

## 5M-2 Lions' News



October 2025

www.district5M2lions.com

## "Sprinkle Service with Kindness"



Shermayne Cross District Governor

Although I was not able to attend the full USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum last week, I came home passionate about service and leadership. The Forum is designed to strengthen Lions through practical training, inspiring speakers and meaningful connections, and this year was no exception. I attended the Lions Speed Learning

where 12 table hosts introduced topics they would be presenting for a full hour later in the forum. There were over 100 seminars participants could choose from over the 2 ½ days. Topics included: grant applications, new club development, Leo clubs, Lions University, retention, expanding service just to name a few. Beyond the workshops, keynote speakers shared powerful stories of courage, innovation and kindness-reminding us why Lions are needed now more than ever. Walking through the Forum, one could feel the energy of Lions united under the banner of service, ready to take on new challenges and opportunities. The next Forum will be in Memphis, Tennessee September 3-5, 2026, mark your calendars and I hope many more of you will consider joining us. Each year I think they can't make this any better, but they always do....

The first Focus Week--Mental Health and Wellbeing is scheduled for Oct. 3-12. LCI has extended the time frame for all the Focus Weeks, and now we have ten days before and ten days after to do our projects. Some suggestions of projects include: speaker at your club meeting, share daily social media posts (tips, hotline numbers, etc.), comfort kits (journals, stress balls, tea, puzzle books), wear green ribbons during the week, visit a shut-in neighbor, share tips on managing stress and check-in with Lions that you haven't seen for a while. Remember to post your activity on the Portal as there will be no paper applications for the Club Excellence Award. Participation in all three of the Focus Weeks is a new requirement of the Excellence Award.

Rob Hed, the multiple GST, announced that the Portal will be doing updates with Improved Page Layouts! Looking forward to having streamlined navigation, enhanced filters, and simple export options. Keep watch for the updates. Watch your mailbox for Zone Meeting invites. Final preparations are underway and should be out shortly. We combine two Zones together for the Fall meetings and single zone meetings in the spring. So, Zone 1 & 3, Zone 2 & 4, Zone 5 & 6 and Zone 7 & 8 will meet together. The purpose of Zone meetings is to strengthen communication between clubs, share district updates, recognize club successes, share ideas/solutions and to ask questions. Throw in a fun Fundraising activity to complete the evening. Zone Meetings are open to ALL Lions not just officers so plan on attending and having a fun time.

Treasurers, have you renewed your club's business filling with the Secretary of State? Now is the time to check and make sure you have registered for 2025, and you renew for 2026. You must also file with the IRS form 990-N if you are a 501 (c) 4 club and your yearly income is less the \$50,000. Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. Our fiscal year ends on June 30, so your form needs to be filed by November 15. If you fail to file, the IRS gives you 3 years grace but after that it'll cost you to reinstate your non-profit status. Google Form 990-N for further instructions.

"Enjoy the crispness of fall and let the beauty of the colors remind us to pause, reflect, and sprinkle kindness wherever we go. Just as the leaves bring beauty to the season, Lions acts of service bring warmth and hope to our communities."

## Where Can I Find the DG?

Oct. 2-DG Team Mtg 7pm

Oct. 4-DG Hearing Foundation-St. Cloud

Oct. 9-Zones 1 & 3 at Green Isle

Oct 11-Mankato Diabetes Walk-10 am

Oct. 11-Mankato Club 100th Anniversary

Oct. 14-Zone Chairs-7 pm via zoom

Oct. 16 & 17-1VDG, 2VDG Training

Oct. 18-COG, Alexandria

Oct. 21-DG visit to St. Peter Club-noon

Oct. 21-Mid-Winter Convention Mtg-6:30

Oct.23-Zones 7 & 8, Wedgewood Cove, AL

Oct. 26-Cabinet-Farm America 4 pm

Oct. 27-DG visit Chanhassen Club

Oct. 28-Zones 2 & 4 at Carver



















## Welcome to October, Lions...



Chuck Toltzman 1st Vice District Governor

In the month of October, we are looking at doing fall things. Like raking leaves, watching football, or maybe just sitting outside by a nice fire on a crisp autumn night. But I think the Lions of 5M-2 are also looking forward to going to a Zone meeting. These meetings are very

important to every Lion in the district. As there is usually a lot of information that comes out of these meetings. Also, there is a lot of fellowship with other Lions from other clubs. You get to meet old friends and get to make some new friends. So please keep your eyes and ears open for the Zone meeting in your area.

So, a little bit about what I have been doing this last September. I went to my first US/Canada Forum. What a time I had there. There were 98 different little classes, I say little because they were only about an hour and a half long, that a person could take to learn more about Lions. One of the courses that we were able to take was how to do a free website for your club? I found it very interesting that every Lions club in the world could own their own domain and their own website for free. So that they could get their club recognized and out into the world. It is hard to believe that if every Lions club would have their own website, how we would change the world. Another course I went to was about AI and how it is changing the world.

And how Lions can change the world with it. We do so many great things in our communities and Al can help you put it on social media so much easier and make it look so professional that people will have to take notice. I am already seeing a lot more Lions service projects on my Facebook feed. But if every club would put something on social media, we will change the world for the good of the world. Our International President's theme "Lead to serve. Serve to Lead" is a great way to think about this. Let's all lead by putting our service on social media. So that our service leads the world. It's our next best advertising campaign.

There was so many interesting classes that weekend that I came home with my head just so full of information, I could hardly sleep. I would encourage all Lions to go to a US/Canada Forum. Next year it will be in Memphis, TN. It is close enough that you can drive there if you don't like flying. Just go.

I am currently setting up my schedule to visit the clubs that I am assigned to visit. If I have contacted your club, please respond quickly. As my schedule fills up fast.

I am going to end this month with a quote that I try to live by every day, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you make them feel." Maya Angelou.

I am here to help you help others.

## SAVE THE DATE

## 5M-2 Mid-Winter Convention

Additional details coming in October/November

February 13-15, 2026

Visiting International Director

Where: Country Inn & Suites 1900 Premier Dr. Mankato, MN

Entertainment

Seminars

Business Meeting



Service Project Service of Remembrance

Host Committee: Zone 3 Arlington, Courtland, Gibbon, Green Isle, Henderson, Lafayette & Area, Nicollet, & Winthrop



## Hello Lions of 5M-2!



Deb Koehnen 2nd Vice District Governor

My schedule is filling up with Lions events and trainings. I'm officially registered for the 2VDG training and COGS in Alexandria from Oct 16-18. I've started some of the online classes on the Lions portal. I'm looking forward to the 100th Anniversary of the Mankato Lions on Oct. 11 and the Thanksgiving for Vision on Nov. 1 – it's moving to St. Cloud

this year. Zone meetings are also being scheduled. Visits with Ellendale and New Richland are on my schedule in early November.

Service is going to be a big part of our district goals. Hoping that every member will participate in at least one service project this year. Make it one of your personal goals "One Act of Kindness at a Time."

I just returned from a weekend on our motorcycle in the Decorah, lowa area. Being the northern most club in 5M-2, we rode through several 5M-2 towns on our weekend travels. Looking forward to visiting every club during the next 3 years.



## 2025-2026 LCI Club Excellence Award Criteria

The Club Excellence Award recognizes clubs that demonstrate outstanding service, strong leadership, membership growth and community impact. Below are the minimum requirements that must be met to receive this award. Plan now, start early and lead with service. That is how we build a future where Lions truly shine.

## 2025-2026 LCI Club Excellence Award Criteria

The Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs.

Applications will not be necessary for the 2025-2026 award cycle. Awards will be distributed by Lions International to clubs that meet the following criteria and eligibility requirements.

### Membership

- Induct a minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or sponsor a new Lions club.

### Service

 Report a minimum of four (4) service activities to Lions International. Three (3) of these activities must show participation in each of the three (3) International Weeks of Service.

### Leadership

- Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15 of the current Lion year.
- A minimum of 10% of the club's members complete any three courses in the Lions Learning Center.
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.
- A minimum of two or more club officers (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer, of which, one must be the club president) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) between July 1-December 31 of the current Lion year.

### **Donations**

<u>Contribute to LCIF</u> a minimum of the club's membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year, multiplied by US\$20.

## Contact Us:

## **District Governor Team**

DG Shermayne Cross 1st VDG Chuck Toltzman 2nd VDG Deb Koehnen shermayne.c@live.com circlethay@gmail.com debkoehnen@hotmail.com

Submit newsletter articles to: 5M2newslettereditor@gmail.com



300 W 22ND STREET · OAK BROOK ILLINOIS 60523-8842 USA · 630.571.5466 · WWW.LCIF.ORG

## LCIF Spotlight: The \$20 LCIF President's Challenge - Zone vs. Zone!

Get ready, Lions! This fall, we are launching a fun and meaningful way to boost support for our Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF): the \$20 LCIF President's Challenge – Zone vs. Zone Edition!

From October 1 through November 30, each Club President is encouraged to make a personal \$20 donation to LCIF. This simple act of generosity demonstrates leadership, commitment, and sets the example for every Lion in your club.

## Here's how it works:

- Every Club President who makes the \$20 donation will have their name entered into a special prize drawing.
- Zones will compete head-to-head, with points awarded for each president who donates.
- The zone with the highest percentage of donating presidents will be declared the winner.
- The winning zone will also receive a \$50 LCIF dona-

tion split evenly among the president's who donated, giving them the honor of contributing even more impact through LCIF as well as bragging rights for being the most supportive zone.

This isn't just a contest—it's an opportunity for our leaders to come together in service, strengthen LCIF, and inspire our members to follow their example.

Every dollar helps LCIF provide disaster relief, support vision programs, fight hunger, improve youth opportunities, and much more. By stepping up, our presidents show what it means to truly lead with service.

Club Presidents—are you ready to represent your zone? Let's make this a challenge to remember!

### Challenge dates: October 1 – November 30, 2025

Together, we can make a difference. Together, we serve. Together, we give.

PDG Anna Wickenhauser; Lion Rose Thies

## WELCOME NEW LION MEMBERS

## "We're donut-ing without you-glad you joined us!"

Chanhassen	)
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**Turner Storm** 

## Cologne

**Chadd Smith** 

### Lonsdale

Kathryn Klokonos

## **New Richland**

Alverrecheo Bell

## **Owatonna**

**Christopher Cutts** 

## St Peter

Michael T Kunkel Robert Weisenfeld



## **Victoria**

Kevin Flindall

Nick Jordan

Ryan Rice

Mark Swenson

Mike Vlasak

## Watertown

**Austin Hinrichs** 

## **GLT Corner**

## Leadership Lessons from Monopoly

By IPDG Lisa Kaufmann, Global Leadership Team (GLT)

PCC Glenn and I had the opportunity to present at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Atlantic City last month. A little trivia for you, the properties are named after real streets in Atlantic City and the railroads are based on local lines. Leave it to Lion Glenn to come up with the perfect title for our session, but I will take the credit for our costumes. Below are the 10 lessons we spoke on, how can you apply hese to your clubs?

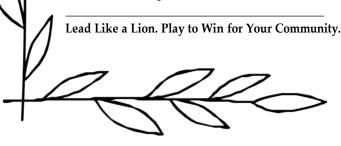
## Leadership Lessons from Monopoly for Lions Clubs International

Turning Game Strategy into Community Impact

- 1. Invest Strategically Monopoly: Buy properties with long-term value. Lions: Focus time and resources on service projects with lasting impact.
- 2. Diversify to Strengthen Impact Monopoly: Own a variety of properties across the board. Lions: Support diverse causes—vision, environment, hunger, youth.
- 3. Adapt to Change Monopoly: Each turn brings surprises; stay flexible. Lions: Respond to emerging community needs and shift plans accordingly.
- 4. Build Incrementally Monopoly: Start with houses, grow to hotels. Lions: Pilot small projects and scale up when successful.
- 5. Collaborate and Negotiate Monopoly: Deals and trades are key to winning. Lions: Partner with clubs, members, and local groups for greater impact.
- 6. Value Every Member Monopoly: All properties have strategic value. Lions: Recognize every member's unique skills and contributions.
- 7. *Plan for the Long Game* Monopoly: Think beyond short-term profits. Lions: Develop sustainable programs and future leaders.
- 8. Stay Out of "Jail"—Act Ethically Monopoly: Jail stops progress. Lions: Lead with integrity, follow the Code of Ethics.
- 9. Be Resourceful Under Pressure Monopoly: Creativity can keep you in the game. Lions: Innovate when facing challenges in funding or manpower.
- 10. *Celebrate Wins, Learn from Losses* Monopoly: Every game teaches lessons. Lions: Reflect, improve, and honor successes and service.











# BEACH PARTY!

APRIL 24-26, 2026



## Sign up today and save!

First 150 Receive a <u>Free</u> souvenir Beach Ball with early sign up. https://sites.google.com/view/md5m-multipleconvention/home

> Cost May 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025 \$185 US - \$266 CDN

Cost January 1, 2026 thru March 31, 2026 \$195 US - \$280 CDN







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Friday Night Social			\$25 US - \$36 CDN_		\$27 US - \$39 CDN		
Saturday Break			\$36 US - \$52 CDN_		\$38 US - \$55 CDN		
Saturday Lunch			\$41 US - \$59 CDN_		\$43 US - \$62 CDN		
Saturday Banquet					\$70 US - \$101 CDN		
Sunday Brunch			\$38 US - \$55 CDN_	-	\$40 US - \$58 CDN		
	Total amount if separate meals chosen:						
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Please specify	dietary needs:	☐ Vegetarian	☐ Gluten Free	☐ Other	r:		
No meals available after March 31, 2026.				_ 0 till 0			
Make Checks payable to: 2026 MD5M Conv.							
			onna Hed, 17440 45th <i>A</i>	Ave N, Plym	outh, MN 55446		
-OR- you may pay by Venmo to: @Rhonna-Hed Then Email your registrations to: rhed@summitfire.com							
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HOTEL INFORMATION: Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel, 12201 Ridgedale Drive Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305 Call (952) 593-0000 to book your room reservation. Ask for the "Lions 2026 Convention" rate.

Room rates are \$135.00 per night plus taxes and fees. Room reservation cut-off is April 9, 2026.

Book your group rate for MD5M Lions 2026 Convention here



Save the Date

Zone 1 & 3 Nov. 13 Green Isle Zone 2 & 4 Oct. 28 Carver

Zone 5 & 6 Nov. 11 Eagle Lake Zone 7 & 8 Oct. 23 Albert Lea



## Lions', Leos' Clubs News and Activities Wells Lions

The Wells Lions Club and Wells Area Jaycees worked together to provide funds for a Disc Golf Course for Adaptive Physical Education at United South Central School in Wells, MN. The course is on the school grounds and open to the public.



Pictured are Lions Tom Hansen, Andrea Groskreutz, Carl Forderer and Wells Lions President William Groskreutz.



## Lester Prairie Lions

On September 17th, the Lester Prairie Lions visited the third grade to present dictionaries to each child. What a great group of kids!!





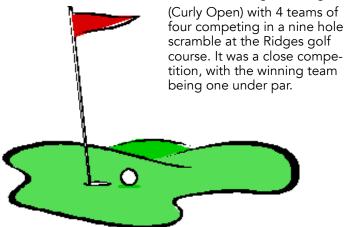
## Jordan Lions

The Jordan Lions participated in the annual Jordan Heimatfest. Our booth was set up with the much-improved signage created by Lions Jeff and Andy. We served up pork burgers, brats, and cheese curds.











This year's Lion of The Year, Allen Houdek, was in the parade.



We are saddened that one of our long time Lions (Todd) will be moving from our community and leaving our club. There will be another fortunate Lions club receiving a great hard-working Lion. He was a member since 1999 and served for 11 years as our club secretary plus other board positions. He will be severely missed.

## NYA West Carver Lions sponsored National Night Out in August

Great night to bring the community together.









## **Gibbon Lions**



Gibbon Lions President Lion Greg Hartmann pinned the Helen Keller Sight Award pin on recipient Lion Richard Graupman.

Lion Richard Graupman has been a Lion member since 1994. He is a veteran and is active in his church and community. He is a Past President and on the Lions Scholarship Committee. Lion Richard is also one of our members who has helped with the Kidsight program since we started it. He picks up the Back the Pack containers every week. We are very proud to have Richard as our member.



## Le Sueur Lions

The Le Sueur Lions have been quite active over the past few days, making their presence felt at our beer garden and food stand at Pioneer Power. We have updated our hours of operation to accommodate more visitors, and you can now stop by anytime from 9am to 11pm.



















## **Hutchinson Lions**

Hutch Lions had their donut trailer at the Taste of Hutchinson. They had a junior Lion help make donut sign.



## **Brownton Lions**

The Brownton Lions held their monthly meeting starting with our family picnic. The Brownton Bar & Grill donated Cowboy beans & ham salad towards our supper.

We have our ditch walk coming up on the 29th.

Our annual Halloween party is getting ready in full swing!!

Our weekly meat raffles will start in October & will be held every Saturday from 4-6 at the Brownton Bar & Grill.



Our member Mike grilling for us at our picnic.

## LakeView Lions

At the monthly meeting of the LakeView lions' our members voted to send financial support to a few area organizations. These included money towards the United Preschool Playground and the United Way Coat Drive. Financial support for area meal services including First Lutheran, Trinity, and the Ecumenical Food Shelf. As well as donations sent to the Closet at the ALHS and the Tigers Den @ SWMS.

You may have seen our members working/volunteering to raise these monies! These dollars were raised while members assisted our local AL American Legion club in serving, clearing and resetting tables at the annual Sunday Pancake breakfast held during Eddie Cochran Days. You may have seen Lions members picking up thousands of tiny plastic rings, thrown at the "Ring Toss" during the Freeborn County Fair, (note, with the assistance of members from the AL Tigers Trap team). You may even have been at our AL Eagle's Club while our members learned

the ins and outs of assisting at the weekly Bingo (Saturdays) and Meat Raffles (Friday nights). And even with the help of a group of non-members playing Bridge! (Note, if playing Bridge is a hobby of anyone reading this, please contact Lion Jan Drews!)

Our LakeView members are thankful for the support and generosity from this community, while we raised money to allow us to then make donations totaling \$5,250.00 to the aforementioned recipients.

We are honored "To Serve" and if there is interest for a visit, or to speak at a club meeting or perhaps make a request, our meetings are held at 6pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month @ Wedgewood Cove.

Pictured Left to Right: Lion Ruth Stadheim, Zone 8 Chairperson, Lion Angie Hansen, sponsor of Lion Cheryl Saul and Lion Lori Larson, sponsored by Lion Annie Mattson, and LakeView Club President Lion Della Simmons.



## 5M-2 Lions' News Newsletter Deadline: 15th of each month...

Submit your club events and Lions program articles to: <u>5M2newslettereditor@gmail.com</u>

What are your clubs doing for Membership Recruitment? Share the NEWS!!





## **Mankato Area Lions**

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Diabetes Rally

Where: WOW! Zone Mankato, MN When: Saturday, October 11, 2025 Time: 8:45am – 11:00am

### 2025 Diabetes Rally Walk will honor PDG Steph Gurney

We can do more with your continued help! <u>2024 rally total over \$26,000!</u> Donations go to MN Lions Diabetes Foundation and Camp Sweet Life (both 501c3's)

2025 Rally co-chairs: Lion Pat Thompson 507-381-1165 Patfirstucc@gmail.com
Lion Carol Brady 507-381-1381 CarolBradyjewelry@gmail.com

2025 Diabetes Rally Walk (.6 mile) team contact person: Lion Rene' Maes Jr. 507-995-6910 rene.maes@campsweetlife.org

Alone it's hard to perform great feats of strength, but together, we have a great strength of feet!



## Centennial Anniversary Mankato Lions



Mankato Lions Club is planning a centennial Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Invitations will be sent out soon.

## **New Auburn Lions 17th Annual**

## **Roast Beef Dinner**

Sunday, Oct 12, 2025 Dine In or Take Out

**New Auburn City Hall** 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Serving: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Bread & Dessert



Meals: \$16 10 & Under \$8 (Dine in Only) 3 & Under Free (Dine in Only)



Proceeds go towards the Lake Pier **Project and Lions Projects** 



## Jordaness Lions

present a night of PLAY 15 GAMES FOR \$30

Friday, November 7, 2025 Ridges at Sand Creek 21175 Ridges Dr. Jordan Social Hour 6:00-7:00 pm The FUN begins at 7:00 pm Cash Prizes for every game!

(2) Cash 50/50 Drawings & (2) Pekarna's Meat Raffles Food & drinks will be available for purchase.



Proceeds to benefit The Lions Diabetes Foundation & other community projects. Donations of cleaning supplies will be welcomed for the Jordan Area Food Shelf It's all about the FUN!!!



## GRAB YOUR HATS & BOOTS & MOSEY DOWN TO THE

Jordaness Lions 36th Annual Fashion Show

Saturday, November 22, 2025 at Ridges of Sand Creek, Jordan Social hour starts at 10:00 am...Luncheon follows at 11:00 am

Fashion show & entertainment after the luncheon (featuring the wildly amusing Jordaness Lions)

Tickets are limited and **MUST** be purchased in advance - cost \$30 Contact a Jordaness Lions member or call Donna Will 612-599-2646

Silent Auction, Raffles, "Wall of Wine" and "Sleigh of Suds"

Proceeds benefit the Jordan Area Food Shelf, the Jordan Holiday Food Basket program, the Lions Gift of Sight, Project New Hope and other community projects.

We are accepting cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items for the Jordan Area Food Shelf.

REMEMBER, IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT THE FUN!

