

District Newsletter

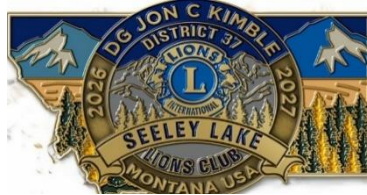
DG Jon Kimble
1st VDG Gary Lewis
2nd VDG Gary Van Dyke
montanalions.org

September
2026

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From the Desk of District Governor Jon Kimble
September 2026

DISTRICT 37 BULLETIN

Mobilizing Lions and Leos Across the Big Sky State

Global Impact, Local Action: Lions Clubs International Announces Global Weeks of Service

Fellow Lions,

Lions Clubs International (LCI) has officially unveiled the schedule and focus areas for its upcoming global campaign, calling on all Lions and Leos across District 37 to join forces in addressing key community needs. The initiative focuses on three critical service pillars—**Vision, Youth, and the Environment**—distributing global efforts into targeted weeks throughout the Lion year.

Mark Your Calendars for District 37 Service Focuses:

- Vision Week: October 8–18, 2026
- Youth Week: February 13–21, 2027
- Environment Week: May 29–June 6, 2027

District 37 leaders encourage local club officers and service chairpersons to align upcoming club projects with these international dates to maximize our collective reach.

Additionally, District 37 will hold a Leadership Retreat at the **YOGO Inn in Lewistown, MT**. **Mark Your Calendars for District 37 Leadership Training – October 2 – 3, 2026**. Click here to register: **To register, go to this link:** <https://www.montanalions.org/retreat-registration/>

Key Focus Areas & Project Ideas

Vision (October 8–18, 2026)

Kick off the service year by anchoring projects around **World Sight Day (October 8)** or **International White Cane Day (October 15)**. Clubs can coordinate local vision screenings, collect used eyeglasses for recycling, or launch new visual support initiatives in their communities.

Youth (February 13–21, 2027)

Focusing on the next generation, this week aligns with **International Childhood Cancer Day (February 15)**. Local clubs are encouraged to organize projects benefiting local youth, run Lions KidSight vision screenings, support pediatric hunger initiatives, or promote Lions Youth Camps & Exchange programs.

Environment (May 29–June 6, 2027)

Timed alongside **World Environment Day (June 5)**, this week centers on local conservation, cleanup projects, environmental education, and sustainable community improvements.

Planning & Reporting Resources

To assist club leaders with marketing materials, project planning kits, and reporting tools, full details and downloadable guides are available directly on the Lions Clubs International Weeks of Service Page. [Weeks-of-Service](#)

Be sure to log all of your completed activities through the official service reporting portal following each event to ensure District 37's contributions are counted toward our worldwide impact!

Let's have a GREAT year!

In Service,

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

From the Desk of 2nd VDG Gary Van Dyke

September 2026

Hello Fellow Lions!

Your District leadership team has had a busy end of August.

DG Jon, 1st VDG Gary, and 2nd VDG Gary met in Townsend for the Broadwater County Lions Club Charter Night ceremony, along with many other Lions leaders. The evening featured a speech by DG Kimble, the induction of officers, a delicious meal prepared by the American Legion staff, and a few Tail Twistings, culminating with a scrumptious dessert auction. It was an honor and pleasure to join our fellow Lions in friendship and camaraderie.



Later in the week Lions meet again to honor and remember PDG Steve Hadnagy, who passed away in Butte on August 1st. Lion Ben Apeland shared a post on Lions Steve's amazing life's accomplishments and his unselfish dedication to serving Lions. There was an impressive showing by local, state, and international members of Lions to honor Lions Steve's memory and service.

Following the ceremony, Lions gathered to visit and remember, and to discuss many new and exciting ideas from other clubs and projects. This dialog brought a new spark of enthusiasm to this year's planning to make Montana District 37 even more amazing helping those in need.

The attached photos are from PDGs Steve's funeral service. He was a photographer, and during the memorial the Priest mentioned the importance photographs have to capture memories.



Gary Van Dyke
Second Vice District Governor
Montana Lions District 37
[406-860-2039](tel:406-860-2039)
garylionsclub@outlook.com





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



September 2026

Dear Lion,

Being “Rooted in Service” is about more than just the service others see us do. It’s about who we are at our foundation. Our roots in service are strong, and they run deep.

Lions are often the first to answer the call, find a solution or identify a need. And when we do, we step up. We help. We serve.

This year, work with your club to create service projects that are engaging, impactful and aligned with what your community needs. And if you want to make them even more fun, invite your family and friends to serve with you.

True impact starts with one act of service, big or small. I can’t wait to see what you do!

In friendship and service,

Mark S. Lyon
International President

Dear Lion Leader,

Certified and endorsed international third vice president candidates are interviewed, evaluated and considered for a recommendation by the International Board of Directors based on their knowledge of the association, understanding of the role of international president, support of LCIF, and their demonstrated leadership in the association and alignment with the association's mission.



The board met earlier this week, and I am pleased to announce that the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors recommends Past International Director Vijay Kumar Raju from Multiple District 316 (India) as international third vice president for election at the 2027 Lions International Convention in Washington D.C., USA.

The international board was incredibly impressed with the dedication, vision and service of Past International Director Raju, including his recent role as a member of the LCIF Board of Trustees.

Past International Director Raju has also served as chairperson of the Membership Development Committee, Centennial Action Committee member, GAT area leader, Lions Clubs International Strategic Planning Committee member, LCIF constitutional area chairperson, and has served on a number of other local and international committees, all advancing the association's mission and goals over his 30 years as a Lion.

Past International Director Raju works in the education field as a senior executive with a focus on governance, strategic direction and advisory leadership. In addition to his long-standing history of service to our association and foundation, he has been actively engaged with a wide range of civic, cultural and professional organizations, reflecting his commitment to both industry and community.

The 2027-2028 third vice president will be elected by certified delegates at the Lions International Convention in Washington, D.C., July 2-6, 2027.

Past International Director Raju is an exceptional leader and a long-serving Lion, making him the ideal choice to lead our great association forward.

On behalf of the international board, I would like to thank you for your support and your service.

In friendship and service,

Mark S. Lyon
International President

From the Desk of Leo Chair Raleigh Peck

September 2026

Leos Are the Future — and the NOW — of Lionism!

As school has just started in pretty much every community in our district, I want to take a moment to say how happy I am to serve as the **Leo Chair for SD37**. I have a few ideas and reminders as we begin another exciting year with our Leos.

First, a reminder about reporting. **The Leo50-A is a required form**, so please make sure your Leo club information and membership reporting are kept current. The sponsoring Lions club is responsible for maintaining records of parental/guardian consent for Leo members who are under the legal age of majority. [Leo50-Application Form](#)

Please complete both pages and keep the completed form on file with the sponsoring Lions club. The form should not be sent to International Headquarters.

Keep Your Leo Records Up to Date

Another important reminder as we begin the new school year: **work with your Leo president and secretary to make sure all of your Leo members are entered into the Lions portal**. Keeping membership information accurate and up to date is important for good record keeping and helps ensure that your Leos receive the recognition and resources available to them.

Take a few minutes to sit down with your Leo officers and help them understand how to use the portal. This is also a great opportunity to make sure new members are added and information for existing members is correct.

I also encourage every Lions club supporting a Leo club to visit the **Lions International Resource Center** and simply type “**Leos**” into the search box. You will find a tremendous amount of information and resources to help make your Leo club as successful as it can be.

Stay Connected With Your Leos

One of the most important things a sponsoring Lions club can do is **meet with your Leos on a regular basis**. Your involvement is critical. Our young people need to know that their sponsoring Lions club is right there beside them and ready to help whenever they need it.

That support can take many forms. Maybe your Lions provide **a safety vehicle for a highway cleanup**, help the Leos organize a community service project, or team up with them to help at a **community golf scramble**. These shared activities don't just get things done — they build relationships between Lions and Leos.

Every Community Deserves a Leo Club!

Leos are the future — and the NOW — of Lionism in the world.

Every community deserves the opportunity to have young people involved in service, leadership and making a difference. If your community doesn't have a Leo Club, **START ONE NOW!**

And remember, I'm here to help! If there is anything you may need regarding Leos — whether it's starting a new club, supporting an existing club, finding resources, working with your Leo advisors or simply bouncing an idea around — please feel free to contact me.

PDG Raleigh G. Peck

Leo Chair – SD37 📞 [406-480-5000](tel:406-480-5000) ✉️ raleighgpeck@gmail.com

Thank you for all you do, and especially for everything you do to support the young people who will carry the Lions' service mission forward. **Let's make this a great year for our Leos!**

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

September 2026

HEADS UP CLUB TREASURERS (& PRESIDENTS)!!

Starting in this 2026-2027 Lion year, there is an amendment to the club suspension policy that is posted online, changing the 120-day suspension rule to 90 days. Automatic cancellation will be scheduled the second month following suspension.

So check the Portal for your Club's dues statement and get it paid. You might also make a plan to check monthly for invoices from LCI so that nothing is missed. No one wants a club suspended for nonpayment.

From last month's newsletter article:

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.**

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.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



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

LCIF: Helping Lions Make Their Communities Better

I just returned from my first LCIF Coordinator training in New Orleans, and what a great learning experience it was! I'm very glad I decided to become the LCIF Coordinator for the Eastern part of Montana.

Working alongside Mike Tobin, who serves the Western part of Montana, we will be reaching out to all of our clubs to see how we can assist you. We would love the opportunity to come to your club and make a personal appearance, sit down with your members, and go through the many ways LCIF can help your club make an even greater impact in your community.

So, start thinking about this question:

What is it that would make your community an even better place to live?

Maybe it's helping children or supporting our elderly population. Maybe it's disaster relief, helping food banks, improving community facilities, or making gathering places more accessible. Whatever the need, LCIF may be able to help turn your club's vision into action.

One of the things that stood out to me during my training is the importance of starting with the strengths, resources, and ideas already present in our communities. Lions know their communities better than anyone, and our job is to help you connect those local needs and ideas with the resources available through LCIF.

Our goal is simple: to help you make your community — and ultimately our world — a better place to live.

Please know that I am happy to help in any way I can. Whether you have questions about LCIF, want to explore a project idea, or would simply like someone to sit down with your club and talk through the possibilities, please don't hesitate to reach out. Mike and I would love to hear from you and work with your club.

Thank you for all you do for your communities and for the service you provide every day.

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

Global Leadership Team

September 2026

6TH ANNUAL MONTANA LIONS LEADERSHIP RETREAT Lewistown October 2-3, 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 2-3
- **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

Click here to register: **To register, go to this link:** <https://www.montanalions.org/retreat-registration/>

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

Yours in Service,
Lion Mike Collins
District GLT Leader
District 37 Montana Lions

Marketing & Membership

September 2026

Your Club's Photos Could Recruit Montana's Next Lions. Send Them Now!

Montana Lions are launching a statewide membership campaign this fall built around one message: Make an Impact. Right Here in Montana. The ads will run across the state, and the first thing Montanans will see is not a slogan. It is a photo of Lions serving their community.

Here is the problem:

We do not have enough of those photos. We reviewed everything on the District website going back to 2023, and most of what we have is posed group shots and convention pictures. Those photos have their place, but they will not convince a stranger to join. What convinces people is seeing service actually happening.

That is where your club comes in

What we need

Candid photos of Lions in the middle of service. Think of the moment before anyone says "everybody look at the camera."

- Vision screenings in progress
- Lions serving food, stocking shelves, or working a food drive
- Highway and park cleanups with trash bags in hand
- Flag programs, playground builds, ramp projects, tree plantings
- Any project where a Lion's hands are doing the work

Faces and action together are the gold standard. A photo of two Lions laughing while they unload a truck beats a photo of twelve Lions standing in a row every time.

Phone photos are perfectly fine. Send the original file at full resolution, not a screenshot or a copy pulled from Facebook. Horizontal photos work best for ads, but send what you have.

What to skip

Please do not send:

- Posed group photos, lineups, or banner shots
- Check presentations and award ceremonies
- Convention, banquet, and meeting photos
- Screenshots, photos of printed photos, or heavily filtered images
- Blurry or very small files

Nothing is wrong with these photos. They are just not what a membership ad needs.

A note on permissions - Only send photos where the people shown are comfortable appearing in statewide advertising. If a photo includes anyone under 18, confirm you have a parent or guardian's permission before submitting it.

How to submit

Email your photos to steve@montanalions.org with your club name and a one-line description of the project shown. **Send them by September 30th.** The campaign schedule is moving, and photos received early have the best chance of appearing in the first wave of ads.

Your club's service is the best recruiting tool this district has. Let Montana see it.



TWO LIGHTS MONTANA

March 23, 1775 — the Quote Heard 'Round the World

WHAT

Patrick Henry warned the Second Virginia Convention in Richmond that conflict with Britain was inevitable; the colonies must prepare to defend their liberty. His speech ended with one of the most famous lines in American history: "As for me, give me liberty or give me death!"



WHO

Henry was a prominent Virginia-born lawyer known for challenging British authority. His courtroom success launched a political career and made him a leading voice for colonial resistance.

WHAT FOLLOWED

The Convention narrowly approved Henry's call to organize a Virginia militia. Soon after, armed conflict began between colonial forces and Britain, pushing the colonies toward revolution.

WHAT MOST DON'T KNOW

Henry's speech was not written down at the time. The version known today was reconstructed decades later from eyewitness accounts.

ONE SIMPLE TAKEAWAY

Henry's speech marked a turning point when many colonial leaders accepted that resistance—and eventually independence—would require war.

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

September 2026

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 27
- Assistance Provided: 11
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$25,318.49
- Applications Received From: Belt, Billings, Bozeman, Emigrant, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Libby, Missoula, Ovando, Polson, Sidney, 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

2027 MTLSHF Raffle

This year's raffle tickets for the ATV were mailed out on Monday, August 24, 2026. If you have NOT received your tickets in the mail, please contact Lion Monte Weisser via email at monte014@gmail.com. You don't want to miss out on a chance to win!!

HELP SUPPORT YOUR MONTANA LIONS SIGHT & HEARING FOUNDATION



Building a brighter future for sight
and hearing across Montana.



YOU COULD WIN ME! GRAND PRIZE:

2026 RED HONDA 520 PIONEER ATV

2ND PRIZE:
\$1,000.00 CASH

3RD PRIZE:
\$500.00 CASH

 **TICKETS: \$20.00 EACH OR 8 FOR \$100.00**

 **NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

 **RETURN TICKET STUBS & MONEY TO:**
**PDG MONTE WEISSER, 533 WEST ARIZONA,
KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901**

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DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE

September 2026

Good Morning District 37 Lions!

I hope everyone had a great summer. It is that time of year when schools are getting ready to start back up. Please check your S12's to make sure they are ready to go. The most recent Plusoptix update is 8.0.3.0. If you find anything wrong, please let me know. I still have a few warranties left to use to repair them. There aren't any new updates for this year.



When you are done screening for the month, please make sure you send me your numbers so I can add them to our District 37 totals.

There is now a course you can take to get certified as a vision screener. This isn't a requirement, but if you are interested, it is located on www.lionskidsightUSA.org. There is information to study and at the end, there is a 50-question test. Once you get into the website it tells you what to do. If you do get certified, please let me know, and if I find out anything else, I will let you know.

Have a great year!

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:

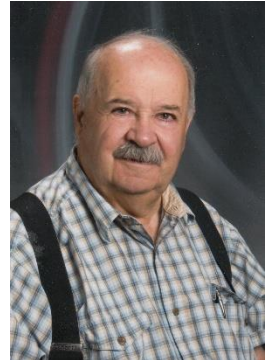
1. Snap candid photos of Lions in action during service activities.
2. Share your photos via message to the District Facebook Page (<https://m.me/MontanaLions>).
3. Include a brief description of the activity and the names of the Lions involved.
4. Bonus points for Lions wearing Lions Club logos on hats, 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

Tribute to PDG Steve Hadnagy **To the Lions of Montana District 37 and Alberta MD-C**

It is with heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of PDG Steve Hadnagy on August 1, 2026. Lion Steve was a great Lion who was instrumental in shaping District 37 and Multiple District C into what we are today. He was a true friend, a mentor, and a leader in our world of service. Just knowing Lion Steve brings back memories of his personality and his dedication to the causes he believed in.



Lion Steve was a long time member of the Butte Mile High Club along with dedicated support of the Anaconda and Deer Lodge Clubs. During the Lions year 2002-2003 Lion Steve served on the MD 37 Council of Governors representing District D along with Shirley Dillman from District A, Ken Pickett from District B, Gail Witherspoon from District C, Dennis Stevenson from District E, Allan Reed from District F and Betty Ann Robson from District G. Now Lion Past International President Dr. Patti Hill served as Council Chair during the Lions year 2002-2003.

A memorial service was held Friday August 28th. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Lion Steve's name may be made to the Lions Club in care of the Funeral Home. Here is the link the funeral home and the official obituary.

<https://www.wayrynen-richards.com/obituaries/steven-hadnagy/#!/Obituary>

Respectfully submitted,
Lion Ben Apeland

A Special Memory from IPDG Corinna Christensen

I feel very fortunate that I had the opportunity to meet Lion Steve during a visit to the Butte Lions Club in May of 2025, when I was serving as First Vice District Governor. Although he had become less active in his later years, Steve made a special effort to attend that meeting. He came not only to visit with me, but also to be there for a very memorable occasion—the induction of an incredible **six new Lions** into the Butte Lions Club.



It was clear that evening how deeply Lion Steve cared about Lions and about seeing the organization continue to grow and serve. Watching a longtime Lion and Past District Governor be present to welcome six new members into our Lions family was especially meaningful. It was one of those evenings that reminded me of the legacy our longtime Lions leave behind and the responsibility we have to carry their dedication to service forward.

I only had the privilege of knowing Lion Steve for a short time, but that evening made a lasting impression on me. I feel truly blessed to have shared it with him.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Lion Steve's family, his fellow Lions in Butte, Anaconda and Deer Lodge, and all of the Lions throughout Montana and Alberta whose lives were touched by his friendship, leadership and service.

Rest well, Lion Steve. Your legacy of service lives on.
In Lionism, IPDG Corinna

From PDG Richard Gessling:

Lion Steve was a Lion for the ages. Spoke his mind and listened. Rest in peace.

From Mary Kay Flanagan:

Wonderful Man! So kind always!

From Jayne Pfeifer:

Thank you Ben for letting me know of the passing of PDG Steve. He was a great caring Lion. I'm sure he'll be missed by many.

WINNETT LIONS AUGUST NEWS

Winnett Lions have been busy with community beautification projects. We planted our hanging baskets and with help from Fergus Electric boys, placed them on Main Street light poles.

We purchased another custom-made bench and placed it in front of another business. The owner was thrilled we did that. We also added a couple of planters and filled them with flowers for her.

We also recruited three new members in July!



HELENA LIONS NEWS

THE HELENA LIONS CLUB
WELCOMED PUBLIC
OFFICIAL, LT. GOVERNOR
OF MONTANA KRISTEN
JURAS, AT THEIR AUGUST
11TH MEETING.



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

Club statements are no longer being mailed and can only be accessed via the Club Portal.

If your club's treasurer has not created an account on the portal, that is the first step to completing the process of being able to access your club statements. 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 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

SEPTEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

172 years of service by two clubs!

Culbertson
Sunburst

09/13/1946 – 80 years
09/13/1934 – 92 years

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation October 17, 2026 @ 10:00am
Jefferson High School, Boulder MT

District Cabinet Meeting October 17, 2026 @ Noon-
Jefferson High School, Boulder MT

DISTRICT 37 6th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**October 2 – 3, 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 Jefferson high school in Boulder MT.

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