

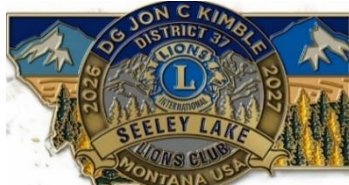
District Newsletter

October
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 October 2026

DISTRICT 37 BULLETIN

District 37 Newsletter Update: Tracking Our Goals for a Stronger Montana

Dear Fellow Lions,

As we embark on another incredible year of service, District 37 has established five critical, actionable goals designed to expand our reach, fortify our existing clubs, and elevate our impact across the Big Sky State. True success requires dedication, persistent effort, and a collaborative spirit. We are off to a phenomenal start, but crossing the finish line requires all hands on deck!

Here is an update on our five primary district goals and the tangible progress we are making right now.

Our District 37 Goals & Progress Update

1. Launching a New Club in Libby, MT

We have successfully wrapped up our community interest meetings in Libby and have already identified five passionate individuals ready to step up and form a local club! To formalize the next steps, an initial organizational meeting is scheduled for tonight, September 30, 2026.

2. Planting Seeds for a New Club in Lewistown, MT

The groundwork in Lewistown is moving rapidly. Our teams have begun surveying local citizens to gauge community needs and have developed excellent local contacts. These new allies are eagerly stepping up to help us execute a massive Lions Club project: performing vital eye screenings across 5 local schools on October 4 and 5.

To maintain this incredible momentum, District 37 is hosting its annual Leadership Retreat in Lewistown on October 2 and 3, 2026. Following the retreat, executive staff will remain on the ground for a few days to continue building club formation interest.

3. Assisting Hot Springs, MT with Recruitment & Retention

We are actively building out tailored support systems to aid the Hot Springs Lions Club in attracting fresh faces and keeping current members engaged. Strong clubs require stable foundations, and we are committed to providing them with the necessary tools and toolkits.

4. Revitalizing the Bozeman Noontime Club

Our Past District Governor and Zone 13 Chairperson have formally agreed to step in, contact, and personally mentor the Bozeman Noontime Club. This targeted leadership support will directly focus on member recruitment and strengthening retention strategies.

5. Increasing LCIF Contributions by 5% Year-Over-Year

The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) does vital work globally, but its impact here at home is unmatched. District Executive Staff have been hitting the pavement making official club visits to spread a critical message: Montana Lions Clubs receive significantly more funding back from LCIF than our clubs collectively contribute. Boosting our district donations by 5% ensures that this powerful cycle of compounding local grants continues.

Direct Comparison: Expansion vs. Support Focus

To give you a bird's-eye view of how our strategic focus is divided this quarter, take a look at our current balance between new club development and existing club reinforcement:

Strategic Focus	Target Community	Primary Immediate Action
New Club Development	Libby, MT	Initial organizational meeting on September 30, 2026.
New Club Development	Lewistown, MT	School eye screenings (Oct 4–5) and Leadership Training (Oct 2–3).
Retention & Recruitment	Hot Springs, MT	Deploying regional marketing and engagement resources.
Retention & Recruitment	Bozeman Noontime	Direct mentorship by the Past District Governor and Zone 13 Chair.
Foundation Growth	District-Wide	Club visits demonstrating how LCIF heavily funds Montana projects.

How You Can Help

These goals are specific and entirely achievable, but they cannot rest solely on the shoulders of your executive staff. We need the persistent effort of local Lions who understand that the people who know a community best are those who call it home.

If you are ready to roll up your sleeves and help with the Lewistown eye screenings, the Libby expansion, or local recruitment, please reach out directly to your Zone Chairperson or a member of the District 37 Governing Staff today! Let's keep this great momentum going.

In Service,

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

From the Desk of 1st VDG Gary Lewis & GST Lion Cheryl October 2026

Hello Montana Lions, and greetings from your 1st VDG Lion Gary and District GST Lion Cheryl Lewis! With 1st VDG Training, travel and club visits, we're on the move a lot!

We started this spring with a trip to Atlanta, Georgia for Mission 1.5 Training for me. DG Lion Jon Kimble and our District GET Lion Margaret Baylinson also attended, where we were reminded again of the importance of doing our part to grow membership in our area. Much learning and strategy involved in this project, which will culminate next year during my year as District Governor. It is definitely on my mind and in my sights to succeed, and Lion Cheryl and I will be looking at ways to implement the strategies learned in Atlanta. More to come on that.

Next, we headed out to Hot Springs, MT to see what can be done to generate interest in rejuvenating that club. Hot Springs is a unique area that has a lot to offer, along with a caring population that believes strongly in community service. For that reason, we are committed to doing everything we can to save this 86-year-old club! Several members from our home club of Seeley Lake went with us to recruit for new members. We enjoyed the farmers' market, and picked up some delicious Dixon melons on the way home. If you haven't tried them, it's worth the trip to tiny Dixon, MT on Highway 200!

September was chock-full of travel, first to beautiful Memphis, Tennessee, to attend the USA/Canada Forum, another great opportunity for leadership learning and growth. With presentations on everything from "soup to nuts," coupled with a chance to rub elbows with our past, current and future international leaders, we couldn't help but come away with even more enthusiasm for Lions Club!

While in Memphis, we enjoyed visiting Graceland, the family home of Elvis “The King” Presley! The accompanying museums housing his cars, clothing, airplanes and other memorabilia were impressive. And, we found out he was a true philanthropist, donating thousands of dollars to his hometown, including the Memphis Lions Club!



A visit to Beale Street, the home of the blues, and partaking of some world-class barbecue completed a memorable visit to an iconic American city.



Later in the month, Lion Cheryl was able to realize a lifelong (or at least as long as she's been a Lion!) dream when we were privileged to visit the Leader Dog campus in Rochester Hills, Michigan! If you don't already know, the folks at Leader Dog invite all incoming District Governors to their facility to see first-hand the amazing work they do for the blind and low-vision community. At the campus, not only do they train and place leader dogs for their clients, but they take care of the “whole person” by offering other living with blindness skills, such as Orientation and Mobility training using a white cane.

Lion Cheryl and I, along with DG Jon Kimble and his wife Laura participated in three blindfolded events: White Cane navigation, walking with a Leader Dog, and Dining in the Dark! All of these activities made us realize how important it is to continue this important work and support the Leader Dog facility, and gave us a new level of respect for the blind and low-vision community who overcome extraordinary challenges every day. It was also very exciting to learn that new technology, such as the currently offered “Meta Glasses,” can provide even more valuable tools to help those with low vision.



Returning home, we immediately began our club visit circuit, attending meetings in Roundup, Big Timber and Winnett. Three down and 18 to go!! We are so encouraged by the dedicated Lions we meet with each visit!

Being a Lion has never held more excitement for us than here and now. We are deeply grateful for the opportunities for learning and growth as we travel to these various Lions Club events as a District Governor elect. It's a great time to be a Lion!

Happy Trails – see you soon!

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



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



October 2026

Dear Lion,

One of the best things about being a Lion is our service. When we stay grounded in our service, we unlock our club's full potential.

And while service is the most important thing, it's also important that we help every Lion unlock their potential. Offering an inclusive, welcoming club environment, leadership opportunities and opportunities for personal growth helps attract new members and keep all members engaged and enthusiastic.

Lions is a place to serve and grow, and our clubs get stronger and our service gets better when all members make unique contributions based on their skills, interests and passions.

Keep up the great work as we stay Rooted in Service together.

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

October 2026

The Need for Leos

Leos perform hard and essential work for our communities. From cleaning highway ditches, to supporting our elderly, to helping provide food for those who are hungry, Leos are making a difference. **WE NEED MORE LEOS!**

The Sidney Leos recently cleaned their two miles of highway, and this is no easy undertaking. Their stretch of highway is on the way to the dump, which makes their service especially important. Their hard work is a great example of how Leos step up to take care of their communities.



If You Missed the SD37 Convention...

If you missed our SD37 Convention in Columbia Falls, you missed something special! The newly formed Fort Benton Leos sent two lovely young ladies to our convention. They made two wonderful presentations and performed the 50/50 drawings both days. As Lions, we wanted them to take their share of the 50/50 proceeds back to help support their club. **There was none of that!** Instead, they gave \$300 back to the district to support the growth of Leo Clubs throughout our district. Their generosity and commitment to other young people truly touched us.

Then came the moving part...

At the banquet, they announced that attending our convention meant giving up the opportunity to go on their senior trip. They chose to come to the Lions convention instead—and told us that they knew they had made the right decision. What an incredible example of service, commitment, and the spirit of Lionism! **Be sure to see the attached article from their local newspaper.** Their story deserves to be shared and celebrated.

Connecting Our SD37 Leos

I am working on a district-wide chat group for all the Leos of SD37. This will give our Leos a place to share their successes, ideas, projects, and experiences with one another. Most Lions clubs do not have a designated Leo Advisor listed on the portal, so I don't know who to reach out to in order to get this essential tool into the hands of our Leos. **Please help me make this connection.** If you are a Leo Advisor—or know who is working with your local Leo Club—please reach out so we can get your Leos connected. And if your Lions Club does not yet have a Leo Club, **please reach out to us!** We would love to help you get one started.

Our communities need Leos. Our Lions clubs need Leos. And, most importantly, **young people need the opportunity to serve, lead, and make a difference.**

WE NEED MORE LEOS!

PDG Raleigh G Peck

[406-480-5000](tel:406-480-5000)

raleighgpeck@gmail.com

Fort Benton LEOs make an impact at Montana Lions Convention

Two Fort Benton students made their mark at the District 37 Montana Lions Convention in Columbia Falls last weekend, April 17-19, promoting the youth branch of the community service organization.

The Fort Benton Lions Club partnered with Fort Benton High School to bring back a LEO (Leadership, Experience, Opportunity) program just a

couple years ago. Since then, the Fort Benton LEOs have assisted the Lions with various community projects and also initiated some of their own.

The annual convention brings all Lions Clubs across Montana together. District Governor Corinna Christensen asked the Fort Benton Lions if they could bring representatives from the Fort Benton LEO Club to educate

other Montana Lions Clubs on how to implement successful LEO programs, getting youth involved in community service and leadership roles.

Fort Benton LEO President Lu-C Johnson and LEO Vice President Zoe Donner, both seniors at FBHS, agreed to attend as representatives, even though it meant missing out on their senior trip with classmates. Lu-C's mom, Dannette Johnson, accompanied the girls to Columbia Falls.

They were asked to develop and deliver a "Speed Learning" session on creating successful LEO programs. Six classes, one every 10 minutes, for other Montana Lions Club members to attend.

"Our LEOs knocked it out of the park!" said Henry Schnackenberg of the Fort Benton Lions Club. "They were so professional, so polite, and so much fun for the Lions to interact with. Everyone was SO impressed. I've been to a few Lions Conventions and I've never seen invited guests so warmly welcomed by our Lion attendees."

Lynnette Emborg, a Lions Club member from Bozeman, commented that the community should be proud of how the Fort Benton LEOs represented them.

District Governor Christensen decided that all the proceeds from the traditional 50/50 raffle should go to the Fort Benton LEO program and that they would do drawings on both Friday and Saturday. Lu-C and Zoe were in charge of selling all the raffle tickets.

They sold \$994 worth of tickets on Friday. Lu-C and Zoe drew the winning ticket and the Lion winner was so impressed with the Fort Benton LEO team that they donated all their winnings back to them.

Continued on Page 2



LEO LEADERS – Fort Benton High School LEO Club Vice President Zoe Donner and President Lu-C Johnson, both seniors, presented at the Montana Lions Convention in Columbia Falls last weekend, encouraging other Lions Clubs to start their own LEO chapters for teens. They also participated in a memorial ceremony for Lions Club members who have passed, accepting roses in honor of three Fort Benton Lions who passed away last year, Jared Vielleux, Muncie Morger and Ken Engellant. Lynnette Emborg photo

Fort Benton LEOs ... continued from Page 1

The LEOs sold \$923 worth of tickets on Saturday and kept \$461 for the program. Then, a Lion from Havre issued a "Table Challenge" to all Montana Lions to donate to the Fort Benton LEO program. This raised another \$213.75 for Fort Benton LEOs.

"In all, Lu-C and Zoe raised \$1,569.75 for our Fort Benton LEO program," Schnackenberg said. "As our LEOs were being congratulated, Lu-C and Zoe announced to the District Governor that they were donating \$300 of the money back to the Montana Lions to help develop LEO programs in other Lions Clubs."

It was a busy weekend, as Lu-C and Zoe educated Montana

Lions with their Speed Learning table, ran the 50/50 sales, drew the winning tickets, presented the Fort Benton Lions donation check in the annual "Parade of Green", and drew the winning ticket for the big side-by-side raffle. Incidentally, Jared Vielleux of the Fort Benton Lions won the side-by-side raffle in 2021.

Lu-C and Zoe also accepted honorary roses in remembrance of three dedicated Fort Benton Lions Club members who passed away in the last year: Ken Engellant, Muncie Morger, and Jared Vielleux. Engellant had served with the Fort Benton Lions since 2009, Morger since 2016 and Vielleux since 2014.



50/50 – Montana Lions District 37 Governor Corinna Christensen with Fort Benton LEOs Lu-C Johnson and Zoe Donner doing the 50/50 drawing at their statewide convention last weekend. Lynnette Emborg photo

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos October 2026 IRS 990 Annual Tax Filing Reminder

Please remember that all Lions clubs, districts and multiple districts 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 that this filing relates specifically to the 501(c)(4). If your Lions club, district or multiple-district has a foundation, which is a separate legal entity, the appropriate form will need to be filed as well.

Please review the Annual Tax Filing information below. Thank you!

[Annual Tax Filing Information](#) ▶

Please note that Lions Clubs International is not authorized to provide guidance regarding your filing. For specific questions, please contact a local tax professional or the IRS.

Kindest regards, Legal Division, Lions Clubs International



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



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

Clubs Can Benefit from LCIF Donations

Well, here it is October already! School is in full swing and most all clubs have started having their meetings. This is also the time when Raleigh and I start our LCIF club visitations. As we visit with your club be sure to bring at least \$10 so you can pick out your favorite number on our LCIF Melvin Jones Recognition boards. 100 slots = \$1000, and when all the slots are taken a random number will be drawn and the winner will receive a Melvin Jones. If you don't know what a Melvin Jones is ask your club President to invite Raleigh or myself to visit with your club so we can explain it to the entire club.

ALSO, if you are interested in free money for your club, have us come and visit to show you how your club can get this free money. We look forward to seeing you this year. Be the first to give us that call and get all the information.

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

Marketing & Membership **October 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. For those of you who have sent in photos reflecting your service, THANK YOU!

Here is the problem:

We still 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

June 14, 1777 - The Story Behind Flag Day

Every June 14th, Americans from coast to coast pause to celebrate Flag Day, honoring the banner that has flown over battlefields, classrooms, front porches, and every great moment in our shared history. But do you know how this cherished tradition began?

A Banner Born in Revolution

The story starts on June 14, 1777, when the Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution. In the middle of a revolution—with the outcome of the war still far from certain—the young nation paused to declare what its banner would be: thirteen alternating red and white stripes, with thirteen white stars on a field of blue, "representing a new constellation."



The founders weren't just designing a flag. They were imagining a country that didn't yet fully exist—a new light among the nations. As the United States grew, so did the flag, gaining a star for every new state while the original thirteen stripes remained a lasting tribute to the courage of those who started it all. Today, fifty stars shine for fifty states, still united under one banner.

One Teacher's Big Idea

While the flag was born in 1777, the celebration of Flag Day was sparked by a single determined American. In 1885, a 19-year-old schoolteacher named Bernard J. Cigrand stood before his one-room classroom and placed a small 38-star flag in a bottle on his desk. He asked his students to write essays about what the flag meant to them, calling that June 14th the flag's "birthday."

That simple classroom lesson became a lifelong crusade. Cigrand spent decades writing articles, giving speeches—reportedly more than two thousand of them—and rallying support wherever he could. For his devotion, history remembers him as the "Father of Flag Day." It's a fitting reminder that some of our most enduring traditions began not with politicians or generals, but with ordinary citizens who simply loved their country.

Making It Official

Cigrand's dream gathered momentum over the years. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day. The cause finally reached its summit in 1949, when President Harry S. Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 as National Flag Day for good.

Interestingly, Flag Day is not a federal holiday—the post office still runs and the banks stay open—but that's part of its quiet charm. It's a day we observe not because we have to, but because we want to. Over the years, Americans have come to see their own values reflected in the flag's colors: courage and sacrifice in the red, hope and purity of purpose in the white, vigilance and justice in the blue.



We may come from different places and different walks of life, but we are united beneath one banner—the red, white, and blue. Before the Stars and Stripes, the colonies used the [Grand Union Flag](#)—13 red and white stripes with the British Union Jack in the corner—first raised in 1775.

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

October 2026

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

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

- Applications Received: 29
- Assistance Provided: 14
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$27,316.49
- 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**

DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE

October 2026

PlusOptix screening totals for school year Sept 2026 to June 2027:
As of the end of September - 2,668 screened with 350 refers.

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.



Thanks!

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



THE WINNETT LIONS HAVE BEEN BUSY!



On Tuesday, September 22nd we had the honor of hosting our Second Vice District Governor, Gary Lewis, and his wife, Cheryl! Even better, Gary got to help us officially welcome and induct TWO new Lions, Claudia and Joe! We are so excited to have them join our crew!



And apparently one night of

Lion-ing wasn't enough... 😂

Wednesday, we gathered back up for our fall highway cleanup, and WOW, we had one of the biggest crews we've had in a long time! So many helping hands showed up that our entire stretch of highway was cleaned up in LESS THAN AN HOUR!

Turns out, many hands really DO make light work... and make highway cleanup go a whole lot faster! We're pretty darn proud of this little club, the people who keep showing up, and the new faces joining us along the way.

Because at the end of the day, that's what being a Lion is all about: **WE SERVE!!**

And Winnett Lions sure knows how to show up and get it done! 💛💜



HELENA LIONS CLUB NEWS

Helena Lions Sunshine Camp is Winterized!



The longstanding Helena Lions Club Sunshine Camp has now been winterized for the winter months. Beginning October 1, 2026, a new season begins for reservations. Please pass the word about this great camp. We anticipate a full summer season ahead, but reservations are needed.



If you know of a group in your community who could use this space for - camping, reunions, weddings, parties, family weekends - please let us know through the Helena Lions Club website, or directly to Lion Gene Hill, President, theroadtoboise@gmail.com. Fees are listed on the website. Thank you!

Helena Lions Support Helena's NAMI Walk



The Helena Lions Club gave out 500 hot dogs to the attendees of the 22nd Annual NAMI Walk at Helena's Memorial Park, Sunday, September 20, 2026.

In addition, on behalf of the Club, Lion President Gene Hill presented a \$1000 check to Matt Kuntz, Executive Director of NAMI Helena. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness.



SEELEY LAKE CLUB NEWS

Fall Highway Cleanup

Twice a year in the fall and the spring, the Seeley Lake Lions gather for our annual highway cleanup in an effort to keep our community beautiful. On September 27, 2026 our own Lion Rachel Feigley along with her husband Lion Pete coordinated the gathering, reflective vests, grabbers and garbage bags to hand out to everyone.

In all we had 17 Lions come out to scour the highway and cover a 2-mile stretch. While it may not sound like much, over a dozen bags of trash was collected! And the Leos did their part by getting permission for their own mile stretch of highway led by Leos advisor Bridget Laird and her band of Leos.



It's very exciting to see the kids get involved with their town. Afterwards pizza was had by all for a job well done. Even our own District Governor Jon Kimble as well as our first Vice District Governor Gary Lewis were on hand to clean it up.

True Lionism by all!



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; 2bjgert@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

Lion Portal Forum on Facebook

If you use Facebook, I highly recommend the "Lion Portal Forum". They answer all kinds of questions and you can ask questions there too! It is another option for finding the newest "Updated Training Videos" that are now available on the Portal as well as zoom sessions such as "how to prepare for the end of the fiscal year".

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.

Accessing Club Statements & Invoices on the Lion Portal:

1. Log into the Lion Portal.

Note: to create a login, your email address MUST be in the portal as part of your personal information. If you get the message, "email not found" then you need to update your personal information to reflect the correct email address.

2. Click on "My Club" (2nd Box across the top of the page)

3. Click on "Statements" located under your club information (sixth item to the right).

4. Review your Statement your club's **Monthly** activity will be listed along with any Current Balances owed. IF that statement simply brings a balance forward from a previous period, then you can scroll down to the **"Statements and Invoices"** listing....please note that you can select a prior fiscal year if you have to go back several months to find the actual invoice that generated the current balance.

Example: For fiscal 2027, the first half of fiscal year was invoiced on June 30th for July 1 - December 31st and is listed under fiscal "2026". That balance was due July 31st. Also, every time you add a new member (no matter what month of the year), you will be charged a "pro-rated" portion of the annual dues and those invoices will carry forward as well. **PLEASE REVIEW YOUR INVOICES ON A MONTHLY BASIS!!**

DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS

These videos are all accessible via the district website, www.montanalions.org under "Training/Resources". Several short videos from LCI's portal are also available.

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

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; peggtobin54@gmail.com

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

OCTOBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

181 years of service!!

Fort Benton	10/10/2005
Billings	10/20/1921
Joliet	10/22/1971

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**

2027 Huntsville, AB – September 16-18
2028 Grand Rapids, MI – September 21-23
2029 Shreveport, LA – September 13 – 15

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