

District Governor Newsletter

January
2019

DG Dennis Kopitzke
1st VDG Verna Love
2nd VDG Mike Collins

Courtesy and Respect Empowers
www.montanalions.org

DISTRICT CONVENTION SIDNEY, APRIL 26-27

The 2019 Montana District 37 convention will be held in Sidney on April 26-27. The convention kicks off with a social event on Friday evening. Later in the evening there will be a live and silent auction to benefit the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation.

Events continue on Saturday morning with the flag ceremony, several informational presentations, business session and Memorial Service.

The new luncheon will feature incoming District Governor Verna Love. DGE Verna will provide an overview of her goals and expectations for the 2019-2020 Lions year.

The afternoon session starts with voting on the positions of district governor, 1st vice district governor, 2nd vice district governor, 2020 convention site and Hall of Fame nominations.

Additional informational presentations associated with, plusoptix, Great Falls reader project, Lions Sight for Life Project and LCIF will be provided in the afternoon.

Our international guest PID Marvin Chambers will hold the annual "Bear Pit" session and the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation will hold their drawing for the ATV.

The convention closes with a banquet on Saturday night with PID Marvin Chambers and his wife Lynne as our special guests. PID Marvin will close the convention with his address to the attendees.

Details of the event including lodging options, registration form and complete convention agenda will be sent to all clubs, in the state, as plans are finalized.

What's Inside this Newsletter?

- P. 1 – District Convention
- P. 2 – New Voices
Plusoptix
Billings Heights Lions Project
- P. 3 – Membership
Service
- P. 4 – Great Falls Sunrise Lions Project
LCIF
- P. 5 – Leadership
Guiding Lion Course
- P. 6 - Low Vision Reader Project
Peace Poster Contest
Important Dates
Websites
- P. 7 - Contact Information
District Vests

NEW VOICES

The New Voices initiative celebrates women's contributions to Lions Clubs International by focusing on increasing the number of women in Lions clubs and closing the gap between men and women in leadership positions.

Leading the initiative will be the Global Chairperson and eight Constitutional Area Teams who work with district governors and the Global Action Team to create awareness conduct webinars and identify Lions who have made a difference but whose voices have not been heard.

PID Sangeeta Jatia is the global chairperson. Jatia suggests that Lions work to make clubs and districts women friendly, with late evening meetings and Sunday meetings that include family. Lions need to be the ones to educate society that Lions are indeed both men and women. And while these Lions-men and women-work daily to meet the needs of all those they serve, she says. "We need to understand the needs of each other."

Go to the weserve.org/newvoices website to learn more about the program.

PLUSOPTIX

The purpose of the plusoptix vision screener is to empower users to detect most prevalent vision disorders in children as early as possible. The earlier a vision disorder is detected the better it can be treated, and Amblyopia, i.e. a lazy eye, can be prevented. Both eyes are measured simultaneously from one meter away. Measurement results are compared to age specific thresholds and a "Pass" or "Refer" vision screening result is displayed, immediately. Children with a "Refer" screening result need to be sent to an eye care professional for a follow-up eye examination.

In 2018 clubs have screened 14,401 students with 1309 referrals. There are 25 S12 machines and 9 S9 machines in the State. Clubs with screening machines will work with local clubs do help do screenings.

For more information contact: Lion Dave Falcon, 314 9th Street West, Kalispell, 59901; 406-253-1226; lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

BILLINGS HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PROJECT

The picture below is the flagpole and grounds prepared by the Billings Heights Lions Club. The flagpole was installed at Dover Park on Mary Street in the Heights. This project started as a Legacy Project but because of scheduling conflicts with YRPA (Yellowstone River Parks Association) the club was unable to coordinate the project in a timely manner.

Club president Lion Jesse Gonzalez finally contacted Yellowstone REA. They drilled the hole for the club and the club was able to complete the project. This project was done in memory of Lion Lois Poulton. Lion Lois served as our clubs project pride "Flags for 1st Graders" for many years.



We Serve

MEMBERSHIP

Membership GMT Leader, PDG Lary Garrison: 703 Conway Street, Billings, 59105; 406-855-6997; lionlarygarrison@gmail.com.

The District will start 2 new clubs, Goal: Start 1 standard club and 1 LEO club, during the 2018-2019 Lions year. District membership will be increased by a net of 56 new members.

Membership is an issue for almost all Montana Lions Club. The cabinet is supporting plans to increase club membership: (1) Zone chairs will be asked to work with clubs in their zone to determine specific membership issues, determine what help is needed and provide resources to deal with membership issues. (2) every Montana Lions Club will be asked to increase membership by at least 5 members during the 2018-2019 Lions year. Membership forms will be provided, a brochure explaining why joining Lions is a worthwhile experience, information on recruiting and retaining members. (3) the district will work to establish regional membership leaders. The leaders will work with zone chairs and clubs to increase membership (4) the district will work to establish a Lions Club in Lewistown.

A 2018-2019 STANDARD MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION has been sent to club presidents and secretaries.

NOTE: Club presidents and secretaries please remember to submit your Monthly Membership Report (MMR) to LCI.

SERVICE

Service: GST Leader Lion Jerry Leggate, 1315 2nd Street West, 59101; 406-256-8770; jnleggate@yahoo.com. All District clubs will participate in service projects during the 2018-2019 Lions year. Each club will participate in at least 1 service project associated with diabetes, environment, hunger, and vision. An effort will be made to involve each club in a pediatric cancer service project.

AREAS OF SERVICE (Possible Activities)

Diabetes

- Promote Healthy Diabetes Related Action From Club and Family Members
- Work With Senior Centers to Provide Related Information
- Work With School Districts to Provide Related Information
- Work With Local Medical Facilities to Develop and Promote Diabetes Action Plans

Environment

- Adopt a Highway
- Arbor Day Celebration
- Community Cleanup Event
- Earth Day Event
- Tree City USA
- Park Improvement

Hunger

- Community Food Pantry
- Holiday Baskets
- Town Pump Assistance Program

Vision

- Community Eyeglass Assistance Program
- Plusoptix eye screening
- Support for Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation
- Used Eyeglass Collection Program

Pediatric Cancer

- Be Community Aware
- Seek and Support Local Non-Profits Associated With Providing Related Assistance
- Seek and Support Social Service Organizations
- Seek and Support Local Medical Facilities

NOTE: Club presidents and secretaries please remember to submit your Monthly Activity Report (MAR) to LCI.

We Serve

GREAT FALLS SUNRISE MSDB PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Recently the Great Falls Sunrise Lions completed two projects at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind as a continuation of the Lions signatory mission of sight and hearing conservation. The school playground had the need for several maintenance projects.

The playground project was to recondition the 70 lineal feet of boardwalk which is part of 325 foot Tactile Loop where students learning white cane skills can experience the different types of surfaces they will encounter in real life off of campus. Other parts of the loop are concrete, asphalt and bare gravel paths. The Lions plan on adding brick pavers to get one more surface to practice on.

During October and early November, the Lions completed the restoration of the boardwalk and reconfigured the Tactile Loop, removing and relocating the 90' asphalt section away from the trees and root problem and replacing that area with a new 90' gravel section. United Materials of Great Falls donated approximately 50% of the \$7800.00 contract.

The original project is now complete and the additional brickwork improvements are scheduled for early spring. The total project estimate is approximately \$20,000.00.



LCIF

CAMPAIGN 100

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Leader; PDG Monte Weisser; 533 West Arizona, Kalispell, 59901; 406-756-8528; 406-890-9561; monte014@gmail.com. Seventy five (75) percent or at least 51 clubs will report at least 1 contribution to LCIF during the 2018-2019 Lions Year.

LCIF Empowering Service: Campaign 100 will be the most ambitious fundraising effort in LCIF history, Campaign 100 will span three years and seek to raise \$300 million. By June 30, 2021, Campaign 100 will empower Lions to serve 200 over million people each year and ensure you have resources to:

- Increase service impact:
- Help improve vision
- Support youth activities
- Provide disaster relief
- Support humanitarian causes
- Fight diabetes
- Fight and eliminate hunger
- Treat childhood cancer
- Improve our environment

Together, we'll respond to these issues with comprehensive initiatives targeted to the communities where we live and serve. Every Lions Club and Lion will be asked to contribute to this effort. To donate visit: lcif.org/BE100

LCIF DISTRICT AND CLUB COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS (DCG)

LCIF is announcing that District and Club Community Impact Grants (DCG) will be available for application beginning in July 2018. Donations made by a club or a district **during this current fiscal year** will count toward the requirements for this new grant opportunity. Funds raised by a club will remain in that club's account until the club notifies LCIF to apply the funds to the district's account.

*The program is available to both district and clubs;

*15 percent of unrestricted and/or general campaign donations will be available for DCG's;

*Only unrestricted and general campaign donations will qualify;

*Districts and clubs will be required to meet a minimum donation level to enable 15 percent of their donation to be counted towards their available funds to be accessed through the DCG program;

*For districts, the minimum cumulative donation amount is \$10,000 per fiscal year;

*For clubs, the minimum cumulative donation is \$5,000 per fiscal year.

A GRANT APPLICATION WILL BE SENT TO THE CLUB PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

LEADERSHIP

Leadership: GLT Leader, PID Dave Hajny; Box 1489, Ennis, 59729; 406-682-4586; 406-596-4596; whodat@3rivers.net. Montana District 37 will host 3 major leadership training events during the 2018-2019 Lions year. Leadership Retreat, Montana Forum (canceled), Special Officer Training at District Convention and District 37 Convention.

The **2019 District Convention** will be held in Sidney on April 26 and 27. The start of the convention on Friday will feature opportunities to play golf, visit historical locations or visit great tourist locations. Friday evening will feature a social event and fundraising auction. Saturday features the business session with voting on several important district issues, relevant workshops that will be of interest to all Lions and the convention ends with the Saturday night banquet and message from our international guest PID Marvin Chambers. Registration and other key information will be distributed starting in mid-December.

A 2018-2019 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION has been sent to club presidents and secretaries.

Leadership in Turbulent Times Doris Kearns Goodwin

This summary of leadership thoughts from Lyndon B. Johnson was provided by PDG Lary Garrison. Cabinet members, zone/region chairs, club officers might pass this information to other club members. Club officers could use this information in presentations to their clubs.

Visionary Leadership

**Lead with your strengths,
Establish the most effective order of battle,
Honor commitments,
Rally support around a strategic target,
Draw a clear line of battle,
Impose discipline in the ranks.
Identify the key to success. Put ego aside,
Set forth a compelling picture of the future,
The readiness is all,
Give stakeholders a chance to shape measures
form the start,
Know then to hold back, when to move forward,
Let celebrations honor the past and provide
momentum for the future.**

CERTIFIED GUIDING LION COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Guiding Lion Program is designed to assist clubs that are newly chartered, established or have a priority designation. Guiding Lions are assigned for a two-year term by the district governor in consultation with the sponsoring or established club president. Guiding Lions are limited to serving no more than two new clubs at any point in time.

Even if you are an experienced Guiding Lion, you will benefit from this course because it provides the most comprehensive overview available of the roles and responsibilities of a Guiding Lion.

The Certified Guiding Lion Course will help you:

1. Understand your role as a Guiding Lion
2. Help you develop a plan to guide the club to become self-sufficient and strong
3. Provide tools to help the club officers manage their club
4. Establish a system to track development over the course of your term

Successfully completing this course will certify you for three years. You are required to recertify every three years to maintain certification. Please also note that you do not need to be certified to be assigned to a club as a Guiding Lion, however, you must have served as a club president to be qualified for club assignment. For Information and Tools for Guiding Lions certifiedguidinglions@lionsclubs.org

LOW VISION READER PROJECT

The Great Falls Lions Clubs in cooperation with the Montana School for Deaf and Blind Children and as a District 37 endorsed project, have embarked on a fundraising campaign. The campaign will raise approximated \$150,000.00 to help purchase 50 low vision closed captioned CCTV's. The machines will help students with vision problems become more independent in elementary school and will give them a better chance to keep up with their sighted peers.

The technology will empower the students by allowing them to read any book not just large print editions. The CCTV units can be used to support education in math, science, reading, language arts, and life skills. The devices are life changing.

For more information and to provide financial support for this great project contact: PDG Jack Beckman; 301 Skyline Drive NE; Great Falls, 59404; Home: 406-453-6390; Cell: 406-231-2424; jtbeckman@bresnan.net

Websites

There are several great websites that will be useful for every Lion. Visit the district website: www.montanalions.org to find a wealth of valuable information regarding almost every aspect associated with the operation of the district.

LCI website, lionsclubsinternational.org The website has a wealth of information available to all Lions: general information, service projects, membership, club improvement, online training, media and news releases, and LCIF.

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation website is a great for information regarding the sight, hearing and/or speech impairments, www.mtlionsshfnd.org

The new MyLion Mobile App is now available. LCI celebrates 100 years with the unveiling of MyLion – a world-class mobile app designed to make service volunteering fun, fast and easy. Get ready to connect and serve with Lions everywhere—right from your mobile phone. Learn more and download today at: www.mylion.org

PEACE POSTER CONTEST

The 2018-2019 peace poster theme was:

Kindness Matters

Contest winners were:

1st Z. Graham, Sweet Pea

2nd J. Hales, Helena

3rd S. Browning, Winnett

Additional entries were received from Ennis and Winnett.

IMPORTANT DATES

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

January 15 – 6:30 PM Phone Meeting

District 37 Cabinet

January 16 – 7:00 PM Phone Meeting

Advisory Committee

March 16 – 10:00 AM, Bozeman

District Convention

April 26-27 - Sidney

USA/Canada Forum

September 19-21 - Spokane

Contact Information

DG Dennis Kopitzke, Box 1266, Forsyth, 59327; 406-346-1488; 406-853-8695;
djk_7491@rangeweb.net

1st VDG Verna Love, 820 N. Montana Street, #10; Dillon, MT 50725; H 406-2
988-4585; C 406-498-5796; vprosgroup@hotmail.com

2nd VDG Mike Collins, 40 Meadowlark Drive; Kalispell, MT 59901; H 406-752-3473; C
406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net

**LIONS: WE SERVE
PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER INFORMATION
TO OTHER CLUB MEMBERS**

District Vests: The district has a number of vests for sale. LCI convention attendees purchased vests (\$65.00) and wore them in the LCI convention parade. Contact PID Dave Hajny for more information on the vests. 406-596-4596; whodat@3rivers.net

