

DISTRICT 5M11 NEWSLETTER

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

Newsletter Editor:

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**January,
February, 2023**
Volume 4, Issue 3



Hello to my favorite/favourite Lions!

We are in full swing of our Lions year, how does it feel? I have been busy with club visits and it's amazing what our clubs are accomplishing! If you want some new ideas or need your Lions tank filled, ask a neighboring club if you can help on a project they have coming up. Or go to a meeting, it's so much fun to just sit and observe how another club does things, and you may get a completely different idea to bring that back to your own club.

Another way to fill up your Lions tank is to attend our Mid-Winter Convention! It is January 27-28, 2023, in Winnipeg. You can find all the forms on our district website www.lionsdistrict5m11.org

The convention theme is "Don't stop Believing"

Our service project is for the homeless in the Winnipeg area. We are asking for socks, stocking hats, gloves and scarves. On Saturday afternoon we will sort everything and put it into Ziplock bags with a note attached to the front talking about our district and Lions Clubs. It is a great need in the Winnipeg and surrounding area, especially as winter will be in full swing.

What does this mean for you? Start shopping, look for these items on sale, or bring up to your club to donate money for someone to shop for these items. Bring these items with you to the convention and help us get

organized with putting them into bags!

Friday night's party is showing your Lions Pride! How much fun will it be to get a shirt made up for your club that shows how much you love being a Lion, and you can wear it to club functions as well! I'm looking forward to seeing what creative ideas we come up with!

Friday night entertainment begins with a corn hole tournament \$20/team donation (US or Canadian) all money will be donated to Dog Guides. We have a DJ and will also have karaoke for those that want to show us your talents!

This is just a glimpse into what we have planned, so you don't want to miss this great event where we can celebrate successes and learn new ways to do things.

I hope to see all of you there!

DG Lion Kami Anderson

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Ella and Her Pink Glasses



A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

I'm sure the familiar saying; "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" resonates as you look at this photo of a baby named, Ella, sporting her new pink glasses. In fact, some of the words you might come up with are, "precious", "cute", and "sweet". Aside from those most adoring words, after knowing Ella's story, you might want to use words such as "Lions", "Vision Screening", and "Plusoptix". Obviously, not as appealing, but Ella and her pink glasses represent the fact that she was in need of glasses and her need was founded on a vision screening conducted by the local Lions Club.

Ella's First Screening

Kristi Voeller, of North Dakota, took her 6 month old daughter, Ella, for a vision screening conducted by the local Prairie Rose Lions Club at her MOPS Group in Bismarck. Kristi admits,

she almost did not take baby Ella to get screened because she was only 6 months old and she had been seen regularly by the family pediatrician and there had not been any concerns. Since there was no one in line to get screened, Kristi decided she would go ahead and take Ella. To Kristi's surprise, Ella was referred for further evaluation by an eye care professional. Even with the referral, Kristi thought it was some kind of fluke. However, she scheduled an appointment through the Infant SEE program for several months later. Not thinking there was any rush, she thought it was fine to wait until then. However, her husband, having to see the optometrist himself at about the same time, took Ella's referral

information with him to his appointment and showed the optometrist the results of Ella's screening. Upon looking at the screening results, the optometrist suggested taking Ella to see her for a follow-up as soon as possible.

Ella Needs Glasses

After Ella was seen by the optometrist and given a series of tests, it was determined that Ella needed glasses. Kristi remarked at the difference in Ella's behavior after receiving her new pink glasses one week later. Ella became much more engaging, fascinated with her mommy's nose along with her toys, playing with the family dog and her big sister, 4 year old Emma. In addition, she had become more vocal, interested in her surroundings and environment by crawling more, and paying more attention to what is around her.

Ella's Glasses are Pink

How can you miss those pink glasses?

Everywhere Ella goes; Kristi is stopped and asked about Ella's pink glasses. Ella loves her glasses and doesn't want to take them off.

Ella's pink glasses have changed the way Ella sees everything around her. Not only does Ella look adorable, but even at 6 months old, Ella's sight has been improved all because of a vision screening conducted by the Prairie Rose Lions Club.

A Big Thanks to the Prairie Rose Lions Club

The Prairie Rose Lions Club, in keeping with the mission of Lions KidSight USA, conducts vision screenings with the Plusoptix vision screener. Plusoptix is a proud partner of Lions KidSight USA, a nation-wide program that brings Lions clubs across the country together to ensure young children receive eye screenings and follow-up care when needed. The Plusoptix vision screener ensures that children are screened for the most prevalent risk factors that may lead to the development of Amblyopia or "lazy eye". An early diagnosis means early correction and treatment. Thanks to the Prairie Rose Lions Club and early intervention, Ella's vision has been improved.

MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation Directors

For more information about KidSight and the vision screening of children contact one of the foundation directors. In Manitoba: Lion Bonnie Popowich, bonniepopowich@gmail.com, 204-340-5554 or Lion Robert Gosselin, goodgoose56@gmail.com, 204-422-8783. In Minnesota: Lion Dan Vandeventer, danvan07@gmail.com, 218-688-2699 or Lion Kevin Reich, kwrrlf@gmail.com, 218-232-4556.



5M11 Leader Dog Chair, Lion Ken Bauer, is shown presenting Lion Mark Sellin, President of the Hawley Lions, a Leader Dog Tribute Plaque, reflecting the \$1,000 contribution their club made to this life changing 501C3. The inscription on the plaque reads, "Hawley, MN Lions--2022 We support Leader Dogs for the Blind's Mission for the visually impaired."

Lions collaborate for Wellness Fair



Arctic Cat of Thief River Falls held its annual Wellness Fair November 17. Area Lions sponsored a booth at the fair providing information on three of the Lions foundations; MD5M Lions KidSight, MN Lions Diabetes, and MN Lions Childhood Cancer. Pictured, left to right, Lion Kevin Reich, KidSight foundation director, IPDG Allen and Lion Sandy Bertilrud, Diabetes foundation trustee, all of Red Lake Falls Lions, 1VDG Mike and Lion Karen Hagen, Wannaska Lions, and Lion Dan Vandeventer, KidSight foundation director, St. Hilaire Lions.



Sherry Sorenson member of the St. Hilaire lions presented a check for \$100 to The Shed to buy Christmas gifts for the nursing homes on December 5, 2022.



The Goodridge Lion Tamers recently held an auction where you had a chance to buy a pie for \$200 or a pan of Rice Krispies for \$300.

The district is still looking for a 2nd Vice District Governor. If you are interested, please contact District Governor Kami or 1st Vice District Governor Mike.



Sherry Sorenson of the St. Hilaire Lions presented a check of \$250 to the Wendy Mattson with the Angel Tree to buy Christmas gifts for kids on December 5, 2022.

Wannaska welcomes new Lions



At the January 5th club meeting the Wannaska Lions welcomed nine new members into the club. The Induction of the members was conducted by IPDG Allen Bertilrud. Pictured are, left to right, new Lions Galyn and Sheila Solberg, Mike and Rona Tesarek, Mark Tangen, and Tim Schneider. Also IPDG Bertilrud. Not pictured are new Lions members Tracy Abrahamson, and Tim and Muriel Fevold. Welcome new Lions and congratulations Wannaska.

Mid-Winter Convention Service Project Announced

DG Lion Kami has set a service project for all of us for the Mid-Winter convention.

We are gathering NEW winter items for homeless adults:

- socks
- toques (beanies for USA folks)
- gloves/mittens
- scarves

Each set will be bagged in a zip-lock and labelled from us. Looking at *Main Street Project* and probably *Siloam Mission*.

Up here in Canada, your best bang for your buck is probably *Dollarama*. Maybe Wal-Mart or Giant Tiger.

PLEASE contact Lion Jan jannazarko@gmail.com if you have questions.

The district is still looking for a 2nd Vice District Governor. If you are interested, please contact District Governor Kami Anderson or 1st Vice District Governor Mike Hagen.

Can Do Canines Fetching Ball Gala

Can Do Canines will be hosting its annual Fetching Ball Gala on Saturday, February 25, 2023. This year's event will be held at the Radisson Blu Mall of America, with KARE 11 Reporter/Anchor Rena Sarigianopoulos serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

We invite you to join us for this evening that celebrates the amazing teams of Can Do Canines. Enjoy dinner, inspiring stories, games, and silent and live auctions – all benefitting the organization. See candocanines.org/fetchingball for more information and to purchase tickets.

Can Do Canines will host an open house on Saturday, March 25, from Noon-2 p.m., at its Can Do Canines campus (9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, Minn.). Potential clients, volunteers, or anyone who might be interested in supporting the organization are invited to attend to learn how an assistance dog changes the life of a person with a disability.

Through a self-guided tour, attendees will be able to watch a trainer working with an assistance dog, hear from a volunteer puppy raiser, talk with volunteer staff members, pose questions to client services coordinators about the application process, and meet graduate teams from each of the five types of areas Can Do Canines trains dogs: hearing, mobility, seizure, diabetes and childhood autism. The assistance dog demonstrations will be held at 12:30, 1:00, and 1:30, and the puppy raiser will speak at 12:15, 12:45, and 1:15.

Thanks!

Caren

Caren Hansen

Marketing and Communication Manager

Can Do Canines

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New Hope, MN 55428

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www.candocanines.org



Lion Vern Barker is shown presenting a \$250 check to representatives from each of the cemeteries on the west side of Barnesville. Accepting the checks are, left to right, Duane Morey, Rosemound Cemetary, Tim Dockter, St. Marys' Cemetery, and Duane Rossett, Barnesville City Cemetery. Excellent community support with the various Lions fundraisers allows the club to make donations such as this, and continue to reflect the Lions International motto of, "We Serve."

The Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation Trustees will be **collecting hearing aids** at the DISTRICT CONVENTIONS this winter.

If you could separate out hearing aids from eyeglasses when you come to your conventions, we will be able to take care of them without having to go through all the eyeglasses. Please write your district on them so when they are recycled, they can be credited to your district.



Wannaska Lions Club sewed port shirts (zippers in the shirt allow medical staff to access ports without taking off the shirt) recently. A group of 9 volunteers including 6 Club members cut, pinned and sewed 20 shirts! They will continue sewing shirts over the winter months!

Can you also make sure the containers have a notice on them that "Hearing Aides" are also welcomed? Some of the older boxes do not specifically say this. THANKS!

5M11 LIONS





LIONS HOCKEY NIGHT



FEBRUARY 17, 2023

7:00 PM Excel Energy Center, St. Paul

Lions International President Brian Sheehan and the MN Wild invite you to participate in Lions International Wild Game Night. A great public relations opportunity for our organization. *Tickets are available First come, first served.* Please use the QR code or link to order your tickets soon. Don't wait until the last minute to order your tickets.

<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/8rtRCNknvMcZjEGXS4o6DN?domain=us-west-2.protection.sophos.com>



Show your pride by wearing your Team Sheehan gear and MN Wild gear. President Brian will be riding a Zamboni.

Volunteers Needed

Giveaways will be given out at four gates as fans enter the facility. We will need 16 volunteers to arrive before game time to help distribute items.

We will also have a Lions information table on the concourse requiring volunteers. Please go to the sign-up genius link if you are interested in volunteering. *Volunteers are required to purchase tickets if you wish to watch the game.* If you want to volunteer only, there is no need to purchase a game ticket.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E48A4A62AAAF1-lions3>



Save The Date

2022 MD5M Lions Convention

"Service in the Heart of Everyday Lions"

Date:

April 29, 30 & May 1, 2022

Location:

**Mayo Clinic Health System
Event Center Mankato, MN**



5M11 District Team

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