

District Newsletter

July
2026

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

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From the Desk of District Governor Jon
Kimble
July 2026

Fellow Lions,

Welcome to the start of the 2026–2027 Lion Year!

First, I want to thank Past District Governor Raleigh Peck and Immediate Past District Governor Corinna Christensen for their immense help and mentorship in preparing me for this role!

A new year brings a blank canvas, renewed energy, and a powerful opportunity to deepen our impact across our communities. This year, we aren't just dreaming big—we have mapped out a definitive, strategic roadmap to elevate our service, strengthen our leadership, and expand our footprint.

To help us scream our successes from the rooftops, we are thrilled to announce that District 37 has partnered with a newly engaged, professional marketing company. This collaboration will modernize our outreach, amplify our community presence, and provide our clubs with the spotlight they deserve to drive membership extension like never before.

With expert marketing support in our corner and passionate Lions on the ground, we have set our sights on five core pillars of success for the upcoming year:

Our Roadmap for 2026–2027

1. Fueling Global Impact (LCIF)

Our foundation is the bedrock of our global service. This year, we are aiming for a 5% increase in total contributions to the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Every dollar empowers us to respond to disasters, combat hunger, and support critical community needs both at home and abroad.

2. Cultivating Next-Gen Leadership

Strong clubs require confident leaders. We are launching a dedicated campaign to achieve an 80% completion rate for Club Officer Training. Additionally, mark your calendars to sharpen your skills, share best practices, and inspire the next generation of leaders at our Leadership Retreat in Lewistown, MT, held on October 2–3.

3. Fortifying Our Circle (Member Retention)

Growth means nothing if we leave our friends behind. A major focus this year will be providing dedicated, hands-on support to sustain and revitalize our communities. We are wrapping our arms around struggling clubs to ensure their longevity and providing targeted administrative and operational assistance to others. The details are in works.

4. Expanding Our Footprint (Membership Extension)

With our new marketing partner helping us tell the Lions story, we are actively expanding! We have set a firm goal to charter two brand-new clubs, bringing the joy of Lionism to the communities of Libby and Lewistown.

5. Transparency in Action (Service Reporting)

We do incredible work, but we need to count it to make it count. We are aiming for at least 75% of our clubs actively reporting their service projects. Accurate reporting proves our impact to stakeholders and inspires others to join our ranks.

Let's Make It A GREAT Year!

The goals are set, the infrastructure is ready, and the marketing engines are spinning. Now, it comes down to the heart and soul of District 37—you.

Your dedication, your hands, and your heart are what change lives. Let's embrace this new year with enthusiasm, welcome our new neighbors, support our sister clubs, and show the world the true power of a Lion.

Let's have a GREAT year!

In Service,

Jon Kimble
District Governor,
Montana Lions District 37
559-352-1455

Meet the 2026-2027 2nd Vice District 37 Governor Gary Van Dyke



Lion Gary Van Dyke has had the privilege of living his entire life in the great State of Montana, moving from various small towns during his youth, to finally settling down in Roundup, MT with his amazing wife Lion Jennell, where they raised their now adult son Lion Aaron.

Lion Gary was first introduced to Lions during the Billings Lions Club's annual Charles Campbell Children's Camp, held every July since 1961 at their Lions Beartooth Mountain Youth Camp. Gary first attended Camp as a counselor in 2005, immediately falling in love with the majestic mountain views, the babbling creek, fresh pine scented mountain air, and most importantly, the amazing opportunities that the volunteer Lions members and staff gave to youth experiencing physical disabilities - providing them an amazing opportunity to just be a kid in the wilderness away from the "real world" for a week at Camp!

Shortly thereafter, Lion Gary joined the Billings Lions Club, the first club in Montana, founded in 1921. During his tenure with the club, he has held the offices of vice president and president, and recently completed a second term following a small break.

Lion Gary also was a zone chair, and a regional zone chair. He serves on the Camp Committee, ensuring the camp continues to be available for youth organizations and others to enjoy, is a member of the Charles Campbell Children's Camp staff. He can usually be found running around Camp in various costumes or wild hats. Lion Gary is also a founding member and director of the Camp's Counselor Scholarship Committee, giving scholarships to counselors of the camp as a small token of appreciation to their dedication and the impacts they make on humanity.

Lion Gary has volunteered and worked in a variety of pre-hospital and emergency settings starting as a high school senior with a small rural ambulance service in central Montana. He currently is a critical care paramedic with a busy rural service in South Central Montana.

In his scant free time, Lion Gary can be found spending time with Jennell and their beagles, visiting with their son Aaron, helping Gary's brother with various projects, and during the summer, in the pristine Beartooths working around Camp and just enjoying the peacefulness of nature.

For more information on District 37's Organization & Leadership, please click the link below:

<https://www.montanalions.org/about/organization/>

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



July 2026



Dear Lion,

This year, Lions and Leos around the world have made a meaningful difference. Through your leadership and service, compassion and kindness, needs have been met, lives have been touched and communities strengthened.

As the Lion year comes to a close, that impact continues. *MISSION 1.5* reminds us there is more to do, and by growing our membership, we expand our service and extend our reach into the future.

This impact is worth celebrating, so take time to recognize what you and your fellow Lions have accomplished. As you look ahead, continue building momentum by preparing future leaders and strengthening succession plans, ensuring your club and our mission thrive for years to come.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your international president this year. Thank you for your service and leadership as we continue leading to serve and serving to lead together.

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

Meet 2026-2027 International President Mark S. Lyon



Mark S. Lyon, from Brookfield, Connecticut, USA, was elected to serve as first vice president of Lions Clubs International at the association's 107th international convention held in Orlando, Florida from July 13 through July 17, 2025.

Prior to his retirement in March 2024, Vice President Lyon has worked in corporate legal administration and financial services with several major corporations and banks for over 40 years.

As a long-time resident of Brookfield and an active volunteer in his community, church and local government, his connection with Lions was already well established before he became a member of the Brookfield Lions Club in 1996. Since then, he has held a number of offices within the association, including international director, multiple district council chairperson and multiple district GLT coordinator.

He was also appointed as a member of the LCI Forward project team, a Global Action Team area leader, a District Governor-Elect Seminar group leader and board liaison to the 2019 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Executive Committee. Vice President Lyon has also served as presenter, faculty and participant at countless training events and leadership forums throughout the years.

In recognition of his service, he has received multiple International President's Awards and International President's Certificates of Appreciation, as well as an International President's Leadership Award. Vice President Lyon is also a recipient of the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. Additionally, he has been recognized as a Connecticut Knight of the Blind and a Connecticut Ambassador of Sight, and is the recipient of a number of project and service-related certificates.

In addition to his Lion activities, President-Elect Lyon has been active in numerous professional and community organizations. He has served on the board of directors for the Silver Lake Conference Center and Wide Horizons for Children. He was an associate member of the American Bar Association and a past member of the Association of Legal Administrators, the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals and the Shareholder Services Association.

Vice President Lyon is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. His wife, Lyn Lyon, is also a longtime Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. They are the proud parents of three incredible daughters.



District LCIF Co-Chairs
PDG Raleigh Peck & PDG Mike Tobin
July 2026

Eastern Montana Lions Clubs Invited to Explore LCIF Funding & Service Opportunities

Hello Montana Lions,

When I took on the role of Governor of SD37, one of my primary goals was to shine more light on the incredible Lions serving across Eastern Montana. Time moved quickly, and while I wasn't able to accomplish everything I had hoped during my term, my commitment to supporting our clubs and communities has only grown stronger.

Because of that commitment, I am proud to announce that I have accepted the role of LCIF Coordinator for Eastern Montana.

In September, I will be traveling to New Orleans for my initial LCIF training and look forward to learning even more about Lionism and the many opportunities available through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). With the support and guidance of PDGs Mike Tobin and Larry Garrison, I am excited to help clubs throughout Eastern Montana begin and complete meaningful new service projects that strengthen our communities.

LCIF exists to help Lions clubs turn compassion into action through grants and project support. Whether your club is considering a community improvement project, humanitarian service initiative, disaster relief effort, youth support program, vision project, or another service opportunity, I want you to know that I am here to help.

If your club has ideas but needs assistance identifying funding opportunities, navigating LCIF grants, or developing projects, please reach out. My goal is to help Lions across Eastern Montana bring more impactful projects to life and continue making our communities, our state, and our world a better place for everyone.

Together, we can accomplish great things through service.

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Raleigh Peck
Eastern MT LCIF Coordinator
1575 10th Ave SW
Sidney, MT 59270
406-480-5000
raleighgpeck@gmail.com

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

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

WELCOME TO THE NEW LIONISTIC YEAR!

As we turn the page to another year of service, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to District Governor Jon Kimble, First Vice District Governor Gary Lewis and Second Vice District Governor Gary Van Dyke, and all of our dedicated club officers across District 37 a successful, inspiring, and rewarding year ahead.

Your commitment and leadership make a powerful difference in our communities, and I look forward to working together to support the financial health of our clubs throughout the coming months.

Start the new fiscal year strong by working through this checklist:

- ✓ Review prior year's ending balances and carry over amounts
- ✓ Confirm all signers on club bank accounts are correct and current
- ✓ Reconcile year-end bank statements to make sure no outstanding transactions
- ✓ Prepare and present a beginning-of-year financial report to your board and club
- ✓ Ensure your club's annual 990/990-N filing is up to date if the fiscal year ended June 30
- ✓ Verify any bonding/insurance coverage for club officers, if required
- ✓ Check dues invoicing from Lions Clubs International
- ✓ Update your club budget for the year, including anticipated expenses and fundraising plans
- ✓ Confirm your membership roster is accurate to avoid paying dues on dropped members
- ✓ Review club governmental filings with the [Montana Secretary of State](#) to ensure good standing with state
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the [Lions Club Treasurer e-book](#) and resources in the [Lions Club Treasurer Page](#)

Global Leadership Team

July 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
mikecollins99@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

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

July 2026

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 22
- Assistance Provided: 6
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$13,145.04
- Applications Received From: Belt, Billings, Bozeman Emigrant, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Libby Missoula, Ovando, Polson, Trego and 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.

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 – **34,955 students screened with 4,313 refers through June 2026.** Have a Great Summer!

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

Seeley Lake News - New District Governor Sendoff

Here in Seeley Lake we have the pleasure of having multiple District 37 officers including our Zone Chair Rob Shaffer and 1st Vice District Governor Gary Lewis, but we also have the distinction this year as one of our members, Jon Kimble, was elected as our new District Governor.

At our General Meeting on June 25, 2026 we had over 45 members on hand to give him a sendoff to Hong Kong where he will be inducted and represent the Treasure State of Montana at the International Convention. Lion Jon is such a hard worker, not only for this town, but for all the clubs as well. He gives so much of his time and inspires others to follow in his footsteps. We wish him well on his journey in this coming year and his trip to the Orient!



Sidney Lions - 9th Annual Family Fun Trap Shoot

Sidney Lions 9th Annual Family Fun Trap Shoot was held Sunday 6/28/26 in partnership with Sidney Trap Club and Pheasants Forever. The event raised over \$11,000, mainly from local business sponsorships, a raffle and a Dutch auction.

Both Youth and Adults participated in the trap shoot competition on this beautiful day.

Sidney Lion George Biebl (also a Pheasants Forever member) assessed eye dominance for youth shoots. Gun safety and proper shooting habits were emphasized and everybody had success breaking at least one clay target! Plus, all walked away with written recommendations for proper practice to enhance their muscle memory for shooting.



Great Falls Sunrise Lions Club Tickets On Sale For BBQ & Fundraiser

On Friday, September 18, 2026, the Sunrise Lions Club will be holding our annual BBQ and Fundraiser at 5:30pm at the Moose Lodge located at 401 21st Street NE in Black Eagle, MT. Tickets are \$15/person and children under 7 are free. Tickets are available at the event or at Floors & More in Great Falls (406-761-7820). All proceeds continue to support those in our community who qualify for visual and hearing assistance.

Your generous contribution to a silent auction, money donation or attendance will enable us to continue fulfilling our mission.

The children in our local public schools have been a priority of our local Lions. We work with teachers to get referrals for children in need of glasses who qualify financially. The optometry appointment is paid for as well as new glasses if needed. Our local educators have shared how students perform better in school when they receive their glasses. However, we don't stop there! We also provide services to adults who qualify to supply eyeglasses and hearing aids.

One of our projects has been working with the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind. With the assistance of a grant from Lion's Club International Foundation, other Montana Lions Clubs, and local and statewide donations, we were able to purchase 100 digital readers.



Digital readers aid the student in classroom participation while greatly expanding reading skills and significantly enhancing the quality of life for individuals who are visually impaired.

Sight and hearing are a blessing that everyone should be able to experience through visual equipment, glasses and hearing aids.

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lion Clubs International convention. She challenged them to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness”. Since then, Lions have worked tirelessly to aid the blind and visually impaired. Sunrise Lions club is proud to help our community.

Through donations from caring companies and people like you, we will be able to continue to help children and adults in need. Please contact **Neil Swift at 406-868-4252 or Gretchen Swift at 868-4250** if you have any questions or would like us to pick up your donation. Thank you for your support!

DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

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

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

Leader Dogs for the Blind – Co-Chairs PDG Brian Gertiser, 10680 Bridger Canyon Rd, Bozeman MT 59715 406-539-0992; 2bigert@gmail.com & 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 Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482; 406-450-2780; miktob1951@gmail.com & PDG Raleigh Peck, 1575 10th Ave SW, Sidney MT 59270 406-480-5000, raleighgpeck@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 Drive, 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 document on montanalions.org/Training & Resources/Other Documents/Secretary-How to Assign Officers)
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

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

1st VDG Gary Lewis; PO Box 523, Seeley Lake MT 59868-0523;
C:406-677-4072; slk3018@blackfoot.net

2nd VDG Gary Van Dyke; 1105 Main St; Roundup, MT 59072
C:406-860-2039; garylionsclub@outlook.com

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

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

JULY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

69 years of service!

Billings Heights

07/23/1957

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

DISTRICT 37 6th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 2 – 4, 2026

Lewistown, MT

2027 DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 16-17, 2027

CHOTEAU, 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 – 50th Annual - September 3 – 5

<https://www.montanalions.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-Memphis-Registration.pdf>

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Tobin

District 37 Secretary/Administrator

UPCOMING EVENTS: LCI Convention – Hong Kong, July 3-7, 2026
USA Canada Forum – Memphis TN Sept 3-5, 2026
6th Annual District 37 Leadership Retreat – Oct 2 – 4, 2026