

# District Newsletter

June  
2026

DG Corinna Christensen  
DG Elect Jon Kimble  
1st VDG Elect Gary Lewis  
2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Elect Gary Van Dyke  
[montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org)

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## Message From District Governor Corinna Christensen June 2026

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

Fellow Lions and Leos of District 37 in Montana,  
As they say, *"the days are long, but the years are short."*

As I sit down to write my final newsletter as your District Governor, I find myself reflecting on what an incredible journey this has been. Serving as your District Governor has been one of the greatest honors of my life. The opportunity to visit clubs across Montana, meet so many dedicated Lions, and witness firsthand the impact of your service has been both humbling and inspiring.

The friendships formed during this journey will last a lifetime. Whether sharing a meal after a meeting, working side by side on a service project, celebrating successes, or helping navigate challenges, I have been reminded again and again that Lions are more than members of an organization... We are family.

One of the greatest privileges of this role has been seeing the pride each club takes in serving its community. No two communities are exactly alike, and no two clubs serve in exactly the same way. Yet in every town, I witnessed Lions identifying needs and responding with service that was *exactly* what their communities needed. From vision screenings and food/garden programs to community celebrations, scholarships, park maintenance, and countless acts of kindness, I saw the very best of Lionism in action.

I also discovered that many of our clubs share common challenges. We talk about attracting new members, engaging the next generation, empowering emerging leaders, and navigating conflict when it arises. These challenges are real, but they are not unique to any one club. The good news is that none of us face them alone.

Lions International and District 37 are filled with resources, programs, and experienced Lions who stand ready to help. Whether your club is experiencing the good, the bad, or the ugly, there is support available. Please don't hesitate to reach out by going to [MontanaLions.org](http://MontanaLions.org). Asking for help is not a sign of weakness, but rather it is a sign of commitment to your club's future success.

Before I close, I want to offer a special word of appreciation and encouragement to the Leo Clubs of Montana. You are an inspiration to all of us. Your enthusiasm, creativity, and spirit of service are truly exceptional. Throughout this year, I have been continually impressed by your willingness to step forward, identify needs, and make a difference in your schools and communities. The future of Lions in Montana is bright because of young leaders like you. Thank you for your commitment to service and for reminding us all that leadership begins with a heart willing to serve. We are proud of you, we believe in you, and we look forward to watching you become the next generation of Lions leaders.

As I pass the gavel, I look forward to supporting District Governor-Elect Jon Kimble, First Vice District Governor Gary Lewis, and Second Vice District Governor Gary Van Dyke. With two Garys on the leadership team, we may occasionally have to clarify which one we're talking about, but I have complete confidence that District 37 is in excellent hands. Their passion for service, leadership, and dedication to our Lions family will continue moving our district forward.

As my term as District Governor comes to a close, my service to Lions does not. While this may be my final newsletter as District Governor, I look forward to discovering the ways Lions will continue to call upon me to live our motto, "**We Serve**," in our communities and beyond.

One final thought. Throughout these years, I have traveled many miles across our great state, and I have come to appreciate something I've always known to be true: **Montana is like one small town with a really long Main Street**. No matter where I traveled, I found neighbors helping neighbors, Lions serving their communities, and friendships that quickly felt like family. While the distances between our towns may be great, the connections between our Lions are even greater. That spirit of service, kindness, and community is what makes Montana Lions so special.

Thank you for your encouragement, your friendship, your dedication, and your service. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving alongside you this year. May your journey be blessed with fulfillment in service, joy in friendship, and pride in knowing that the lives you touch truly make a difference.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
**DG Corinna Christensen**  
District Governor 2025-2026  
Montana Lions District 37, "*Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead*"

# From the Desk of IPDG Raleigh G. Peck Message to Our Leo Clubs

June 2026

## Leo Club Advisor End-of-Year Reminders

With the end of the Lion year quickly approaching, here are a few reminders to wrap up the year:

- Don't forget to report this year's service projects, as well as next year's Leo club officers in the [Lion Portal](#). There are several resources available on the [club leadership webpage](#) for new officers.
- There are many awards available on the [Leo Awards webpage](#), including the Leo Award of Honor. If you feel that your Leo club president should receive the Leo Club President Achievement Award, you may download and present [this certificate](#).
- Lions Clubs International Foundation's [Leo Service Grant](#) is available to Lion districts and multiple districts. Consider working with other clubs in your area to apply for the grant!
- Share this blog post on [Leo leadership opportunities](#) with the Leos in your club.
- [Encourage Leos to continue serving as Lions](#) and share Leo to Lion transition resources with Lions.

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



June 2026



Dear Lion,

As we approach the end of the year, this is the perfect time to reflect on our shared experience as Lions. While each of us brings something unique, it is our combined effort that creates the greatest impact.

When we come together in service, we achieve meaningful goals and show our communities the kindness and commitment Lions are known for. As Lions, we are never alone — we support one another, inspire one another and overcome challenges together.

There is still time to join forces this year and do something great. I look forward to seeing what you and your clubs accomplish together.

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

## The Lions 108th International Convention is fast approaching!

This notice will serve as a reminder that the Official Convention Call has been published in the LION Magazine in compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws. All Lions can review the [2026 Official Call](#) and [Notice of Amendments](#) on the Lions' website or the 2026 Official Convention Call and Notice of Amendments in LION Magazine.



### 2026 Official Convention Call

Convention Call In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2026 International Convention. The 108th Lions International Convention will be held in-person July 3-7, 2026, with some events available on demand after convention. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president and 18 members of the International Board of Directors, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The 2026 convention will be held in Hong Kong, China — a city alive with energy and possibility, where towering skyscrapers rise alongside ancient temples and every street hums with life. From vibrant markets and eclectic cuisine to breathtaking harbor views, Hong Kong offers a sensory experience at every turn. It's the ideal setting for Lions International's biggest event of the year.

Over five uplifting days, you'll experience dynamic plenary sessions featuring world-class speakers and entertainment, a captivating international show and engaging seminars. You'll also explore a lively exhibit hall, celebrate meaningful recognition moments and connect with Lions from around the world.

Convention brings together fellowship, fun and learning on a global scale. Join us as we celebrate our impact and ignite our passion for the year ahead.

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

## Official Notice

### 2026 International Convention, Hong Kong, China

The following proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2026 International Convention.

The following lists the three proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws that will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2026 International Convention. Please click the link above to see the entire document!

**ITEM 1:** A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA TO REQUIRE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS GRANTED VOTING RIGHTS BY A DISTRICT OR MULTIPLE DISTRICT TO BE MEMBERS OF A CLUB IN GOOD STANDING IN ORDER TO VOTE BY VIRTUE OF TITLE.

*(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

**ITEM 2:** A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE SEMI-ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DUES TO BE PHASED IN OVER FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2028-2029. A MODEST, PHASED IN DUES INCREASE WILL ALLOW THE ASSOCIATION TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE MEMBERSHIP BY MAINTAINING EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND INVESTING IN NEW INITIATIVES IN THE FUTURE.

*(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

(Note: Effective July 1, 2028 – through July 1, 2032 (five years), dues would increase by **\$2/year** from the current \$50 (paid \$25 semi-annually) to \$52 effective July 1, 2028, \$54 effective July 1, 2029, \$56 effective July 1, 2030, \$58 effective July 1, 2031, \$60 effective July 1, 2032).

**ITEM 3:** A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS BY ONE AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BOARD APPOINTEES BY ONE. IT WOULD ALSO REDISTRIBUTE DIRECTOR POSITIONS BY **REDUCING THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS FROM THE UNITED STATES, ITS AFFILIATES, BERMUDA AND THE BAHAMAS BY ONE IN EVEN YEARS AND ONE IN ODD YEARS**; ADDING ONE DIRECTOR IN EVEN YEARS FOR SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN; AND ADDING TWO DIRECTORS IN ODD YEARS FOR INDIA, SOUTH ASIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

*(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ADOPT)*



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**



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

**Dear Montana Lions,**

Well, Spring has sprung, school is out, and it is time for summer fun to begin. Most clubs will have their last meeting this month if they haven't already had it. The District's LCIF fund raising has been a little lack luster this year as compared to last year. Our goal this year was to raise \$51,378 and right now we are only at \$38,453. **BUT** this Lionistic Year is not over and we still have the month of June to go.

**Soooo, if each District member donated just \$10, (1,519 members X \$10 = \$15,190), that would get us to \$53,643, well over our goal!!** As you can see a little goes a long way. More hands make work easier and our goals are easily attainable. I don't think \$10 is too much to ask for, for just ONE month. So head to [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org), select "links", Lions clubs international foundation, and click on donate to fill out the form. And if you are so inclined you could donate 50 or 100 dollars. Thank you!!

I want to take this time to thank PDG Lary Garrison for all his hard work over the years as he steps away from the District Co-Chairmanship Role. I also want to thank him for helping me and mentoring me when I started my role as the District Co-Chair. He made that transition really easy for me. I would also like to welcome IPDG Raleigh Peck to the team as he takes Lary's slot. He will be a great asset to the team and I look forward to working with him.

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

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Mike Tobin  
P.O. Box 408  
Sunburst, Mt. 59482  
406-450-2780  
[miktob1951@gmail.com](mailto:miktob1951@gmail.com)

PDG Lary Garrison  
703 Conway St.  
Billings, Mt. 59105  
406-855-6997  
[lionlarygarrison@gmail.com](mailto:lionlarygarrison@gmail.com)

# Global Leadership Team

June 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.*

**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

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

# Closing the Books, Opening the Summer: A Treasurer's Year-End Message

June 2026

## Reflections on Two Years of Service

As June draws to a close, so does my second year serving as your Cabinet Treasurer for Lions District 37, Montana. When I took on this role in July 2024, I made a commitment to be a practical resource for club treasurers across the district, not just a title in the cabinet directory. Whether it was navigating dues questions, walking through LCI financial reporting, or helping clubs reconcile a confusing invoice, it has been my genuine privilege to serve alongside you.

Two years in, I want to say plainly: thank you. Thank you to every club treasurer who answered the phone, replied to an email, or showed up at convention and asked the hard questions. Thank you to our Zone Chairs and Vice District Governors who helped carry messages down to the club level. And thank you to District Governor Corinna, First Vice District Governor Jon Kimble, and Second Vice District Governor Gary Lewis for the trust and support throughout this cabinet year. The financial health of District 37 clubs is a team effort, and I have been proud to be part of that team.

With that said, there is real work to do before anyone closes their laptop for the summer. Let's get into it.

## Know Your Dues Deadlines - They Are Not the Same Date

This is the point I most want club treasurers to internalize, because confusion here is common and the consequences (good standing issues, and membership processing delays) are avoidable.

### LCI International Dues: Due July 1

Lions Clubs International invoices your club for the coming year's per-capita dues at the start of each fiscal year. For the 2026-2027 Lionistic year, those payments are due July 1, 2026. LCI dues are based on your official membership count as reported in Lion Portal. If your club has not reconciled its roster recently, do that first, so you are not paying dues on members who have dropped.

Log into Lion Portal and verify the invoice amount matches your active membership count before submitting payment. Discrepancies are easier to resolve before you pay than after.

### District 37 Dues: Due January 1

District per-capita dues for 2026-2027 will be invoiced and due January 1, 2027. I will be in touch with clubs in the fall with specifics. That may feel far away right now, but your summer budget planning should account for it. Know the number, build it in, and do not let it be a surprise mid-year.

If you have any questions about either dues amount or how your club is assessed, reach out to me directly. That is what I am here for.

## Year-End Financial Checklist for Club Treasurers

Work through this list before the end of June, or as early in July as possible:

- **Reconcile your final bank statement for the fiscal year.** Every outstanding check should be accounted for. If something is still outstanding from months ago, it may be time to void and reissue or write it off per your club's policy.
- **Verify authorized signers on all club bank accounts.** Officers change. Make sure the departing officers are removed and incoming officers are added promptly. Banks often require an officer visit in person, so do not wait until October to start this process.
- **Prepare a year-end financial report.** This should go to your club board and be presented to the full membership. It does not need to be complicated, but it does need to be accurate: beginning balance, total income, total expenses, ending balance. Transparency keeps trust.
- **File your IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) if your fiscal year ended June 30.** If your club's gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less, you are required to file the 990-N annually. It takes about five minutes at IRS.gov and keeps your tax-exempt status intact. Missing it three years in a row means automatic revocation. Do not skip it.
- **Check your club's standing with the Montana Secretary of State.** Annual reports for nonprofit corporations are due by April 15, but if yours was missed or filed incorrectly, summer is a good time to catch up. Check your status at [biz.sosmt.gov](http://biz.sosmt.gov).
- **Confirm your LCI dues invoice in Lion Portal and submit payment.** Due July 1. Verify the member count first (see above).
- **Review your club's budget for 2026-2027.** A budget is not just a document for the board meeting. It is a planning tool that helps your club avoid mid-year shortfalls and make deliberate decisions about fundraising and service spending. If your club does not have a written budget, this is the year to start one.
- **Audit your club's fundraising records from the past year.** Were proceeds properly documented and deposited? Was restricted fundraising money used as intended? This is not about distrust; it is about protecting your club and your officers from liability.
- **Confirm your club is bonded, if required.** Some clubs carry a fidelity bond on officers handling funds. Check your bylaws and consult with your club president if you are unsure.
- **Transition your records to the incoming treasurer, if applicable.** If your club has a new treasurer taking over, do not just hand them a binder and wish them luck. Sit down with them. Walk through the accounts, the passwords, the filing system, and the schedule of dues and reporting deadlines. The best thing you can do for your club is a smooth handoff.

### Looking Ahead to Year Three

I will be returning for a third year as Cabinet Treasurer, and I am looking forward to continuing to build on what we have accomplished together in District 37. Expect updated resources, clearer communications around dues and reporting timelines, and continued availability for clubs that need support.

My door - and my inbox - are open all summer.

If you have questions about anything in this article or about your club's financial situation, do not hesitate to reach out. You can contact me through the District 37 website or directly at your Zone Chair.

We are all Lions. Let's get to work.

# MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

June 2026

## Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics



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

- Applications Received: 15
- Assistance Provided: 5
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$11,147.04
- Applications Received From: Belt, Emigrant, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Libby, Missoula, Polson & Whitefish.

## Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Fellowships

**Foundation Fellowship:** Foundation Fellowships can now be purchased by individuals. Foundation Fellowships are used to recognize outstanding Lions and other deserving individuals. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation endorses this Fellowship. The Fellowship award includes a lapel pin and a mounted certificate and may only be bestowed by a Lions Club on an individual or group of individuals with a donation of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

**PID Fellowship:** The PID Dave Hajny, PID Tom Lehman, PID Gary Tschache and PID Ben Apeland Fellowships are now available. The fellowships recognize the contributions to Lionism made by PID's Dave, Tom, Gary and Ben. The new fellowships are a great way to provide recognition for a deserving Lion. Fellowships can be purchased for five hundred dollars (\$500) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

**Life Membership:** A Life Membership to the Foundation, which includes a lapel pin and pocket card can be bestowed by an individual, group of individuals, Lions Club or can be purchased by an individual with a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

**Memorial or Honorarium:** Remember a loved one or honor that special person by donating to the Foundation. What better way to remember or honor someone than having your donation live in perpetuity? Your Memorial or Honorarium donation is never spent; only the interest earned on these assets will be used to further the purpose of the Foundation.

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

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation drew the winning ticket for the Honda Side by Side at the recent 2026 District 37 Convention held in Columbia Falls.

The lucky winner is Lion Greg Lackman of the Hysham Lions Club!

The MLS&HF has been doing raffles for many years and the proceeds have allowed the foundation to serve many Montanans around our great state.



## 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

June 2026

Hello Lions:

PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026 – **34,934 students screened with 4,313 refers through May 2026.**

Any club still interested in purchasing an S20 PlusOptix screener, please let me know ASAP.

Stay safe out there!

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

## Sidney Lions Honor Veterans with Memorial Day Flag Display

The Sidney Lions Club once again demonstrated its deep commitment to honoring those who served by participating in a longstanding Memorial Day tradition at Central Memorial Park. Rising early on Memorial Day morning, Lions members joined forces with local Boy Scouts and dedicated community volunteers to place 128 veteran casket flags throughout the park—a powerful and moving tribute to the men and women who gave so much in service to our country.



This meaningful project, which the Sidney Lions have proudly supported since the late 1970s, continues to stand as a symbol of remembrance, respect, and community unity. Each carefully placed flag represents not only an individual hero but also a shared commitment to never forget their sacrifice.



The day's events continued with a well-attended parade and a heartfelt presentation by the local VFW and Auxiliary, further reinforcing the importance of honoring our nation's veterans and preserving their legacy.

Later that afternoon, around 4:00 p.m., Lions members and volunteers returned to Central Memorial Park to carefully take down and properly fold each of the 128 flags. Handling these casket flags is both a solemn duty and a profound honor—one that was deeply felt by all who participated.



The Sidney Lions Club is proud to carry forward this tradition year after year, ensuring that the service and sacrifice of America's heroes are remembered with dignity and gratitude.

Story submitted by Raleigh G Peck, IPDG SD37, 406-480-5000



# SEELEY LAKE LIONS LCIF AUCTION

On Saturday May 16, 2026 Seeley Lake Lions held our annual auction. This year we decided that the proceeds would go to benefit the Lions Club International Foundation. By making our donation to LCIF, we can help continue the financial support that Lions need, not only in Montana, but worldwide, supporting the causes of Vision, Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian Aid, Hunger, and Youth.

We inducted another new member bringing our total for the year to 15 new members! We were treated to a wonderful dinner supplied by 1st District Governor Elect Gary Lewis and his sous chef Lion Clay Creek. We also had the pleasure of a presentation from PDG and current LCIF co-chair, Mike Tobin, reminding us of the importance that each one of us has to the club locally, in our district and worldwide. He was joined by his lovely wife, Lion Peggy Tobin, our District 37 secretary and administrator.

We then had our silent and live auctions of either new or slightly used items for member to bid on. All totaled we raised a little over \$4,100 which will go to LCIF. It was a fun evening and everyone had a blast!



## 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.

## 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@florencewrittenton.org](mailto:heatherg@florencewrittenton.org);  
[www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# MEMORIAL FORM

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

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

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

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Thank you!

## SPECIAL NOTICES ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

**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 to complete the process online (see the short Lion Portal video on [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org) – “Club Management – How to Assign an Officer”).
2. Complete a paper PU101 document available at [montanalions.org](http://montanalions.org) and send it via email or regular mail to the district secretary, Peggy Tobin, at [pegtobin54@gmail.com](mailto: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](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)

## 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

## JUNE CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

**134 years of service!!**

Whitefish	06/01/2009
Winnett	06/05/1991
White Sulphur Springs	06/17/1985
Turner Hogeland	06/30/1985

## 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 – July 3-7 – See Convention Call on Page 4**

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**

**50<sup>th</sup> Annual USA Canada Leadership Forum**

**2026 Memphis TN – September 3 – 5**

If you are planning to go, to the Forum in Memphis TN, or have thought about going, or would like to find out more about Lions and being a leader

Click here to see a brochure with more information [2026-Memphis Brochure](#)

Click here to download the registration form [2026-Memphis-Registration](#)

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice District Governor – PDG Brian recommended that the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

