

# District Newsletter

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

April  
2026

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## Message From District Governor Corinna Christensen

APRIL 2026

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



Fellow **Lions and Leos** of Montana,

As we step into April, it's incredible to realize that our Lionistic year is already **75% complete**. The time has flown by, but our opportunity to serve is far from over. Now is the moment to **finish strong**, expand our impact, and continue changing lives across Montana communities.

### District 37 Lions Convention – April 17–18–19

Cedar Creek Lodge | Columbia Falls, Montana

One of the most exciting events of our year is just around the corner! The **District 37 Lions Convention** promises to be an engaging, inspiring, and fun-filled gathering for all.

#### Friday Highlights:

- **Officer Training (Morning)**

Attend and receive **reimbursement for one night's lodging**—a great opportunity to grow your leadership skills.

- **Area Tours (Afternoon)**

Explore and enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of the Columbia Falls area.

- **“Montana Aloha Luau” (Evening)**

- Silent & Live Auction
- Live Music & Dancing
- *Hawaiian attire encouraged!*

## **Saturday Highlights:**

- Presentation of the Flags by the **Columbia Falls American Legion**
- National Anthems of Canada and United States performed by **Craig Blair**
- Special appearances by **Miss Montana** and **Miss Montana's Teen**
- **Leader Dogs for the Blind** program presentation
- Convention business:
  - Nomination of officers
  - Selection of future convention site
- Leadership training opportunities
- Memorial Service
- **SPEED LEARNING**
- Parade of Green
- Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation presentation and raffle drawing
- **Evening Banquet** featuring keynote speaker **PID Deb Weaverling**
- District Awards Celebration

## **Sunday Highlights (Optional):**

- Plus Optix Community Engagement Workshop
- District Cabinet Meeting
- Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation Meeting

[FULL CONVENTION AGENDA LINK...CLICK HERE](#)

This convention is more than a meeting...it's a celebration of who we are as Lions and Leos and the impact we make together.

## **Let's Finish the Year Strong**

With just a quarter of the year remaining, I encourage every club to:

- **Expand your service efforts**
- **Invite new members to join your mission**
- **Look for new communities that could benefit from a Lions Club**

Montana Lions District 37 is ready and eager to support the creation of **NEW CLUBS in new areas**. If you see a need, let's meet it TOGETHER.

**Reach out to DG Corinna or VDG Jon** for:

- Guidance on starting new clubs
- Membership growth strategies
- Ideas to strengthen your service impact

## **Moving Forward with Purpose**

Each act of service, each new member, and each new club strengthens our ability to serve. Let's carry our momentum forward and make these final months of the Lionistic year our most impactful yet.

**Together, we serve. Together, we lead. Together, we grow.**

With gratitude and determination,  
**DG Corinna Christensen**

# President's Message

## Lead to Serve, Serve To Lead

### with International President A.P. Singh



April 2026



Dear Lion,

From the very beginning, Lions have welcomed everyone with a heart to serve — and that spirit shines especially bright when we engage younger generations. Young people bring fresh ideas, new energy and a passion for service that help keep our organization strong, relevant and growing.

To carry our mission into the next 100 years and beyond, we must continue inviting dynamic, service-minded people to stand alongside us.

Lions have a unique opportunity to grow alongside Leos through meaningful mentoring — including *reverse mentoring*, where young people inspire us with fresh ideas, new technologies like AI and service that speaks to their generation. By strengthening the journey from Alpha Leo to Omega Leo to Leo-Lion, and by building more family-friendly clubs, we open the door for younger neighbors, friends and families to join us in a lifetime of service.

The future of Lions is not ahead of us — it is already here, in the hands of the young. Together, across generations, we can continue to serve our communities — and the world — with purpose, compassion and love.

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



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**



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

April 2026

Lions Clubs of District 37,

Happy Easter and the beginning of Spring! With winter over, it is time to get out and get things started. Most clubs are already planning their spring or summer fund raisers. But stop and think - is this the only thing you are going to do for your community this year? Is there not something your community needs that is way out of reach of your club's finances? Maybe LCIF can help!

With all the programs LCIF has, there is bound to be something they can help with. All you have to do is look at your community's needs and apply for LCIF assistance. If you need ideas, a club visit by one of the District's LCIF Co-Chairs is needed. (See our contact information below).

Have you and your club been giving to LCIF on a Monthly basis? If not, now is a good time to start. It is surprising how fast a monthly donation of \$10, \$25 or \$50 adds up towards a personal Melvin Jones or one that your club can award. And if your club has never given a Melvin Jones award, PLEASE contact myself or Lary Garrison to find out how District 37 can assist you in that process!

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!**

# Message from the District Treasurer

April 2026

## The Measure of a Lion

After my recent article about [club visibility and membership](#), I heard from a member in my club who asked a question I suspect more people are thinking but not saying: "Are we appropriate members if we contribute so little?" She went on to describe a full life. Working full time. Parenting. Living outside of town. Wanting to help when she could, but feeling like the club's expectations exceeded her current capacity. She had joined because she believed in community service. She still did. But she was quietly wondering whether that was enough.

### IT IS!!

And it is worth saying directly, because Lions culture does not always communicate it well.

### **Committees and titles are infrastructure, not the mission.**

Clubs need officers. They need committee chairs. Someone has to sign the paperwork, plan the projects, and show up to zone and District meetings. That work is real and it matters, but it is not the point. It is the scaffolding.

The point is service. It is the food bank volunteer who shows up on a Saturday morning. The person who quietly sponsors a kid's camp registration. The member who helps a neighbor move, organizes a school fundraiser, or gives time to a local church event. These things are Lions work whether or not they appear on a club calendar.

A member who holds no title and chairs no committee but lives a life oriented toward service is doing exactly what this organization exists to promote. A member who holds every title and attends every meeting but treats service as a quarterly checkbox is a different story.

Capacity is not a permanent condition. The member who can give two hours a month right now may be the one running a committee in five years. The parent who is stretched thin today has kids who will grow up watching what their family values. The person who joins because they believe in service and stays because the culture is welcoming becomes, over time, one of the people a club is built on. Pushing people out, or letting them quietly drift because they feel like they are not doing enough, is how clubs lose exactly the people they should be keeping.

Service is not a means to membership. **It is the point.** There is a version of Lions participation that treats service as the activity you do to justify calling yourself a member. Show up, log the hours, attend the banquet, repeat. Membership is the destination and service is the ticket. That is backwards.

Service is not what you do to be a Lion. It is what being a Lion means. The member who is stretched thin but still shows up for a neighbor, still coaches the team, still gives time to the school or the church or the food pantry, is not falling short of something. They are doing the thing itself. The rest is paperwork.

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When capacity is limited, that is not a reason to question whether you belong. It is a reason to do the service that fits your life right now and trust that the life you are living, oriented toward community, is exactly the culture this organization exists to build.

The question worth asking in your club: Are you measuring membership by titles held and meetings attended, or by whether people are living the values? Both have a place. But if the first list is driving the conversation and the second list is an afterthought, some of your best members may be quietly deciding they do not belong.

**They do. Make sure they know it.**

## **MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation**

April 2026

### **Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics**

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2026 to March 27, 2026

- Applications Received: 9
- Assistance Provided: 1
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$1,998.04
- Applications Received From: Belt, Emigrant, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula & 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

April 2026

**DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE** – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026 – **34,112 students screened with 4,067 refers through March 2026.**

**A big “THANK YOU” to those that are turning in screening results. Great Job!**



**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 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

## 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](http://montanalions.org) under the "About Us/Our Causes" and "Training & Resources" tabs.

## St. Patrick's Day Celebration-Seeley Lake Lions

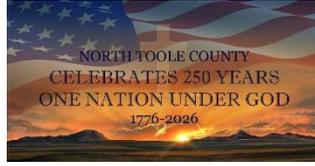
Each year the Senior Citizens of Seeley Lake put on a dinner celebration featuring all the usual Irish fare including Corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots and a specially prepared Irish Stew. The event was held on March 14th at the Senior Center.

Lions Liz Britt, Rob Shaffer and Clay Creek were responsible for cooking the delicious meal while other Lions helped with tickets at the door, serving, clearing of tables and we even had some Leos there helping us to sell 50/50 tickets. Several people donated items for a silent auction to help raise money for the center. There was also a cake walk where donated goodies were won by people participating in the fun game. Players enter the game for a dollar and walk in a circle on numbered spots. Music is played and when it stops they pull a number from a hat and if you are on that number you win the cake!

Lots of smiles, plenty of food and everyone was Irish for a day!



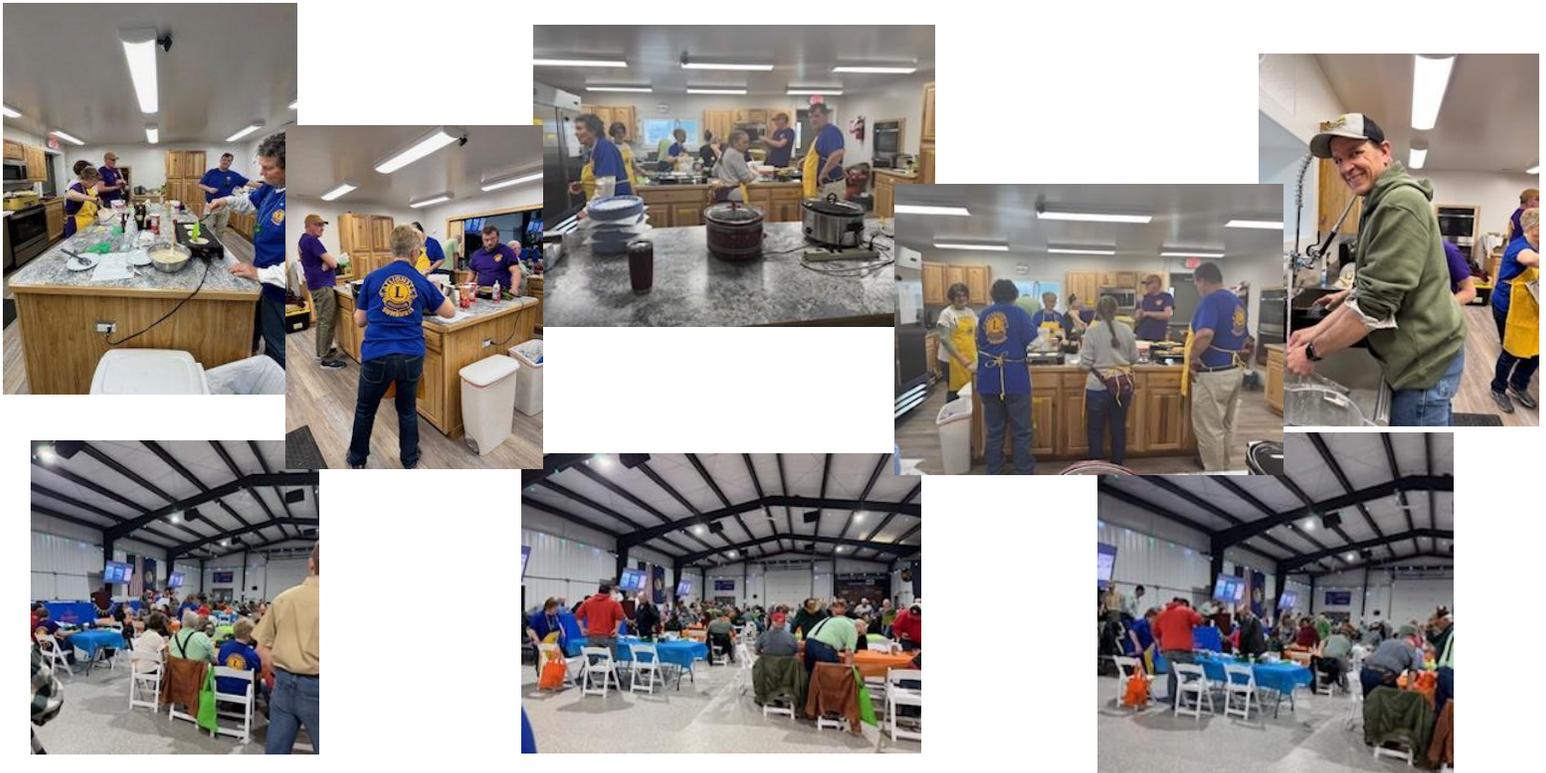
# Sunburst Provides St. Patty's Pancake Supper Raises Funds for Project 250



The Sunburst Lions Club is making a difference in their community, raising over \$1,500 for the American Legion Auxiliary's Project 250 from their annual pancake supper. The funds raised will be added to the generous grant that the ALA received from the Montana 250 Foundation to place murals designed by past Sunburst resident, Alan Snell, in Sunburst, Sweet Grass and Oilmont.



This year, for the first time, the pancake supper was served prior to Northern Telephone Cooperative's annual meeting and was well received by all in attendance. Combining our resources, the supper and the annual meeting had record attendance of approximately 150 community members!



## 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@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:heatherg@florencecrittenton.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. **This may be different than 10% of total members if clubs have “households” as the number of members eligible for the delegate calculation will be less than the total number of club members. Each household with 2 members will only count as one for this calculation.**

**Please note that ALL club delegates MUST be entered into the Lion Portal by your club secretary or other official with access and letters printed to bring to convention. Here's a link to a short video which provides instructions for this process:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcDtN5Cjmt8&t=28s>

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

Regular Registration of \$135/lion for the 2026 District 37 Convention in Columbia Falls began on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.montanalions.org](http://www.montanalions.org) to register online or download the registration form that follows on pages 13 & 14 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\*\*\*<<<**

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

<b>Registration</b>	<b>PAYMENT DUE WITH REGISTRATION FORM</b>	<b>Indicate # Attending in Each Category Below</b>	
<b>LIONS MEMBER –</b> Early Bird By 3/27/2026	\$140.00		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\*\*\*<<<**

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.

<b>Training Planned</b>			
<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	
<b>Optional Events</b>			<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>	<del>Tour vans will leave promptly at 1:30pm from the front entrance of Cedar Creek Lodge.</del>	<del>Tour size limited to 14 people.  Cost: \$9 adults, \$7 seniors</del>	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
<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**

# MEMORIAL FORM

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

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

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

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL NOTICES

### ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

If you make changes to your club officers, meeting locations and/or meeting dates & times in the Lion Portal, please send a note to Lion Peggy Tobin, District 37 Secretary at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto:pegtobin54@gmail.com) or call/text 406-461-4206 so that she can more efficiently update the District website. The club directory information on the website is used by the district governor's team to plan visits, set up meetings, and provide updates.

### 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

## **APRIL CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

**323 years of service!!**

Superior	04/03/1952
East Missoula	04/12/1967
Choteau	04/26/1927 (99 years!)
Dillon	04/26/1979
Townsend Broadwater County	04/29/1982

## **2026 MD C CONVENTION**

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

## **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

## **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 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 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

- 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 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.
- 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

