

DISTRICT 5M11 NEWSLETTER

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

Newsletter Editor:

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FROM THE DESK OF DG JAN NAZARKO

Welcome to a new Lions Year.

I am District Governor Lion Jan Nazarko. Some of you will know me by the Chocolate Lions Logos that I make for various Lions functions. My DG pin says "Being a Lion is better than Chocolate". Some of you may agree or disagree with this statement. Being a Lion is so satisfying and so is Chocolate. Chocolate can sooth your soul but being a Lion soothes your whole body-heart, mind and spirit by the Services that we perform, the volunteering we do, the smiles, the hugs and the satisfaction that we have made a difference, one person at a time.



My current goals for the year are for each club to increase by at least one member and retain their current members. I would also like to increase the district by at least 1 new club.

Our current International President Lion AP Singh's presidential theme for 2025-2026 is "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead". I am hoping that each and everyone of us will do that this year. A quote of IP Lion AP Singh "As a Lion, Service will always be a priority but it takes a shared vision and commitment to leave this world better than what we inherited. Together our service makes it possible.

Mental Health and Wellbeing has been added to one of the causes that Lions are now supporting. During the week of October 4th to 12th, 2025 is when we will recognize it. During this week, please post your mental health and wellbeing services, as this will count towards your Excellence Award. Different types of mental health and wellbeing services are – attend a nursing home and visit with the residents, send a "thinking of you" card, fill a jar with happy thoughts and give it to someone to use daily for inspiration. There are many different ways to show people that you care, even just a smile can make their day so much better.

Please remember that I am available to visit, help, to answer questions and if I don't know the answer, I will find it out and get back to you.

Let's have a great year in Lionism together.

DG Lion Jan

Our International President



International President A.P. Singh, a successful businessman from Kolkata, India, believes true leadership is about serving others, and that leadership and service go hand in hand. With decades of experience as a Lion, President Singh is focused on achieving our *MISSION 1.5* goals so we can grow our membership everywhere we serve and increase our impact every time we serve.



LCIF

(Lions Clubs International Foundation)

A foundation with heart

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) provides grants to Lions so we can be there when and where we're needed. Support our amazing work together by making an LCIF donation today.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/donate>

(Editor's note: If a person donates \$50 or more to LCIF, they will receive a special pin from Lions International)



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

A LINK TO THE LCI CATALOG IS BELOW:

<https://lionsclubsinternational.myshopify.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. At least one club in 5M11 received a grant last year.

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



Join us at the Can Do Woofaroo!

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Registration starts at 10 a.m. at Can Do Canines

Invite your friends (even the four-legged ones) to celebrate the amazing partnership between assistance dogs and the people who need them. This outdoor fundraising event includes a one-mile walk, live music, dog-centric vendors, dog costume contest, food and more!

**The Lions Clubs of Minnesota will
once again be the Presenting Sponsors.**



 candocanines.org/woofaroo 



PICTURES & EVENTS FROM AROUND 5M11

BARNESVILLE LIONS



Following the Barnesville Lions Annual Steakfry, two very deserving members of the club received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. Receiving this honor on the left is Lion Jim Hegewald and on the right is Lion Mike Quiggle. The club President, Lion Vern Barker, presenter, is in the center of the photo.



Lion Ken Bauer, right, rode with Lion Darrell Costain of the Fargo Gateway Lions to pick up the Lions bench near Brainerd, MN. The YWCA Playground Project, an endeavor that involved 22 Lions Clubs in North Dakota and Minnesota, will become home for the bench. The project is nearing completion with some cement yet to be poured and wood chips to be spread.



DILWORTH LIONS



Members roll meatballs in preparation for the “Loco Daze” Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner



Parade Float and float building crew



Below: Dilworth Lions plant a tree in memory of the last surviving charter member, Earl Listul, who died in 2024.



A heart of gold

St. Vital resident begins prestigious Lions Clubs role



By: [Simon Fuller](#) STAFF REPORTER

Posted: 2:01 AM CDT Wednesday, Jul. 16, 2025

FROM THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER
part of

St. Vital

Considering some people's passion for the irresistible appeal of chocolate, it says something that Jan Nazarko has had a pin made that reads, "Being a Lion is better than chocolate."

Making chocolate is a hobby for Nazarko, an old St. Vital resident, who formally started in her role as Lions Clubs

International's district governor for 5M11 on July 1. Significantly, Nazarko is the first female in Canada to hold the role.

"(The pin) is what I give to different people I know and special guests at events. Gordon, my son, designed it," Nazarko said.



Supplied photo

From left: Jan Nazarko, Lions Clubs International's district governor for 5M11, is pictured with Lions international president for 2024-25 Fabricio Oliveira.

In her new role, Nazarko will oversee the district's 65 clubs, which are located in parts of Manitoba and Minnesota.

Her responsibilities will be wide-ranging, including monitoring daily operations, navigating topical issues such as helping the Lac du Bonnet club secure a grant to help recent wildfire victims, assisting schools and organizations that want to build accessible playgrounds, and aiding low-income families.

“I’m excited, nervous, and looking forward to it,” Nazarko said recently, noting the district governor role will also include lots of travel, as it’s an international position.

“I have help, and we work as a team. There are lots of people helping out.”

According to www.lionsclubs.org, “Lions have served with uncommon kindness, putting the needs of our neighbours, our communities and our world first. Through the incredible work of our Lion and Leo members, and the support of the association and our global foundation, we are serving a world in need together.”

Noting Lions Clubs International is one of the largest service organizations in the world, Nazarko said when disaster strikes somewhere in the world, the club’s members “are usually one of the first organizations on the ground.”



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>

CONTACT THEM TO COME TO ONE OF YOUR MEETINGS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT LIONS DO!



Lions International

Winger, Red Lake Falls, Plummer Lions

will hold a joint 50th anniversary celebration Saturday, September 27, 2025

at the Red Lake Falls American Legion
Red Lake Falls Minnesota.

Fellowship will begin at 5:00 pm with a meal (6:00) and program to follow.

Special guests and speakers will include
Lions International Director Bert Nelson,

New York Mills, and 5M11 District
Governor Jan Nazarko, Winnipeg
Manitoba.

All Lions and guests are invited to attend. The meal will be a buffet including chicken breast and ham at a cost of \$25. To ensure a meal for everyone, an RSVP must be forwarded by September 20th. Respond to Lion Kevin Reich at kwrrlf@gmail.com or 218-232-4556.



"We

Serve"

Making a global impact

**1.4
million**
Lions serving

49,000
Lions clubs

200
countries and
regions served

**US\$1.3
billion**
in grants

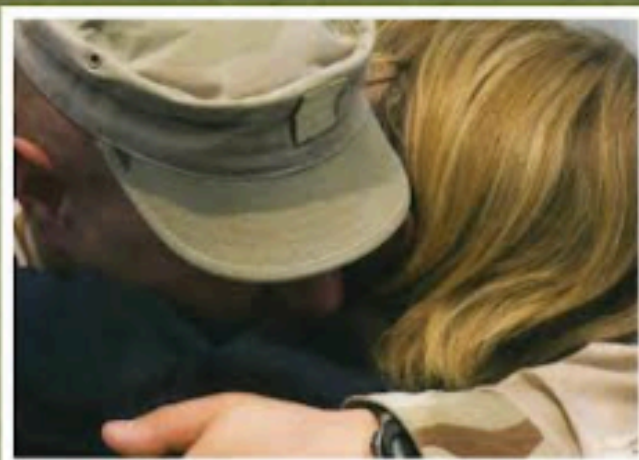




PROJECT NEW HOPE



Military Family Retreats
at no cost to Veterans



"At Project New Hope, we are driven by our mission - to provide education, training and skills necessary to manage their lives after wartime service."



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.PROJECTNEWHOPE.NET OR SCAN THIS CODE:

**2025-2026
MINNESOTA
RETREATS**

2025 OCTOBER 3-5
Good Earth Village - Spring Valley, MN
2025 DECEMBER 5-7
Faith Haven Camp near Battle Lake, MN
2026 MAY 1-3
Camp Shetek near Slayton, MN
2026 JUNE 5-7
Osprey Wilds near Sandstone, MN

2026 MD5M Convention

April 24-26, 2026

Minnetonka Beach Party

Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel

12201 Ridgedale Drive

Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305

Hosted by District 5M-5



Sign up today and save!

First 150 Receive a Free souvenir Beach Ball with early sign up.

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

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

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 a previous 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!



MULTIPLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

lionsmd5m.org

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

The District newsletter is published bi-monthly. The next one is due out at the end of October or early November.

5M11 LIONS



We Serve

