

District Newsletter

May
2026

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

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Message From District Governor Corinna Christensen May 2026

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

April was nothing short of a whirlwind across Big Sky Country, and what a great reminder of the power of Lions in action. From one end of Montana to the other, clubs were busy serving their communities in ways both meaningful and fun.

Easter Egg Hunts brought smiles, and a little friendly competition, to kids and families. Environmental projects during our Lions Week of Service helped care for the places we call home. And with warmer weather peeking through, Lions Park projects are ramping up all over the District. If you drove by a park, chances are a Lion was nearby with a rake or mower.



District 37 Convention – Columbia Falls

The highlight of April was, without question, our District 37 Convention held at Cedar Creek Lodge in Columbia Falls. Thank you to the Columbia Falls Lions as well as the Kalispell Lions and Kalispell Sunriser Lions for hosting the event.

What a showing:

- **125 Lions and Leos in attendance**
- **40 Clubs represented**
- **33 Montana Lions Clubs present — 57% of the District**

That is something to celebrate!



One of the most inspiring parts of the weekend was our LEOs. Several gave up their senior trip to attend the convention. That kind of commitment speaks volumes. Even better, they shared their plans to continue their journey as Lions after graduation. The future of Lions in Montana is in very good hands.

A Little Montana Meets Aloha

Friday night brought a special celebration honoring Debra Weaverling and her Hawaiian heritage with a lively Luau.

The evening featured:

- Silent and live auctions
- Nearly **\$14,300 raised**
- Proceeds benefiting Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation and Lions Clubs International Foundation



And just when you thought it couldn't get better, the night wrapped up with the incredible **DLO 17-piece orchestra** and a dance floor full of Lions who proved they can **serve and swing**.

Saturday: Business, Inspiration, and Learning

Saturday brought a great balance of Lions business and meaningful inspiration. We conducted nominations and elections for District Officers, held a special memorial service for 17 Montana Lions that had passed since we last met and heard outstanding presentations from:

- **Miss Montana & Miss Montana's Teen**
- **Leader Dogs for the Blind**

Saturday afternoon kicked off with **Speed Learning**, a fast-paced and engaging session packed with ideas Lions can take straight back to their communities. We also heard updates from Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation, including their Side-by-Side drawing - in true Lions fashion the lucky winner was one of our own MT Lions.



Celebrating Service

The District 37 Convention concluded with a memorable banquet featuring an inspiring message from PID Deb Weaverling and recognition of several outstanding Lions across the District. Moments like these remind us why we do what we do.

Looking Ahead

If this year is any indication, you will not want to miss next year's convention:

📍 **Choteau, Montana, 📅 April 16–18, 2027, Mark your calendars now!**

Let's Keep the Momentum Going

April showed us what is possible when Lions come together with purpose, energy, and a little bit of fun. As we head into the busy summer season:

- Jump into your club's projects
- Invite someone new to serve alongside you
- Share your stories and impact

Because when we stay engaged, we grow stronger—and our communities do too.

Lead to Serve, and Serve to Lead.

DG Corinna



From the Desk of DG Elect Jon Kimble

Montana Lions District 37 Invitation to Service:



May 2026

Our Montana Lions are great assets to their communities! Our kindness and caring really add to the fabric of our lives. Our Single-District 37 is organized to broaden service and fellowship by dividing the large District into four regions. Those four regions are further divided into 14 Zones. A member from each Zone volunteers to be a liaison between the District Cabinet and the Clubs. For the coming Lion year, 2026-2027, we have several volunteers who have accepted the position. We still need a few more...

If you wish to help support our District operations, please consider serving at this level. It will be a great opportunity to connect with other Lions Clubs, and it can be rewarding and fun!

I extend a "Welcome Back!" to our returning Zone Chairs and a hearty "Welcome!" to the new volunteers who have agreed to help: They are:

Zone	Lion	Clubs Served
Zone 1	Rob Shaffer	Hamilton, Missoula, East Missoula, Seeley Lake
Zone 2	Nick Ostle	Superior, Plains, Hot Springs
Zone 3	Naomi Valentine	Kalispell, Kalispell Sunrisers, Eureka, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, ColFalls Mountain Branch, Kalispell Rising Lions Branch
Zone 4		Butte – Mile Hi, Deer Lodge
Zone 5	Tom Naegle	Helena, Helena Gold Rush, Townsend (Broadwater), White Sulphur Springs
Zone 6	Neil Swift	Cascade, Great Falls, Great Falls Sunrise
Zone 7	Jerry Kuhn	Chinook, Havre, Turner/Hogeland, Fort Benton
Zone 8	Jack Preston	Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Fairfield, Sunburst, Sun River Valley
Zone 9	Rosemary Weber	Baker, Glendive, Sidney
Zone 10		Scobey, Wolf Point, Culbertson, Nashua, Plentywood
Zone 11	Mark Manning	Billings, Billings Hts, Forsyth, Huntley Project, Hysham, Shepherd
Zone 12		Big Timber, Joliet, Laurel, Red Lodge
Zone 13	Julie Bartos	Bozeman, Bozeman Gallatin Empire, Bozeman Sweet Pea, Dillon, Ennis
Zone 14		Denton, Roundup, Winnett

As you can see, we still need support for Zones 4, 10, 12 and 14. If you are a member of those Clubs served, and want to contribute to our District Governance, please contact us. We have several goals for the year for the improvement of service across the State, so you will be a welcome member of the District Team.

GO LIONS!!
DGE Jon Kimble

From the Desk of 1st Vice DG Elect Gary Lewis

May 2026

“Celebrating Service: Honoring the Heart of Montana Lionism”

The Montana Lions District 37 Convention celebrated outstanding service and leadership across the state, recognizing a remarkable group of Lions whose contributions continue to strengthen our mission of “We Serve.”

Presidential Certificates were awarded to Lion Jerry Kuhn, Lion Tom Naegele, Lion Cory Sena, IPDG Raleigh Peck, and Lion Julie Bartos. Each honoree exemplifies dedication in unique ways, from exceptional leadership and mentorship to hands-on service and unwavering support of district initiatives. Their collective impact reflects the very best of Lionism across Montana.

The Presidential Leadership Award was presented to Lion Jessica Fausey, recognizing her exceptional administrative leadership, long-standing commitment to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation, and her outstanding work as 2026 District Convention Chair. Her attention to detail, positive spirit, and lifelong dedication to service make her a cornerstone of our district.

The Presidential Award was awarded to Lion Cheryl Lewis for her visionary leadership and extraordinary commitment to service and membership growth. Her efforts in promoting service reporting as the Global Service Team Chair and her decades of leadership have left a lasting mark on District 37.

A special highlight of the convention was the induction of Christine Lank, Council Chair, into the Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor recognizes her distinguished leadership and enduring contributions to Lionism, celebrating a legacy of service that continues to inspire Lions across Montana and beyond.



From the Desk of IPDG Raleigh G. Peck

Message to Our Leo Clubs

May 2026

As we approach the close of another school year, it is an exciting and important time for our Leo Clubs. This season is more than just wrapping up meetings and projects before the school year ends—it is a critical opportunity to build continuity, celebrate achievements, and prepare the next generation of leaders for success.

First and foremost, every Leo Club should be conducting elections for next year's officers. Leadership transition is not just a formality—it is a cornerstone of a strong and sustainable club. By empowering Leos to step into leadership roles, we are actively developing the future of Lionism and our communities. Maybe include them in your Lions Club New Officer Inductions.

Equally important is ensuring that newly elected Leo leaders are properly entered into the Lions portal as incoming officers. This step helps maintain accurate records, supports communication, and ensures these young leaders are recognized and connected within the broader Lions network.

At the same time, current Leo leaders should make sure all service projects and fundraising activities are entered into the portal. This is a vital step in telling the Leo story—allowing others around the world to see the incredible impact these young leaders are making and how they are helping build stronger, healthier communities.

One of the most meaningful ways to honor your Leos is to invite both current and incoming officers to attend your next Lions Club meeting, especially before graduation. This creates a powerful platform for them to share their successes from the past year and present their vision and plans for the year ahead. It also strengthens the bond between Lions and Leos, reinforcing mentorship and collaboration.

Take time to celebrate what these young leaders have accomplished. Their service, creativity, and passion are making a real difference in their communities. More importantly, their ideas and energy are shaping the future of our organization. When we invest in Leos, we are building a stronger, more vibrant Lions community for years to come.

The future is bright—and it is in very capable hands. Let's continue to encourage, support, and celebrate our Leos as they step forward to lead.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for supporting the Leos of SD37, please reach out—I am always happy to connect and visit with all of you.

Thanks for all you do!

IPDG Raleigh G. Peck

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



May 2026



Dear Lion,

One of the greatest strengths of Lions is our global reach and support. As a Lion, you are part of an international network united by a shared commitment to service, with so many resources to support your service journey and help you make an even greater impact.

Being a Lion also opens up a world of opportunities to connect and serve with Lions around the globe in meaningful ways — by attending international events like convention and Lions Day at the United Nations (LDUN), exploring service travel opportunities, taking part in global initiatives such as our Weeks of Service and more.

We are here to help you lead, serve and thrive in your Lions journey — and when we work together, there is no limit to what Lions can achieve.

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



District LCIF Co-Chairs PDG Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin May 2026



Dear Montana Lions,

This will be my last newsletter to you as your Lions Clubs International Foundation Coordinator. Let me say what pride I have in the clubs that have explored the Grant possibilities from Lions Clubs International Foundation, whether you received one or not.

YOU ARE SOME OF THE HEROS OF DISTRICT 37! Without your perseverance to do the work of determining a need, raising the matching funds, and doing the work of completing the grant requirements, my work was not essential!

To the clubs and individuals that have donated once, or monthly, you are hero's also! Without your donations, the Lions Clubs International Foundation would not have the funds to do the work of improving community needs around the world; as we are all part of a community on this orb called Earth.

I have received many recognitions from my work with Lions Clubs International Foundation, but I am well aware of the work others have done to make my efforts as successful as they have been, knowing the work that lies ahead.

PDG Mike Tobin and IPDG Raleigh Peck will be taking over while I support them in any way I am able. I will be willing to assist in any area they need assistance with.

I will work with the Lions Clubs International Foundation to keep up with any changes and will be available to assist any club needing my advice from my experience.

Again, thank you for your support. Only one of the grants awarded has my name and work behind it, every other grant was done by a club and club member.

If you are not doing a monthly donation, why aren't you? If your club has donated annually, thank you. If not, why not? The Lions Clubs International Foundation is an endorsed project. Just do it!

Go to donorassistance.com to find ways to donate to your foundation, or ask Mike, Raleigh or myself for assistance.

Yours in Lionism.
Lary Garrison

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

Global Leadership Team

May 2026

6TH ANNUAL MONTANA LIONS LEADERSHIP RETREAT Lewistown October 2-4, 2026

The leadership retreat is a unique opportunity for Montana Lions to enhance your leadership skills, gain new insights, and strengthen the connections within our Lions community. Your role as an officer in your Lions Club is vital to the success and growth of our service and Lionism in Montana, and this retreat is designed to support you in that mission.

What to Expect:

- **Inspiring Workshops:** Led by experienced Lions, these sessions will cover effective leadership strategies, community service innovations, and personal growth techniques.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow club officers and Lions from across Montana, share experiences, and build lasting relationships.

Key Details:

- **Dates:** October 2-4
- **Location:** Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT
- **Cost:** Free of charge for participants*

**Note: The free training includes double occupancy accommodation. If you prefer a single room, there is an additional charge of \$100. If you wish to bring a spouse or significant other, there is an additional \$50 charge (total of \$150) for their accommodation and meals.*

Thank you for your continued dedication and leadership within the Lions Club. I look forward to seeing you in Choteau for what promises to be a transformative retreat.
Yours in Service,

Lion Mike Collins
District GLT Leader
District 37 Montana Lions

MONTANA LIONS LEADERSHIP RETREAT



STRONGER CLUBS START HERE

OCTOBER 2-4, LEWISTOWN YOGO INN

MOTEL AND MEALS PROVIDED



MEMBER BENEFITS

- ✓ Run Meetings with Confidence
- ✓ Recruit and retain members more effectively
- ✓ Connect with Lion leaders across Montana

CLUB BENEFITS

- ✓ Give every member a role worth showing up for
- ✓ Spread leadership so your club runs even when life gets busy
- ✓ Run projects that hit their goals, and leave energy left over
- ✓ Grow the next generation of leaders in your club



**SIGN UP TODAY AT
MONTANALIONS.ORG**

For more information contact
PDG Mike Collins
mikeacollins99@charter.net
406.871.4176



Message from the District Treasurer

May 2026

If you have received an email recently from someone claiming to be your Club President, Zone Chair, District Governor, or another Lions officer asking you to purchase gift cards on their behalf, stop. Do not buy the cards. Do not reply. It is a scam.

This type of fraud is called a gift card scam, and it is one of the most common email cons targeting civic and nonprofit organizations right now. The playbook is simple: a scammer finds the name of a real officer or leader from a public website or directory, creates a fake email address that looks similar to the real one, and sends urgent requests to members asking them to buy gift cards and share the redemption codes. By the time anyone realizes what happened, the money is gone and unrecoverable.

No District 37 or Club officer will ever ask you to buy gift cards by email. Full stop.

Not for a service project. Not for a surprise gift. Not as a favor. Not urgently and not quietly. If you receive this kind of request, it did not come from a legitimate Lions officer, regardless of what name appears in the "From" field.

How to spot a spoofed or fake email

The name displayed in your inbox is not the same as the actual email address sending the message. Scammers rely on the fact that most people read the display name and never look closer. Here is what to check:

- **Look at the actual sending address, not just the name.** Click or tap on the sender's name to expand the full address.
- **Check the domain carefully.** Official District 37 communications come from addresses ending in @montanalions.org or @d37.online or a member's verified club or personal address that you already have on file. An address that looks almost right, like d37-Online.com (using a zero instead of the letter O), is a red flag.
- **Be suspicious of urgency.** Scam messages almost always create artificial pressure: "I'm in a meeting, can you just handle this quickly?" Legitimate leaders can wait.
- **When in doubt, call.** Use a phone number you already have, not one provided in the suspicious email. A 30-second call will confirm whether the request is real.
- **What to do if you receive one of these emails**
- Do not respond to the suspicious email. Do not forward it, click any links in it, or follow any of its instructions. Contact the officer whose name was used (by phone or a known-good email address) to let them know their name is being impersonated. You can also report the message as phishing through your email provider.
- If you already purchased gift cards in response to one of these requests, report it to the FTC at reportfraud.ftc.gov and contact your local law enforcement. It is also worth calling the gift card issuer directly, as there is occasionally a narrow window to stop redemption.

Stay sharp out there

Montana Lions do real work in real communities. Scammers know that, and they count on the goodwill of service-minded people to make these schemes work. The best defense is a habit of checking twice before acting, especially when email involves money. If you have questions about whether a communication from District 37 is legitimate, reach out through the official district website at d37.online or contact your Zone Chair directly.

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

May 2026

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics



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

- Applications Received: 12
- Assistance Provided: 2
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$3,998.04
- Applications Received From: Belt, Emigrant, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, 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.

Thank you for your continued support of the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation.

Does Your Club Collect Glasses?

Used glasses can be dropped off in Great Falls at Floors and More, located at 920 1st Ave N, Great Falls, MT. Please place the following address on boxes of used glasses:

Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
9013 Mullen Road SE
Olympia, WA 98513

DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE

May 2026



Hello Lions:

PlusOptix has recently released the new S20 screening devices, and we'd like to see if your club would be interested in upgrading. Your current S12 machines will remain under warranty for the next 10 years. After that period, any repairs would be at the club's full expense. The approximate cost of the S20 is \$7,500. PlusOptix has offered a \$750 rebate for your S12 in the past.

I will be attending a PlusOptix seminar this summer and hope to bring a total number of clubs that would like to upgrade to the S20 machines. This may allow us to explore potential group pricing or additional incentives.

We are also going to look into getting another grant to help with the cost of new machines. If your club is interested in upgrading, **please reply back to me no later than June 1, 2026.**

PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026 – **34,206 students screened with 4,072 refers through April 2026.**

Thank you,

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.

Seeley Lake Lions Attend 2026 District Convention

This past April 17-18, 2026 we held the convention in Columbia Falls. While I'm sure the host Lions club will be posting an article, this one was special for Seeley lake. Our own Lion Jon Kimble was voted our new District 37 Governor and our 2nd Vice governor was elected 1st Vice District Governor. As an extra surprise and well-deserved accolade was the presentation of the International Presidents Award to Lion Cheryl Lewis. All of us in Seeley Lake are proud of all three of these Lions and their dedication to service and our community. They are very deserving of these accomplishments.

Everyone had a great time with guest speakers Miss Montana and Miss Teen Montana both giving very heartfelt and inspiring speeches. Thank You Columbia Falls Lions for hosting such a terrific convention with training, great accommodations, food, music and lots of laughs.

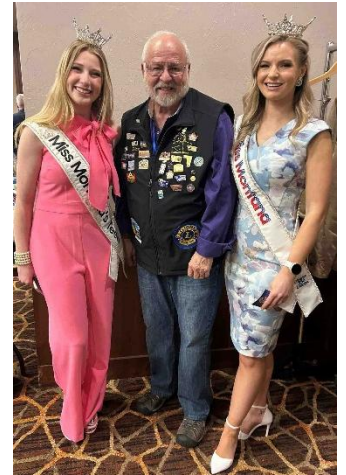


Kalispell Sunrisers Lions at the 2026 District Convention

April 17th and 18th was the Montana Lions State convention held in Columbia Falls. It was attended by large and small cities across the state with 150 Lions and guests attending. The meeting was very educational with classes for officers, and presentations from many Lions promoting humanitarian organizations.

We heard from Leader Dogs for the Blind, who have served 80 clients in Montana, MT Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation have covered 49 patients with hearing aids plus some Cataract surgeries. We also learned from the School for the Deaf and the Blind in Great Falls that have 1,500 students in the state. Miss Montana, Haley Joy Tate, and Miss Teen Montana from Kalispell spoke about their passion for Chicks in Chaps, a breast cancer financial help group. There were many more learning experiences.

Next year, the convention will be in Choteau MT. The International Lions Clubs are the largest humanitarian organization in the world, with USA having the 3rd most members following Japan and India. Come join us and help USA become #1. We Serve!!!



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@florencewcrittenton.org;
www.florencecrittenton.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEMORIAL FORM

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

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

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

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

Deceased Lion's name: _____

Club's name _____

Number of years as a Lion: _____

Service projects involved in: _____

Club Offices held: _____

District Offices held: _____

Awards: _____

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

Submitted by: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you!

SPECIAL NOTICES

ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

2026-27 CLUB OFFICERS MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE LION PORTAL
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL LIONS CLUBS OFFICERS FOR THE 2026-27 YEAR MUST BE REPORTED TO LCI EVEN IF NONE OF YOUR OFFICERS HAVE CHANGED! THERE ARE TWO METHODS AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETING THIS TASK.

1. Log into the Lion Portal and complete the process online (see the short Lion Portal video on montanalions.org – “Club Management – How to Assign an Officer”).
2. Complete a paper PU101 document available at montanalions.org and send it via email or regular mail to the district secretary, Peggy Tobin, at pegtobin54@gmail.com or PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROCESS, PLEASE CALL PEGGY TOBIN AT 406-461-4206!!

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)

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

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

MAY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

520 years of service!!

Helena	05/03/1933 – 93 years
Kalispell	05/04/1942
Chinook	05/05/1925 –101 years!
Scobey	05/18/1936 – 90 years
Deer Lodge	05/22/1984
Great Falls Sunrise	05/25/1966
Laurel	05/25/1976

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	July 12, 2026 @ 10:00am MT School for the Deaf and the Blind, Great Falls, MT
District Cabinet Meeting	July 12, 2026 @ Noon- MT School for the Deaf and the Blind, Great Falls, MT

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

- 2026 Hong Kong – Jul 3-7**
- 2027 Washington DC – July 2-6
- 2028 Singapore -June 23-27
- 2029 Minneapolis, MN
- 2030 San Antonio TX
- 2031 – Helsinki Finland

UPCOMING USA/CANADA FORUMS

USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUMS CAN BE RELATED TO ALL AREAS OF YOUR LIFE – NOT JUST LIONS

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

MINUTES- APRIL 19, 2026-CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Attendees: DG Corinna Christensen, DG Elect Jon Kimble, 1st VDG Elect Gary Lewis, 2nd VDG Elect Gary Van Dyke, Lion Cheryl Lewis-GST, Lion Steve Dogiakos, Co-chairs PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF, Lion Dave Falcon, Plus Optix, Lion Teresa Falcon, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Richard Gessling-GMT, Co-Chairs PDG Brian Gertizer & PDG Jim Jonke -Leader Dog, PDG Mike Collins-GLT/Diabetes Chair, Zone Chairs: Rob Shaffer – Zone 1, Margaret Baylinson - Zone 3, Tom Naegele-Zone 5, Jerry Kuhn – Zones 6 & 7, Julie Bartos – Zone 13, PDG Melody Whitcher-Zone 14, IPID Ben Apeland, Lion Peggy Tobin, Secretary, PID Deb Weaverling & Lion Ron Weaverling of Basehor, Kansas, Lion Adriane Miller – Eureka Leo Chair, Lion Marie & PID Dave Hanjy, Herb & Marlene Cartwell, Columbia Falls Lions Club, PDG Raleigh Peck, Zone 1 Rob Shaffer, Rosemary Weber – Zone 9, Cory Sena, Gold Rush Lions

Call to Order by DG Corinna Christensen at 923 AM

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation: Lion Melody
 - c. Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and what role they have in Lions
 - d. District Governor – Opening Remarks – results of convention 125 in attendance – 5 no shows. Out of our 58 clubs, 33 MT Clubs were represented (57%)! Leo attendance was great. It was recommended to include the Leo's in our future cabinet meetings. Jerry K noted that the Leos are in his zone and they intend to become lions and bring along others.
2. Minutes – Peggy asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Dan moved to approve the January 10, 2026 minutes as distributed. Mike C seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 3. Financial Reports: Steve apologized for not having a balance sheet. Mike T moved to approve the financial reports and motion was seconded by Raleigh. The motion passed unanimously.
 4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below
 5. Officers Reports
 - a. DG/VDG's – Jon reported on his visit to Hysham. Mark Manning will be the new zone chair. He is putting their secretary and treasurer in touch with Peg & Steve to improve their reporting. He also recruited a Zone 2 chair out of Superior. Gary reported that his visits are complete except for Plains which is scheduled. Corinna visited Laurel and will be in Sunburst next week. She also reported that the google form system for club visit reports has been very useful. She requested that Steve add the google form link to the website for governor and zone chair visits and service chairs. (NOTE: It was later decided not to do this, but instead a reminder email with a link to the form will be sent out). Discussion followed regarding outstanding expenses not covered by LCI. DG Corinna will apply for additional expenditure reimbursements to be sure the amount gets included in next year's budget.
 - b. Administrator's Report – Peggy reported that she set up the 2026 convention on the website as the committee provided information, adding various aspects as we got closer. She updated the "Our Causes" pages with the new icons now being used by LCI, added more tools such as the LCI Service Ideas. Posting club news, creating the newsletter, posting all articles online as well as still providing the pdf version of the newsletter for downloading is an ongoing process every month. She also setup the election for the convention. She thanked Steve D for his April Fool's joke on the "First of the Month" April newsletter post.

c. Zone/Region Reports – **Zones 6 & 7** – Jerry reported that Turner had two new members but they haven't been entered in portal yet. Keith is their new secretary following the passing of Johannas Brown, the club's longtime secretary. Jerry volunteered at the Blaine county fair and he reached out to all of Zone 6's clubs. He's very been involved with Fort Benton and was able to get the Leo's club back on the portal. He also reported that IDG Jon will move Fort Benton to Zone 7 and find a new Zone 6 chair which will help Jerry a lot. **Zone 1** – Rob reported that the clubs are doing well. Each club has its own set of circumstances, issues, etc. and they are all different. Hamilton has been good about taking the suggestions and trying new things (example – they now have two meetings – one at noon and one in the evening). East Missoula is an ongoing project – aging out. Seeley Lake has been assisting with their main project. He reported that they are also working on a new club in Potomac and is hoping the new marketing group can assist with reaching that area. **Zone 5** - Tom reported that he has stayed in touch with White Sulphur Springs via phone. There is a strategic plan that they can all access. Gold Rush Lions have a two-year plan for their officers. Their Calcutta resulted in \$3,200 for the club (10%). They have a “zone committee” that formed for last year's convention that is continuing to work together. **Zone 13** – Julie reported that she has traveled with DG Corinna extensively but did not understand the position. She had a private meeting with her local club's president (which has DG as a member). Met with the Bozeman Lions and only has about three active members – recommended changing the time of the meeting (noon) to accommodate working members. She's looking forward to moving forward with a better understanding of the process. **Zone 3** – Margaret reported on her clubs – most don't have large meeting attendance but they do a lot of activities (Whitefish as an example – changed their meeting time and have zoom meetings). Columbia Falls is a strong club – Earth Day project was yesterday. Also have a playground project. Kalispell Sunrisers have a very good core – they just had a fish derby. Kalispell noon club – they have an ornament project in association with a local artist. She also reported on the branch clubs. The campus club is very different because of their class schedules, etc. Columbia Falls enjoys doing projects including a blanket project and Shoes for Souls (Soles for Souls). **Zone 14**– Melody – Winnett & Roundup have 95% & 100% attendance at meetings. Denton is 2 ½ hours away – very remote and she hasn't visited them yet. Jon reminded the zone chairs to complete the google club visit form.

d. Committee Reports

1. GET- Jon reported that he has a lead for Libby - Margaret and Adrian have offered to help. He was approached by Ennis to assist with starting a Leo club. Lion Mike C. also reported that Lewistown will be the location of the fall leadership training and have discussed approaching a club there too. He, Lion Cheryl & Gary will be attending the Mission 1.5 conference.
2. GLT: Mike C. reported that our zoom officer meetings were completed. We had some attendees from Wyoming. Convention training was largest attendance he has seen. Lewistown will be the location for our Leadership Training October 2-3.
3. GMT: Richard feels we need three co-chairs in the state and need a better connection with the zone chairs to catch any issues with clubs. We lost some clubs this year, but haven't lost membership as a district. He is stepping down but will be happy to assist with finding a replacement. DG Corinna thanked Richard for all his years.
4. GST: Cheryl reported that they took a 2-month rest to Arizona.
5. LCIF – Mike T reported \$14,200 from the convention – three-quarters of the way to their goal. Grants are coming in. Possibility of three matching grants going thru the process. He is working with the seven clubs that have never had a Melvin Jones and he has two clubs that are actively

working on getting their portion raised. PDG Lary is stepping back as co-chair but is not going away. PDG Raleigh will join Mike as Co-Chair.

6. Advisory Committee – no report.

7. Policy & By-Laws – Mike T reviewed the recommendation to update Article 3, Section E (see attached). Dan K moved to approve, Steve D seconded the motion. No Discussion. Motion passed unanimously. Mike asked the question “why do we have endorsed projects” to think about for a future discussion. IP Ben said that the reason was that the group was “vetted” and the clubs could donate to them.

6. Old Business

- a. Club Health Assessment – March (see attached report) – reviewing the report, DG Corinna has a concern for the number of clubs that are at least 90 days past due on LCI dues. DG will split up the list with the VDG’s to get clubs caught up.
- b. 3rd Vice District Governor – PDG Brian recommended that the 3rd VDG be picked from the Zone Chair. Richard doesn’t feel it should be a zone chair. Jon asked if anyone would volunteer for the position. Cory Sena offered to discuss with his club if there’s a duty description.
- c. Marketing Program – adopt previous action item completed via email to approve the hiring of Wendt as the marketing agency for District 37’s Marketing Program (Final vote – 29 cabinet members – 19 voted yes, 1 abstained, 9 did not vote). Contract is not signed yet. DG noted that the contract is for up to \$50,000 altho we may or may not spend that much. We can run the contract through LCI legal. Discussion followed regarding the \$5,000 grant that was received last year – Mike C noted that Lakeside was the target area but they couldn’t find anyone to “lead”.
 - i. Leadership to interact with Wendt – Raleigh, Steve, Cory
 - ii. Social Media Integration – Steve is experimenting and it seems to be working.

7. New Business

- a. Proposal to approve continuation of Administrator’s contract for Tobin Trails Inc for 2026-27 – Raleigh moved to approve the contract. Jon 2nd the motion. Mike C. asked if an increase is needed. Peggy said she’s fine with the existing contract. IP Dave asked for the quarterly report to be reinstated. Question called. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Proposal to approve Treasurer for Steve Dogiakos for 2026-27 year. Mike T moved and Dan C seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Informal 2026 Convention Report...Formal Report to Follow. Richard requested a list of attendees and their clubs. Peg will complete the convention report for election results for Corinna to submit.
- d. 2027 District Convention Discussion – Choteau – Steve was asked and confirmed that he is currently the Convention Chair. Raleigh asked what happens to the sponsor \$\$ raised. Steve provided that information – any amounts remaining after the convention may be split between the club and the district convention account. The goal is to reduce the registration costs, etc.
- e. Dave Falcon – request assistance for travel expenses to Plus Optix Summit in Atlanta – August 17-19, 2026 – Lion Dave reported that they are planning their first summit meeting for Plus Optix – Dave and Teresa would be traveling. Their airfare will be \$1,096 for both. Room is \$349/night and transfers from and to the airport. Estimated \$2,500 – Motion by Dave H. and seconded Jon K. to provide up to \$2,500. Call for Question. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Additional Items

- a. District Vests – Lion Melody modeled the vest – Dave has 4-5 vests that haven't been embroidered. Raleigh moved to provide \$500 to purchase more vests. Melody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. DG Corinna would like to create a community engagement committee with Cory Sena.
- c. Bank Account for Fairfield LCIF grant – Steve moved to adopt the executive committee action to form the bank account for the Fairfield LCIF Grant. Motion was seconded by Mike C. and carried unanimously.

9. Next Meeting: - July 12, 2026 at noon at the Great Falls MT School for the Deaf and the Blind following the MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation meeting at 10am. Lunch will be provided.

10. Adjournment – everyone left to get lunch at 11:56pm

UPCOMING EVENTS: LCI Convention – Hong Kong, July 3-7, 2026

USA Canada Forum – Memphis TN Sept 3-5, 2026