

District Newsletter

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

March
2026

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Message From District Governor Corinna Christensen March 2026

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



Dear Montana Lions and Leos,

There is something about this time of year in **Montana that feels full of momentum**. The days stretch a little longer, projects start taking shape, and our service calendar begins to fill quickly. I continue to be so proud of the energy, creativity, and steady commitment I see across District 37. Whether you are in a town of less than 200 or 120,000+, you are making a difference and it shows.

I want to personally remind you about the upcoming **She Leads Symposium** on March 8 at 7:00 a.m. Mountain Time. Hosted through Lions International, this event is designed to inspire and strengthen leadership at every level. If you are able, consider turning it into a **club watch party**. Gather around a laptop at your meeting hall, meet for breakfast at a local café, or invite neighboring clubs to join you. Leadership grows stronger when we grow together.

Earlier this month, I sent the registration details from the District 37 email account. Please refer back to that message for details. [She Leads Registration Link](#) can be found here. I would love to see a strong Montana presence.

Looking ahead, April 18–26 marks the Environmental focus of the **Lions Worldwide Weeks of Service**. This is our opportunity to amplify what we already do so well — serve visibly and meaningfully. Plant a tree. Clean a stretch of highway. Organize an e-waste recycling day. Partner with your local school on a beautification project. Support a waterway cleanup. The project does not have to be elaborate; it simply needs heart and participation. When each club does something, our district impact becomes powerful.

And then, of course, **District 37 Convention**. April 17–18 in Columbia Falls will be here before we know it. The convention team has poured thoughtful planning into making this an event that balances education, connection, and fun. Convention is where we refuel, where we exchange ideas, where we laugh, and where we remember why we first said yes to Lionism. Be sure to register soon: [District 37 Lions Convention Registration Link](#).

As we prepare for Convention and our annual Memorial Service, please take a moment to submit the names and information of departed Lions from your club at <https://www.montanalions.org/memorial-necrology-service/> so that each life of service, friendship, and dedication is properly honored and remembered.

Lastly, if you are in Eastern Montana, consider traveling west by train with PDG Raleigh Peck. I have a feeling that trip alone could become **a district legend**. Good conversation, Montana scenery rolling by, and Lions fellowship... it does not get much better than that.

On behalf of District 37, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to our Lions neighbors to the north in Alberta on the passing of **Justice Brian Stevenson, Past International President** of Lions International. At the time of his presidency, we proudly shared a Multiple District with Alberta. PIP Brian will be remembered as an exemplary leader, devoted Lion, and true friend whose legacy of integrity and service will continue to inspire us all.

Thank you for continuing to lead with integrity and serve with generosity. **District 37 is strong because of you**. Let's keep the momentum going as we move into a very full and exciting spring.

With appreciation and confidence in our shared mission...WE SERVE,
District Governor Corinna Christensen
Montana Lions District 37
Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead

From the Desk of CC Christine Lank
Remembering Past International President
Justice Brian Stevenson, Calgary AB



Lions of Montana, I wanted to let you know about the sudden passing of Past International President, Justice Brian Stevenson, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. PIP Justice Stevenson was elected to serve as the international president at the Lions' 70th International Convention, held in Taipei, Taiwan, in July 1987.

PIP Justice Stevenson was a proud Lion since 1966 and a member of the Calgary Northeast Eyeopener Lions Club, and he held numerous roles within the association, including district governor, council chairperson (74-75), member of the association's board of directors (77-79), a presidential appointee to the international board on five occasions, and served as a board trustee for Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). For his many contributions, Past International President Stevenson received the 100% District Governor Award, the Senior Master Key, 38 International Presidents' Awards, and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the association's highest honor granted to its members. He was a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, along with his wife, Lion Patricia.

He wanted to leave this world a better place than how he inherited it through his work with the association, so he served as Canada's constitutional area leader on the Global Membership Team, as the Canadian advisor on the LCIF Development Advisory Committee, and as Canada's representative on the association's Centennial Committee. He also represented Canada on the Vice-Presidential Candidates Evaluation Committee.

Past International President Stevenson served the community as a Lion, and as a dedicated and long-serving judge. PIP Stevenson retired from the Calgary justice system in December of 2024. While no official records are kept, it's believed that Justice Stevenson spent more than 50 years on the bench, making him the longest-serving judge in Canadian history. Before being appointed as a judge in 1974, he was a partner in a Calgary law firm and served as a special prosecutor of narcotic offences for the Canadian Department of Justice.

In 1996, the City of Calgary recognized his substantial contributions by awarding him the Grant MacEwan Lifetime Achievement Award of Merit. In 2005, the Province of Alberta recognized his service to Alberta with the Alberta Centennial Medal. In 2002, Justice Stevenson was honored by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with the Golden Jubilee Medal, and in 2023, he was again honored by receiving the Platinum Jubilee Medal. Not only did our association and our Lions benefit from Justice Stevenson's passion, he also served as an advisor to Calgary's United Way, as president of the Calgary Social Planning Council, and as a member of the City of Calgary Social Services Committee. He has also served as president of the Alberta Provincial Judges' Association and as chair of the International Year of Disabled Persons for the Province of Alberta.

But his greatest achievement was his family, his beloved Patricia, who left his side in 2022, his blended family of four daughters, 24 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

PIP Brian Stevenson showed us what great leadership looks like, and his courage in serving humanity, his gentle manner, humor, and love of life and people should guide us all. Let's remember what his life taught us and continue his work together. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Below is the link for Judge Brian's celebration of Life:

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/edenbrook/obituaries/brian-stevenson/156380.html>

The family wanted to accommodate Brian's Lions family, so they are holding it on Monday after our MD Convention (April 13, 2026), which is in Grande Prairie. They also had his Law family to work with, hence the 4 pm start. The Red & White club is close to the Calgary Stampeders home stadium, McMahon Stadium.

Vice President Mark & Lion Lyn are staying in Calgary on Sunday night so they can attend on Monday. They are our guests at the convention. We are making arrangements at the Best Western Plus Village Park Inn [1804 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary AB T2M 3Y7](#) (403) 289-0241. The Village Park Inn is across the street (Crowchild Trail) from McMahon Stadium and the Red & White Club.

Take care
CC Christine Lank



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



March 2026

Dear Lion,

When you join Lions, you may focus on how you will give back to others through service. What you may not immediately realize is how much Lions gives back to you. Becoming a Lion opens the door to experiencing more — more belonging, more purpose, more leadership and more community.

Lions is not only the world's largest and best service organization; it's a way of life. As a Lion, you grow as an individual while discovering how your unique talents and passions can make a real difference in the world. Lions is your place to shine.

Remember, every one of you is needed, important and valued. Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to seeing how you continue to grow on your Lions journey.

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

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership

March 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 Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin

March 2026

“The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is tenacity”

Amelia Earhart

For those clubs that have requested grants, thank you for taking action even if it was not successful. PDG Mike Tobin and I can guarantee only one thing, if you don't apply for a grant you won't get one!

For those clubs that have not applied for a grant from your Lions Clubs International Foundation, why haven't you? Are there no needed projects in your community? Do you think your club too small? Do you think your club does not have enough financial liquidity? Is your club unaware of grants that are available and what they can be used for?

#1. Every community has a need that a grant from your Lions Clubs International Foundation can and will help make possible. It will not be every need, but there is a need if you look hard enough to find!

#2. No club is too small, period! Grants have been given to the Winnett Lions (an ambulance), the former Broadview Lions (a Senior Center), and the Billings Heights Lions (a Habitat for Humanity House), to name a few over the years.

#3. Projects are not just club financed projects, but should be community financed projects. Half of the project cost may come from your Lions Clubs International Foundation grant. The remainder can be raised by your club, as well as community resources such as individuals and businesses.

#4. If your club is unaware of grants and how they can be used, why hasn't your club requested a visit to your club by Mike or myself? Why hasn't your club sent a club member to your District Convention to learn about what resources are available? Better yet, why hasn't your club explored the needs of your community?

Grants are available to meet Environmental, Hunger, Vision, Youth, Humanitarian, Disaster, Childhood Cancer and Diabetes needs throughout the world, even possibly in your community, but only if you can identify and request them. WE SERVE, but only when a club identifies a need.

Service also includes financially supporting your Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lions members contribute the vast majority of money that is available for grants. Without the financial support of Lions here and around the world our philanthropic work would need to be cut back. District 37 receives vastly more money in grants from the Lions Clubs International Foundation than District 37 contributes to the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Mike and I hope every Montana Lion will support the Lions Clubs International Foundation, no matter how large or how much you can give. As I have heard, give until it feels good, not until it hurts! Donations can be made with a one-time gift, a monthly payment, or in a will or annuity. Mail your donation to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 USA, or go to donorassistance@lionsclubs.org Fax 630-571-5735, or www.lcif.org, or call 630-203-3836 for assistance.

Yours in Lionism,

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

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

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

Message from the District Treasurer

March 2026

Is Your Lions Club “Invite Only”? Or Just Invisible?

Across Lions Clubs International, we regularly discuss membership growth, retention, and service impact. Those are important conversations. But underneath all of that is a more basic and revealing question:

If someone in your community decided they wanted to become a Lion, how would they figure out how to do it?

Picture two different people.

One is a 38-year-old business owner who just moved to town. She searches online for ways to get involved. She checks Facebook. She looks for a website. She wants to know what the organization does, when it meets, and how to reach someone directly.

The other is a 67-year-old retiree who has lived in the area for decades. He reads the local newspaper. He listens to local radio. He notices which groups sponsor youth events. He sees banners at the fairgrounds. He asks neighbors who is active in the community.

Both of these people could make excellent Lions. Both may be looking for purpose and connection. The question is whether your club is visible to either of them.

Most clubs are not formally “invite only.” But some operate in a way that unintentionally limits access. If the only realistic way to join is to already know a Lion well enough to be asked, then membership is restricted to existing social circles. That may feel natural. It may even feel traditional. But it narrows the pipeline.

Visibility has two dimensions: digital and analog. Both matter.

On the digital side, ask yourself: if someone searches for your club, what do they find? Is your meeting time current? Is there a clear contact person? Is there a simple explanation of what your club actually does locally, not just a generic description of Lions? Does your social media reflect recent activity? Is there an obvious path for someone to say, "I'm interested"?

Digital presence is not about chasing trends. It is about clarity. It allows a prospective member to quietly research before making contact. For many people, that step is essential.

But digital presence alone is not enough, especially in many of our communities.

The analog footprint is just as important. Are you consistently mentioned in the local paper? Do your press releases include a line inviting prospective members? Are you visible at community events with signage that clearly identifies you? Does your club name appear on sponsorship banners, park signs, or event programs? Do members talk about Lions work in everyday conversation at church, at the café, at school functions?

For some potential members, awareness grows from repeated, physical visibility. They join not because they saw a website once, but because they have seen the Lions name attached to meaningful projects over time.

Then there is culture. Suppose someone attends a meeting after finding you, whether online or through word of mouth. Is the process clear? Do they understand what is expected? Do they know what the next step is? Or do we assume that interest is enough to convert itself into membership?

Openness must be *communicated*. Accessibility must be **intentional**.

At the district level, engagement improves when clubs evaluate both footprints honestly. A strong website cannot compensate for invisibility in the community. A long-standing local reputation cannot compensate for a complete absence online. The most resilient clubs tend to maintain both. They are easy to find digitally and easy to recognize physically.

So here is a practical exercise for your club:

If a motivated person under 40 searched for you tonight, what would they see?

If a motivated retiree looked around town this month, what would they notice?

If either answer is unclear, there is opportunity.

How does your club balance its digital and analog presence? What has helped you attract new members in recent years? What gaps have you identified?

Share your experience. Specific examples will help other clubs think more critically about their own visibility and engagement.

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

March 2026

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 5
- Assistance Provided: 0
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$0.00
- Applications Received From: Belt, Emigrant, Great Falls, Helena & Polson

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

March 2026

DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026 - **29,085 students screened with 3,441 refers through February 2026.**



NOTICE REGARDING REPORTING YOUR SCREENING STATISTICS:

To the 26 clubs who currently have Plus Optix machines:

It is **VITAL** that you report your numbers each month to Lion Dave Falcon in order to maintain proper records. This assists in determining the effectiveness of this program! To date this school year, only 54% of you have sent in your monthly statistics. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact me!!

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair
314 9th St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; C. 406-253-1726: lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

District 37 Facebook Page

We all know that Lions serve from the heart, and now we want to see YOU in action! Whether you're planting trees, organizing a food drive, helping out at a community event, or any other service activity, we want to showcase the amazing work our Lions are doing.

We're looking for candid shots of Montana Lions actively engaging in service. We appreciate the posed group photos that commemorate events but we want to see how you have captured the real moments that show the spirit of Lionism in action!

How to Participate:

1. Snap candid photos of Lions in action during service activities.
2. Share your photos via message to the District Facebook Page (<https://m.me/MontanaLions>).
3. Include a brief description of the activity and the names of the Lions involved.
4. Bonus points for Lions wearing Lions Club logos on hats, vests, shirts, etc.!

Let's fill our media with the heart and soul of our District's service efforts. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words—let's show the world the impact of the MT Lions Clubs of District 37!

CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

Looking for Club Service Project Ideas?

Sometimes it's hard to come up with new ideas for club service projects. In addition to the Club Spotlights section of the newsletter, Lions Club International offers a wealth of information that can assist in making our clubs stronger. One of them is the "Quick Start Service Ideas" based on our global causes. You can find this list at montanalions.org under the "About Us/Our Causes" and "Training & Resources" tabs.

BILLINGS HEIGHTS LIONS Fundraiser for the Billings Heights Lions Club Foundation

The Billings Heights Lions Club Foundation is selling tickets for a Charlie Russell Chew-Choo trip including the following:

Trip includes:

- Tickets for two for train ride on the Charlie Russell Chew-Choo at Lewistown, Montana which also includes dinner, 1 night's lodging and \$50 for gas.
- Optional \$550 payoff.
- Tickets are \$10 each or 8 for \$50
- Drawing to be held April, 30th, 2026

Thank you for any assistance you can provide to our Lions Club Foundation!



Ennis Lions Club Poker Tournament Brings Community Together for a Winning Cause

The Ennis Lions Club hosted its annual Poker Tournament on Sunday, February 1st, at the Silver Dollar in Ennis, and the event delivered exactly what it promised...great cards, great company, and an even greater cause. From the opening deal to the final hand, the atmosphere was jovial and the camaraderie unmistakable as players squared off in a spirited Texas Hold 'Em battle. Laughter, friendly banter, and good-natured competition filled the room, underscoring what has become one of the Lions Club's largest and most anticipated fundraisers of the year.

Proceeds from the tournament directly support Ennis Lions Club initiatives that benefit the entire Madison Valley and beyond, including student scholarships, maintenance and improvements at Ennis Lions Park, eye testing in all Madison County schools, the Father's Day Kids Fishing Derby, and many other community projects. More information about these programs can be found at ennismtlions.org.



Adding to the enjoyment of the evening, players and community members were treated to an exceptional meal during the tournament break, prepared by Campfire Pizza Catering. The delicious meal was served by Joel Shows and Sherri Shows and was generously sponsored by Jenny Rohrbach, Realtor, and Sky Federal Credit Union. The food was widely praised and added to the warm, community-centered atmosphere that defined the event.

The final poker table was a fantastic representation of local supporters and Lions from neighboring communities. After an exciting finish, the final standings were announced:

- 4th Place:** Jeff Cotterell, President of the Bozeman Lions Club
- 3rd Place:** Dino Fanelli
- 2nd Place:** John Overstreet
- 1st Place Winner:** Scott Sciuchetti

Photos left to right—1st place winner with Co-Chair Lions Michelle & Tony and Dealer Dennis; 2nd place & 3rd place winners



Adding a particularly meaningful layer to the evening, the tournament title sponsor was MDM Construction, sponsoring the event in memory of Ken Sciuchetti. Ken was a longtime and beloved member of the Ennis Lions Club, and it was especially heartwarming that his son, Scott, took home the tournament win.

The club extends a big thank-you to Lion Tony and Lion Michelle, who served as co-chairs for the event, along with Lion Corey, Lion Mike, and the many other Lions and volunteers who helped with planning and execution. Their teamwork ensured another successful and enjoyable tournament.

A special note of appreciation is also due to Lion Bernie Oglietti, who chaired this event for many years and has been an exceptional mentor to fellow Lions. His legacy of leadership and service continues to be felt in the success of events like this one.



The Ennis Lions Club thanks everyone who attended, played, sponsored, and supported the tournament. The Lions look forward to seeing the community again next year around the poker table, all in the spirit of service.

Lion Jeanne, Lion Kris and Lion Cathy keeping our "ducks in a row".

All Photos by Lion Corinna Christensen

Havre Lions Celebrate Brandy Kurtz's Impact & Service

On Jan. 16, between basketball games, the Havre Lions Club honored **Brandy Kurtz** with the distinguished **Melvin Jones Fellowship Award**, one of the highest forms of recognition within Lions Clubs International.

Named after Lions Club founder Melvin Jones, the award recognizes individuals who exemplify the organization's motto, "We Serve," through outstanding commitment to their communities. Kurtz was selected for her lifelong dedication to serving Havre and the surrounding area.



An active member of the Elks and a strong supporter of veterans, Kurtz is known for her involvement at the local, state, and national levels. She has also contributed her time and energy to numerous community efforts, including support for MSU-Northern and its students, as well as volunteering during Bear Paw events and the Montana State Fair.

Seeley Lake Lions Skate Park

Who doesn't love to skate on a pond you can call your own? Getting outside and laughing and having a great time in another winter sport right here in Seeley Lake. On February 15, 2026 the Lions hosted a skate party at the Lions Park where we have our own pond and make sure it gets filled with enough water if Mother Nature is not cooperative enough to have thick enough ice and a great surface.



Our park committee chairman Lion Rich Westin has been the one to maintain and oversee the safety of the ice to ensure a fun time for all. Lion Gary Swain, a former NHL player, helps get donations of skates and, with the help of a local resident that has access to a skate sharpening machine, keeps the skate shed in top shape. These skates are available in all sizes to fit our local residents for a fun day of skating anytime. Just goes to show you that all you have to do is get out there and find the activities that await!

Thank you for all the hard work these two Lions put in to have a safe and fun place to go. Just another thing to do on a cold day in Seeley.



Article 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.

DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

Diabetes- Now What? – PDG Dennis Kopitzke, djk_7491@rangeweb.net; PO Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

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

Leader Dogs for the Blind - PDG Jim Johnke, PO Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406-928-3311; jrjohnke@gmail.com; www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog

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

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

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

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation – Lion Jessica Fausey,
PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; lionjessicafausey@gmail.com;
www.mtlionsshfnd.org

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

Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance – PDG Mike Collins; 40 Meadowlark Dr., Kalispell,
59901; 406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net

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 1st.)** 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 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

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***<<<**

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	
LIONS MEMBER – Early Bird By 3/27/2026	\$110.00		Two Meals & Auction Social
LIONS MEMBER – Starting 03/28/2026 at 12:01am	\$135.00		Two Meals & Auction Social
COMPANION – Two Meals & Auction Social Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00	\$80.00 Saturday Banquet ONLY \$50.00		Saturday Lunch & Banquet Dinner List Food Allergy [We will Attempt to Accommodate]
LIONS MEMBER - Friday & Saturday - Social & Banquet Dinner	Included with Paid Registration		List Food Allergy [We will Attempt to Accommodate]
TOTAL DUE NOW			

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

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 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors. During the service they will be recognizing deceased Lions' service and years as a Lion, where we will be asking a club or family member to assist by receiving a memorial rose.

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

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

Deceased Lion's name: _____

Club's name _____

Number of years as a Lion: _____

Service projects involved in: _____

Club Offices held: _____

District Offices held: _____

Awards: _____

Please include the Lion's photo. Return no later than March 31st.

Submitted by: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you!

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

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:

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 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 under "Training/Resources".

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

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

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

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

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

WEBSITE UPDATES

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 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 or call 406-461-4206.

DISTRICT WEBSITE & AVAILABLE LINKS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

2nd VDG Gary Lewis; PO Box 523, Seeley Lake MT 59868-0523;
C:406-677-4072; slk3018@blackfoot.net

District Secretary/Administrator; Lion Peggy Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT, 59482;
C: 406-461-4206; H: 406-937-1215; pegtobin54@gmail.com

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

MARCH CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

318 years of service!!

Sidney	03/01/1971
Red Lodge	03/03/1947
Plentywood	03/10/1986
Bozeman	03/18/1954
Wolf Point	03/26/1990

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

District Cabinet Meeting April 19, 2026 @ 9:00am following the Convention

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation April 19, 2026 @ noon following the Convention

2026 MD C CONVENTION

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE – PIP JUSTICE BRIAN STEVENSON

**APRIL 13, 2026
RED & WHITE CLUB
GRAND PRAIRIE, ALBERTA**

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, 2nd 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 18th, 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 7th, 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 4th quarter. Richard is working on a location in Big Timber for a meeting possibly February 9th (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 13th.
 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. **3rd Vice District Governor** - Recruitment concern as we need a 2nd 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 12th to discuss. Raleigh offered to make some time to assist.
 - e. 2026 District Convention– April 17th & 18th. 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 Vanderbilt 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 1st. 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

- a. 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 2nd 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.
- b. Growth Workshop Series from PIP Brian Sheehan (see above) – Raleigh recommended sharing with the Leo Clubs and encourage participation.
- c. 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

