meaningful service, strong partnerships, and inclusive leadership.

This month, let's channel our energy into impactful **Service Activities** and align our goals with Lions International's global themes as well as the needs of your community. Whether you're organizing a local food drive, vision screening, or planning a Service Carnival, your work changes lives. Remember to plan for the third and final **Lions International Week of Service** on April 18-26 with focus on the environment. More information can be found at <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/service/global-causes-initiatives/weeks-of-service>

## **Leadership in Action**

- February is also a time to mentor and empower new leaders. Consider:
- Recommending Lions for leadership training
- Supporting potential Leo Advisors and Leos
- Promoting establishing New Lions Clubs or Lions Club Branches where you see a need
- Leadership doesn't begin with a title. It begins with a willingness to serve.

## **Save the Date: March 8, 2026**

In celebration of **International Women's Day**, Lions around the world are invited to participate in **She Leads – A Global Lions Symposium**. This virtual event will bring together Lions, Leos, allies, and change-makers to empower women in service, share leadership strategies, and strengthen global inclusion and collaboration within our organization.

The symposium will begin at 7:00 AM Montana Time and is open to all members worldwide. Registration details and access information can be found through the Montana Lions District 37 website at <https://www.montanalions.org/2026/01/27/she-leads-global-lions-symposium-march-8-2026/>. Personally, I will be having a watch party with many of my Lady Lion Friends. Please join us either in person or virtually.

## **Save the Date: District 37 Convention**

Be sure to **register for the upcoming District 37 Convention**, to be held in beautiful **Columbia Falls on April 17-18**. This is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Learn what your neighboring Lions Clubs are doing
- Get updates on Lions International initiatives
- Attend the popular "Speed Learning" session, which will be back this year

Check it out and register at:

<https://www.montanalions.org/events/2026-district-37-convention/>

## **We Want to Feature You**

Send photos, stories, and success highlights to be included in the next newsletter. Let's celebrate our District's incredible Lions. Post any stories by clicking on <https://www.montanalions.org/submit-club-news/> or tag us on social media using #MontanaLionsDistrict37 or simply #MontanaLions and always include #WeServe. You are also welcome to email your story and photos to [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com).

## **Together, We Serve**

Here's to the second half of the Lionistic year focusing on **bold action, big hearts, and lasting change**.

With gratitude and excitement,

**District Governor Corinna**

Montana Lions District 37

# President's Message

## Lead to Serve, Serve To Lead

### with International President A.P. Singh



February 2026



Dear Lion,

As a Lion, you are a leader in your community. Your belief in service and your desire to make a difference — both at home and around the world — are what inspired you to become a Lion. Every project you begin and every role you take on is an act of leadership that strengthens our entire association. And every person you invite helps us reach our *MISSION 1.5* goals and do even more good for the people who need us.

At this midpoint of the Lion year, now is the perfect time to reflect on how you can continue to be a force for positive action in your club and beyond. Show those around you what it means to succeed — and what it means to be a Lion.

Together in service,  
**A.P. Singh, International President**

# Global Leadership Team

February 2026

## District 37 – Club Officer Training

District 37 will be offering Club Officer training via the Zoom meeting platform in March of 2025. The training will consist of 4 separate webinars. This training is highly recommended for all club officers.

**Session 1: Monday, Feb 2nd – 7:00pm – All Club Officers** - 1.5 Hours. Trainer – PDG Mike Collins.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/GOTUI-mQSc6kvq4mTCCDkw>

- Lions history
- Describe the Lions Club International Structure
- Describe standard club leadership structure.
- Identify the duties and responsibilities of each club officer.
- Standard Club Constitution and Bylaws
- Meaningful Projects
- Be familiar with the LIONS PORTAL and the Lions Learning Center

**Session 2: Tuesday, Feb 3rd – 7:00pm - Club President** –1.5 Hours. Trainer – PDG Mike Tobin.

Register Here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gExTx2arSBS\\_vjHtU9EyVg](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gExTx2arSBS_vjHtU9EyVg)

- President Responsibilities
- Leadership
- Where to find Resources
- Things to do and not to do
- How to enjoy your year

**Session 3: Wednesday, Feb 4th – 7:00pm - Club Secretaries** – 2 Hours. Trainer – Lion Peggy Tobin.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/5NKvQEFpRpqW0qKHI-2NyA>

- Secretary Responsibilities
- Secretary functions before, during, after meetings
- Membership & Officer reporting – Hands-On training for Lions Portal
- Activity Reporting – Hands-On for Lions Portal

**Session 4: Thursday, Feb 5th – 7:00pm - Club Treasurers** – 1.5 Hours – Trainer – PDG Mike Collins.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Rt-BMbPCQYW0XlnXN1wxzQ>

- Treasurer Responsibilities
- Club Accounts & Budgets
- Member Dues
- Payments
- Financial Policies
- Financial Records

These sessions will be live on-line zoom interactive training sessions. This does require online access from a computer or tablet with speakers. You can participate without a microphone but would be limited to typing any questions. These webinars will be recorded and made available for people who are unable to attend.

# Global Membership Team

## Global and Montana Membership

### February 2026



## We Are A Community

Mostly, Montana Lions clubs live within their own world. However, we are joined together in International Lions District 37. We have a chance to meet other lion members at our district convention each year.

I Ask the question “Is this enough?” What can be gained by getting together more often? Lion clubs have a basic structure and motto “We Serve”, and another “Where there’s a need there’s a lion”.

As I have visited clubs I noticed the similarities and differences. My next question is “can we help each other be all we want to be?” By visiting other clubs, you might be introduced to great ideas from recruiting new members, service ideas, resources and more. You might be able to receive guidance on issues your club is dealing with. Will you visit a neighboring club?

Another way to interact is to invite a neighboring club to share a function, NOT A MEETING. A pot luck or a program of Lions endorsed projects or information from a knowledgeable person or persons about an issue that is related to our mottos or another issue in your community.

“Together we will overcome” has become a catch phrase that has been used in recent times when communities have been impacted by an adverse event. This is a way to connect a wide cross section of the community toward solving the situation they find themselves in and moving forward together. “Stronger Together!”

Why do we wait for trouble and not start before disaster has occurred or is knocking at our door? This must be our humanity some would say. Why wait, when sharing and asking for help could prevent a troublesome journey? Too many questions you might say. My response would be to overcome your embarrassment of nonaction and ask for help.

I challenge every Lion member and club to participate in getting to know one another so we can overcome whatever we want to achieve as a person and as a club. A relationship first makes asking easier and with better results. Let us commit to getting to know one another, member or club, to make each of our clubs and our district the best we can be.

I look forward to members and clubs reporting how getting together has made you and your Club stronger and more successful in whatever you and your clubs pursue.

GMT Lion Richard Gessling



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**



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

February 2026

Clubs of District 37, have you had a chance to look at your community and see what it's needs are? One of our Clubs did. Fairfield did and they found that they needed help with their food bank to improve their ability to help feed the needy in their area. Not having the finances to do what was needed, the Club applied for a Hunger grant through LCIF to help achieve their financial goals.

I am proud to let everyone know that their grant was approved for \$77,614.00! What could your club do for your community with that amount of money?? All you need to do is **LOOK** and **APPLY**.

There are so many different areas that you can apply for a grant. If you need more information, contact your LCIF Chairperson. We can come and visit with your club and maybe start that process. LCIF wants to HELP and so do Mike Tobin and Lary Garrison, your District 37 Chairpersons.

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

February 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.

# MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

February 2026

## Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2026 to January 26, 2026

- Applications Received: 2
- Assistance Provided: 0
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$0.00
- Applications Received From: Polson and Belt

## 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

February 2026

**DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE** – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026: **24,331 students screened with 3,033 refers through January 2026.**



## 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 HEIGHTS LIONS Make Donation To The Lockwood Hs Jr Rotc

The Billings Heights Lions recently made a \$100 donation to the Lockwood Lions Jr. ROTC for their upcoming competition in Salt Lake City, Utah.



PDGs Scott Dornfeld and Lary Garrison presented the check.



### SEELEY LAKE LIONS Giving Thanks

At a time when families are planning for the holidays with lavish meals and relatives traveling to be with one another, not everyone is as fortunate. Some families wonder if they will see relatives or what kind of meal they will have. One of our own members, Lion Cory, who owns Cory's Valley Market here in town, each year, puts together food baskets to be distributed to those less fortunate. In the baskets will be either a turkey or a turkey breast, complete with stuffing, vegetable, milk and of course a pumpkin pie!



## Lions Celebrating Christmas Seeley Style

Christmas would not be the same if it wasn't for a Christmas Party with the Lions! This year was a little unusual dealing with adverse weather conditions. Just a day before the meeting we were hit with a violent wind and ice storm that left most of the town without power. Crews from Missoula Electric Cooperative worked round the clock to take care of families in the dark.

Unfortunately our hall where our meetings take place and all the decorations had been set up was without power for several days. We had to wait it out but they came through for us and had the hall up and running in a few days. So we rescheduled and had about 35 members show up with all the small finger foods, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts to make this a festive party. We had an ugly sweater contest and a White Elephant gift exchange. Of all the many good things I can say about this club is we have fun and I am proud to be their president.



Articles Submitted by president Michael Feretich

## 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)

## **OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE CONVENTION**

**The annual District Convention shall be held on April 17 and 18, 2026 in Columbia Falls, Montana. The convention starts as registration commences on Friday April 17, 2025 at 1:00pm.**

### **CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA**

Policy Manual, Article 8, Section B: Club Delegate Formula

Each chartered club in good standing in Lions Clubs International and this District shall be entitled in each annual convention of this District to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each (10) members, who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the International office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. **(NOTE: for the 2026 convention, that date is March 1<sup>st</sup>.)** The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members. Each certified delegate, present in person, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote only on each question submitted to the respective convention. All eligible delegates must be members in good standing of a club in good standing within the District.

Montana District 37 grants full delegate status to each past district governor who is a member of a club in such district independent of the club delegate quotas.

### **CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

Early Bird Registration for the 2026 District 37 Convention in Columbia Falls ends **March 27, 2026**. The cost will increase from \$110 to \$135 on March 28, 2026.

Go to [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) to register online or download the registration form on pages 15 & 16 of this newsletter.

**Additional forms attached are the Hall of Fame Nomination, Memorial Form and Convention Bid Form.**

**ALL OF THESE FORMS ARE EASILY COMPLETED ONLINE AT  
[www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org)**

See specific locations listed on each form below.



**2026 MONTANA LIONS DISTRICT 37  
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM  
APRIL 17 & 18, 2026  
Columbia Falls, Montana**

**>>>\*\*\*Register Online at [MontanaLions.org](http://MontanaLions.org)\*\*\*<<<**

NAME & TITLE:			
COMPANION NAME & TITLE:			
ADDRESS:			
PHONE:			
EMAIL:			
CLUB NAME:			
VOTING MEMBER:	YES	/	NO
	Voting Member must bring Lions Membership Card with Lions Number		

Registration	PAYMENT DUE WITH REGISTRATION FORM	Indicate # Attending in Each Category Below	
<b>LIONS MEMBER –</b> Early Bird By 3/27/2026	\$110.00		Two Meals & Auction Social
<b>LIONS MEMBER –</b> Starting 03/28/2026 at 12:01am	\$135.00		Two Meals & Auction Social
<b>COMPANION –</b> Two Meals & Auction Social  Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00	\$80.00  Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00		<b>Saturday Lunch &amp; Banquet Dinner</b> List Food Allergy  [We will Attempt to Accommodate]
<b>LIONS MEMBER -</b> Friday & Saturday - Social & Banquet Dinner	Included with Paid Registration		List Food Allergy  [We will Attempt to Accommodate]
<b>TOTAL DUE NOW</b>			

**>>>\*\*\*Register Online at [MontanaLions.org](http://MontanaLions.org)\*\*\*<<<**

If you mail in your registration: Make check payable to District 37.

Send registration form to Lion Jessica Fausey; PO Box 1925, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

**Registration Refund Policy:** Any refund request must be communicated to DG Corinna Christensen no later than March 27, 2026. Registration may be transferred from one club member to another, within the same club.

Training Planned			
<b>Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> Club Officer Training – Cedar Creek Lodge 9:00am – noon</b>	Club President Club Secretary Club Treasurer Zone Chair Roundtable	Included with Paid Registration. Thursday night hotel will be reimbursed.	<b>Select Training &amp; Number in Party</b>
<b>Convention Events Registration, Trainings, Live &amp; Silent Auctions</b>	<u>Friday, April 17th</u> Registration Opens 1pm to 5pm	<u>Saturday, April 18th</u> Registration Opens 7am to 9am	
Friday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm Live & Silent Auction, Grazing Table & Live Music Cedar Creek Lodge		Included with Paid Registration	
Optional Events			<b>Select Event &amp; Number in Party</b>
<b>Friday –&gt;Lake McDonald Lodge Tour; Leaves at 1pm, returns around 5pm</b>	Tour vans will leave promptly at 1pm from the front entrance of Cedar Creek Lodge.	Tour size limited to 28 people.  Cost: Free	
<b>Friday –&gt;Northwest Montana History Museum Tour; Leaves at 1:30pm, returns around 4pm</b>	Tour vans will leave promptly at 1:30pm from the front entrance of Cedar Creek Lodge.	Tour size limited to 14 people.  Cost: \$9 adults, \$7 seniors	
<b>Friday –&gt;REMODELED Glacier International Airport Tour; Leaves at 2pm, returns around 4pm</b>	Tour vans will leave promptly at 2pm from the front entrance of Cedar Creek Lodge.	Tour size limited to 14 people.  Cost: Free	
Local Shopping	On Your Own		

#### **HOTELS – SET UP your own reservations:**

**Cedar Creek Lodge (CONVENTION HOTEL):** 930 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave West; Columbia Falls // 406.897.7070.

Mention Lions Convention - **\$109.89 King or Dbl (including tax).**

**Glacier International Lodge:** 4150 US-2; Kalispell // 406.751.9000. Mention Lions Convention - **\$99 King or Dbl (NOT including tax).** (This hotel is 7.5 miles from the Convention hotel)

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** During the District Convention, we will be recognizing deceased Lions members at the Memorial Service. Club Presidents or Secretaries are asked to complete the Memorial Form located on MontanaLions.org website under the “Events” tab.

**\*\*PLEASE HAVE YOUR CLUB PROVIDE ONE ITEM/ BASKET FOR THE SILENT AUCTION WHICH WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FRIDAY EVENING SOCIAL.\*\***

**THE PARADE OF GREEN WILL BE HELD DURING THE DISTRICT CONVENTION.**

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT: Lions Dev Stutsman 406.471.9830 or Jessica Fausey 406.253.1737**

# Nomination Form - 2026 District 37 Hall of Fame

**Must Be Received by the District Governor 30 Days prior to start of the 2026 District Convention which will start on April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Forms can be submitted online at**

**<https://www.montanalions.org/hall-of-fame-nomination/>**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates Phone Nbr. \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates Immediate Family and Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nomination Sponsor & Phone Nbr.: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Nomination Qualification Criteria**

Date Candidate Joined Lions: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Current Club: \_\_\_\_\_

List of all clubs in which the candidate has held membership: \_\_\_\_\_

List Past Club Offices Held: \_\_\_\_\_

List Current Club Offices Held: \_\_\_\_\_

District Positions Held: \_\_\_\_\_

LCI Positions Held: \_\_\_\_\_

List all Lion's awards and honors received: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Lion a Life Member of District 37? \_\_\_\_\_ of LCI? \_\_\_\_\_ How long \_\_\_\_\_

How many new members has the candidate sponsored? \_\_\_\_\_

State reasons why this member is worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

List any other information that may be applicable.

Include any applicable news articles.

## **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!

# **DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION BID FORM**

This form must be received by the District Governor, 30 days prior to the start of the current year convention. Forms can be submitted to:

District Governor Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729; C: 406-570-6742; [406corinna@gmail.com](mailto:406corinna@gmail.com)

**OR**

**Forms can be submitted online at  
<https://www.montanalions.org/convention-bid/>**

The district convention will be held on April 16-17, 2026. The approval/non-approval of the bid will be made at the current year district convention.

Please print.

Date of Bid Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Bid for Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Bidding Club(s): If this bid is being jointly made by more than one Lions Club, please list all clubs as bidding clubs: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Convention Headquarters: \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address and Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Nbr. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of full-service motel rooms: \_\_\_\_\_ meeting rooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Campsites: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Location and seating capacity for the following activities

Activity	Capacity	Location
Social	_____	_____
Business Sessions	_____	_____
Breakfasts	_____	_____
Friday Night Social	_____	_____
DG Banquet	_____	_____

2. Attach information as to what makes your area an attractive site for a District Convention. Please note items of interest in and around your community.

3. Organizational support has been obtained from:

Other Lions Clubs: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Clubs: \_\_\_\_\_

Levels of Government: \_\_\_\_\_

Chamber of Commerce/Board of Trade: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel/Convention Bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Convention experience of Chairperson and others:

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5. Name of host club: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairpersons signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Attach a copy of minutes of club meeting where the motion was passed authorizing this bid.

## **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.

## **ALL CLUB TREASURERS**

Please remember that all Lions clubs with annual gross receipts less than US \$50,000 that are not required to file Forms 990 or 990-EZ must file the e-Postcard (also known as the 990-N). Please be advised this filing relates specifically to the 501(c)(4). If your Lions club has a foundation, which is a separate legal entity, the appropriate form will need to be filed as well. **If you are unfamiliar with this process, please see the short video noted below.**

## **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**

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

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

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; [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com)

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

# FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

**351 years of service!!**

Kalispell Sunrisers	2/03/1969
Nashua	2/12/1952
Plains	2/23/1944
Bozeman Gallatin Empire	2/24/1969
Fairfield	2/26/1940

## UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

# 2026 MD C CONVENTION

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
APRIL 10-11, 2026  
GRAND PRAIRIE, ALBERTA  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER – 1<sup>ST</sup> VP MARK S. LYON**

# 2026 DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
APRIL 17-18, 2026  
COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER – PID DEB WEAVERLING**

## 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- January 10, 2026-CABINET MEETING

## VIA ZOOM

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

### Attendees:

DG Corinna Christensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Gary Lewis, PDG Brian Gertiser-Leader Dog Co-Chair, GST Chair Cheryl Lewis, PDG Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF Co-chairs, Zone 1 Chair Rob Shaffer, Lion Steve Dogiakos Treasurer, Lion Dave Falcon, Plus Optix, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, PID Ben Apland, PCC Dan Krum, Lion Peggy Tobin, Secretary, Lion Marie Hajny, PID Dave Hajny. PDG Mike Collins joined at 9:30am; IPDG Raleigh Peck and Zone Chair Margaret Baylison joined the meeting at 10:00am.

1. Call to Order by DG Corinna Christensen at 9:02 AM
  - a. Pledge of Allegiance
  - b. Invocation: Lion Peggy Tobin
  - c. Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and what role they have in Lions
  - d. District Governor – The DG's have been burning up the highways (see attached club visitation report)
2. Minutes – Peggy asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Dan moved to approve the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes as distributed. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Financial Reports: Steve noted in his email that the financial reports as of December 31, 2025 noting that he invoiced \$37,750 in dues to clubs, including \$200 held over from dues owed from last fiscal year. Some paper invoices have been mailed (prioritizing clubs that have officers without emails first) and the rest are in the process of being sent out. My thanks to the clubs that have already submitted their dues payments. As of January 7<sup>th</sup>, the District has transferred \$1,516 from our general fund to the Friendship Committee per the policy of \$1 per member in the District. Steve said that the electronic system has been well received. Some clubs still paying by check which is fine. Mike T moved to approve the financial reports and motion was seconded by Dan. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below
5. Officers Reports
  - a. DG/VDG's – Club Visitations – see attached report. Corinna reviewed the clubs that went into status quo – Culbertson and Whitefish. Discussion followed regarding how many clubs do service vs fund raising. Corinna noted that other clubs have asked how to get admin money. Peggy provided an example from the Sunburst Lions – serving meals at events being put on by a local insurance agency and a tri-county quilt guild. Gary noted that his club visits were really fun. He has completed all of his visits except one scheduled for the spring.
  - b. Administrator's Report – Peggy reported that she had the Leo Club forms added to the website per IPDG Raleigh's request at the October cabinet meeting. After discussion with PID Ben, the dates on the Hall of Fame page were updated. She also completed the mid-month 2025 convention reports in December. Peg noted that club news is starting to come in from clubs that have never sent in articles before. One example was the Missoula club for their Christmas tree sales.
  - c. Zone/Region Reports – Rob noted that he hasn't done a lot since Thanksgiving. Corinna wanted to know what a better time for her zone chair meetings. She will send out an email to try to revitalize that effort.
  - d. Committee Reports
    1. GET- no report.
    2. GLT: Mike C – we will have zoom club officer training soon. Mike would like to step down from this role. Corinna asked Lary if any of the retired teachers in Billings Heights and the one active member is teaching part time-Lary will ask him.

3. GMT: Rob noted that he's still working with Missoula. Seeley Lake lost 7 at year end. Kalispell noon club reflects 10 members. Mike C. isn't sure how solid the number is. Corinna met with the campus club and it feels disjointed and feels that they need a Lion who could come and connect with them. Corinna noted that Richard has expressed an interest in not being head of GMT.
4. GST: Cheryl didn't have a report but noted she's responded to questions that she received.
5. LCIF – Mike T – Mike hasn't been on the road, but made calls to the clubs that haven't done a Melvin Jones. Lary checked the numbers – as of this morning the donations total \$17,736 which is ahead of what we had last year at this time. Thirty-Six lions have donated and six lion clubs. This reflects only 2.3% of our members donating. Most of the donations come during convention. Ennis has put in for a skate board park; Fairfield put in for a hunger grant and it has been submitted. Mike hasn't received the grant from Seeley Lake yet. Lary talked to Corinna about using some of the emergency grant money to purchase a trailer that could be used to move equipment around to areas that have had an emergency to prepare food, etc. Corinna referred to it as an "Emergency Preparedness Trailer". Brian noted that with the IRS changes in charitable donation limits, we could make note of that when asking for donations. Lary noted that Plentywood had indicated an interest in a grant but he never heard anything else and will follow up with them.
6. Advisory Committee – Ben had nothing to report – he had a busy 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Richard is working on a location in Big Timber for a meeting possibly February 9<sup>th</sup> (was determined that it was the "group of 6"). We need to be talking about Presidential, Leadership and Appreciation awards. Corinna noted that those recommendations are due February 13<sup>th</sup>.
7. Policy & By-Laws – Mike T has not received anything for the committee to review. Ben & Mike are working on a "flag protocol" for the conventions. Lion Cory is also working on a convention manual which would be separate from policy & by-laws. When received, it will be passed on to Jessica.

6. Old Business

- a. Club Health Assessment – December (see attached report) Corinna noted that we are still positive.
- b. Club Officer Training – Coming soon!
- c. **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice District Governor** - Recruitment concern as we need a 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG for 2026-2027. We have a hard "no" from Jerry Kuhn. He is up for a promotion that could take him out of the area. Raleigh suggested a committee. Turn the group of six into a "nominating" or "long range planning committee" for district governor candidates and convention locations. (Highlighted in red!!)
- d. Membership & Marketing Proposal – Corinna noted that we need a core committee. Brian reported that his club was looking for a marketing firm and was hoping to piggy back on the district's firm. The committee has three proposals, but has not had any forward motion. Raleigh was leading the charge while he was DG. He and Steve couldn't get commitments from folks to participate. We need a chair for the committee. Steve agrees and he is at capacity and can't take on that task. We need 3-5 folks to take on the task. Mike C felt that any of the top three proposals would be acceptable. Corinna noted a few members of the BGE club that might be good members. Brian noted that their club has received a proposal from a Bozeman firm and will be having a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss. Raleigh offered to make some time to assist.
- e. 2026 District Convention– April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Jessica reported that the registration cost was set at \$110/person. They have raised \$8,500 from three sponsors. They have a few more sponsors that they

are hoping to get more funding. They have spent about \$16,000. Mike T asked about the flag ceremonies and they are going to talk to the local VFW. They are working with the Don Lawrence group for live music. They are hoping to do a couple of tours – Lake McDonald Lodge; the recently “Remodeled” Glacier Int’l Airport; and the Northwest Montana History Museum. Brian noted that Jesse Vanderbuilt with Leader Dog is coming. Raleigh said some lions from Sydney are talking about taking the train. Jessica will be working on shuttles. Dan asked about the registration form – Jessica is hoping for that within the next two weeks and, when received, Peg will create the online registration which should be live by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Dan moved and Mike C seconded to accept the \$110 for registration. Ben noted that there will be a Canadian delegation as well. Mike C confirmed that there will be club officer training on Friday morning. Lots of kudos to Jessica and her team!

## 7. New Business

- Growth meetings from October Cabinet meeting - Peggy reviewed the notes from the last cabinet meeting regarding creating a team to come up with a contest that clubs could participate in for club growth. Raleigh suggested that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice could head up the committee. Corinna suggested that anyone interested should sign up for the workshop by PIP Brian (see (b)). Fort Benton Leos were able to get their charter date reinstated correctly.
- Growth Workshop Series from PIP Brian Sheehan (see above) – Raleigh recommended sharing with the Leo Clubs and encourage participation.
- Peace Poster Contest Results - Corinna was excited about the submissions for the Peace poster contest. She will go to Helena on Tuesday to present the awards. There are now online contest packets available.

8. Additional Items – Open Discussion – pirateship.com is a great tool for shipping eyeglasses.

9. Next Meeting - Post Convention, Columbia Falls – Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 9:00am

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** District 37 2026 Convention – Columbia Falls – April 17-18, 2026  
 LCI Convention – Hong Kong, July 3-7, 2026  
 USA Canada Forum – Memphis TN Sept 3-5, 2026

## District 37 Membership Report

