

# DISTRICT 5M11 NEWSLETTER

<https://www.lionsdistrict5m11.org/newsletters>

Newsletter Editor:

lions5M11news@gmail.com

May/June 2026  
Volume Vol 7, Issue 6



## FROM THE DESK OF DG JAN NAZARKO:

It's hard to believe that my year is almost over. Thank you for all your support throughout the year. I have enjoyed visiting the various clubs that I was invited to. I appreciate the gifts that you gave me and for the monetary donations to the various causes that I have supported through my year. I enjoyed our discussions and hope that we can make some of them possible.

I have made many new friends this year in my travels and each of you will hold a special place in my life as I continue on my Lion journey supporting my club, District and Lions all around the world.

God bless and thanks again for making this a memorable year for me.



DG Lion Jan



## A message from DGE Gord Zeglinski

Hello fellow Lions:

I can't believe it's almost July. Where has this year gone? I attended the Mission 1.5 training in Toronto at the beginning of July. I know many people remain skeptical about our ability to grow membership. However, the numbers presented at the seminar show that we have just started increasing membership in several constitutional areas.

A challenge was issued to lions to sponsor 2 new members in the month of June.

Historically this month has seen a large drop in membership. The purpose of the challenge was to change this drop.

In our district we have many lions who have sponsored 1 new member (in June) and 2 lions who have sponsored 2. I would like to congratulate Lion Jan Nazarko from the Riverside Lions Club and Lion Leslie Viker from the Halstad Lions club. I have certificates for those Lions who have sponsored or will sponsor 2 members in June.

I'm excited to have received my first DG visitation request and am looking forward to visiting all the lions in Plummer Mn.

Due to family stuff, I will not be attending the international convention in Hong Kong this year.

DGE Gord

[gordz5m11@gmail.com](mailto:gordz5m11@gmail.com)



**District Governor Elect Gord Zeglinski**



**1st VDGE David Klemz**

**Hello 5M11 Lions!**

**1st VDGE David**

## 2nd VDG-Elect Todd Grow



Happy Canada  
Day & July 4th to  
all Lions!!!

**Greetings fellow  
Lions,**

**My name is Todd  
Grow and I first  
started as a Lion  
when I was  
invited by one of  
my bosses to a  
lunch meeting**

**with a forming Lions club in 2004 in Mandan, ND.**

**As I moved with my job at Walmart, I joined a  
couple of Lions clubs along the way, but didn't get  
very involved in any until after I was married and  
had moved to Sabin, MN, where my wife and I were  
approached to purchase an event ticket for the  
mixed dinner that is held in December every year.**

**I told my wife that I had previously been involved in  
Lions and she suggested that we should get tickets  
and attend the event, and then, maybe, attend a  
meeting and check it out.**

**Once we'd gone through the experience of the  
event, she was sold, so we went to the next meeting  
and completed our application to join and have  
been involved with almost everything that our club  
has been involved with.**

**As we continue to get to know each other for the  
next few years, I look forward to meeting many  
of you as I come to visit your clubs.**

**As I come to visit your clubs, please be ready to  
share anything that I can try to help you with. As I  
learn the steps for the next role(s), I plan to visit  
each club over the next two years, so that you can  
see who I am and I can learn a bit about your  
clubs and communities.**

**I am looking forward to sharing time with and  
amongst you all. I will continue to share tidbits in  
each newsletter, and hope that you will be able to  
see a trend of my mindset within Lions, as well as  
without.**

**Have an incredible month and I'll start to see some  
of you after Labor Day!**

**Lion Todd**

## 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 SUPPORTING YOUR FOUNDATION  
TODAY!**

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



**TEAM Sheehan**  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

**Together Everyone Achieves More**



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

A LINK TO THE LCI CATALOG IS BELOW:

<https://lionsclubsinternational.myshopify.com/>



## ***CABINET MEMBERS NEEDED***

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING LIONS IN A GREATER CAPACITY? INCOMING DISTRICT GOVERNOR GORD ZEGLINSKI HAS A FEW CABINET OPENINGS TO FILL.

CONSIDER SERVING THE DISTRICT AND MEET OTHER SERVICE MINDED LIONS WHO ALSO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND. REMEMBER - THE LIONS MOTTO IS, ***"WE SERVE!"***

CONTACT [gordz5m11@gmail.com](mailto:gordz5m11@gmail.com)



## **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.



# PICTURES AND EVENTS FROM AROUND 5M11

## BARNESVILLE LIONS



Barnesville Lion President Vern Barker, left, is shown giving Lion Ron Johnson his pin reflecting his 50th year as a Lion member!

## SABIN LIONS



Sabin Lions are excited to announce that our very own Lion Doyne Grow, right, was presented the Dream Catcher Award for her work with the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation from Diabetes Chair Jim Johansen.



Sabin Lion Lisa Stengel received a Melvin Jones Fellowship. She is pictured with Lion Amanda Maag

## FERTILE LIONS



The Fertile Lions Club hosted a Memorial Day lunch with proceeds going to the Fertile Beltrami Area Food Shelf. Lions President Dorothy Roof, left, is shown presenting \$1,037 to Food Shelf Manager Pam Reese. The lunch, which followed the Memorial Day program at the school, was held in the Fertile Community Center, where the Food Shelf is located. It is open for distribution on the first and third Wednesdays so it will be open July 1 and 15 from 2 to 6 p.m. It is also available for emergencies by calling 218-945-3065 and leaving a message. More information is available at the website

<https://www.fertilebeltrami.k12.mn.us/b/fbareafoodshelf/nutrition.html>.

## WANNASKA LIONS



The Wannaska Lions recently hosted a pancake benefit for the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN. A total of **\$8,000** was **donated** to this cause. Lion Galyn Solberg of the Wannaska Lions recently returned from this trip. He said it was a trip of a lifetime.



## MAY CABINET MEETING



Dilworth Loco Lion Stacy Kleinwachter (Halvarson) & Dilworth Lion Jason Halvarson cut their “wedding cake” at the cabinet meeting in May. You may recall seeing a picture of Lion Jason proposing at the Mid-Winter Convention Cabinet Meeting!



## GREENBUSH/BADGER LIONS

The Greenbush Badger Lions held their annual awards and steak fry night on Thursday, June 18th at the Greenbush American Legion. They awarded six Melvin Jones Fellowship awards, a Helen Keller Sight Award, recognized four new members and presented two chevrons for years of service.



Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards were presented by Past District Governors Mike Hagen, far left, and Allen Bertilrud, far right to Joe & Shirley Burian, Curt Hukee, Sander Tureson, Bernie Nelson, Bob Melby. Bernie & Sander are charter members. Curt is the longest serving member.



New Members that had joined in the past year were recognized with their sponsors. Past District Governor Mike Hagen, Jim Rinde - sponsor, Jeff Tureson - sponsor, Steve Collins - new member, Andrew Alme - new member, Samantha Alme - new member, Curt Zimdars - sponsor, and Past District Governor Allen Bertilrud.



Past District Governor Mike Hagen presented Bernie Nelson with the MN Lions Helen Keller Sight award.

## More Greenbush/Badger Photos



Curt Zimdars, center, presented Gary Erickson with a 10 year chevron, left, and Carol Ricke accepted the 20 year chevron for Kevin Ricke.



PDG Allen Bertilrud, left, stole the gavel from the Greenbush Badger President Jeff Tureson, right, who had to pay to get it back. Curt Zimdars, center, helps pay the fine.

**This is only part of the fun - Don't you just love being part of the Lions and the good that we do as Lions here and everywhere!!?**



## BEMIDJI D-FEET HEARING LOSS WALK



Dilworth Lions Dave Hubbard & Jason Halvarson with Dilworth Loco Lion Stacy Kleinwachter (Above) Team Stacy K 5M11 raised just under \$1800



Above: Jason, Stacy and Bonnie



5M11 Walkers

## More D-Feet Walk



Big group of almost 200 walkers in front of Paul and Babe



TRF Lioness Lions, L-R:  
Bonnie Cota, Michelle Naplin, Cor Dargus, Pam Cwikla, Marge Miller, Darlene Torstveit, Edie Brandli and Donna Brouse.

Also attending, from Red Lake Falls Lions, were PDG Allen and Lion Sandy Bertilrud and Lions Gary and Patty Purath. (No photo of just them)



## JOINT ZONE ONE & TWO MEETING, PLUS VISITATION FROM DISTRICT GOV. JAN NAZARKO



District Governor Jan Nazarko speaks



Zone Chair Todd Grow makes a point



MN Lions Childhood Cancer Chair  
Katie Damm

**ZONE MEETING & DG VISIT**



**MN Lions Diabetes chair Jim Johansen**



**LCIF Chair PDG Allen Bertilrud**



**MN Lions KidSight Chair  
Michelle Naplin**



**Leader Dog Chair Ken Bauer**



**LCIF Chairs Amanda Maag and Lisa  
Stengel**



**Project New Hope Chair  
Jason Halvarson**

## MORE ZONE ONE & TWO PHOTOS

New members inducted



Dilworth Lions - Roger Rudolph, sponsor, Micah Thureen, new member, 5M11 District Governor Jan Nazarko, Glyndon Lions - Danny Lakeman, new member, Sandra Kruse, sponsor



Moorhead Midday President Terril Pederson, is awarded with a Melvin Jones Fellowship, presented by District Governor Jan Nazarko



Dilworth Loco Lions awarded President Carol Skabo, left, with her third progressive Helen Keller award, presented by DG Jan Nazarko.

## ZONE MEETING CLUB REPORTS



**BARNESVILLE  
PRESIDENT  
VERN BARKER**



**HOST CLUB  
DILWORTH  
LIONS  
PRESIDENT  
JERED PIGEON**



**DILWORTH LOCO  
LIONS  
PRESIDENT  
CAROL SKABO**



**GLYNDON LION**

**JULIA CARLSON-VOGEL**

**MORE CLUB REPORTS / AWARDS**



**Moorhead Midday Lion Terril Pederson**



**Sabin Lion Katie Damm & Sabin Lions members**



**Moorhead Lion Sandy Carlson**



**Hawley Lion Jim Johansen With Hawley's Breakfast on the Farm Poster**

**AWARDS**

**Hitterdal Lion Val Johnson**



**District Governor Jan Nazarko, left, presented Dilworth Loco Lion Stacy Kleinwachter with the MN Lions Childhood Cancer Believe award.**



**Flom & Area Lion Nadine Myers (Also 5M11 Treasurer)**



**Dilworth Loco Lion Kris Johnson is presented the Can Do Canine Top Dog Award by DG Jan**

## MORE AWARDS



District Governor Jan Nazarko presented Dilworth Loco Lion Julie Norman with a Can Do Canine Top Dog award.



District Governor Jan Nazarko presented Dilworth Loco Lion Grace Kangas with the MD5M Lions KidSight Sight Saver award.

## More Zone Meeting Pictures



Dilworth Lions presented Lion Scott Winter, center, with the Dilworth Lions Club Member of the Year award. District Governor Jan Nazarko, left, and President Jered Pigeon, right.



Lion Mark Spielman



L-R: Dilworth Lions Dan Houska, Ken Wirtz, Charles Cox



L-R: Lion Gordon Nazarko, DG Jan Nazarko and Zones One & Two Chair Todd Grow

## GLYNDON LIONS 60th ANNIVERSARY



The Glyndon Lions served a cake commemorating their 60th Anniversary near the end of the joint Zone meeting and visit from DG Jan Nazarko on May 28th



L-R: Lion Gordon Nazarko, DG Jan Nazarko and Zones One & Two Chair Todd Grow

## DILWORTH LIONS HOLD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT



L-R: Lions Dan Houska & Steve Jesme grilling steaks & pork chops for membership appreciation night 6/25 Hiding in the background is Lion Randy Myers. Club President Jered Pigeon is pictured off to the right

**\*\*Most picture credits in this issue are due to District 5M11 Photographer, Stacy Kleinwachter\*\***

## Making a global impact

**1.4 million**  
Lions serving

**50,000**  
Lions clubs

**200**  
countries and regions served

**US\$1.3 billion**  
in grants



**5M11 LIONS**



**We Serve**



See your Vision Foundation Chair





# MISSION 1.5

## MISSION 1.5 Bulletin

A bulletin from your international president and *MISSION 1.5*, sharing inspiring, life-changing stories.

### Inclusion Drives Leadership and Service

By opening doors to women and young people, Lions strengthen leadership pipelines, expand diversity in membership, and increase capacity to serve. Inclusive clubs generate fresh ideas, sustained engagement and greater impact in communities around the world.



#### Members Added

These members' lives will be forever changed, as yours has since becoming a Lion, and the lives impacted by these members will be countless. (Data is from 7/1/25-2/28/26)



#### New Clubs Formed

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



## Save on Dog Food While Supporting Can Do Canines

If you feed your dog Purina ProPlan food, you can save money with your online orders. Plus, when you choose Can Do Canines as a funding recipient, we will automatically receive a donated amount of your order total.

To create an account as a pet owner, visit [our sign-up page](#) on their site. Then, start clicking your way to savings and supporting us!

**PURINA**  
**PRO PLAN**  
**VetDirect**  
NUTRITION @ DELIVERED

**Can Do Canines**  
ASSISTANCE DOGS

# Home Delivery!

Free Shipping on All Orders!

- ✓ Delivered to your front door
- ✓ Promo codes to save money
- ✓ Reward points for ordering
- ✓ Supporting Can Do Canines

Get \$5 OFF your Pro Plan order with Promo code  
**LOW2026**

START SAVING TODAY

DIETS   SUPPLEMENTS   TREATS

To create your account:  
visit [www.proplanvetdirect.com](http://www.proplanvetdirect.com)

Use Can Do Canines Clinic ID: AUQO9



**Join us at our next open house: Tuesday, August 18, 6-8 p.m.**

## **New PAL Program with 4-H completes first session**



Can Do Canines recently celebrated the end of the first session of its new Pups and Learning (PAL) Program. For four months, 4-H participants have been raising and training Can Do Canines assistance dogs-in-training in their homes.

The PAL Program is a partnership with the University of Minnesota's Youth Development Extension, which runs Minnesota's 4-H program. We launched the program in January 2026, with six 4-H participants and their four families.

The program focuses on teaching participants the basics of dog handling, training, and husbandry. Specific elements include lectures on positive reinforcement methods, dog

behavior, grooming, the Americans with Disabilities Act, disability awareness/advocacy, and more. 4-H participants also complete supplementary assignments and meet certain metrics to fulfill their educational requirements. Participants work on the dogs' common cues and key behaviors, and they build the dogs' confidence in various public settings during outings.

At the April special event, these volunteer handlers turned in their dogs, shared their experiences from the program, and made mementos to be passed along to the dog's eventual client.

If you know a youth (ages 14-18) who might be interested in PAL, email [puppyprogram@candocanines.org](mailto:puppyprogram@candocanines.org).

## **Autism Assist Dog Iver Provides Safety and Freedom**

Trapped.

That's how Hudson's family felt before they got an assistance dog. Hudson has autism and is nonverbal. He also tends to bolt when in public. His mom, Sara, says of her 9-year-old son, "I can't catch him anymore; he is too fast. I had to stop taking him to therapy and to visit my mother. It just wasn't safe anymore."

So the family stayed home. A lot. When they did go out, it was only when Hudson's dad, Greg, could be with them. Sara explains, "We have a big wagon/stroller that helps keep [Hudson] from eloping."



Yet, they longed for him to be able to experience more in life. Although Hudson isn't a fan of dogs, Sara and Greg felt that an assistance dog could offer more freedom to their family. "I wanted Hudson's world to be bigger, and I thought this would help him navigate safely," Sara says.

That hopeful feeling was soon realized in Autism Assist Dog Iver.



**Join us at the  
Can Do Woofaroo**

**September 12, 2026**

Join us at our family festival and fundraiser walk, and help us celebrate the amazing partnerships of assistance dogs and the people who need them.

[candocanines.org/woofaroo](http://candocanines.org/woofaroo)

# WHY IT MATTERS TO SUPPORT THE MELVIN JONES *Fellowship*

HONOR A LEGACY. POWER A BETTER WORLD.



## POWERS GLOBAL IMPACT

Your support fuels LCIF grants that tackle critical needs like disaster relief, vision care, hunger, childhood cancer, and more—where help is needed most.



## HONORS SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Named after **Melvin Jones**, our founder, this fellowship recognizes the spirit of selfless service and inspires others to lead with compassion.



## STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES

Global support. Local impact. Grants often come back home—funding projects that improve lives in our own communities.



## CREATES A LEGACY OF GIVING

More than recognition—it's a lasting contribution that inspires others and keeps the cycle of service going for generations.



## ELEVATES YOUR CLUB'S IMPACT

Supporting LCIF shows your club is committed, credible, and making a difference—attracting members, partners, and greater opportunities.



ONE DONATION. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

*Be the change. Make it count.* ♡



**SUPPORT TODAY.  
CHANGE TOMORROW.**



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**



**TOGETHER, WE SERVE.  
TOGETHER, WE IMPACT LIVES.**

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>

# 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](http://lionsmd5m.org)

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**Steps on how to make the World a better place:**

1. Join a Lions Club.
2. Stay in Lions Club.
3. Get others to join Lions Club.



## 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](mailto:lions5m11news@gmail.com)

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

# 5M11 LIONS



**We Serve**