



News from 5M8

Hello Lions,

I hope each of you has enjoyed a wonderful and restful summer. As we prepare for the back-to-school season and all the energy that comes with it, I want to share how excited I am for this new Lions year. I just returned from a life-changing experience at my first-ever Lions International Convention in Orlando—and I'm more inspired than ever.

An Incredible First Day at Convention

The energy kicked off the moment we arrived! On day one, I had the honor of helping as a District Governor on the ground, supporting various events and assisting wherever needed. One of the highlights was live-streaming the Parade of Nations—a spectacular celebration of our global unity in service.

As part of our coverage, we had the incredible opportunity to interview Lions from across our multiple and from around the world. Their stories, passion, and diverse perspectives were energizing. Being in the parade myself was a thrill I'll never forget—marching alongside Lions from every corner of the globe, united under our shared mission to serve.

It was a powerful reminder that while we serve locally, we are part of something truly international.

A Life-Changing Convention in Orlando

Attending the International Convention was nothing short of extraordinary. It was powerful to see so many Lions from our district, our multiple, and around the globe come together in one place.

One moment that stood out was hearing Olympic champion Michael Phelps speak about his mental health journey. It was deeply moving and reminded me how vital our work in service truly is.

Early mornings securing good seats with our Executive Secretary Cindy, attending workshops, and being invited to the German Delegation's celebration by my new friend DG Martin made the trip unforgettable. Their hospitality and energy were a highlight of the convention.

Honoring Lion Dave Shofner

While in Orlando, I was given the honor of awarding the President's Certificate of Appreciation—one of the top four honors in Lions International. I was asked to choose a deserving Lion who was present at the convention, and the first person who came to mind was Dave Shofner.

For 24 years, Dave has demonstrated unwavering dedication and passion, especially through his leadership with Project New Hope, serving veterans in need of support and connection. It was an absolute privilege to recognize him in this way.

A Memorable Surprise and a Moment of Purpose

During a Mission 1.5 training attended by all of our executive officers, I won an iPad—a fun and useful surprise that I plan to use throughout my year as District Governor.

But the most meaningful part of the convention came during the final plenary session. I was honored to be asked by International President A.P. Singh to join his Team AP demonstration and to take my Oath of Office as District Governor during the same session in which he was installed. That moment will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Another unforgettable highlight: having Past International President Brian Sheehan—or as we know him, just Brian—personally pull my elect ribbon. A true honor.

This Year's Theme: Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead

President Singh's message for the year is one that resonates deeply: Leadership is not about titles or recognition—it's about action, service, and humility. He reminded us that the highest position in Lions is not International President. It is Lion. That title belongs to each of us, and it binds us together in service.

A Simple Challenge: End the Year with a Plus One

President Singh also gave us a clear challenge: that each club finishes the year with at least one additional member.

This is achievable—especially when we make that personal connection. Think of the people in your life with a heart for service. Learn what they're passionate about. Then show them how Lions are already doing that work. As one of my favorite sayings goes, "Anything you're passionate about—Lions do that."

Thank You, Lions

Thank you for all the incredible work you've done—and all you will continue to do this year. We are stronger together, and I'm here to support you every step of the way. If you have questions, ideas, or just want to connect, please reach out.

In Service and Gratitude,

Zach Wosmek

District Governor - District 5M8


(320) 905-7803 // Cell

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MISSION 1.5





We're on a mission to grow.




Executive Officers 2025-2026








Dr. Manoj Shah Intl. Second Vice President	Fabricio Oliveira LCIF Chairperson	A.P. Singh Intl. President	Mark S. Lyon Intl. First Vice President	Tony Benbow Intl. Third Vice President
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 lionsclubs_in
  Lions Council of India
  lionsclubs.org
  @lionsclubs



MISSION 1.5




"Lead to Serve,
Serve to Lead"
This beautifully reflects the spirit of Lions: leadership rooted in service, and service that inspires further leadership.

The official Pin of Lions Clubs International
President AP Singh for the
Lionistic Year 2025-2026

INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
LY 2025-2026

AP Singh



Lions International

300 W. 22nd Street
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842 USA
+1-630-571-5466

2025-2026 Leadership International & District




Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead.

Lions International President A. P. Singh 2025 - 2026

"Lead to serve, serve to lead" is a leadership philosophy emphasizing that true leadership stems from a desire to serve others and that serving others effectively is a key component of successful leadership.

A.P. Singh
International President

Dear Lions,

Service to others defines who we are. It is the very reason we exist as a global organization. A Lions club brings people together. When people work together, amazing things happen. Friendships form, leaders arise and communities change for the better. But it all comes down to one thing — service. Our sole purpose as Lions is, and always has been, to serve those in need.

With "We Serve" as our motto, we will focus on bringing kindness to our communities and our world. This is a call for Lions to show our world that change is possible, and that we are working every day to be the change that our communities and our world need.

We know that we will need to work together to lead our communities, strengthen our clubs and achieve our **MISSION 1.5** goal of reaching 1.5 million members by July 1, 2027 so we can serve more people than ever before. Together we have an opportunity to take the lead on service and guide the way toward a brighter future.

I have always believed that at the heart of our service you'll find kindness, commitment and generosity for the many people we serve — and for the incredibly diverse family of Leos and Lions with whom we serve. Together, we will make our communities and our world a better place for all people.

Together we serve,



A.P. Singh
International President

Serving a world in need.

www.lionsclubs.org



2025-2026 District Governor Club Visit Request Form

Date Requested: _____

Club Requesting: _____

Preferred Date: _____

Alternate Date: _____

Address of Meeting: _____

Social: _____ Meal: _____ Meeting Time: _____

DG Attire (Circle): DGSUIT/TIE or LIONS BUSINESS CASUAL

Point of Contact for Visit: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Email: _____

List if more than one Club is attending:

Club Name: _____ Pres/Sec/Treasurer Names: _____

Special Requests/Inductions: _____

My Passion Charities:

LCIF

MN Lions Hearing Foundation

MN Lions Diabetes Foundation

Zach Wosmek

114 2nd Ave

Spicer, MN 56288

Email: lionzachwosmek@gmail.com

Cell: (320)905-7803

2025-2026 5M8 District Governor Contest

[illegible][illegible]



We Serve

1st Vice District Governor Diann

Hello District 5M8 Lions,

As we embrace the Midsummer season, families are preparing to send their children back to school, and we are gearing up to serve our communities with renewed energy. With the 2025-2026 year underway, our new leaders are installed and ready to lead us into a season of impactful service. The International Convention was a resounding success, highlighted by a vibrant International Parade showcasing beautiful costumes from around the world. We are inspired by International President A.P. Singh's motto, "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead," and look forward to a year of exceptional leadership.

Congratulations to Lion Dave Shofner of the Avon Hills Lions Club, who was honored with the International President's Certificate of Appreciation on July 16, 2025, at the International Convention in Orlando, FL. We are incredibly proud of your achievement, Lion Dave!

The 5M8 District will be hosting a Zone Chair Training, and I am eager to join this exciting learning journey. With several new Zone Chairs, I look forward to witnessing the fun events across the various Zones. While change can be challenging, it is essential for growth.

Recently, my husband Bob and I enjoyed a motorcycle adventure to the Lincoln Scandia Lions Club for breakfast. It was a delightful ride and a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Lions and learn about the club's interests and needs. Additionally, I attended the Hamel Rodeo with my three granddaughters to support the MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation, which was an exhilarating event.

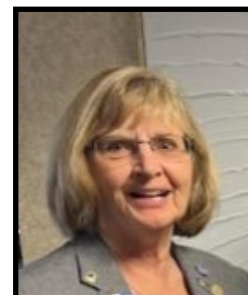
We are thrilled that Lion Bob Thompson successfully delivered 100,000 pairs of glasses to Rosholt, WI. This remarkable service effort involved gathering and processing these glasses, and we applaud Lions Bob, Teddi, the Pine City Lions, and all in 5M8 who contributed. Thank you for your SERVICE, exemplifying the spirit of "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead."

I am excited to welcome the newest Lions Club in the 5M8 District, the "Stearns County Heartland Champions Lions Club." Please mark your calendars for the Charter Celebration on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at Richmond Lions Community Park, Richmond, MN. The event will feature IPP Brian Sheehan as the keynote speaker, along with fun activities like Yard Jenga, Corn Hole, Bocce Ball, and face painting. Join us for the FUN!

The 5M8 Mini Forum and Awards Banquet will be held at Jack & Jim's Event Center, Duell, MN on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 Social 5:30 PM Dinner 6:30 PM program to follow. As October is First Responder/EMT/Fire Fighter Month we have a speaker who will warm your heart. Please plan to attend this fun event the registration form is in the newsletter.

As I plan to visit your clubs to cheer on your wonderful SERVICE projects, please let me know about any upcoming projects your club is hosting. I look forward to hearing from you. Unfortunately, I will miss the "Ride for Eyes" hosted by the Sobieski Lions Club due to my Grandson's wedding in International Falls, MN. I wish them great weather and wonderful support from the Lions and riders in the community—remember, you don't need a motorcycle to participate; cars are welcome.

We Serve,
1VDG Diann Bellmont





Stearns County Heartland Champions Lions Club Charter Celebration Invitation

You're Invited!

**Join us in celebrating the Charter of the newest Lions Club in District 5M8,
the Stearns County Heartland Champions Lions Club!**

Event Details:

- **Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2025
- **Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Richmond Lions Community Park, Richmond, MN

Registration: \$15 per person

Special Highlights:

- **Keynote Speaker:** Past International President Brian Sheehan
- **Fun Activities:** Yard Jenga, Corn Hole, Face Painting
- **Silent Auction**

Refreshments, snacks and Picnic Meal Provided

RSVP by September 20, 2025

Please fill out the registration form below to confirm your attendance:

Registration Form:

- **Name:**
- **Lions Club:**
- **Email Address:**
- **Phone Number:**
- **Number of Guests Attending:**
- **Dietary Restrictions (if any):**

**Please return this form to rosehansenotr@outlook.com or
mail it to: 904 3rd Street N unit 12, Cold Spring, MN 56320.**

We look forward to celebrating this exciting milestone with you!

**Hosted by Cold Spring Home Pride Lions – Richmond Lions, Cold Spring Lions, Rockville Lions,
Farming Lions**

For more information, contact: Rose Hansen Cell: (320)293-5441



Registration Form

LIONS 5M8 Mini Forum and Awards Banquet



All Lions, Lionesses, and Leos are invited to attend the 5M8 Mini Forum

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Place: Jack & Jim's, Duelm, MN

Time: Social Hour 5:30 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Program to Follow

Menu: Roast Beef, Potatoes, with sides, coffee, milk, & water

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Registration: \$28 Per Person if registered before September 23, 2025.

\$30 After cutoff with October 1, 2025 the deadline

Make checks payable to District 5M8

Mail registration form with payment to:

1VDG Diann Bellmont 15433 241st Street, Cold Spring, MN 56320

For additional information:

Please contact me at lionpridecs@gmail.com or call 320-492-1974

Guest Speakers: Special Olympic Athlete Sidney Kuechle and

Sophina & Connie Lindquist on First Responder's Mental Health & Wellbeing

Lions/ Leos and Guests Title/Name

Club _____

Club _____

Club _____

Club _____

Club _____



Avon Hills Lions Member Dave Shofner who also is the Lead Coordinator for Project New Hope for District 5M8 was awarded the International Presidents Certificate of Appreciation today for 2024-2025 by PDG Daniel Marney Elkins and current 5M8 District Governor Zach P. Wosmek . Lion Dave is a 24 year Lions member and this is the first time he's been given this honor. This award is the 4th highest award in Lions Clubs.



Luxemburg Lions new Lion Patricia Anderson inducted by DG Zach. And club officers President Mike Cramer, DG Zach, Treasurer Jeff Bectold, Sec, Michael Ritzer, 1st VP John Honer, Tamer John Ludwig



District 5M8 won 1st Place in all of MD5M (2024-205 year) in number of clubs reporting Service projects.

5M8 also received 2nd Place (Banana award) in the first quarter of the new

Lions year! **Great**

job Secretaries and Service Chair
PDG Amy Leidenfrost

Keep up the great work Lions!



DG Zach, District Treasurer PDG Dave Thompson, Lion Lori Steinemann fill in for the evening for Lion Colleen Rosenow



DG Zach receives the gavel from IPDG Deb

DG Zach & son Joey his partner in service for the year



A New Lions Year means New Changes! And District 5M8s GLT (Global Leadership Training Team) is having an overhaul!

What does that mean for our members and leaders in 5M8? It means that in the next month or two - if you are a club president, secretary, or treasurer, look for a survey to come to you looking for your input on officer training. What you liked, what you didn't, what you'd like to see, and suggestions on what we can add. If you are not club leadership but would like the opportunity to take the survey, email me

at davecarrieshofner@gmail.com and I can send it to you once it's available. But Why Wait!?! Email me at the above email now or when the need arises. As Leadership Development our GLT team is here to help you every step of the way from New Members Orientation needs to club cabinet questions and training, to DG build up skills, helping you achieve what you've wanted as a Lion Leader in our District and Beyond!

**** Ever wanted to be in club leadership but don't know where to start, GLT is here for you!**

**** Ever wanted to try your hand at a District Cabinet Position but it seems beyond your skill level, or so you think, GLT is here to help!**

**** Ever wanted to make more of a Leadership Difference in your Club or District but have loads of questions, GLT is here for you!**

**** Are you currently in a club leadership position and have questions after trainings or need more follow up after, GLT is here for YOU!!**

Knowledge of Lions and skills training helps make you a confident and engaged Lion. The GLT team is here for your Leadership Success every step of the way, not just Spring Training. Reach out to me via email at davecarrieshofner@gmail.com or call or text at 507-829-3568. When calling or texting, please identify yourself so that I may help you best!

Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead!

In Lionism, Lead GLT Coordinator Carrie Shofner and Team



Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation

*****Save the Date*****

Thanksgiving for Vision

Saturday November 1, 2025

St. Cloud Holiday Inn & Suites

**Watch for additional information in
this newsletter and via email to clubs**



The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation would greatly appreciate donations for the Silent Auction at Thanksgiving For Vision on

November 1st. We are looking for baskets worth \$50 or more or cash donations of any amount and we will combine donations to "build a basket". We prefer to limit baskets with alcohol. Any questions, please contact MN Lions Vision Foundation Director Lion Sherri Schmitz: allen.sherri.schmitz@gmail.com or 320-293-8672.



33RD ANNUAL RIDE FOR EYES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

Registration starts at 11:30 AM - Ride starts at 1 PM

\$10 MINIMUM
PLEDGE PER
PERSON

REGISTRATION AND START
POLISH PALACE
SOBIESKI, MN

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

ONE HOUR PIT STOP
SHADY'S MAIN STREET GRILL
RANDALL, MN

Bring any used
eye glasses for
donation!

SILENT AUCTION AND
CASH DRAWING AT
POLISH PALACE



PLUS PRIZES,
FOOD AND DRINKS!

MOTORCYCLES, SIDE BY SIDES, AND CARS

For more information
Call Marsha at (320) 232-0131



Sank Rapids Lions Club Steak Fry



Friday, September 5th 5-8 p.m.

Sank Rapids VFW

For tickets: call Dr Tom Johnson

@ 320-249-2149 or email:

saukrapidslions@gmail.com

Steaks Furnished by Manea's Meats

Baked potato, salad, dinner roll, & cookie included



35th Annual

Upsala Lions



Hog Roast and Corn Boil

Saturday, August 2

Upsala Recreation Building
5:00 to 8:00 pm

Adults \$12 in advance, \$14 at door | 12 & under \$10

Lions District 5M8 Super Zone Meeting



Wednesday, August 6

Social Hour 6:00 p.m.

Dinner & Meeting 7 p.m.

St Martin Bar

Broasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable & Coleslaw

\$15.00 per person

RSVP by [Monday, March 31, 2025](#)

Hosted by the St. Martin Lions Club

Speaker: Hearing Foundation Mike Appel
Training on Audiology Equipment

All Lions members are invited to join in this meeting.

It is important that each club has representation at this meeting
by Club President, Vice President & Secretary.

Please email Lion Cheri Appel- Cheri52appel@gmail.com with the
number of Lions attending this meeting & if there are any dietary needs.

Remember that your club is responsible for paying for the number of meals
that you reserve. Zone Packets will be available for each Lions Club with
information. I do not mail these packets so if you miss the meeting, you need to
pick the packet up at my house. See you there!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th

7:30 to Noon

willow creek park lions shelter

ADULTS: 8:00, 12 & under: 5.00, 5 & under free

Sponsored by the

KIMBALL LIONS CLUB

Proceeds go to the Kimball Area



KIMBALL LIONS AUG. 9, 2025

5K RUN/WALK – 8:00 am Start

August 9, 2025 (Kimball Days)

On Race Day: Check-in and walk up

registration begins at 7:00 am

Willow Creek Park Lions Shelter

T-shirts for Pre-registered Competitors Only

Pre-register by August 1, 2024

WALK INS WELCOMED

**1st 2nd 3rd Place Medals Awarded for each
gender by age group**

Cost: \$30.00 per person

All proceeds benefit the

Payton Hanan Memorial Fund

For registration form visit: kimballdaysmn.com

Forms also available at Harvest Bank in Kimball

Questions - Call STEVE GOHMAN...320-249-7000

Call WAYNE ROTH...612-741-9589

Grasston Lions Crappie Fishing Contest Rules:

1. \$40.00 per boat entry fee (no refund).
2. Maximum of 2 people in each boat.
3. Live wells will be inspected.
4. Must display fishing flag on boat.
5. Boats must not leave from landing before 1 p.m. when the signal is given.
6. Boats must be back on shore at 4 p.m. (You will be disqualified if late)
7. Must not get closer than 30 feet from another boat during the contest.
8. Maximum of 20 Crappies to be weighed in per boat. Automatic disqualification if more than 20 crappies are brought in for weighing.
9. Prize placement based on TOTAL WEIGHT of no more than 20 Crappies. In case of ties for places 1 through 4, the prize percentages will be added and then split equally.
10. Prize money is based upon the number of entries minus expenses.
11. Contestant will be responsible for their catch of fish.
12. Pokegama Lake fishing only. Disqualification if you leave the lake. No river fishing.

DECISIONS OF CONTEST JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.

*The Grasston Lions Club would like to thank you for participating
in our Annual Crappie Contest.*

Have fun and remember, safe boating.



Grasston Lions

16th Annual

Crappie Fishing Contest

North shore of Pokegama Lake

August 9, 2025 1-4 p.m.

PRIZES FOR TOP 4 PLACES

RAFFLE TICKETS SOLD ONLY DURING CONTEST

Raffle drawing after the contest...

Must be present to win!

**PREREGISTER AND
CONTEST RULES:**
Grasston Lions Annual Fishing Contest
Grasston Lions
PO Box 132, Grasston, MN 55030

For more information contact
Pat at 320-237-5489
Butch at 320-496-3559





ST AUGUSTA LIONS

INVITES YOU TO A

Brat & Hotdog

Lunch Fundraiser

Behind Harvest Bank

24952 County Road 7, St Augusta, MN 56301

Friday, June 27 & August 22

10 AM -2:00 PM

\$8

PER PERSON

INCLUDES GRILLED BRAT OR HOTDOG,
CHIPS AND BOTTLED WATER

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
ST AUGUSTA COMMUNITY

Thank you to Grand Meadow Meats



PIERZ LIONS 2025

BRAT & BURGER SALE

BRAT/HOTDOG \$3.00

HAMBURGER/CHEESE \$5.00

DRINKS POP/WATER \$1.00



MEAL DEALS:

BRAT /HOTDOG, CHIPS, DESSERT & DRINK \$5.00

BURGER/CHEESEBURGER, CHIPS, DESSERT &
DRINK \$7.00



FRIDAYS SUMMER 2025

HRS 10 AM – 7PM

MAY 23

JUNE 20

JULY 18

AUGUST 15

LOCATED IN FRONT OF



**THIELEN MEATS
OF PIERZ**

2025



Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions

Pancake Breakfast

•Sunday, May 25

•Sunday, July 6

•Sunday, August 31

8:00 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Scandia Valley
Town Hall,**

3518 320th St.,
Cushing, MN 56443

FREE WILL OFFERING



**Come join the Sauk Rapids Lions
Club at the Benton County Fair
July 29-August 5 -starting at 5
every day \$\$\$\$\$**



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

Sauk Centre Lions Club & Melrose Lions Club
"Working together to better our communities"



Please join us for our FALL TASTING EVENT

Friday, September 26, 2025 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Sauk Centre Civic Arena

*Wine *Beer *Liquor *Food

Sponsored by



Featuring Samples from:



On-site Food Options
offered by:



Buckley's Homebased Pickles • Campbell's Village-Cookies
Clyde's Country Baked Goods
Melrose Meat Shoppe • Strawberries Galore & More
Schaeffer's Market

\$20.00 advance ~ \$25.00 at door
Tickets available at Spiritz Liquor, The Bear Trap
or any Sauk Centre or Melrose Lions Member
MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND



2026
Coming to
MINNESOTA
JUNE
20-26



Multiple District 5M
proudly announces...

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP!



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Your donations designated to
Special Olympics USA Games
Minnesota to LCIF will help make
our \$250,000 grant possible!

Family Night!

For athletes &
their families

Opening Eyes®

(Vision Screening)

ALL BALLS

Separate Sponsorships will be
available for (Sensory) All-Balls are
for each participating athlete.

Sponsorship information will be coming
in the District Newsletters and Multiple
District Website soon.

Scan this code
for more about
All Balls



2029 Lions International Convention Fundraiser

Brought to you by the Host Committee for the 2029 Minneapolis International Convention

2029 Convention Pins and Snowman Patches

The International Convention is coming to
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Now is your chance to get a piece of history and help raise the
needed funds to Host this great Lions event.

Build the Snowman patch fundraiser.

\$50 per piece for a total of \$200

Limited Edition

2029 Minneapolis Pin with Charms

Pin- \$100

Charms \$25 or
all 4 for \$75



Charms are approximately:

1" x 1"; 1" x 3/4"; 1" x 3/4"; 1" x 1/2"



davecarrieshofner@gmail.com



2025-2026 Roadmap to Success! Club Excellence Award

2025-2026 Excellence Awards updates

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

Club Excellence Award criteria

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

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 service activities** to Lions International.
- **Three** of these activities must show **participation in each of the three** International Weeks of Service

Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of mental health and well-being, hunger, and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

Mark your calendars

Mental health and well-being
October 4-12, 2025

Hunger
January 3-11, 2026

Environment
April 18-26, 2026

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

- Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's **membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year (2024-2025), multiplied by US\$20**.



**Mental health and well-being
October 4-12, 2025**

**Hunger
January 3-11, 2026**

**Environment
April 18-26, 2026**

Two Life-Changing Ways to Volunteer:

Raise a Future Leader Dog

Spend about a year helping a Future Leader Dog learn the basics before entering formal guide dog training. You'll teach essential skills like sit, stay and confident behavior in busy environments — all with the support of an experi-



If you're looking for a new way to give back, stay active and enjoy meaningful companionship, Leader Dogs for the Blind has some extraordinary opportunities that could fill your days with purpose and the profound satisfaction of changing someone's life forever

Host a Leader Dog Mom

Provide a loving home for one of our female breeding stock dogs as she helps create the next generation of Leader Dogs. You'll care for her as she whelps (gives birth to) four litters of puppies, all growing into future guide dogs who will transform lives. This unique opportunity lets you be part of Future Leader Dogs' journey from birth.

Ready to Make a Difference?

These volunteer opportunities are open to individuals, couples and families, whether you're drawn to raising a puppy or hosting a Leader Dog mom, your dedication can help someone experience the world in a whole new way.

Visit LeaderDog.org/Volunteer or call [888.777.5332](tel:888.777.5332) to learn more and apply

P.S. Not the right time to volunteer as a breeding host or puppy raiser? Please consider forwarding this email to someone who might be a perfect fit!

With gratitude,
Leader Dogs for the Blind





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

Can Do Canines to Host Open House August 19

Can Do Canines invites you to attend an open house on Tuesday, August 19, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., at its Can Do Canines campus (9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, Minnesota). Potential volunteers, clients, or anyone who might be interested in supporting the organization can join us 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 dog host, talk with staff members from the volunteer department, pose questions to client services coordinators about the application process, and meet graduate teams from five types of areas Can Do Canines trains dogs: hearing, mobility, seizure, diabetes, and childhood autism.

Also, don't miss out on two special promotions during this open house! The first 75 people in attendance will receive a free cup of Culver's custard, thanks to Culver's-Golden Valley. Plus, all attendees can enter a drawing to win a Bogg beach bag (value \$72) plus accessories!

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

To request a sign language interpreter for the Open House, please contact Laurie at lcarlson@candocanines.org or 763-331-3000 at least 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 CanDoCanines.org.



REGIONAL LIONS
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

RLLI



Save the Date

September 25-28, 2025

Country Inn and Suites, Mankato

Empower Your Leadership. Enrich Your Service.



Join Lions from across the region for a transformational weekend of leadership development, fellowship, and service planning.

Dynamic sessions on:

- Team building and communication
- Leading with impact
- Change management
- Club success strategies

LEAD TO SERVE. SERVE TO LEAD.

Registration Opening Soon

Use the QR code to get more information



Why report service

By sharing our impact, Lions and Leos inform, inspire and grow our global legacy of service.



Strengthen storytelling

Details give stories power. Saying you fed 87 families is more powerful than saying you organized a food drive. Saying your club contributed 1,265 volunteer hours last year is more powerful than saying your club serves the community. When your club reports service, you collect the details needed to share powerful stories of your club's impact.



Photo by Lion Officer Pat,
The LEO Bull

Inform decisions

Documented club achievements reveal what's working and what's not. For example, what if your diabetes education program is growing in attendance, but your annual club fundraiser is shrinking? Reviewing past service reports helps your club make better decisions, including choosing service activities and setting realistic goals.

Inspire service

Your reported service projects can be viewed within your district and around the world. That means your club's creativity and impact can inspire Lions and Leos to embrace new causes and serve in new ways. Reports also help Lions International staff identify best practices to share globally.





MINNESOTA PCA website FACTS

Climate Change: Minnesota's climate is changing, with noticeable warming and increased precipitation. The Average annual temperature has increased by 3.0 degrees F between 1895 and 2020, and annual precipitation has increased by 3.4 inches.

Minnesota is getting warmer, especially winter nights in the northern parts of the state. Daily average minimum temperatures during winter (Dec-Feb) have increased 7.3 degrees from 1895-2021 in northern Minnesota, 6 degrees in central Minnesota and 4.9 degrees in southern Minnesota. Minnesota lakes have lost an average of 10 to 14 days of ice cover in the past 50 years. Have these changes affected your Lions Clubs activities? Please contact Lion Sandy or McKayla to explain how your club has had to adjust.

TEXAS FLOODING/LCIF

With all of the flooding in Texas, LCIF has been on the scene with a major disaster grant of \$100,000.00. Texas and LCIF can use some help. Should your Lions Club be in a financial position to help, please do so. Individual donations are also welcomed and appreciated.

For donation assistance, please contact either of District 5M8 LCIF Coordinators, PDG Frank Leidenfrost at 218-894-1935 or frankandamyl35@gmail.com or IPDG Deb Bialke at 320-248-6704 or liondebbialke@gmail.com

Thanks for being Lions and your service.

PDG's Frank and Deb



MNLERC load for Rosholt, WI -This is one of many Lions projects making a significant impact around the world. The local Lions Clubs in Pine City, MN are proud to be part of this service project. There are 100,000 pairs of used eyeglasses on this trailer.



Sobieski Lions Club having fun in the Bowlus parade!



The last couple of months have been busy here in 5M8 for the Hearing foundation. First, I would like to give a special thanks to Lion Bob Harms who just completed 6 years on the Minnesota Hearing Foundation. In the last 6 years lion Bob has been instrumental in promoting and getting several applicants hearing aids through the Affordable Hearing Aid program. Lion Bob was our go -to person for the Foundation in this program. He has agreed to provide us with help if we need it in the future. Second, we have an immediate need to fill the vacancy created when lion Bob's term on the board expired in June. If anyone out there is interested in this position, please contact me at 507-829-3565. I'm sure lion Bob will be happy to mentor any new member to the foundation as well. In June we had our 14th annual De -Feet walk for hearing in Bemidji and at the Arboretum in Chanhassen. Numbers of walkers was good, weather was excellent but donations were down from previous years. Your club can still donate to the walk. I can help with details. Finally, I can report that all the zone chairs will or have received their Hearing screening audiometer. Thanks to a grant and some forward thinkers in the District, we now have an additional 9 audiometers at our disposal. I am currently drafting a letter for the zone chairs to encourage them to contact schools to provide assistance this fall with hearing screenings in our District schools. We have conducted a few screenings since our last newsletter and cabinet meeting. The use of the machines will only increase. We need to get zone chairs as well as any other lions trained on the use of these audiometers. I expect our lions to accompany those units to the school or event that is having a screening. What an opportunity to provide a service project in your community. I'm looking forward to a busy, productive 2025-26 fiscal year. "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead"



St Joseph Y2K Lions worked the refreshment stand at the recent Tour of Saint and sponsored Senior Royalty in the July 4th Parade



DG Zach joined the Avon Hills Lions and reviewed their Pollinator Project along I94. Also DG Zach installed 4 new members, the new club officers & presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Connie Nelson, club treasurer.



PDG Pete & PCC Jack represented the Princeton Lions by sponsoring a "free" day at the local splash pad for the kids



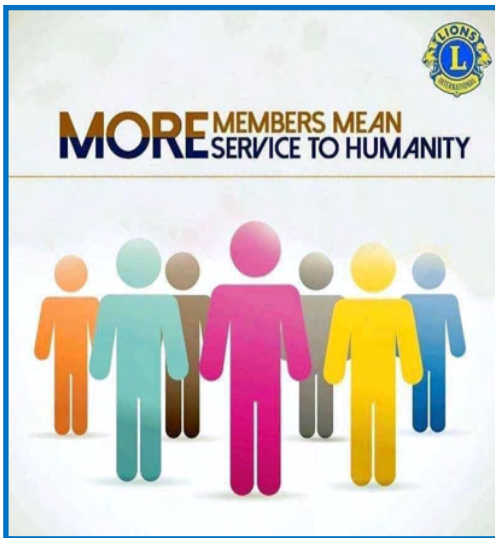


2025
Lions

International
Convention Fun!
Orlando Florida



Women & Family Specialist Report



I, Lion Cheri, just returned from the International Lions Convention in Orlando Florida where I was a voting delegate for my club. There were 3 resolutions which I voted on, 3 changes for Lions around the world.

Let me list them-

A resolution to authorize the association to include local taxes and fees to those clubs in which such fees and taxes apply. **PASSED**

A resolution to redistribute the number of International Directors by reducing the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas by one (1) International Director in the even years and two (2) International Directors in the odd years; Increasing South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea by one International director in the Even years/ and increasing India, South Asia and the Middle East by two (2) International Directors in odd years. **FAILED**

A resolution that will prohibit a District Governor, First Vice District Governor or Second Vice District Governor from being members of the same club. **PASSED**

I would like to address resolution number 2- THIS IS A BIG DEAL for us!! The only reason it did not pass is because the voting was done in the US and many from the US attended the convention but next year the International Convention is in Hong Kong and I can assure this well be addressed again in Hong Kong. A 2/3 majority of voting delegates is needed to pass this resolution.

Why is the US, Bermuda and Bahamas losing their International Directors? Our membership numbers have **DROPPED** steadily over the years. Clubs sometime voice their concern that all they hear is "Get new members! Start new clubs!" While other countries are growing the US is losing memberships. We need to quit ignoring the facts and work together as a district in increasing our clubs' memberships and help starting new clubs. Additional hands mean we can accomplish more service in your community. IF YOU know of a community who does not have a Lions Club and you think it's a possibility, please contact us, PDGs Bill & Donna Landwehr, DG Zach or our District GET team- PDG Vince & Lion Trish Thiel.

Service is tied closely to members in our clubs. It means that we can deliver more help to our community if we have the numbers to deliver these services. Each club is as unique as the community that it serves. Your Lions Club determines how to improve your community together, with more hands, more ideas and more connections. Imagine what can be accomplished! Increase your Club's strength, let the community know you care and remember to "Serve to Lead and Lead to Serve."

The 2024-2025 women membership goal was to add 15 more members than the previous year. We started with 870 women members, added 86 during the year and dropped 61 for a final total of 895 women members as of June 30, 2025. That's a plus (+) 25 from last year. Thank you for helping make our goal.

Submitted By
PDG Donna Mae Landwehr
PDG William Landwehr

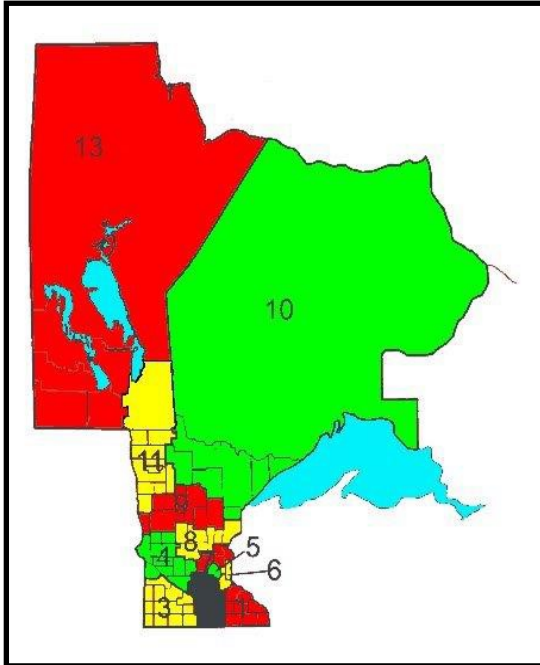


Help Wanted at the MN state Fair in the Vision, Hearing & Diabetes booth Sign up today!

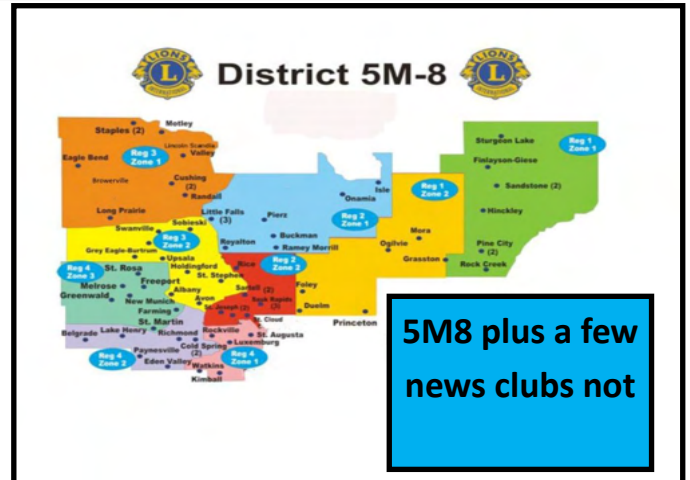
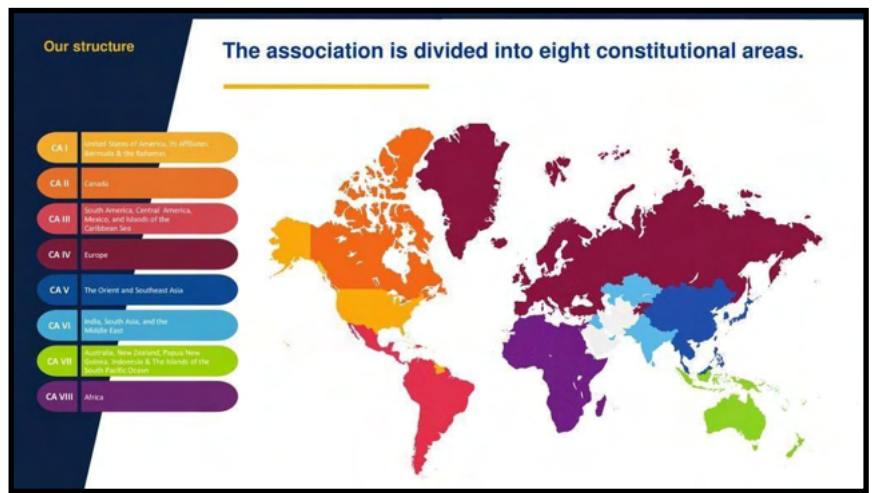
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B45A9A72AABFE3-51742227-2025#/>



The BIG picture!



**Multiple
District 5M
Districts
Minnesota
Manitoba
NW
Ontario**



**5M8 plus a few
news clubs not**

Lions terms and abbreviations we hear

CC	Council Chair	IVP	International Vice President
COG	Council of Governors	LCIF	Lions Clubs International Foundation
CS	Cabinet Secretary	LI	Lions International
DG	District Governor	LERC	Lions Eyeglass Recycling
DGE	District Governor Elect	LIONS	Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety
GAT	Global Action Team	MD	Multiple District
GET	Global Extension Team	PCC	Past Council Chair
GLT	Global Leadership Team	PDG	Past District Governor
GMT	Global Membership Team	PIP	Past International President
GST	Global Service Team	VD	Vice District Governor (1 st & 2 nd)
ID	International Director	VGE	Vice District Governor Elect
IP	Immediate President	YE	Youth Exchange
IPID	Immediate Past International Director	ZC	Zone Chair
IPED	Immediate Past International Director	ALLI	Advanced Lions Leadership Institute

*Rest
in Peace*



Lion Gerald Benson
Lion Ron Then

Foley Lions Club
St Stephen Lions Club

5M8 is very excited to welcome these new Lions to help us "SERVE" our communities and world. We look forward to working with you, side by side and striving to make a difference while having fun doing so. The list of new members is taken from the Lions International reports. If a new member is not listed yet, it is due to when Lions International receives the new member information from the club.



WELCOME NEW 5M8 LIONS MEMBERS



Wendy Sterba
Debra Backus
Dennis Backus
Charlie Schwegel
Tom Redding
Eric Wetzel
Gaynelle Templin
Alysia Iverson
Dab Spieker
Stephanie Jofdahl
Linda Mohlin
Cody Hanson
Kaie Biendare
Andrew Knosalla

Avon Hills Lions Club
Central MN Citizens Police Academy Lions Club
Central MN Citizens Police Academy Lions Club
Eden Valley Lions Club
Finlayson & Giese Lions Club
Isle Lions Club
Isle Lions Club
Lincoln Scandia Valley Township Lions Club
Long Prairie Lions Club
Motley Lions Club
Pine City Northern Lights Lions Club
Rock Creek Lions Club
St Joseph Y2K Lions Club
Staples Host Lions Club

5M8 Membership update as of

July 29, 2025

2809 Lions Members & 78 clubs

23 dropped members

14 members added

-9 Net growth

0.32% net Growth



Fiscal Year to Date Service as of July 29 5M8

95 Activities

19,073 overall people served

2,776 overall volunteer hours

51% clubs reporting

DATES TO REMEMBER



5M8 Mini-Forum

October 7, 2025 Jack & Jim's Duelm

5M8 Midwinter Convention

February 6-8, 2025 St Cloud MN

MD5M Multiple Convention

April 24-26, 2026 Sheraton Minnetonka MN

April 16-18, 2027 Kahler Hotel Rochester MN

April 28-30 Bid submitted by 5M8 to host in St Cloud

Lions International Convention

July 3-7 2026	Hong Kong
July 2-6, 2027	Washington DC USA
June 23-27, 2028	Singapore
June 29-July 3, 2029	Minneapolis MN
June 28-July 2, 2030	San Antonio TX
July 4-8, 2031	Helsinki, Finland

USA/CANADA Forum

September 18-20, 2025	Atlantic City New Jersey
September 3-5, 2026	Memphis Tennessee
September 16-18, 2027	Huntsville Alabama

STOP THE DROP!

Keep Our Lions Strong -
Keep Our Members Engaged



WHY IT MATTERS:

Every Lion counts. When members leave, we lose passion, hands, and heart for our service. Let's act now to **STOP the DROP!**

* 6 SIMPLE ACTIONS EVERY CLUB CAN TAKE!

-  **Connect Personally**
Reach out to absent members with a call, text, or visit. Show you care beyond the meetings.
 -  **Ask & Listen**
Survey your members: What do they love? What needs improving? Listen and act on their feedback.
 -  **Make Meetings Meaningful**
Keep meetings fun, inspiring, and efficient. Celebrate service, not just business.
 -  **Engage Everyone**
Assign small roles or tasks so every Lion feels needed. Involve members in planning projects they care about.
 -  **Recognize and Appreciate**
Celebrate milestones (years of service, birthday, *achievements*). Say "Thank You" often and sincerely.
 -  **Have More Fun!**
Plan social nights, service celebrations, and lighthearted competitions. Laugh, bond, and make memories together -
-  **REMEMBER:** Retention isn't just about staying - It's about belonging. Strong Clubs - Strong Service! Together, We Can Stop the Drop!



Our Vision To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

Our Mission

To empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

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



April 24-26, 2026
106th - MD5M Multiple Convention
Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel
2026 MD5M Registration Form



☐ Lion ☐ Leo ☐ Guest
☐ Check if this is your 1st Multiple Convention

☐ Lion ☐ Leo ☐ Guest
☐ Check if this is your 1st Multiple Convention

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ City: _____
Prov/State: _____ Zip: _____ Prov/State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Email: _____
Title: _____ District: _____ Title: _____ District: _____
Club: _____ Club: _____

Full Hospitality Book:

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

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

*Hospitality book includes convention and all meals

Separate Meals:

*Do not select if you have purchased a hospitality book

Friday Night Social	\$25 US - \$36 CDN _____	\$27 US - \$39 CDN _____
Saturday Breakfast	\$36 US - \$52 CDN _____	\$38 US - \$55 CDN _____
Saturday Lunch	\$41 US - \$59 CDN _____	\$43 US - \$62 CDN _____
Saturday Banquet	\$68 US - \$98 CDN _____	\$70 US - \$101 CDN _____
Sunday Brunch	\$38 US - \$55 CDN _____	\$40 US - \$58 CDN _____

Total amount if separate meals chosen: _____

Please specify dietary needs: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other: _____

No meals available after March 31, 2026.

Make Checks payable to: 2026 MD5M Conv.

Mail registrations to: 2026 MD5M Convention c/o Rhonna Hed, 17440 45th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55446

-OR- you may pay by Venmo to: @Rhonna-Hed Then Email your registrations to: rhed@summitfire.com

Please provide an email address or phone # if you'd like to receive a confirmation _____

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](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact: PCC Rob Rand at (612) 715-6055, robrandmn@gmail.com

Lion Rhonna Hed at (651) 248-0749, rhed@summitfire.com

LCIF

PDG Frank Leidenfrost

frankandamyl35@gmail.com

IPDG Deb Bialke

liondebbialke@gmail.com



MN Lions Vision Foundation

Lion Jordan Haukos

jordo1997@yahoo.com cell 320-828-7226

Lion Sherri Schmitz

allen.sherri.schmitz@gmail.com



MN Lions Hearing Foundation

PDG Mike Appel

leppa73@mnval.net

Vacant- Help Needed



MN Lions Diabetes Foundation

PDG Dave Thompson

dthompson1530@gmail.com

Lion Cathy Talbert

cathytalb95@gmail.com



MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation

PDG Jeff Thompson

lionjeffthompson@gmail.com

Lion Bob Thompson

rthompson@minpack.com



5M8 Leader Dog

PDG Tracy Voigt

mnhomeof4@hotmail.com 320-630-1264



KIDSIGHT

Lion Marty Breuer

kidsightmd5m.org/resources.php

mjbreuer@msn.com

Vacant- Help Needed



Environmental

PDG Sandy Sandwich

_ssandwick.17@gmail.com

Lion Makayla Thompson

thompsonmakayla400@gmail.com



Can Do Canines

PDG Pete Kleingartner—C: 763-234-9126

mpsaklein@live.com

Lion Jean Euteneuer—C: 320-290-6991

euteneuer@charter.net



MN Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

Lion Bob Thompson teddibob@gmail.com 612-390-2629 www.MNLERC.org



Project New Hope

Lion Shaelyn Hilbrands shilbrands9@hotmail.com

Lion Dave Shofner davecarrieshofner@gmail.com



Leo's /Youth Exchange

Lion Christine Wosmek chriswozmek@gmail.com

Lion Trish Thiel tltboots@yahoo.com



Peace Poster/Essay

Lion Becky Stanart wonderwomanbls@aol.com

Lion Lisa Gohmen Lisa.gohman@gmail.com



Sheehan Foundation PDG Donna Landwehr billanddonnal@q.com teamsheehan.foundation

Global Leadership Coordinators

PDG Allen Bailey atbailey@eaglevalleytel.net

PCC Jack Breitreutz jabre@izoom.net

Lion Carrie Shofner davecarrieshofner@gmail.com



Global Service Team Coordinators

PDG Amy Leidenfrost head coordinator frankandamyl35@gmail.com

Vacant– Help Needed



Global Membership Team Coordinators

Lion Jordan Haukos jordo1997@yahoo.com 320-828-7226

Lion Caleb Anderson calebjohn133@gmail.com

Lion Mike Shay lionmikeshay@icloud.com

GMT 5M8 Team

Global Extension Team Coordinators

PDG Vince Thiel

Lion Trish Thiel

vincethiel@yahoo.com

tltboots@yahoo.com



GMT Women's & Family Specialist

Lion Cheri Appel

PDG Donna Landwehr

PDG Bill Landwehr

Cheri52appel@gmail.com

billanddonnal@q.com

billanddonnal@q.com

Opportunities to grow!

Lions University: Provided by the Forum since 2014, you can take all the courses you want for free, however graduation requirement do include attendance at events. @ lionsuniversity.org

Lions Learning Institute: LCI's online learning portal. @lionsclubs.org

Lions Virtual: Ongoing Zoom educational and social activities, and a mobile app that incorporates social sharing and other resources.

Global Lions Forum: Facebook Group with great discussions on topics of interests to Lions.

Please send your events, announcements, and photos to: 5M8 Newsletter Editor

5M8Newsletter@gmail.com

“The deadline to submit Articles, and notices for the District 5M8 Newsletter is the **20th** of each month “



2024-2025 Lions International Officers

International President

Arvinder Pal Singh

Kolkata India

Lion President Immediate Past President

Fabricio Olivera, Catole do Rocha, Brazil

1st V.P. Mark Lyon

Brookfield Connecticut USA

2nd V.P. Dr. Manoj Shah Nairobi Kenya

3rd V.P. Tony Benbow South Vermont
Australia

District 5M8 Officers

District Governor Zach Wosmek

lionzachwosmek@gmail.com

1VDG Diann Belmont

lionpridecs@gmail.com

Secretary Colleen Rosenow, Watkins

colleen.rosenow.5m8@gmail.com

Treasurer David Thompson, Princeton

dthompson7053@yahoo.com



Websites to know

Lions Club International: [www: lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

Multiple District 5M: [www: lionsmd5m.org](http://www.lionsmd5m.org)

District 5M8: [www: lions5M8.org](http://www.lions5M8.org)

Lions Program Sites

Can Do Canines: [www: candocanines.org](http://www.candocanines.org)

Childhood Cancer: [www: MNlionschildhoodcancer.org](http://www.MNlionschildhoodcancer.org)

KidsSight MD5M: [www: lionsmd5m.org/lions-kidsight.html](http://www.lionsmd5m.org/lions-kidsight.html)

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF): [www: lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)

Leader Dog for the Blind: [www: leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org)

MN Lions Diabetes Foundation: www.mnlionsdiabetes.org

MN Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center: [www: MNLERC.org](http://www.MNLERC.org)

MN Lions Hearing Foundation: www.5mhf.org

MN Lions Vision Foundation: www.mnlionsvisionfoundation.org

Project New Hope: [www: projectnewhope.net](http://www.projectnewhope.net)

Sheehan Foundation [www,teamsheehan.foundation](http://www.teamsheehan.foundation)

