

District Newsletter

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

August
2026

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From the Desk of District Governor Jon Kimble August 2026

Fellow Lions,

In a renewed bid to broaden its impact and reverse a longstanding membership decline, Lions Clubs International (LCI) continued a multi-year strategy - Mission 1.5 - aimed at expanding both its membership and the reach of its service projects. The plan, reiterated at this year's International gathering in Hong Kong, aims to achieve 1.5 million Lions Members by the 2027 – 2028 Lions Year.

The core objective is straightforward: “more members, more service!” Lions’ service is wide given the sponsored programs: vision, health, environmental improvement, among its service programs around the world. LCI leaders emphasized that increasing enrollment is not merely about numbers, but about expanding our service to communities in need, from vision screenings in rural clinics to disaster-response relief, youth mentorship programs and diabetes awareness and treatment.

District 37 has engaged The Wendt Agency to promote Lions across Montana. The initial phase of the project will be aimed at engaging our neighbors where Lions Clubs are no longer active or have never been present. The new members and Clubs are expected to contribute to the Lions Mission, strengthen Lions in Montana, and serve more of our communities. Changes to LCI administration include:

- Expanded recruitment and onboarding: new digital tools to simplify sign-ups, streamlined mentoring for new members, and targeted outreach to women, younger professionals, and diverse communities.
- Strengthened youth and family pathways: renewed support for Leo Clubs and college-age volunteers as pipelines for future Lions, with enhanced training and project funding.
- Local-to-global service alignment: a framework to connect local clubs' service projects to broader international campaigns, improving impact visibility and collaboration.
- Strategic partnerships: collaborations with corporations, nonprofits, and government-led public health and humanitarian initiatives to provide scaled opportunities for service.

Success will be reason to celebrate! If you would like to know more, visit <https://www.montanalions.org/> or <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en>

Let's have a GREAT year!

In Service,

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

From the Desk of IPDG Corinna Christensen

August 2026

Inspire Young Artists and Promote Peace

Sponsor a 2026–2027 Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Montana Lions District 37 clubs are encouraged to sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest. This year's theme is **“Harmony in Humanity”**.

The contest gives young people ages 11–13 an opportunity to express what peace, kindness and understanding mean to them through art. It is also a wonderful way for Lions clubs to connect with local families, youth leaders and community organizations while promoting the work of Lions.

Participation is not limited to schools. Clubs may also partner with:

- 4-H clubs
- Scout troops
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Church youth groups
- Homeschool groups
- Libraries
- After-school programs
- Community art centers
- Tribal youth organizations



Montana Lions District 37 offers cash prizes for outstanding entries, and clubs may also offer local prizes or recognition.

At the international level, the grand-prize winner receives **US\$5,000**, a special award and an invitation to a Lions International event. Twenty-three merit award winners each receive **US\$500** and a certificate.

Lions International also offers a **Peace Essay Contest for students who are blind or visually impaired**, giving these young people another opportunity to share their vision of peace.



Peace Poster kits are now **available online**, so there are **no postage charges**. Each club must purchase a kit for every contest it sponsors. Clubs can also order certificates, pins and other Peace Poster supplies to use as prizes or participant gifts.

Visit the Lions International Peace Poster Shop to purchase kits and supplies:

<https://lionsclubsinternational.myshopify.com/collections/peace-poster>

Start planning now and help a young Montanan share their vision of **“Harmony in Humanity”** with the world!

President's Message Rooted in Service with International President Mark S. Lyon



August 2026



Dear Lion,

Service is the foundation of our organization. It's at the very root of what we do and who we are as Lions. Meaningful service fuels growth, increases our impact and strengthens our communities and our world. It's why people join us — and why they stay.

That's why my presidential theme this year is "Rooted in Service." I encourage all of us to reconnect with our Lion roots and focus on what matters most. Get creative with your service. Have fun. Look for new ways to meet the needs of your communities. And remember, no act of service is too small — every effort makes a difference.

I look forward to serving alongside you as your international president. Thank you for all the ways you already serve, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

In friendship and service,

Mark S. Lyon
International President

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

August 2026

CLUB TREASURERS: SEMIANNUAL DUES INVOICES ARE READY FOR PAYMENT

Lions Clubs International issued semiannual dues invoices to every club on June 30, and they are payable now. If your club's treasurer hasn't logged into the MyLCI portal recently, this is the reminder to do it this week. **If your club's treasurer has not created an account on the portal, that is the first step to completing this process. The login is the email address that LCI has on file for each officer. If an email address has not been provided to your club secretary, you will NOT be able to create an account in the Lion Portal.**

A note for clubs used to the old process: LCI no longer mails paper invoices. Your invoice exists only in the MyLCI portal. If you're waiting on something to arrive by mail, it isn't coming, and the clock on payment is running whether or not anyone has looked.

What to do

1. Log into [MyLCI](#) using your credentials. Your login will be the email address that LCI has on file for you. (If you have changed your email address, let your club secretary know so that it can be updated in LCI.)
2. Navigate to your club's account and click on the "Statements" tab to see
3. Submit payment through the portal, or route the invoice to whoever handles your club's payments if that isn't the treasurer directly.

Unpaid dues can affect your club's standing with LCI and create complications for member transactions, so don't let this sit unchecked because no envelope showed up.

Why this matters beyond the invoice itself

LCI dues, along with District dues and any initiation fees, need to be current for your club to process new membership applications without delay. A lapsed invoice now becomes a bigger headache later, right when you're trying to onboard a new member.

Questions

If your club is unsure about the amount owed or is having trouble accessing the portal, reach out to your zone chairperson or the District 37 Cabinet Treasurer for help.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



District LCIF Co-Chairs **PDG Mike Tobin & PDG Raleigh Peck**

August 2026

Lions Clubs Are Invited to Explore LCIF Funding & Service Opportunities

Hello Montana Lions,

Well here it is August already, the last month of summer vacation and possibly that time of year when some of our clubs will be having their first club meeting of the new Lionistic year.

As the clubs start to think and plan for the coming year, I want the club Presidents and club LCIF chairs to think and plan on how their club and each of their members will be supporting LCIF through fund raising and personal contributions. LCIF can only help through those type of donations. Don't get me wrong, the parade of green at convention is a great thing, but small personal monthly donations throughout the year really add up (\$10-20/month), and a club fund raiser just for LCIF also goes a long way in helping meet our District Fund Raising goals (\$52,000).

If your club would like a visit from the District LCIF team to help kick off your fund raising or just to learn more about what LCIF is and what it has to offer your community, just call or email one of your District team members.

Together, we can accomplish great things through service.
Yours in Lionism,

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

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

Global Leadership Team

August 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
406.871.4178

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

TWO LIGHTS MONTANA

Join Lions across Montana in celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary through learning, civic participation, and community service. Plan or participate in a service project on October 24—Montana Makes a Difference Day—and share your efforts using #TwoLightsMT and #D37Lions.

CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S
250TH ANNIVERSARY

250

Two Lights Montana

A statewide effort encouraging Montanans to
engage in learning, civic participation, and
community service in honor of our
Nation's 250-year history.

LEARN • PARTICIPATE • SERVE

As Lions, we understand the power of
community service. Engage in your local
civic processes, share your ideas, and
help improve your community.

MONTANA MAKES A DIFFERENCE DAY

OCTOBER 24

Organize or participate in a local service event!

SHARE YOUR SERVICE

#TwoLightsMT #D37Lions

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

August 2026

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2026 to July 29, 2026

- Applications Received: 24
- Assistance Provided: 7
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$15,609.49
- 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 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!

USA-Canada Forum

Montana is Invited to the Midwest Breakfast at the Forum

Any Montana Lions attending the USA/Canada Lions Forum are invited by PID Deb Weaverling to attend the Midwest Breakfast.



2026 Midwest Breakfast
Friday, September 4, 2026
Memphis TN
Hosted by the Lions of Kansas

RISE AND SHINE LIONS!
COME JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST
Renasant Convention Center
Main Street Lobby, North End

The Lions of Kansas, MD17 are excited to invite you to join us at the annual Midwest Breakfast. You will meet our newest International Directors and our Lions International Officers and Lions.
This is the time to connect, talk, and enjoy each other's company.



Breakfast includes fresh juices, seasonal fruit and berries, biscuits and country gravy, breakfast scramble with fresh eggs, sausage, cheddar cheese, sauteed onions and peppers, homestyle potatoes, butter, local jam and preserves, coffee, hot tea and ice water.

6:30 a.m.	Registration
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:15 a.m.	Program
8:00 a.m.	Closing Remarks

Start your amazing day with us and take advantage of a great opportunity to connect with our LI leaders and Lions from the Midwest (a few additional states too).

Cost: \$50 per person
Registration Deadline: August 20, 2026

Scan the QR code below or click the LINK to register and pay for your wonderful breakfast. Don't forget to click "submit" at the bottom of the registration form.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-usacanda-midwest-breakfast>



CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

Billings Lions Sponsor Free Summer Camp

by 2nd VDG Gary Van Dyke

The quiet stillness of the crisp morning air of the Beartooth Mountains is sharply pierced by the ringing of a cowbell, bringing the delivery of a morning wake up to the campers and counselors of the Charles Campbell Children's Camp to prepare for another amazing day at Camp!



Since 1961 the Billings Lions Club has sponsored the entirely free, week long summer camp for amazing children aged 6 to 18 with physical disabilities, but their dedication to serving others started decades earlier.

In 1946, the Billings Lions Club hosted the "Deserving Boys Camp" at the Billings Lions Beartooth Mountain Youth Camp outside of Red Lodge Montana.

The camp was first proposed by then Club President Dr. Charles D. Dean, with the getaway being touted as a "free vacation" for less fortunate boys in Billings. After a "hearty indorsement", the Lions Club sponsored the inaugural Camp July 1946 for 80 youths. The boys were first nominated by Billings school principals and educators, then selected by a committee of Lions members- boys aged 10-14 (depending on the article) boarded buses to head to the Beartooths for a week away from "financial worries" of their home lives.

The goal was to give boys the opportunity to experience the awe-inspiring freedom of the mountains - away from the struggles of home life and to hike, cook, and experience all the wonderment of nature.



The camps first director Justus (JW) Leggate spoke about the hesitancy of parents, citing financial concerns as he "emphasized the camp was an expense-free affair", with unsure parents inquiring about how much it would cost them when their sons returned.

The generosity of the Billings Lions Club sponsorship of the Camp was achieved after "the problem of financing such an undertaking presented the next hurdle" and the solution becoming the first annual "Lions Club Minstrel Show" bringing in \$1,100, "assuring ample funds for the first year. The camp ran for at least 6 years, and its impacts have affected generations.

Today the Charles Campbell Children's Camp, named after Montana's only back to back Past District Governor Charles "Chuck" Campbell (1972-1974) who was instrumental in persuading the Billings Lions Club to assume the camp after the Elks Club could no longer run it, offers youth an amazing opportunity to experience nature in the Beartooths while escaping the sometimes tumultuous "real world".



Camp offers kids freedom from parents, doctor appointments, ridicule, and allows them to just be a kid while being goofy, crazy, and full of energy. Our amazingly dedicated volunteer counselors have come from all over the United States and the world to give of their time, talents, energy, and love of humanity. Many of the counselors return year after year and form life-long friendships with their fellow counselors and campers.

This year's camp had 25 campers and 26 counselors, along with 18 volunteer staff members including many Billings Lions Club members. Each year we have a multitude of activities planned including crafts, a hike, archery and ax throwing (kid appropriate), a splash park, a dance, theme night, a movie night, and a host of other adventures for the week.



The Camp is supported by the rental of the Billings Lions Beartooth Mountain Youth Camp during the summer to other youth groups an opportunity to experience the mountains. Our camp has been around since the 1920s, being built by the Civilian Conservation Corps while they worked on the Beartooth Highway.

Camp is an amazing place where innumerable memories have been made and countless lives have been impacted by those who follow the Lions mantra of "We Serve" by giving their time and love for humanity and service to others.



A Seeley Lake News A Seeley Kind of 4th!

By Lion Michael Feretich

Every year the town of Seeley Lake puts on a special parade for the 4th of July that is attended by thousands. People drive for miles to come to our parade and all the activities in town, finished off by a tremendous fireworks show in the evening.

This, however, was special in that it was our country's 250th birthday and the Lions could not miss an opportunity to show off and ROAR!

First we had a dump truck load of firewood to raffle off which netted us over \$6,200! This all goes to scholarships for the high school.



Next our float featured the founding fathers signing the Declaration of Independence and Betsy Ross sewing her flag. Many hard days and hours went into the planning, purchasing of costumes, decorations and finally having off-road vehicles riding behind the float with signs telling the town what activities we participate in. We had a great time doing this with it culminating in a FIRST PLACE FINISH!!!!



Seeing the smiles on everyone's face was worth all the work and we even had a few new applications handed out.



Happy 250th America!!!



DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

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

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

Leader Dogs for the Blind – 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; jjohnke@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

New Training Videos Available on District the Website

LCI has provided several new training videos that reflect the updates that were completed in the Lions Portal over the past year. They include "How to Create and Report Service", "How to Add a Member", "Assigning Lion Club Officers for the Next Year" and "How to Manage a Sponsored Leo Club."

These videos are available on the home page of the Lion Portal Website and have also been put on the Training Page of the District 37 Website at the link below:
<https://www.montanalions.org/training/>

ALL CLUB TREASURERS

If your club's treasurer has not created an account on the portal, that is the first step to completing this process. The login is the email address that LCI has on file for each officer. If an email address has not been provided to your club secretary, you will NOT be able to create an account in the Lion Portal.

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 peggtobin54@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; peggtobin54@gmail.com

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

AUGUST CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

230 years of service!

Baker	08/29/1946 – 80 years!
Ennis	08/30/1948
Huntley Project	08/30/1954

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	October 17, 2026 @ 10:00am Boulder High School
District Cabinet Meeting	October 17, 2026 @ Noon- Boulder High School

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

2027 Washington DC – July 2-6

2028 Singapore -June 23-27

2029 Minneapolis, MN – June 29 – July 3

2030 San Antonio TX – June 28 – July 2

2031 – Helsinki Finland – July 4-8

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- July 12, 2026-CABINET MEETING
Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Attendees: DG Jon Kimble, 1st VDG Gary Lewis, Lion Cheryl Lewis-GST, Lion Marie & PID Dave Hanjy, Lion Steve Dogiakos, Treasurer, PDG Mike Tobin, Co-chair LCIF, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, Lion Cory Sena, Marketing/Membership, Lion Peggy Tobin, Secretary, PDG Jack Preston., Zone 8

Attendees Via Zoom – 2nd VDG Gary Van Dyke, PDG Raleigh Peck, Tom Naegele-Zone 5, Neil Swift – Zone 6, Jerry Kuhn – Zone 7, Julie Bartos – Zone 13, PDG Mike Collins-GLT/Diabetes Chair, Dave Falcon-Plus Optix, IPDG Corinna Christensen, PCC Dan Krum, Margaret Baylinson – GET (joined meeting at 12:20).
*Adrian Miller joined the Zoom Call at 2:00pm

Guests: Lion Jake Fausey-Columbia Falls Lions, PDG Dan Sturdevant-Helena Lions, Lions Janice & Hal Ward and son Waylan from Joliet Lions Club, Tyson Hudock, Wendt Agency

Call to Order by DG Jon Kimble at 12:01 PM

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation: Lion Cheryl Lewis
 - c. Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and what role they have in Lions
 - d. District Governor – Opening Remarks
2. Minutes – Peggy asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Steve moved to approve the April 19, 2026 minutes as distributed. Mike T seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Financial Reports: Steve reviewed the year end reports and proposed that the 2026-27 budget be approved. Mike C had one comment requesting actual vs budget. (Peggy forgot to include in the original invite email and will send out with minutes). Mike T moved to approve the financial reports and the 2026-27 Budget. Motion was seconded by Gary L. and passed unanimously.
4. Guest Presentations were provided by:
- a. Janice Ward, Joliet Lions regarding their All-Inclusive Playground project. Janice joined Joliet Lions 2 years ago. Two of her five boys have been diagnosed with a disease that causes blindness and a myriad of other issues. The Joliet Lions took on a \$35,000 project to update the park. She reviewed the model that she brought. Main item is a glider swing that accommodates wheel chairs and three benches for smaller children. The bid is roughly \$122,000. Joliet has approximately 1,000 people. They get tourists to Yellowstone area. Steve is going to put her in touch with a contact he has in Helena that specializes in these kinds of parks. Joliet Lions have received an MOU from the town that it will maintain the park. (Property belongs to the town). Mike T reviewed the process for applying for an LCIF grant. There was a question and answer period.
 - b. Tyson Hudock from the Wendt Agency introduced himself and presented the media strategy for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. He provided a Strategy plan and a Media Plan. (See attached). Questions can be directed to Raleigh, Cory and Steve.
5. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 9 below
6. Officers Reports
- a. DG/VDG's – club visitations have not begun.

- b. Administrator's Report – Peggy reported that following the convention, she ordered pins and patches from LCI for the new fiscal year. Unfortunately, the order had to be manually entered by LCI and they shipped the product to North Augusta, South Carolina! The pins have been received and delivered here, but no patches as of today.

In addition to publishing club news and newsletter articles for mid-month and 1st of the month newsletters for April, May, June and July, she has spent quite a bit of time over the last three months communicating in a variety of ways with club officers, specifically secretaries, presidents and administrators to try to get the 2026-27 officers entered into the portal. She did a mail chimp (thanks Mike Collins), and then sent personal emails to the remaining 29 clubs who were still missing and copied the DGs. Mid-June, she sent an email to the DG's and Zone Chairs listing the clubs and secretaries w/emails that were still missing. As of June 30th (the deadline for completing this task), 44 clubs out of our 57 were in the portal, leaving 13 clubs to still complete the task which will require intervention on her part to get either the secretary or president entered into the portal so that they will have access again. Even if there are NO changes to the officer cadre, the officers still must all be entered into the portal for the new fiscal year. Clubs outstanding are Baker, Billings Heights, Bozeman, Conrad, Deer Lodge, Denton, Hot Springs, Hysham, Plains, Plentywood, Roundup (John Perella and Peg connected), Scobey and Turner.

The club officers for all 44 clubs have been updated on the website as have the 2026-27 cabinet, zone chairs and the other 17 committees per Jon's shared google doc. She also processed updates for the district and international organizations located under "About Us/Organization" and "About Us/Lions Club International Officers/Directors" on the website. Cheryl moved and Steve seconded to accept the administrators report. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Zone/Region Reports – Neil Swift – Zone 6, is currently in Georgia so doesn't have much to report at this time. Tom Naegle – Zone 5 – he has been in contact with everyone but White Sulphur Springs. Not a lot to report. The traditional first visit by the District Governor is scheduled with Townsend. Lion Jerry – Zone 7 – he has contacted three clubs and will be contacting Turner soon. Lion Julie – Zone 13 is in Texas and will be back in a couple of weeks and will get busy and active. Lion Jack Preston – Zone 8 – is putting his club visit schedule together. He asked that Jon provide the format for zone chair reporting. Jon shared his screen and showed the District 37 Club Visit Report that was created by Steve D. The reports assist in creating a club database. 1st DG Gary asked how to see last year's reports – Steve will provide a link.

d. Committee Reports

1. GET- Margaret has been working with Libby and has a meeting set up this week. DG Jon noted that Lion Adrian is going to be assisting in this endeavor.
2. GLT – Mike C. reviewed the plans for the upcoming Leadership Retreat in Lewistown. We will have also have online club leadership training this fall. Five have registered for the retreat. He would like to have up to 20. Jon asked the DG team to promote the retreat at their club meetings. Raleigh recommended that any Zone Chairs that have not attended to be encouraged to come.
3. GMT -1st VDG Gary reported that several of the Seeley Lake lions have assisted in working with East Missoula club. Their next effort will be Hot Springs Lions. The club has turned their projects over to the 4-H. Plains is doing well and have a couple of new members. Jon noted that there is a new Zone chair – Nick Ostle.
4. GST – Lion Cheryl – visited Hot Springs, Plains and East Missoula They are all doing service and Plains & East Missoula are now reporting. Superior has also started reporting service. Seeley Lake member Mike is from Missoula but he is encouraging others to join the East

Missoula club. Helena Gold Rush, Superior and Winnett went from red to black on the Club Health Assessment report. Deer Lodge went from black to red. Cheryl noted that she does presentations at the clubs as Gary does his DG visits. She will be providing business cards for the other DG's to pass out during their club visits.

5. LCIF – Goal for 25-26 was \$51k – got 77% with \$35k, Mike and Lary were not able to do as many club visitations. Raleigh and Mike will be attending the conference in New Orleans in August and will receive their 26-27 goal then. He recommended not combining district governor visits with LCIF visits but instead to let Mike and Raleigh know if a club is interested in a visit. Raleigh is looking forward to the August meeting in New Orleans.

PCC Dan had to leave the meeting.

6. Special Advisory Committee – no report
7. Marketing & Membership Committee – Raleigh reported that they have finalized the plan with Wendt. If anyone has ideas please let Raleigh, Steve or Cory know.

7. Old Business

- a. Club Health Assessment – June (see attached report) – Peggy noted that the column “Months Since Membership Update” now represents the time since a club made a change to their membership”. The button for reporting “monthly membership” was removed with the latest portal upgrade.
- b. Community Engagement & Two Lights Project – Lion Cory reported on the governor’s endorsed project for Project 250. It was intended to be a year of Learning (MT History), Civic (encouraging citizens to attend local government meetings) Serve – (get one Million people to serve in their communities). Specifically focused on October 24th to encourage everyone to provide service. Use this hashtag “TwoLightsMT” - for posts to count toward the program. Cory will be attending the next meeting of the Governor’s Community Service Committee on October 8th. He will be reaching out to more folks to reinforce the messaging. Dave H recommended doing an induction of new members on October 24th. Cory would like to partner with IPG Corinna to join him as a co-chair. Corinna is willing to do that. He reviewed multiple potential partnerships with other groups that could provide membership into Lions.
- c. Final Reports – 2026 District Convention – Columbia Falls. Steve moved to split the profits 50/50 per the policy manual and the district’s portion remain in the convention fund and Mike T seconded. Jessica would like to see more of the funds stay in the club as they raised about \$10,000. The consensus was to stay with the policy manual. Motion carried unanimously.

8. New Business

- a. Proposed 2026-2027 Budget review & approval – See Treasurer’s report above.
- b. Cheryl moved and Mike T seconded that DG Jon apply for a \$14,000 DCG grant to support the Baker club to have a customized sign at their park. Motion passed unanimously. Corinna noted that her concern in the prior year is that it might set a precedence for the future.
- c. 3rd Vice President Candidate – Jon proposed to install Adrian Miller as the 3rd VDG. PID Dave asked if Adriane was still working at the school.

*Adrian joined via zoom and reported that he is hoping that his schedule will be changing in a year or so. Jon recommended that we give Adriane clubs in his area. He said that by next year he should have more flexibility. PID Dave also noted that zoom meetings could be a possible option. Dave moved that the governor’s cadre meet and the cabinet will accept the decision by that group. Mike T seconded the motion. Following discussion motion carried unanimously.

d. 2027 District Convention – Choteau - Steve has nothing new since cabinet meeting in April. The next step is to meet with DG Jon and start the planning process.

9. Additional Items

a. Vests – PID Dave found a 3x denim vest online – the front has pockets. 1st VDG Gary modeled the vest. PDG Corinna noted that Zone Chair Julie paid \$20 for embroidery. Steve is also checking for embroidery services. Vests are selling at \$65 and the plan isn't to make money. Steve suggested that we put a newsletter article on the website with an order form. Mike T moved and Cheryl seconded to purchase 4 3X vests. Passed unanimously.

10. Next Meeting: - October 17, 2026 at noon at the Boulder high school.

11. Adjournment – Steve moved and Cheryl seconded the motion to adjourn. It passed unanimously.

12. Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

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

District 37 – 6th Annual Leadership Retreat – Lewistown – Oct 2-3, 2026

District 37 2027 Convention – Choteau – April 16-17, 2027

LCI Convention – Washington DC, July 2-6, 2027