District Newsletter

November 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

November 2026

DISTRICT 37 BULLETIN

District 37 Newsletter Update: How to avoid "Status Quo"

Happy Thanksgiving, Lions!

Recently, our District Leadership received notice of a number of Clubs in District 37 who were falling into "Status Quo" status for past due balances to LCI older than 90 days. We have worked to resolve those issues and still have some work to complete. LCI adopted a policy of posting any outstanding Club invoice to LCI online at **Lions Portal**. They have discontinued the practice of mailing printed invoices monthly, semi-annually, or annually. We have discussed options for remedy and are consulting with LCI about those approaches. Until we have a clear alternative, we will offer the following:

Lions International will post outstanding invoices on your club account monthly. Please use the procedure below to download, save, and print a copy of your invoices. Please check them and forward any remittance to LCI to maintain "Active" Status for your Club.

How to Find, Access, and Download Your Lions Clubs International Invoice

A Step-by-Step Guide for Club Administrators, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Presidents

Every Lions Club has financial responsibilities to Lions Clubs International (LCI). One important responsibility is monitoring the club's accounts, reviewing invoices, and ensuring that payments are on time.

Whether you are a Club Administrator, Treasurer, Secretary, or President, knowing how to locate and download your club's LCI invoice is an important part of effective club management.

The following instructions will help you find your club's invoice through the **Lion Portal**.

Step 1: Access the Lions International Website

1. Open your internet browser.
2. Go to www.lionsclubs.org.
3. Select the **Lion Portal** login option.
4. Sign in using your Lion Account credentials (email address and password).

If you have not established your Lion Account, follow the account registration instructions on the login page.

Step 2: Navigate Your Club's Financial Information

Once you have successfully logged in:

1. Open the **My Club** section.
2. Look for **Club Statements**.
3. Select this option to access your club's financial information.

You should now be able to review the financial statements and outstanding balances associated with your club.

Step 3: Locate the Invoice You Need

Review the available statements and financial documents.
Look for the invoice or statement you need. Pay attention to:

- The invoice or statement date.
- The billing period.
- The amount due.
- The invoice reference or account information.
- Any payment deadlines.

If you do not immediately see the document you need, check the available statement periods, and document listings.

Step 4: Open and Download the Invoice

Once you locate the appropriate document:

1. Select the invoice or document you wish to view.
2. Open the document.
3. Look for the download icon or the option to save the document.
4. Select **Download** or **Save As**, depending on your browser.
5. Save the document to your computer in PDF format, if available.

Choose a recognizable file name, such as:

ClubName_LCI_Invoice_October2026.pdf

This will make it easier to locate the invoice when preparing financial reports or reviewing club records.

Step 5: Save and Share the Invoice
After downloading the invoice:

- Save a copy of your club's financial records.
- Provide a copy to the Club Treasurer if someone else retrieved it.
- Share the invoice with the appropriate club officers or board members.
- Record the invoice amount and payment due date in your club's financial tracking system.
- Retain the document for future reference and financial accountability.

Important Reminders

1. **Check the portal regularly.** Do not wait for someone to remind you that an invoice is due. Make checking the club's financial account part of your regular administrative routine.
2. **Keep your club's records current.** Accurate membership records are important because international membership dues are based on the club's membership information.
3. **Work as a leadership team.** The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and designated Club Administrator should communicate about the club's financial responsibilities. Everyone should understand where invoices are located and who is responsible for processing payments.
4. **Remember that access and payment authority may differ.** Being able to view or download a financial document does not necessarily mean you have authorization to make payments. Follow your club's financial procedures and assigned responsibilities.
5. **Don't confuse LCI invoices with LCIF donations.** Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation are separate organizations with different financial purposes. Make sure you are accessing the correct account and document.

Need Additional Assistance?
For official payment instructions and financial resources, visit:
Lions Clubs International – Finance Resources
Lions Clubs International – Payment Instructions

For questions concerning club invoices, account balances, or payments, contact the LCI Accounts Receivable Department:
Email: accountsreceivable@lionsclubs.org
Telephone: +1 630-203-3810

In Service,

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





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

November 2026

Service is how we contribute to our communities — but let's take it one step further. Let's share our stories and make our clubs more visible through marketing and advocacy.

As you serve, tell others about the incredible work you do. When we show how our service impacts the community, we can expand our reach, attract more Lions and community partners, and serve even more people.

You and your club are changing lives through acts of service, big and small. So don't keep it a secret! Let others know why it's great to be a Lion and watch your club — and your service — grow.

In friendship and service,

Mark S. Lyon
International President

From District Treasurer Steve Dogiakos

November 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 Raleigh Peck & PDG Mike Tobin
November 2026

Why Isn't Your Club Taking Advantage of Grant Opportunities?

Here's One Most Lions Don't Even Know About!
Did you know that the District and Community Impact Grant (DCG) is available to every Lions club? And qualifying for it may be easier than you think!

For years, Lions clubs and individual members have generously supported Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Many clubs have made annual donations, and members have contributed individually because they believe in helping Lions make a difference around the world.

Now, there's an opportunity to bring some of that money back home!
The new District and Community Impact Grant (DCG) program gives clubs the opportunity to receive a portion of their LCIF contributions back in grant funding to support projects right here in their own communities. In other words, you can continue supporting humanitarian projects around the world while also putting some of those contributions to work locally!

Here's how it works: When your club reaches a minimum of **$5,000 in combined donations to LCIF during a Lionistic year**, your club can receive **15% of that amount back in a DCG grant** to use in your own community.

The $5,000 is a group total. It includes donations made by individual club members throughout the year, along with donations made directly by the club itself.

Think about it. Many clubs make an end-of-year donation using leftover club funds. Add that amount to the individual contributions members make throughout the year, and reaching $5,000 may be surprisingly easy!

Let's look at an example:

Imagine your club has 30 members, and each member donates just $10 per month to LCIF.

- 30 members × $10 per month = $300
- $300 × 12 months = $3,600 annually
- Add a $2,000 year-end club donation.
- Total annual LCIF donations = $5,600.
- 15% DCG grant = $840!

That's $840 your club can put back to work right in your own community!

It's a WIN-WIN! Your club continues supporting LCIF and helping fund humanitarian projects around the world, while also getting the opportunity to bring grant funding back home to make a difference locally.

Even better, the money doesn't simply disappear if your club doesn't reach the $5,000 threshold. According to the DCG program, as long as there are at least $10,000 in qualifying donations across SD37, those donations are still put to work at the district level, benefiting communities throughout Montana.

Getting Started Is Easy!
Encourage every club member to consider making a small monthly donation. Even $5 or $10 a month can make a tremendous difference when everyone participates.

Simply visit MontanaLions.org, click the Donate button, and select an amount that works for you. It could be $5, $10, $50, $100, or even $28.19. Every donation helps!

Enter your credit card information, set up your contribution, and you're on your way to making a difference. It's a simple way to support Lions around the world while helping your own club qualify for additional community funding. And don't forget to use the credit card with the best rewards so you get a little something back for yourself, too!

So, make an effort to reach that $5,000 goal! Don't let your club miss out on the opportunity to bring 15% back through a DCG grant.

And remember, this is just one of the grant opportunities available to Lions. It's also one of the easiest ways to get started, even though the grant amounts may be smaller.

Watch this space in the coming months! We'll be sharing information about other opportunities, including matching grants, diabetes grants, hunger grants, and much more.

Thank you for everything you do for LCIF, your communities, and Lions around the world!

If you want more information or help with a grant, call PDG Mike Tobin (406-450-2780) or Raleigh G Peck at 406-480-5000.

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
PDG Mike Collins
November 2026

Leadership Training for Lions in District 37

Lions Clubs International and District 37 Leadership Training aims to develop members' leadership skills, improve communication, encourage teamwork, and prepare future leaders. It helps members understand their responsibilities, make effective decisions, solve problems, and manage club activities successfully.

Lions International and District 37 provide various leadership development opportunities, including club officer training, district leadership training, leadership institutes, and online learning. These opportunities help members at different levels gain the knowledge and confidence needed to fulfill their leadership roles.

- Club Officer training is held twice a year. Online training will be held in November of 2026. Dates will be announced soon. You can see videos of the past training at https://www.montanalions.org/training/ Club officer training is also held at the District 37 Convention. The Convention will be in Choteau in April 2027.
- Online Training in the Lions Learning Center. https://lionsinternational.my.site.com/s/ Under the heading of “Learn” there are video training for club officers, zone chairs, and many other roles.
- Online Training at Lions University. https://lionsuniversity.org/ Lions University is online training provided by USA/Canada Leadership forum. It is broken up into tracks by degrees. Bachelors is for club leadership. Masters is for District Leadership. You do not have to attend a Leadership forum to sign up for training.
- District 37 Leadership Retreat. The training is usually held in early October each year. The training is intended for current and future leaders in Montana. There is no cost to attend the training. The training details will be announced at the convention in April.

Lions Clubs International Leadership Training is essential for building confident, responsible, and service-oriented leaders. By developing leadership skills and encouraging continuous learning, Lions can strengthen their clubs, inspire volunteers, and make a lasting difference in communities worldwide.

Leadership in Lions means inspiring others, working together, and serving humanity with dedication.

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

LEWISTOWN 2026 LEADERSHIP RETREAT



The October 2nd and 3rd, 2026 Leadership training was held in Lewistown. The two-day affair saw over 21 attendees participating in talks, discussions and group activities. Topics included The Foundation of Leadership, Lions History, Mentoring, Impromptu Speaking, Stages of Team Development and Service Reporting.



There were a lot of positive comments as we look for future leaders in clubs and the District. Public speaking is a difficult thing and those fears need to be put to rest at training like this. Seeing how information is presented gives the participants the idea that they too can be a leader and pick topics to present to their own club or to a district meeting. Even people who have been leader in the past find the information helpful as a refresher.

Our Global Leadership Team Leader Mike Collins put on a wonderful couple of days of training. District Governor Jon Kimble offered his words of support to the Mission 1.5 million members worldwide. Past District Governor Mike Tobin showed us all how easy it is to support the District with ongoing monthly or yearly donations of just a small amount that makes a difference. Lion Cheryl Lewis was instrumental in presenting how service activities are reported and how important the information is. It was followed up with a hilarious skit from the Seeley Lake club featuring Super Admin Guy telling everyone that any activity is worth reporting.





If you have gone to one of these trainings you know the value. If not, please consider the next time the training comes up. It is well worth it!



















Global Service Team
Lion Cheryl Lewis
November 2026

Greetings from your GST



Hello Montana Lions! 1st VDG Lion Gary and I have been making our way across the state and back, and what a pleasure it has been to be hosted by some wonderful Lions Clubs! Each time we visit, we come away with very special memories, from great food and fellowship, to lots of helpful “R and D” (Ripoff and Duplicate! 😊) on club projects and fundraisers, and rounded out with spectacular sunsets and scenery of our beautiful state. I can’t think of a better way to be spending these few months of our retirement. We love Lions Club, and we love serving you!



Speaking of service, we want to offer our kudos to those clubs who have successfully signed in to the Portal, learned how to retrieve their billing statements and submitted service reports. We know it has been an effort, and we are very proud of you! Thank you for working with us on these important club updates. And for those of you still working on this, please let us know how we can serve you better.

Happy Fall, Lions!



Global Service Team

November 2026

A Service Activity Report Poem

By GST Chair Lion Cheryl Lewis
(Presented at the Lewistown Leadership Retreat)

When I was just a “Lion Cub,”
I joined a very active club.

And as it grew we did more and more
But no one knew what we did it for.

One day my leader was passing by
And asked me please if I would try

To do my part to tell our story
Not for fame, or wealth, or even glory

But just to let the record show
So others in the world would know

About the Lions in this town
Whose service deeds are just not known

If clubs can show how much we’ve done
We’ll catch the notice of those “Big Guns”

Like The World Food Program, Johnson & Johnson, and Special Olympics
We’re in the company of giants with some heavy metrics!

Our service needs to have the attention
Of those Big Guns I’ve already mentioned

A single club can bring inspiration
To worldwide Lions and those in our nation

So it took awhile for me to see
The reason for his heartfelt plea:

It’s too important not to share
How much we do, and how much we care!

Marketing & Membership

November 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

7 Facts About How America's Independence Became Official

1. **January 14, 1784 - This is when U.S. independence became legally binding.**
   The Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, but it wasn't law until the U.S. Congress ratified it on January 14, 1784.

2. **America existed in a legal "in-between" period for months.**
   From September 1783 to January 1784, the United States had declared independence but was not yet fully recognized under international law.

3. **Britain officially called the U.S. "free and sovereign States."**
   The treaty recognized the United States as independent states—plural—reflecting early federalism before the Constitution existed.

4. **The U.S. gained massive territory overnight—on paper.**
   The treaty set U.S. borders all the way west to the Mississippi River, instantly doubling the nation's claimed land.

5. **Independence was secured before the Constitution existed.**
   The treaty was ratified under the Articles of Confederation, meaning the U.S. became a recognized nation before having a strong central government.

6. **The men who negotiated independence were diplomats, not generals.**
   Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay negotiated the treaty—not military leaders.

7. **This happened before America had a president.**
   The treaty was ratified five years before George Washington became president in 1789.



The Constitution

March 4, 1789: The U.S. government was scheduled to "turn on", but it didn't start with a bang.

We celebrate Independence Day in July, because July 4, 1776, is when the Declaration of Independence was adopted. But the new government created by the Constitution was scheduled to begin operating later, when the first federal Congress was set to meet on March 4, 1789.

The day the U.S. government "turned on"

March 4th mattered because it was the official start date chosen for the First Congress to convene in the new system, replacing the old national framework under the Articles of Confederation.

What actually happened that day

Congress was supposed to meet at Federal Hall, but not enough members were present to reach a quorum, so they couldn't conduct official business. Travel was slow, roads were rough and representatives arrived in dribs and drabs. The government's "engine" was there, but it couldn't fully run yet.

- The House finally reached a quorum on April 1, 1789.
- The Senate reached a quorum on April 6, 1789.

Where it happened

The new Congress met in New York City at Federal Hall (America's temporary capital at the time).

What it set in motion

Once Congress could officially operate, it could finally:

- Organize itself and elect leadership
- Count the Electoral College votes (April 6)
- And move toward the inauguration of George Washington (April 30)

One simple takeaway

March 4, 1789, is when the Constitution's new federal government was supposed to begin, but the first morning had empty seats, and it took weeks for enough members to arrive to truly get it moving.



MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation
November 2026

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2026 to October 27, 2026

- Applications Received: 33
- Assistance Provided: 14
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: $32,027.49
- Applications Received From: Belt, Billings, Bozeman, Dillon, Emigrant, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Libby Missoula, Ovando, Polson, Sidney, Trego, Victor 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!!



DISTRICT 37 PLUSOPTIX UPDATE

November 2026



PlusOptix screening totals for school year Oct 2026 to June 2027: As of the end of October - 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

DILLON LIONS

Provide Vision Screening in Beaverhead County

The Dillon Lions have begun their annual vision screening for schools in Beaverhead County. Lion Members use the Plusoptix machine and began screening for Wisdom, Grant and Reichle Schools on September 14th. Screenings continued in Wise River on October 14th and will run through November for the other schools in the county. Photos below are from screening on October 14th in Wise River.







SUNBURST LIONS GET BACK TO WORK

Around this time every year, there's a chill in the air, and the Sunburst Lions get busy with all things community!



September 16th & 23rd – The Sunburst Lions were in Shelby on the 16th to screen approximately 200 K-5 Elementary students. A week later, we were joined by 2nd VDG Gary Van Dyke to screen another 200 High School students.

Wednesday, October 7th we had about 20 lions joined by several FCCLA and Football team students cleaning up the highway Afterwards a chili & cornbread feast was enjoyed by all at the community center. This is one of the many activities our fine organizations take part in together.









CUT BANK & SUNBURST LIONS
JOIN FORCES FOR PLUS OPTIX



October 6th & 14th - Sunburst headed to Cut Bank on the 6th to screen over 300 Cut Bank Junior High and High School students and completed the elementary screenings on the 14th.






This partnership has allowed us to screen students in all of Toole, Glacier and Pondera counties. We go to Conrad and Valier in the spring and in addition to the public schools we serve the Hutterite colony schools and preschools in all the areas **WE SERVE**.

HELENA GOLD RUSH LIONS CLUB NEWS
CASA Lionheart Kits

The Helena GoldRush Lions Club has launched a new project designed to provide immediate comfort, dignity, and a sense of belonging to children entering foster care. During moments of crisis and uncertainty, many children are removed from their homes with little to no notice, often carrying their belongings in a trash bag—or nothing at all.

Currently, 84 children are served through CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in Lewis & Clark and Broadwater Counties. For these children, the first hours of transition can be confusing, emotional, and frightening. To help ease this experience, we are assembling Lionheart Comfort Kits: thoughtfully prepared overnight bags that meet both practical and emotional needs.

Each Lionheart Comfort Kit includes:

- A durable overnight bag featuring the Lions emblem
- A soft blanket
- A small pillow
- A child-friendly flashlight
- A Lions Club plush lion for comfort and companionship



Our Purpose
Our goal is to ensure that every child entering foster care feels valued, safe, and supported. The inclusion of the Lions plush lion serves as a lasting symbol of strength and reassurance—something a child can hold onto during an incredibly difficult moment.

Impact of the Lionheart Comfort Kits

- Immediate emotional comfort for children in crisis
- Restored dignity during a traumatic transition
- Visible, meaningful support from the Helena GoldRush Lions Club
- Strengthened partnership with CASA and local child welfare services

As we continue this work, the Helena GoldRush Lions Club remains committed to ensuring that every child entering foster care is met with compassion rather than uncertainty. The Lionheart Comfort Kits reflect our belief that even small gestures can create meaningful change, offering children a sense of dignity, stability, and hope at a moment when they need it most. Together with CASA and our community partners, we are proud to stand beside these children and help light the path toward a safer, more supported future.

HELENA LIONS CLUB NEWS

Helena Lions Serving at Helena Food Share

Quarterly, the Helena Lions Club joins hands with Helena's Food Share to help "build" boxes of food for the community! It's fun and it's great to serve! On Tuesday, October 13, Lions Lynn Voss, Byron Beley, Bruce Coen, Diane Gray, and Gene Hill participated.









Helena Lions Small Fry Football Win Championship

Congratulations to the Helena Lions Small Fry Football Team (5th Grade Division) for winning their championship game Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at Nelson Stadium on the campus of Carroll College. The team is sponsored by the Helena Lions Club.



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; pegtobin54@gmail.com

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

NOVEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES



193 years of service!!

Hysham	11/04/1960
Havre	11/13/1952
Butte Mile-Hi	11/15/1925

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	January 16, 2027 @ 10:00am VIA ZOOM
District Cabinet Meeting	January 16, 2027 @ Noon VIA ZOOM

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- October 17, 2026-CABINET MEETING
Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Attendees: DG Jon Kimble, 1st VDG Gary Lewis, 2nd VDG Gary Van Dyke, IPDG Corinna Christensen, Lion Cheryl Lewis-GST, Lion Marie & PID Dave Hanjy, PDG Mike Tobin, Co-chair LCIF, PID Ben Apland, Naomi Valentine-Zone 3, Fred Chouinard–Zone 4, Tom Naegele-Zone 5, Jerry Kuhn–Zone 7, Lion Cory Sena, Marketing/Membership, PID Dan Sturdivent, Lion Peggy Tobin, Secretary
Attendees Via Zoom – Lion Steve Dogiakos, Treasurer, PDG Raleigh Peck, Nick Ostle-Zone 2, Neil Swift–Zone 6, PDG Mike Collins-GLT/Diabetes Chair, Dave Falcon-Plus Optix, PCC Dan Krum, PDG Brian Gertiser.
Guests: None

Call to Order by DG Jon Kimble at 12:00 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 – We are done with the 1st quarter. The VDG's are making club visits. We are trying to start a club in **Libby** where 30 contacts have been identified. Three meetings have been planned, but no success with getting anyone to attend. There are 25 contacts in **Lewistown** and we are looking for a common date for a meeting. Gary & Cheryl have identified a project to do every spring for **Hot Springs**; Lion Corinna and Zone 13 Chair Julie to work with **Bozeman**'s membership.

2. Minutes – Peggy asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Mike T moved to approve the April 19, 2026 minutes as distributed. Lion Steve seconded the motion. Dave Falcon noted that he was in person, not on Zoom. Mike T moved to approve the motion as amended and Lion Gary seconded the motion. Minutes passed unanimously.
3. Financial Reports: Steve reviewed the September financials noting that everything is pretty comparable to last year with the exception of the Wendt Marketing bills. He moved some funds to cover until district dues come in. Mike T moved to approve the September 30th financial reports as posted. Motion was seconded by Cheryl L. and passed unanimously.
4. Guest Presentations - none
5. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 9 below
6. Officers Reports
   a. DG/VDG's – club visitations

      1st VDG Gary – Roundup – paid their LCI dues and their reporting is good. Big Timber – good on LCI dues; Winnett – paid their LCI dues invoice; Plentywood – got them in the portal and collected and mailed their LCI dues. Wolf Point – paid LCI dues, but their check was misapplied – that has been corrected. Shepherd is current and is considering a Leo club. Nashua is current, Joliet is current and wants to start a Leo Club. East Missoula – current and holding their own. Hot Springs – need to plan a reorganizational meeting with them and use their big spring project, an Easter Egg Hunt. They still have their charter and bell. The secretary did pay the LCI dues. Monday Gary will be in Glendive and in November he will visit 6 more clubs. Baker – he made contact with three members. They are saying that the LCI dues aren't correct. The President is in the nursing home. Cheryl contacted the secretary, mailed her the LCI dues statement and she will mail a check. Visits are going well because they don't leave until there is a service report and LCI dues if outstanding. Steve noted that there are other things besides dues that could cause clubs to go into status quo – ie bills for supplies.

      2nd VDG Gary – Reached out to all of the presidents and zones – visited Butte – talking about a cub club. Fairfield is going well and has a new secretary and treasurer. Visited Sunburst – no issues. (Note

from Peg T – Gary joined them for their Plus Optix screening at the Shelby JH & HS the day after our meeting). He is still working on Plains – he had a nice time in Havre and Hamilton

DG Jon has visited eight clubs – Ennis and Laurel most recently and all clubs were in good shape and have either added or not lost members. He should be done with club visits by the end of December. Dave asked about his budget from LCI – Jon said it was $12,000. LCI has done away with the ability to increase the budget in January. It is important to get in all of the reports because LCI looks at those to calculate the next year's budget. This is the first year that the expense reports are being submitted online and several have been returned. Dave noted that you can push back with LCI – Jon responded that LCI wants just one report per month as opposed to several.

b. Administrator's Report – Peggy read a thank you note from the family of Elinor Collins (see attached). She then reported that club news and newsletter articles for mid-month and 1st of the month newsletters for August, September and October were completed and club news is ongoing. In addition, she has published the "Two Lights Montana" articles that were provided by Lion Cory Sena. Continued to update the portal with 26-27 officers as received. By the end of July the only two clubs that were not updated in the portal or website were Baker and Bozeman. She created a mailing list for Monte to mail out the MTLSHF raffle tickets and worked with Deanna to update the Tri-Fold brochure on the resources page of the website. They updated the District projects listed on the brochure to include all of our endorsed projects and updated the Leadership Retreat response form to reflect the current year location and other information. Peg also attended the Leadership Retreat in Lewistown. It's been a busy quarter! Gary L moved and Mike T. seconded to accept the administrators report. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Zone/Region Reports –
Zone 1 Chair - Robert Schaffer's written report (see attached). East Missoula is his main focus. Seeley Lake – biggest challenge is the number of outside groups looking for support.
Zone 2 – Nick Ostle – noted that there are difficulties with older folks stepping down and newer members are not getting training. They are trying to learn our club and we forget about the portal, etc. DG Jon discussed a club visit – Dec 9th may work. Raleigh strongly recommended that all new officers get on the portal…there is good training. Lions University.org also has great training. Lion Cheryl described how they do new member training in Seeley – they also have a written handbook that they provide to their members. This resulted in DG Jon requested that Lion Cheryl provide a "sanitized" version of the Seeley Lake's New Member Handbook to be shared as a template on the Montana Lions website. She will coordinate with Peg.
Zone 3 – Naomi – planning to visit all of the clubs over the next month and a half – they all participated in a fair booth that went very well. Planning a zone meeting for November.
Zone 5 – Tom has been procrastinating with White Sulphur Springs. 2nd VDG contacted them and Tom contacted them as well. Will work on a full zone meeting. Townsend Broadwater is doing great – has some new member prospects. They just had "Fall Fest" with corn dogs. He's visited them for their Charter night as well. The Helena Lions has numerous things going and they have a new president, Lion Gene Hill, following Jack Berry who served for 4 years, and are meeting twice a month. The Gold Rush Lions work together with the Helena Lions. Gold Rush Lions do two-year terms for their officers and Lion Cory is doing a great job as President. They are busy with tickets at the Carroll college sports events.
Zone 6 – Neil Swift – Great Falls downtown and Sunrise just had their annual fund raiser and had about 150 attendees. No contact yet with Cascade. There is a large Lions Park on 10th Ave S – Downtown club works with Parks & Recreation on maintaining the park. PDG Jack is collecting a lot of glasses at their shop downtown. There is also a Lions roadside park on Hwy 89. A new member has taken over that project.
Zone 7 – Jerry Kuhn – Havre – 59 members and 2 more prospects that helped with an activity. A new member from Florida is working to form a club at the college. Jerry is going to Turner – discussed past

due bills and the treasurer has now sent in payments. Chinook – communication with Jay Eslick. Havre shared their fryer with a project there. Fort Benton Leos – 28 members. Their club has 3 new young members. Prepping for Halloween with the Leo club.

PDG Raleigh – offered to assist with Zone 10. He reported that Baker has the same secretary that was there 5 years ago. Need to push to get on the portal. Sidney was joined by their Leos for the highway cleanup, etc. Glendive's foundation is growing and they are looking for places to donate money. He will try to make some contacts with Scobey, Wolf Point and other north eastern clubs. 1st VDG noted that they will go to Scobey and Culbertson and Hysham is also scheduled.

Zone 13 - IPDG Corinna, Julie and DG went to the three Bozeman clubs. Bozeman noon club has work to do…Gallatin and Sweet Peas are doing well.

Zone 14 – Gary & Cheryl went to Winnett and Roundup. DG went to Denton – they may not have a lot of attendance at meetings but lots of support for projects.

d. Committee Reports
    1. GET- Libby – Margaret wasn't able to be here. Jon reported that they are working on a collective meeting with the 30 contacts.

    2. GLT – Lewistown - Mike C – There are a lot of other civic clubs in the area…working on a date for a meeting. Mike reported on the leadership retreat with 22 attendees. Still looking for someone to replace him. Lion Trent is still interested but they haven't gotten together. Mike C is planning a November newsletter to provide available training options. Our Officer training will be scheduled in November. Discussed the importance of having correct emails in the portal for all their members. Communication with district club members is via MailChimp – there are currently 1,084 email addresses …. Missing approximately 450. Have about a 50% open rate which is exceptional. International now bills July 1 and January based on membership June 30th and December 31st. The district is billing as of November 30th. Mike C recommends matching that with international date to have consistency. International is $50, District is $25 – total is $75/member. PID Ben requested that Lion Peggy repost the LCI dues increases approved at the international convention. Lion Tom noted that the international dues are noted on the membership application form, so those will need to be re-printed each year as well.

    3. GMT - Hot Springs - 1st VDG Gary noted that the district is currently up 12 and we should celebrate. Gary has done three new member inductions and will have two more at tomorrow's visit.

    4. GST – Service Entry Training - Lion Cheryl – Roundup, Big Timber, Winnett, Plentywood, Wolf Point, Shepherd, Nasua and Joliet. Working to ensure that someone can get into the portal.

    5. LCIF – Increased Contributions - PDG's Mike & Raleigh – PDG Mike reported that he and Raleigh are visiting clubs. They are pushing the DCG club grants. For a club, the $5,000 amount is NOT just what the club donates….it includes all of the donations from the club's individual members. The district currently has $20,000 of credit available. If the club (and members) doesn't get to $5K, the district gets credit for the amount that was given. Mike reviewed the LCIF Melvin Jones board. Raleigh noted that funds donated for disaster relief do NOT go to the DCG credit. One of the options for the district's current available funds ($20K) would be to purchase some Plus Optix machines. Steve moved that the district apply the $20,000 to the purchase of Plus Optix machines. Gary L seconded the motion. Motion carried.

    6. IPDG – Bozeman Noontime Club assistance – IPDG Corinna – no report at this time.
    7. Special Advisory Committee – no reported

8. Marketing & Membership Committee – Raleigh reported that the marketing has begun. An email regarding the Two Lights project has gone out to all club leaders. Steve reported that there was a press release state wide and a radio spot state wide will be going out. Social media ads are running – Facebook, Instagram, etc. Ads are NOT going to current lions. Lion Cory reported on his interview on the 9th of October with Northern News Network. Cory shared how clubs do different projects and sent him several photos to go with a public release. They've created a one-sheet for clubs to use when recruiting. There is an updated "join now" page that will track information. Cory highlighted a tool kit that went out to 164 club officers focused on Two Lights. "Why Join Lions" – one page that highlights Montana Lions. He also noted that October 24th is the date for a state-wide effort. Note: Marketing & Grant Application Approved for $5k

9. Policy & By-Law Committee – NOTE from above:
   Adjust District billing to match the international timing of LCI dues billing.

7. Old Business
   a. Club Health Assessment – September (see attached report) – Dave noted that he doesn't remember seeing so much red – clubs that are under 20. Discussion regarding how to grow the clubs – Nick noted that Superior has been able to add younger members (7). The older members are not as active.

   b. Community Engagement & Two Lights Project – Lion Cory reported

   c. 2027 District Convention – Choteau – The budget is completed. It will be dinosaur themed and they have a group of club members as well as reaching out to Fairfield. PDG Jack and Lion Cindy would be good as hosts. Ben has been in touch with an international guest. They are also working on entertainment.

8. New Business
   a. 3rd Vice President Candidate Endorsement – Peg read the letter. Dave H moved to endorse PID Vijay and Mike T seconded the motion. PID Ben made comments recommending that we approve. Motion passed unanimously.
   b. Invoicing and Club Dues – Lion Steve reviewed the change in international dues invoicing which has transferred the burden to the district instead of international. Steve proposes an additional $10/club of district dues to those clubs that are requiring additional support (paper invoices provided by the district etc.) Mike T recommended tabling this until the next meeting.

9. Additional Items
   a. Denim vests – PID Dave ordered 3X's and 1 4X – there are 11 vests in for embroidery (charging $20/vest). We only have a couple of mediums and larges and recommended getting 15 more vests. Mike moved and Gary L seconded the motion to get a variety of sizes. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Next Meeting: - January 16, 2027 at noon via Zoom
11. Adjournment – Steve moved and Cheryl seconded the motion to adjourn. It passed unanimously.
12. Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS: District 37 Cabinet Meeting – January 16, 2027 at noon - Via Zoom
District 37 2027 Convention – Choteau – April 16-17, 2027
LCI Convention – Washington DC, July 2-6, 2027
USA Canada Forum – Huntsville, AB September 16-18, 2027

ATTACHMENT:

ZONE 1 SUMMARY REPORT

Missoula Lions – After a couple of re-schedules, finally visited the Missoula Lions on 5/11 at noon. This club's membership is holding steady. They lost a member or two, but picked up a member or two from the Southside Missoula Lions. Their meetings are at noon and are over promptly in one hour. They meet weekly and I have repeatedly suggested that maybe they should have one or two of their meetings in the evening to facilitate people who were still working. They discuss it, but are resistant to it. Their Secretary (does all reporting) is not happy with the Lions Portal and has basically thrown her hands up in the air about it. Their fundraising is solid through Christmas tree sales.

Hamilton – Met with the Hamilton Lions on 3/17 at 5:30pm. Their membership is down a couple of people. To try and combat this they have changed their meeting schedule. They used to meet twice a month at noon, but have since changed one of the meetings to 5:30pm in hopes of attracting perspective members. They believe this is helping them a bit. Their fundraising is doing okay, but they mentioned that they got no cooperation with the local high school in forming a Leos Club.

E. Missoula – I visited them a few times over the last year as they are the club in my zone that I have the most immediate concern about. They have added 2-3 new members over the last year, but unfortunately also lost a couple for a net gain of one. I have encouraged their President (Jack Balas) to install one of these new, younger members as an officer to help foster growth and he has done so. Like last year, the Seeley Lake Lions helped them throw a BBQ at their Lions Park to try and attract new members. The Seeley Lake Lions will also help them with their only fundraiser at the Western Montana State Fair. The Downtown Missoula Lions may also help with this fundraising event.