DISTRICT 5M11 NEWSLETTER
https://www.lionsdistrict5m11.org/newsletters
Newsletter Editor:

Sept/Oct 2026 Volume Vol 8, Issue 2
lions5M11news@gmail.com

A message from DG Gord Zeglinski



District Governor Gord Zeglinski

Hello fellow Lions:

International Dues: September was a new occurrence for our district. In mid September we had a little over 1/3rd (23ish) of our clubs facing financial suspension. With the help of Zone chairs, fellow members of the DG team and our 2 immediately past DGs, we managed to get the number of clubs down to 7 currently suspended clubs with outstanding dues. While communicating with some clubs I discovered that they had new officers, and the old officers did not tell them how to do their new roles. This leaves us with a question of how to train officers, when historically people have not attended training? LCI has reduced the financial suspension grace period from 120 days to 90 days (the beginning of Oct). If a club's dues are paid before they are cancelled (at the end of December), they will become clubs in good standing again. Clubs which are cancelled will have a fee per member to reactivate charged. While suspended clubs may not

(a) Conduct service activities
(b) Conduct fund-raising activities;
(c) Participate in district and multiple district functions or seminars;
(d) Participate in any voting procedures outside of the club
(e) Endorse or nominate a candidate for district, multiple district and international office;
(f) Submit Monthly Membership Report and report forms;
(g) Sponsor a Lions club or organize a Leo or a Lioness club.
(h) are not covered by Lions insurance.

District Dues: Everyone should have gotten their district dues around mid-September. We had a few glitches changing district treasurers which should now be **taken care of.**

LCIF: Last year as a district we exceeded our LCIF donation goals. I hope we can do the same this year. We already have a couple of clubs looking at applying for LCIF grants so let's help keep the fund growing so we may use it again in the future.

Time zones: Manitoba will no longer be changing times. We will be staying at daylight savings time year round, which means come November Manitoba will be one hour ahead of Minnesota.

Service Reporting: I check club service reporting before each club visit. This morning I received a screen shot from one of PIP Brian Sheehan covering why we should all be reporting service through the portal

Internationally: Helps others understand our global impact

Multiple District: Helps our foundations gain funding which helps our clubs, especially with specialty projects.

District: Helps leaders understand and assist our clubs

Club: Keeps accurate historical records to assist with reports, grants, awards, etc.

Cabinet: Our first cabinet meeting was held on Sept 26th. I changed the format of our cabinet meetings. We had a guest speaker (PIP Brian Sheehan) who talked about new initiatives designed to help reconnect clubs with the organization.
I will endeavor to do this at future cabinets. The next cabinet will be via zoom.

DG Visits: I have had the privilege of visiting the Winnipeg Lions club, both the clubs in Plummer and the Karlstad club. I'd like to thank each club for the invitation and each of their members for being a Lion.

New Award: The district has several hundred "Heart of a Lions" pins that have not been awarded in years. At the last cabinet we have decided to repurpose them as an easy way to recognize lions who have done something worth noting. The exact details of the award are TBD and should be worked out before the next cabinet meeting.

This is the longest piece I've ever written for the newsletter. So I'm going to wrap things up. Congratulations to everyone who has read this far. To the clubs I've already visited, it was a pleasure meeting fellow lions. To the clubs I've yet to visit, I am looking forward to meeting new lions and working together.

DG Gord
gordz5m11@gmail.com



1st VDG David Klemz

Hello 5M11 Lions!

1st VDG David



2nd VDG Todd Grow

Happy Halloween, Lions!

As we roll into the new month, I do have a plan for club visits, but I am currently sitting in VDG training, and haven't it with me, so will reach out to club presidents and secretaries as I start visiting.

I am going to apologize right now that the first couple of clubs will be coming as quickly as next week and, not having those clubs at hand, it will be a bit of short notice, but I will reach out Saturday evening or Sunday, once I get home from COG. I am looking forward to visiting as many as I can this year.

My current plan, unless something specific comes up, is to visit half of y'all this year and the other half next year. I am looking forward to getting to meet folks, talk about some things that are important to you and things that are important to me, as well as we work together over the next few years.

For those that I am able to visit soon, again, I will reach out over the next week or so, and try to give a week or two notice as the weeks progress. If I don't get you before the end of the year, I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. I will share more in the next newsletter, as well as sending out the emails of forewarning.

Be safe and warm as the weather continues to cool down for us rough northerners!

Best wishes,

Lion Todd Grow
2nd VDG sabin.lion.todd@gmail.com

Team Sheehan Charitable Foundation

Team Sheehan Foundation: Donations to the Team Sheehan Charitable foundation stay within the MD5M multiple district.

Matching grants of up to $3000 are distributed every three months. Apply now to be considered for the next grant cycle. You can go to the Team Sheehan Foundation website to get an application for a grant.

The Foundation also welcomes donations from the club level or individual Lions members. Consider making a donation now or during the "Parade of Green" at the Mid-Winter Convention.

CONSIDER SUPPORTING YOUR FOUNDATION TODAY!

The website for the foundation is https://teamsheehan.foundation/

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SHOP THE LIONS CATALOG FOR SUPPLIES, APPAREL, AWARDS, AND ANYTHING ELSE.

A LINK TO THE LCI CATALOG IS BELOW:
https://lionsclubsinternational.myshopify.com/

PICTURES & EVENTS FROM AROUND 5M11

BARNESVILLE LIONS

POTATO DAYS RAFFLE



Lion Ken Bauer is shown handing the keys to the new side by side to Peter Christianson, this year's winner of the grand prize for the annual Barnesville Lions' Potato Days raffle. Peter has a country home near Battle Lake, MN, and said that his wife and grandkids are really going to enjoy this machine. Other winners of very nice prizes are as follows: Rick Brakke--Tikka3 6.5 Creedmoor; Jason Campbell--Pit Boss 5 Series Smoker; Adam Jenstead--Pit Boss 4 Burner Deluxe Gas Grill; Anita Rise--CVA Wolf V2 50 Cal Muzzleloader; Mary Ohe--$300 Cenex Gift Card; Mike Graff$ ——300 Gift Card to Barnesville Firehall Liquors; Pat Bertram--300 Barnesville Grocery Meat Bundle; Kevin Moore ——300 Lakeland Gift Card; Ed Quiggle--Kel-Tec P17 22 LR Pistol

HONOR FLIGHT DONATION



Lion Matt Bailey is shown handing a $500 check from the Barnesville Lions Club to Jen Pickett. Jen once again organized an Honor Flight benefit and the money will be used for that cause. The Lions Club also donated a $150 meat bundle that was used as a silent auction item at this event.

LEADER DOG



VISIT/DONATION

Lion Randy Bachmann is shown presenting a check in the amount of $1,000 to Leader Dogs for the Blind President and CEO Melissa Weisse. Randy was a weekend guest of Leader Dog in Rochester Hills, Michigan, representing the Barnesville Lions Club, which once again made "Top Dog" Club with that life changing 501C3. Leader Dogs for the Blind began in 1939 by three Lions and have embraced Helen Keller's 1925 challenge to become "Knights of the Blind," by placing 17,000 dogs in the hands of visually impaired individuals since that time.

DONATION TO HAITI EYE MISSION



Barnesville Lion member Ken Bauer is shown giving a $500 check to Lion Kristin Follman. Lion Kristin belongs to the Kindred Lions and is Executive Director of the Haiti Medical Eye Mission and this donation will be used to assist with this endeavor. The mission is led by Dr. Lance Bergstrom, a medical doctor, and accompanied by additional eye experts who travel to Haiti annually to do mainly cataract removals as well as other eye surgeries. Often the cataracts are so large that removal allows previously blind individuals to see once again. This group truly embraces Helen Keller's 1925 challenge for Lions to become "Knights of the Blind."

SABIN LIONS

GOLF SCRAMBLE



Sabin Lions hosted their 2nd Annual Golf for the Gold Scramble. We had an increase of participants and hosted 25 teams that included people from 6 different Lions Clubs across the state. We had many on-course games, a silent auction and dinner.





(Above) DILWORTH LIONS TEAM



All proceeds went to the MN Lions Childhood cancer foundation and we should be able to donate almost $6000 to the foundation.

We'd like to thank the clubs that came out to golf and support such a wonderful cause. Hope to see you out there again next year!

MN LIONS CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION



Since the Foundation was formed in 2020, we have met our goal of donating $1 million dollars to the U of M Masonic Children's Hospital. On Sept 21st the Foundation was invited to the U of M to see our name on the donor wall and speak with the providers who work closely with us.



We are so thankful to all the clubs that continue to support the Childhood cancer foundation.

WEST ST. PAUL LIONS

Project Pride



Project Pride 17-Jun-26: Grades 1-2 discussing history of the Canadian flag

WINGER LIONS



Barnesville Lion Member and Leader Dog Chairperson for the district, Ken Bauer, is shown receiving a $250.00 check from Winger Lion Member Scott Sandberg, while Winger Lion President Brian Massmann looks on. The check to Leader Dogs for the Blind will be used to support the daily operations for this life changing 501C3. The Winger Lions Club is a very active organization and exemplifies the Lions' motto of "We Serve."

KIDSIGHT



Sabin Lion Lisa, Dilworth Loco Lion Julie & Dilworth Lion Brent @ KidSight in Moorhead Schools. Over 2200 students were screened in September & October.

DILWORTH LIONS



Dilworth Lions were chartered on Oct. 22nd, 1962. Their regular meeting happened to fall on Oct. 22nd and they celebrated their 64th Anniversary with a birthday cake. Pictured is Dilworth Lions oldest member, 92 yr. old Lion Allen Skabo (L) and President Charles Cox (R). The cake reads “Happy Birthday Dilworth Lions”

LIONS AT MN STATE FAIR

District Lions performed vision screening at the state fair on August 29. It is always rewarding to hear success stories from families whose children were screened in previous years. This is why we do what we do for the children we serve.



Lions screening volunteers included L to R; Dean and Betsy Anderson, Fosston/Lengby Lions, Kevin and Sheila Reich, Red Lake Falls Lions, Doyne and Todd Grow (2VDG), Sabin Lions.

RLLI

District 5M11 Lions Strengthen Leadership Skills at Regional Institute

Four Lions from District 5M11 recently expanded their leadership skills, exchanged ideas, and built connections while attending the Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI), held October 16–18th, in Roseville, Minnesota.



Representing the district were Jodi Sorenson of the Wannaska Lions, Lisa Sinnen and Amanda Maag of the Sabin Lions, and Samantha Alme of the Greenbush-Badger Lions.

The three-day institute brought together Lions from various communities for an interactive weekend focused on leadership development, communication, teamwork, goal setting, and strengthening local clubs. Through group discussions, hands-on activities, and collaborative learning, participants gained practical strategies to bring back to their communities.

A key takeaway from the weekend was the reminder that Lions are much more than an individual club or community. As part of a worldwide service organization, members have access to a vast network of resources, knowledge, friendships, and opportunities to make a difference. The institute also emphasized the importance of continued growth and involvement. While local Lions clubs already accomplish tremendous things, opportunities such as leadership institutes, zone meetings, district cabinet meetings, and conventions allow members to learn from one another, discover fresh ideas, and strengthen their impact. Another focus was preparing Lions clubs for the future through membership engagement, developing new leaders, and embracing new perspectives. Participants were reminded that leadership isn't limited to those holding officer positions. Every Lion has the ability to inspire others, contribute ideas, and help their club thrive.

Beyond the educational sessions, the weekend provided opportunities to connect with fellow Lions, share

experiences, and build friendships that extend well beyond local club boundaries. The four District 5M11 representatives returned home with renewed enthusiasm, valuable leadership tools, and ideas to share with their fellow members. Their participation highlights the importance of investing in leadership development and encourages Lions throughout the district to explore opportunities beyond their home clubs.

When Lions continue learning, growing, and working together, they strengthen not only their clubs but the communities they serve.

Minnesota Lion Diabetes Foundation Needs Help to Recruit Runners

Run for a Cause. Run for a Cure. Run for a Future without Diabetes.

Minnesota Lions, it is time to recruit runners to run with the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation in the 51 st Grandma's Marathon, the 37 th Gary Bjorklund Half Marathon, and the William A. Irvin 5K, all scheduled for June 18-19, 2027, in Duluth, MN.

General registration for the races has sold out, but 28 charity entries remain available through the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation. Each runner who signs up via the foundation pays $500 to register, and we hope they will raise more.

Runners interested in running in one of the races should follow this link to get more information and register for one of the races:

https://grandmasmarathon.com/27-charity-partner-minnesota-lions-diabetes-foundation/

Please share this information with Lions in your district, family and friends, and runners in your community. The funds raised will be donated to the University of Minnesota for medical research to find a cure for diabetes.



2027 MID-WINTER CONVENTION

Dust Off Your Boots — Midwinter 2027 Is Calling!

The countdown is on, Lions! The 2027 District 5M11 Midwinter Convention is just around the corner, and there's still time to make plans to join us February 5–7 at Shooting Star Casino & Event Center in Mahnomen, Minnesota!

Guided by District Governor Gord Zeglinski's theme, "Stronger Together," this year's convention promises a weekend filled with friendship, fellowship, fresh ideas and a whole lot of Western-style fun!

Friday evening kicks off with a Western-themed supper, Music Bingo, games and plenty of opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make a few new ones. Dust off those cowboy boots and get ready for a great time!

Saturday is all about bringing Lions together! We're shaking things up with interactive collaboration sessions that encourage meaningful conversations, shared experiences and practical ideas to take back to our clubs. From attracting new members and keeping current Lions engaged to strengthening service projects, promoting our clubs and developing future leaders, there's something for everyone.

And don't worry—we haven't forgotten the fun! Between delicious meals, special guests, laughter and fellowship, Saturday promises to be a memorable day. We'll wrap up the evening with live entertainment from Eagle Creek Band!

Of course, no Lions gathering would be complete without an opportunity to serve. Through our "Feeding Our Communities" service project, we'll come together to help fight hunger and support families throughout District 5M11. It's a wonderful reminder of just how much we can accomplish when we work together.

Never attended Midwinter before? This is your invitation! You don't need to hold a leadership position or have years of Lions experience to attend. Whether you're a brand-new Lion or a longtime member, your ideas, enthusiasm and friendship are what make our district stronger.

So round up your fellow Lions, pack your Western gear and make plans for a weekend of learning, laughter, service and unforgettable memories!

Registration is open! Don't wait until the last minute to join the fun.

Register today: https://bit.ly/5m11midwinter2027

Please note: The registration link is case-sensitive.

February 5–7, 2027 | Shooting Star Casino & Event Center | Mahnomen, MN

We can't wait to see you there, Lions! After all, we're not just stronger as individual clubs—we're STRONGER TOGETHER! 🦁🤠

MORE CONVENTION INSIGHTS

There is something pretty incredible that happens when Lions come together.

Ideas start flowing. Friendships are made. Problems suddenly have solutions. Someone shares an idea that worked in their small community, and another Lion realizes it might be exactly what their club needs. We laugh, we learn, we celebrate—and somewhere along the way, we remember exactly why we became Lions in the first place.

That is what the 2027 District 5M11 Midwinter Convention is all about.

Lions from throughout District 5M11 are invited to gather Feb. 5–7, 2027, at Shooting Star Casino & Event Center in Mahnomen for a weekend built around District Governor Gord Zeglinski's theme: "Stronger Together."

And this year, organizers are hoping for something BIG: representation from every club in District 5M11.

Saddle Up for Friday Night! The fun begins Friday with registration and the District Cabinet Meeting before Lions trade business for boots and kick off the weekend Western-style!

A Western-themed supper buffet will set the stage for an evening filled with Music Bingo, games, laughter and plenty of opportunities to reconnect with Lions you haven't seen in a while—or meet someone completely new.

Midwinter is one of those rare opportunities when Lions from communities across the district can all gather in one place, and Friday night is all about enjoying that fellowship.

Come ready to laugh. Come ready to visit. Come ready to have some fun.

Saturday: This Is Where "Stronger Together" Comes to Life. Saturday is where this year's convention is going to look a little different—and where the real magic can happen.

Think about the challenges your club has faced.

How do we bring in new members? How do we keep the members we already have engaged? What fundraiser should we try next? How do we get more people involved? How do we tell our community about all the good things Lions are doing? Where do we find our next generation of leaders?

Now imagine sitting at a table with Lions from completely different communities who have wrestled with those exact same questions.

Someone at that table may have already found an answer.

Interactive networking sessions will bring Lions together to talk about growing and engaging membership, recruiting and retaining volunteers, fresh service project ideas, public image, leadership development and building healthy, thriving clubs.

No PowerPoint can replace the knowledge sitting in a room filled with Lions.

District 5M11 has decades upon decades of combined experience, creativity, passion and service. The goal is to get people talking, sharing and learning from one another.

Maybe you'll hear about a fundraiser that would be perfect for your community. Maybe someone will share a membership idea your club has never considered. Maybe your club is doing something fantastic that another community could recreate.

One conversation could spark the next great idea for your club.

That is what being stronger together looks like. Learn. Connect. Get Inspired. The day won't stop there.

Saturday will also feature guest speakers, informative breakout sessions and opportunities to learn more about some of the incredible programs supported by Lions, including KidSight, Leader Dog and other Lions foundations and initiatives.

The district's annual business meeting will also take place during the weekend, giving Lions an opportunity to take part in the work and future of District 5M11.

And amid all of the learning, laughter and excitement, there will also be time to remember.

The annual Service of Remembrance will honor Lions who have died during the past year—a meaningful tradition recognizing the men and women whose commitment to service made their clubs and communities stronger.

Clubs that have lost a Lion during the past year are encouraged to submit the member's name, club name, years of service if known, and a photograph to 5m11midwinter2027@gmail.com so they can be included in the ceremony.

Then, It's Time to Celebrate! Saturday evening is about celebrating what Lions do best: serve. Lions will come together for the formal banquet, district awards, fellowship and an evening of entertainment by Eagle Creek.

It is a chance to recognize accomplishments, celebrate fellow Lions and simply enjoy being surrounded by people who understand what it means to give their time, talents and hearts to their communities.

Sunday morning will bring Lions together once more for a non-denominational worship service, the conclusion of the annual business meeting and closing ceremonies.

Then everyone heads home. But hopefully, not quite the same way they arrived. The goal is to leave Mahnomen with new friends in your phone, new ideas scribbled in your notebook, renewed excitement for your club and a reminder that your little corner of District 5M11 is part of something much bigger.

Because Lions were never meant to serve alone. We learn from one another. We encourage one another. We celebrate one another. And when one club succeeds, we all become a little stronger.

We Want YOU There! Whether you have been a Lion for 30 years or 30 days, whether you are a club officer or the person who simply shows up whenever somebody says, "We need a few volunteers," there is a place for you at Midwinter.

Bring your ideas. Bring your questions. Bring your enthusiasm. Bring the Lion who always has a crazy new fundraiser idea. Bring the Lion who says, "We've always done it this way."

Bring the brand-new member who is still figuring out what Lions is all about. Let's fill Shooting Star with Lions from every corner of District 5M11 and see what happens when all of that experience, energy and passion for service comes together in one place.

Registration is now open at https://bit.ly/5m11midwinter2027. Please note that the registration link is case-sensitive.

Lions can also commemorate the weekend with a special "Rooted in Service" T-shirt for $25. Shirts can be ordered during convention registration or separately at https://bit.ly/RootedinService. That link is also case-sensitive.

Mark Feb. 5–7 on your calendar. Grab a few Lions from your club. Pack your Western gear. And get ready for a weekend of learning, laughter, friendship, celebration and service. District 5M11, let's show what happens when Lions come together. We are stronger together—and Midwinter 2027 is where we prove it.



Can Do Canines
ASSISTANCE DOGS

Can Do Canines Open House

Saturday, November 7, from noon to 2 p.m.

9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, MN

Potential volunteers, clients, or anyone who might be intereste finding out more about our organization can join us to learn ho assistance dog changes the life of a person with a disability.

Through a self-guided tour, attendees will be able to watch a t working with an assistance dog, hear from a volunteer dog ho with staff members from the volunteer department, pose ques client services coordinators about the application process, an graduate teams from five of the types of dogs Can Do Canines hearing, mobility, seizure, diabetes, and childhood autism.

There is no pre-registration for this event, though attendees wi asked to share some contact information when arriving.

To request a sign language interpreter for the Open House, ple contact Laurie at lcarlson@candocanines.org or 763-331-3000 two weeks in advance. We'll do our best to accommodate late requests, but availability is not guaranteed.

More information about Can Do Canines is at CanDoCanin

PROJECT NEW HOPE



St. Cloud "Stand Down" Expo

Strengthen the PRIDE

CAMP SWEET LIFE







Camp Sweet Life is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides children with Type 1 Diabetes a mix of fun recreational and educational opportunities complete with campfires, s'mores, songs, and lasting friendships! At Camp Sweet Life, your child will enjoy a wonderful camp experience, just like any other kid! Our mission is to connect, empower and transform kids with Type 1 Diabetes

DISTRICT 5M11 REPORTED SERVICE

As of 10/30/26

DISTRICT 5M11

Total Activities Reported

476

Total People Served*

78,844

Total Volunteers

2266

Total Volunteer Hours*

9873

Total Funds Donated*

$45,229

Total Funds Raised*

$91,516

*These values represent the capped numbers that have been reported to LCI

1349 ACTIVITIES WERE REPORTED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.
CONGRATULATIONS, LIONS OF DISTRICT 5M11 !

PLEASE REPORT YOUR CLUB'S DONATIONS AND SERVICE PROJECTS TO LCI - WE KNOW MANY GO UNREPORTED AND UNDOCUMENTED!!! See DG Gord's comments on how this helps the club, district, multiple district and Lions Clubs Int'l.





INVITE A PROGRAM CHAIR TO SPEAK AT YOUR CLUB

IS YOUR CLUB INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT WHAT LIONS DO? WHAT ARE THESE PLACES WE DONATE TO AND WHAT DO THEY DO? WHAT IS A LEADER DOG VS A CAN DO CANINE? WHAT ABOUT GUIDE DOGS CANADA? WHY DO WE SUPPORT VISION, HEARING, YOUTH, DIABETES & CHILDHOOD CANCER? WHAT IS KIDSIGHT AND PROJECT NEW HOPE?

THE DISTRICT CABINET HAS CHAIRS AND CO-CHAIRS FOR THESE AND OTHER POSITIONS. CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE: https://www.lionsdistrict5m11.org/cabinetmembers

MOST CABINET MEMBERS ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO VISIT YOUR CLUB AND SHARE INFORMATION. CONTACT THEM TO VISIT ONE OF YOUR MEETINGS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT LIONS DO.



Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation

The annual celebration of Thanksgiving for Vision (TGFV) was held on October 24th at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn.

Every guest has a connection to the MN Lions Vision Foundation or the work to preserve, enhance, and restore sight. Lions from MD5M were in attendance, along with Helen Keller recipients, scientists, eye bankers, and corneal recipients and donors.



MN Lions Vision Foundation Directors for 5M11 Twyla Race and Patty Purath

The morning symposium was educational and emotional. Speakers were from the Lion's Children's Eye Clinic and U of M research specialists in areas of macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, tissue specialists, and data specialists.

The work that is being done at the U of M is astonishing as they are leading research for the world in many areas.

The speakers for the corneal recipient and eye donor family members were very emotional and uplifting when you heard their stories.

It is an "eye" opening experience to realize the impact the MN Lions Foundation and us as Lion members have when we donate.

We Serve

Making a global impact



MISSION 1.5 Bulletin

A bulletin from your international president and *MISSION* 1.5

66,184 Members Added, 621New Clubs Formed

Just as your club transforms your community, these groups unite to create lasting change in theirs.

(Data is from 7/1/26-9/30/26)


WHERE THERE'S A NEED
THERE'S A LION
LIONS
L
INTERNATIONAL
WE SERVE!

Lions Clubs International

FOUNDATION

GLOBAL CAUSES. LOCAL IMPACT.



MAKING A DONATION HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

YOUR GIFT. BIG IMPACT. A BETTER WORLD.

1 **GO TO lionsclubs.org**
Visit the official Lions Clubs International website.

2 **CLICK "DONATE"**
Click the **DONATE** button at the top of the page.

3 **CHOOSE YOUR FUND**
You will be asked to choose between two funds.

- **EMPOWERING SERVICE FUND** — RECOMMENDED FOR MOST DONATIONS
- OR
- **DISASTER RELIEF FUND** — CHOOSE ONLY IF YOU WANT YOUR GIFT RESTRICTED EXCLUSIVELY TO DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS.

4 **CHOOSE HOW OFTEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE**

ONE-TIME	EVERY MONTH	EVERY YEAR
Make a single donation of any amount.	Become a recurring monthly donor. Change or cancel anytime.	Make an annual donation.

5 **COMPLETE YOUR SECURE PAYMENT**
Enter your payment information and complete your donation.

YOUR GIFT IS SECURE. YOUR IMPACT IS REAL.

WHICH FUND SHOULD I CHOOSE?

EMPOWERING SERVICE FUND
(RECOMMENDED FOR MOST DONATIONS)

Your gift supports ALL of LCIF's global causes, including:

- VISION
- DIABETES
- HUNGER
- CHILDHOOD CANCER
- ENVIRONMENT
- HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

LCIF directs these funds to the areas where they can have the greatest impact. Donations to the Empowering Service Fund also support District & Club Community Impact Grants (DCGs).

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Choose this option only if you want your donation RESTRICTED EXCLUSIVELY to disaster relief efforts. These donations are reserved for disasters and are NOT eligible to support District & Club Community Impact Grants.



Thank You!

Your generosity helps Lions serve more than **200 MILLION PEOPLE EVERY YEAR** around the world.

TOGETHER, WE SERVE.

Questions?

Contact your District LCIF Coordinator.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

NOVEMBER 2026

LIONS QUEST



START THE CONVERSATION

The quest becomes real when conversations begin. This month, we encourage every district to take a bold and important step: reach out to potential partners. Whether it's a phone call, email, or in-person meeting, your goal is simple—start the conversation.

Introduce Lions Quest as a program that supports:

- **Student well-being**
- **Positive behavior**
- **Leadership development**

Keep it short, friendly, and focused on their needs.

If Quest is new to you or your club, I would be happy to visit with you. This would be a chance to provide you / your club with specific information about Quest and answer any questions to help start Quest in your area. You can reach out to me with any questions.

THE ASK....

This month, we encourage every district to take a bold and important step: reach out to potential partners. Whether it's a phone call, email, or in-person meeting, your goal is simple—start the conversation.

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:

Name: Twyla Race

Phone: 218-290-3653

Email: twylarace@gmail.com

Lead the Pride.
Launch the Quest.

WE NEED YOU!

You may hear:

- **"Tell me more"**
- **"Not right now"**
- **"This sounds interesting"**

All responses are progress. Remember, relationships take time. The goal this month is not to secure commitments—it's to open doors.
Every conversation plants a seed. And from those seeds, partnerships will grow.

https://www.lions-quest.org/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dennis & Jacque Heinen, Campaign Managers • denisemarieforid@gmail.com

Denise Marie Laudenbach Announces Candidacy for Lions Clubs International Director

Longtime Lions leader and Past Council Chair of MD5M launches "Be the One" campaign for the April 2027 MD5M ballot

NISSWA, Minn. — [8/7/2026] — Denise Marie Laudenbach, a member of the Nisswa Lions Club and Immediate Past Council Chair of Multiple District 5M, today announced her candidacy for International Director of Lions Clubs International. She will seek endorsement on the MD5M ballot at the Multiple District Convention in April 2027.

A Lion for more than 16 years, Laudenbach has served at every level of the organization — Club President, Zone Chair, District Secretary, District Governor of District 5M9, and Council Chair of MD5M. She is an LCIP Certified Instructor, RLLI and USA Lions Faculty member, a facilitator and moderator at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, and holds a Doctorate from Lions University. She currently serves as Group Leader for First Vice District Governors at the international level and as Secretary of the 2029 LCI Convention Committee.

Laudenbach has personally sponsored 26 new Lions and helped charter multiple new clubs. Her service innovations include Empower Hour, a program connecting nonprofit leaders with Lions clubs; a district-wide food packing event; a diaper drive; and community fundraisers. She is a champion for pediatric vision care, an advocate for survivors of trafficking, and a co-founder of 100+ Women Who Care. Her honors include the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the Helen Keller Award, the LCIF Leadership Award, and the International President's Award.

"I became a Lion because someone asked me — and I said yes without even knowing what Lions was," Laudenbach said. "That one invitation changed my life. My campaign, 'Be the One,' is about that power we each carry: one invitation, one act of kindness, one moment of service. One Lion can change the world."

Laudenbach brings a professional background in enterprise leadership spanning manufacturing, marketing, sales, and distribution, with expertise in strategic and succession planning. Her platform centers on growing Lions through innovation, inclusion, and purpose; strengthening clubs with training and support; expanding impact through service and LCIF; and assuring the long-term sustainability of Lions service worldwide.

Her campaign is managed by Dennis and Jacque Heinen. For more information, contact denisemarieforid@gmail.com or follow "Denise Marie Laudenbach for International Director" on Facebook and @denise_marieforid on Instagram.

BE THE ONE: MY STORY

Denise Marie Laudenbach

Candidate for International Director • Nisswa Lions Club

NOVEMBER 2026

PART 1 OF 5

Born and Raised an Austin Packer

By Denise Marie Laudenbach

Before I was a Lion, before I was a District Governor, before any of it, I was Don and Goody Bulger's daughter from Austin, Minnesota.

My dad worked at Hormel. My mom worked at the high school. Dad had been an all-star athlete in his day — a standout in football and basketball, and the pitcher for the baseball team. He married a sweet farm girl from just outside of town in Moscow, Minnesota, and together they built our family in Austin.

I came along at the very end of that family. I have three older brothers, and when I was born, the oldest was a senior at Hamline, the next already had two children of his own, and the youngest was a senior in high school. I was an aunt the day I was born.

I am a true Austin Packer, through and through. I played varsity golf from seventh grade through my senior year, and I was a hockey cheerleader. I went to work at 14 at the A&W root beer stand, and from tenth through twelfth grade I worked at Fantle's. Those jobs taught me what every small-town kid learns early: show up, work hard, and treat every person who walks through the door like they matter.

Those are the Austin memories most people would recognize. But there is another part of my Austin story that shaped me even more — and it started when I was in third grade.

Next month — Part 2: The Year Everything Changed

BE THE ONE.
Denise Marie Laudenbach
Nisswa Lions Club • Past District Governor, 5M9
Immediate Past Council Chair, MD5M
Candidate for International Director



CAST YOUR
VOTE
MD5M Convention
Rochester, Minnesota
April 2027

Invite one. Impact many. Together, we can do more.
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PRESS RELEASE

October 1, 2026

Judy Zewers Announces Campaign for Lions International Director

"The Power of We" campaign focuses on engagement, inclusion, inspiration and service

SHOREVIEW, Minn. — Judy Zewers, an experienced Lions leader, educator and longtime community volunteer, has announced her candidacy for Lions International Director, launching a campaign centered on a simple but powerful belief: Lions accomplish more when they work together.

With the campaign theme "The Power of We — Together in Service, Together in Leadership," Zewers is emphasizing the collective strength of Lions and the importance of bringing together clubs, districts, generations and members from different backgrounds around a shared commitment to service and membership growth. She is seeking the endorsement at the MD5M multiple convention, April 17, 2027.

"One Lion can make a difference, but together, as a team, we can make an even greater impact," said Zewers. "The Power of We is about listening to one another, valuing what each person brings to the table and moving forward together."

Zewers' campaign is built around four key pillars: Engagement, Inclusion, Inspiration and Service. Her priorities include giving Lions a voice at all levels of the organization, creating meaningful and flexible opportunities for involvement, encouraging emerging and younger leaders, strengthening mentorship and leadership development, and sharing the stories that demonstrate the impact Lions make in their communities.

A lifelong member of a Lions family, Zewers has served in numerous leadership positions within District 5M6 and Multiple District 5M, including Global Membership Chair, Global Service Chair, Zone Chair, Vice District Governor, Qualified Faculty Development Instructor, District Governor and Council Chair. She has also served as a Guiding Lion, assisted with chartering the Lions Club in Arden Hills/Shoreview and helped establish a Leo Club in partnership with local schools. Judy is currently a Trustee of the Minnesota Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation. She was also on the planning committee of the 2026 Summer Special Olympics. She will be a Co-Chair for the 2029 Lions International Convention, which will be held Minneapolis.

Zewers has received numerous honors for her service and leadership, including the Melvin Jones Fellowship, Helen Keller Hearing Research Fellowship, International President's Award, International Leadership Award, three LCIF President's Awards and the LCIF Chairperson's Award.

At the heart of Zewers' campaign is a commitment to listen—to Lions of different ages, backgrounds, experience levels, clubs and districts—and use those perspectives to strengthen the organization.

"When Lions feel heard, included and inspired, they become more engaged," Zewers said. "And when more people bring their ideas, skills and energy to the table, we are better equipped to do what Lions do best: serve."

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instagram.com/judy.zewers

MD5M • LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

MD5M ROARS INTO THE MILLION-DOLLAR JUMP CHALLENGE!

ONE MILLION DOLLARS. ONE POWERFUL FOUNDATION. ONE VERY COLD ADVENTURE!

WOOHOO, MD5M Lions! We've been issued a challenge, and this one could get downright chilly! Multiple District 5M has an exciting opportunity to raise $1 million for Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). If we reach our goal, we'll earn the opportunity to watch some of our most dignified Lions leaders take the plunge in Minnesota in January 2028!

Yes, you read that correctly! Dignified Lions leaders, a Minnesota winter, and a jump that promises to be unforgettable! We may need parkas, hot chocolate, and front-row seats for this one!

INVESTING IN HUMANITY

Behind the fun is a mission that truly matters. This Million-Dollar Jump Challenge is a separate initiative from our work with Special Olympics. Our focus is on supporting LCIF and its mission to help Lions make a lasting difference in communities around the world.

Through grants and humanitarian initiatives, LCIF helps Lions respond to disasters, address hunger, improve health, strengthen communities, and protect our environment. Every contribution helps turn compassion into meaningful action.

Reaching $1 million will take teamwork, creativity, generosity, and the incredible spirit that makes MD5M Lions who we are. Every club, every member, and every contribution can help move us closer to this ambitious goal.

LET'S MAKE SOME WAVES!

Now is the time to rally our clubs, inspire our members, share the mission, and get creative with fundraising. Let's show the power of Lions working together for something bigger than ourselves.

And remember, the more successful we are, the closer we get to seeing those dignified Lions leaders face a very chilly Minnesota adventure!

ONE MILLION DOLLARS. ONE POWERFUL FOUNDATION.
ONE VERY COLD ADVENTURE!

Together, we invest in humanity. Together, WE ROAR!

#MD5M #LCIF #InvestInHumanity #MillionDollarJumpChallenge

Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

lionsclubs.ie



The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International, providing grant funding to empower Lions and Leos in their humanitarian service projects worldwide. Founded in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than **US$1.3 billion** through over 20,000 grants.

Why give to LCIF?

LCIF transforms generosity into action worldwide by funding humanitarian grants to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities and support those in need.

To donate to LCIF, follow the link: https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/donate


SAVE THE DATE
5M11
MIDWINTER
CONVENTION
2027
FEBRUARY 5-7
SHOOTING STAR CASINO
MAHNOMEN, MN
Theme for the weekend is
Western!

WEDNESDAY IS "LIONS CLUB DAY"

Have you remembered to wear a LIONS hat, shirt, pin, etc. on Wednesdays? Last year, the District Cabinet designated Wednesdays as Lions Club day at an early cabinet meeting.

Let people know you're a LION by wearing something with a Lions Club logo and - as always - wear your club shirt or vest at any and all LIONS Club events! Let people know WE actively SERVE!



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MULTIPLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The MD5M newsletter is available on the MD5M website under Resources and newsletters.

lionsmd5m.org

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The District Governor Visitation form has been uploaded to the District Website and can be found here (under "Forms"):

https://www.lionsdistrict5m11.org/resourcecenter



Why do I see the same few clubs in the newsletter each time and I never see anything from my club or Zone in here? The answer is that no one submitted anything to be published in the newsletter!

Submit pictures, articles, etc. to:

lions5m11news@gmail.com

The District newsletter is published bi-monthly. The next edition is due out at the end of December or early January

5M11 LIONS

We Serve