



# 5M8 News

We Serve

5M8 Newsletter  
[www.lions5m8.org](http://www.lions5m8.org)  
 March 2026

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**CALLING ALL HEROES!**  
 A SUPER HERO-THEMED SERVICE CARNIVAL for the WHOLE COMMUNITY!

Grab your cape and unleash your superpowers—you're invited to an action-packed **Service Carnival** celebrating the amazing work of our Lions foundations and community partners!

**What's Happening?**

- ✓ FREE KidSight Vision Screenings
- ✓ FREE Hearing Screenings
- ✓ Meet the amazing heroes from all our foundation programs
- ✓ Connect with United Way
- ✓ Fun, family friendly activities & PRIZES!

**WHEN & WHERE:**  
**MARCH 10TH, 2026**  
 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
 ST. CLOUD GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

**How You Can Be a Hero**

- Attend and support local service organizations
- Spread the word to friends and family
- Volunteer! We can always use more helping hands

**PRIZES!**

Whether you come to learn, support, or serve—every hero makes a difference.  
 Suit up, show up, and help us make our community stronger—one superhero at a time!



### 17th Annual Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation Research Update March 7, 2026

Hosted by the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc.

More than 29 million people in the United States are living with diabetes—a growing number that includes 340,000 people in Minnesota alone. Unfortunately, that number is on the rise.

Join us at the annual Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation *Research Update* to hear from University of Minnesota scientists, who are conducting leading-edge research aimed at both preventing and curing diabetes. Learn first hand how these scientists, funded by the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, are making a direct impact in our community, state, and beyond.

Following the research presentations, guests will have the chance to interact with the scientists one on one, learn more about their research, and ask questions. There will also be silent auction items where you will have the opportunity to support the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation in their mission.

Saturday, March 7, 2026		Best Western Plus Kelly Inn
11 a.m.	Registration and Social	State/Sunwood Ballroom
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	100 4th Ave. S.
12:30 p.m.	Program	
	St. Cloud, MN 56301 2:30 p.m.	
	Meet n' Greet with Scientists	

#### Faculty Research Presentations:

Among the Faculty Research Presentations by scientists will be:

- Comprehensive analysis of human antibody reactivity to porcine (pig) xenogeneic antigens in patients currently on the waiting list for human organ transplantation - Dr. Bernhard Hering, Dr. Adams, Dr. McGregor
- Adoption of islet cell transplants from adult cells as a functional cure for type 1 and type 2 diabetes (GOAL - Islet cell transplants without need for antirejection drugs) - Dr. Bernhard Hering

RSVP by Tuesday, February 24

RSVP via email to [MNLionsDiabetesFdn@gmail.com](mailto:MNLionsDiabetesFdn@gmail.com)

A Zoom Link will be emailed to those unable to attend in person.

Please request Zoom link by email above.

A confirmation email will be sent prior to event.



**Save the Date!**  
**Thanksgiving for Vision**  
 Saving and Restoring people's sight

**OCTOBER 24, 2026**  
 Holiday Inn & Suites  
 ST. CLOUD, MN

More Details Coming Soon!



# News from 5M8



## Hello Lions of 5M8!



March is rolling in with a little extra sparkle of green and a whole lot of Lion pride! With St. Patrick's Day right around the corner, we're reminded that the real "luck" in our district isn't found in four-leaf clovers — it's found in the hearts of our incredible Lions who show up, step up, and serve every single day.



## Midwinter Convention = A Roaring Success!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended the Midwinter Convention! What an incredible weekend! It went over extremely well, and while there are definitely some fantastic ideas we took away to make next year even better, I think we can all confidently say... it was a success! The energy, fellowship, learning, and laughter reminded us exactly why we love being Lions. When 5M8 comes together, amazing things happen.



## Leadership Congratulations!

We have so much to celebrate in our district leadership!



### 2nd Vice District Governor Elect – Kimberly Stommes

Kim, you are such a strong and confident woman. I know you will make your year one to remember — and I have no doubt you will make your grandfather proud as you step into a role he once held before you. What a beautiful legacy of service!



### 1st Vice District Governor Elect – Marty Breuer

Marty, thank you so much for stepping up and filling the gap in our leadership. That takes courage and heart. Please remember, there are so many amazing Lions in this district — if you ever need help, we are just a phone call away!



### District Governor Elect – Diann Belmont

Diann, I know you will make us all proud. Your year, alongside our incoming IP Mark Lyons, will absolutely be one to remember. I can already hear that service ringing loud and clear!



## Club Visits – Let's Get You on the Calendar!

So many incredible things are happening across the district, and I'm working with clubs to set up visits for the rest of my year. If you haven't reached out yet — I need you!

With 73 clubs in our district, that's simply too many for the DG to be chasing down dates. If you want me out to visit your club, please have your secretaries or presidents reach out and get on the calendar. I would love to see you!



## March Highlights

March is shaping up to be a fun and busy month! Council of Governors is right around the corner. Our final cabinet meeting is at the end of the month. And don't forget...



## Roar & Pour – March 12th at 7:00 PM

Hosted with:  
Past International President Brian Sheehan  
Jodi Burmester

## Daniel Marney Elkins

Sponsored by the Lions of the United States! This month's theme? "The Luck of the Lions!"



So wear your best green, bring your Lion spirit, and let's make our own luck together!

Thank you all for everything you continue to do to make this amazing district even better. The dedication, compassion, and energy across 5M8 truly inspire me every day.

Here's to a March full of service, fellowship, and just the right amount of Irish luck!

## Zach Wosmek

District Governor - District 5M8  
(320) 905-803 // Cell



MISSION 1.5

We're on a mission to grow.

## District Governor Elect Diann Belmont



Hello, Lions of District 5M8,  
 Congratulations to District Governor Zach on a wonderful Mid-Winter Convention! It was filled with fun, great food, fellowship, and powerful life lessons centered around our Lion causes. It was such a pleasure visiting and catching up with many of you at the "Broadcast Your Roar" District 5M8 Mid-Winter Convention. With a few changes from previous years, Lions gathered in the pool area for fellowship and enjoyed wonderful snacks, appetizers, and refreshments provided by the Swanville and Metro Lions in the hospitality room. The DJ did a fantastic job keeping Lions in proper "movement mode on Friday evening! We were honored to welcome International Director David Wentworth and his partner in service, Lion Valerie. ID David, delivered a truly motivational presentation reminding us: "Your attitude in life will affect all in your life."

He shared the Power in Life through: the steps of ATTITUDE

- Acceptance
- Time
- Talent
- Imagine
- Trust
- Unstoppable
- Dance

Enjoy

ID David truly was "The Great Showman," delivering an uplifting and inspiring presentation. He even gave juggling lessons to my husband Bob, who was the newest Lion at the convention! We also learned practical skills from Lion Daniel Marty Elkins, who provided a great session on using ChatGPT for writing songs, completing Lion reports, and enhancing club events. Our convention concluded with International Director Bert Nelson, who shared his humor, insight, and wisdom on growing in Lionism. His combination of comedy and awareness was both engaging and inspiring.

### A Personal Note of Gratitude

I also experienced a great surprise and honor during the convention when I received the recognition of Distinguished Leadership. I am truly humbled and grateful for this acknowledgment. This honor reflects not only my efforts, but the dedication, mentorship, and support of the many Lions I have had the privilege to serve alongside. Thank you, DG Zach for your encouragement and belief in our shared mission. Congratulations to all who received awards that evening.

### Leadership Updates

I want to sincerely thank District 5M8 for electing me as your District Governor Elect for 2026–2027. I am honored and grateful for your trust.

During the convention, we hosted a Leadership Meeting open to anyone interested in learning more about entering leadership

roles within Lionism. This opportunity helped Lion Martin Breuer of the Mora Lions Club, along with his club's support, make the decision to step forward as First Vice District Governor. Following a special election, Lion Martin Breuer was nominated as our FVDGE.

Congratulations as well to Second Vice District Governor Kimberly Stommes of the Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions Club!

### Upcoming Service Focus

- March – Hunger Please ensure your clubs have hunger-related service events planned and be ready to report your service.
- April – Environment As requested by International President AP Singh, let us be prepared to serve in environmental initiatives next month.

### Important Reminders

- Lion Portal Accounts: Statements are no longer mailed. Please check your Lion Portal account at least once per month.
- Officer Elections: It is time to elect club officers. Please ensure all officer information is entered into the portal by May 1st.
- Officer Training (April): Upcoming officer trainings will be held in April and May. Please attend to learn the latest in Lionism and leadership updates.

### Upcoming Events

- Northern Pride Forum – Duluth: March 20–21
  - ELLI Training Event: April 17–19
- Multiple District Convention – Minneapolis, MN: April 24–26  
 Please encourage your club members to participate in these excellent growth and leadership opportunities.

Thank you for your trust, your dedication, and your commitment to Lions Clubs International. I am excited for the year ahead and look forward to serving alongside each of you.

With gratitude and enthusiasm,

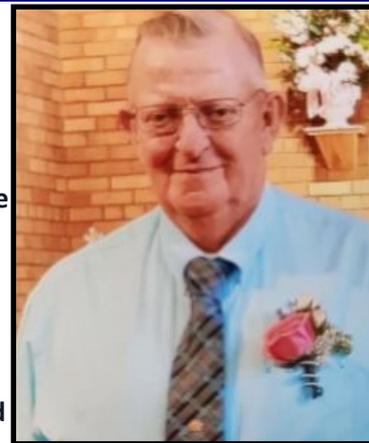
Diann Belmont District  
 Governor Elect 2026–2027  
 District 5M8





## Past District Governor Erling Olson

District Governor 5M8 1989-1990



Erling Olson of Rock Creek passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026, in his home at the age of 83. Erling Marshall Olson was born January 15, 1943, to Marshall and Thora (Hoff) Olson in Rush City, Minnesota. Erling attended West Rock School, and later graduated from Pine City High School in 1961. After graduation, he began working at the Greely Creamery and then hauled cattle for Harold Johnson.

On February 15, 1964, Erling married Lynn Monster. They purchased a dairy farm in Rock Creek. In 1998, the dairy cows were sold. This allowed him time to go fishing in Canada and attend auctions all over Minnesota and the Dakotas. Erling and Lynn collected tractors, both full size and toy, crocks, gas engines, guns and anything that he thought was a deal. This allowed him to meet and B.S. with new and old friends. He enjoyed going to the Rock Creek Café to 'shoot the breeze' and sharpen his wit. They spent many days fishing and enjoying the beauty of the Canadian wilderness.

Following Lynn's death, Erling met Barb Kranick at a grief seminar. They were married on April 11, 2015 in Pine City. Erling and Barb continued going to the cabin to enjoy the Canadian sunsets and fishing, along with sharing laughter with their many friends. Erling enjoyed reading books on farming, machinery parts, and attending numerous auctions. He was a Case fan for years, until Barb got him to see the John Deere light. They were happy to see cattle re-introduced to the farm in 2020. He could spend hours watching the cows and calves or driving around the machinery in his side-by-side with his dog. He always had a pet that was spoiled and loved. Erling stayed in the farmhouse close to everything he loved until he passed. He was a farmer at heart until the day he died.

Erling served as the Mayor of Rock Creek for 8 years. He was an active charter member of the Rock Creek Lions, serving as President for 2 years, Secretary 3 years, and was the District Governor of 5M8 from 1989-1990. He received two Melvin Jones awards and helped initiate the Grasston Lions Chapter. He was also a member of the Rollag Threshing Show and St. John's Lutheran Church in Rush City. He was nearly 40 years sober. Erling spent his free time hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and watching sunsets from the deck at his second favorite place, his cabin in Canada.

Erling is survived by his wife Barb Olson; children: Steve (Marsha) Olson, Scott (Shannon) Olson, Wayne (Lisa) Olson; bonus children: Lisa Kelley, Leah (Roger) Palmer, Lana (David "Chum") Lewerenz; grandchildren Jeremy Olson, Andrew Olson, Monica (Joshua) Leaf, Megan Olson, Kasey Olson; step-grandchildren Brian, Alyssa, Stephanie, Ami, Amelia (Terry), Donald, Matthew (Sarah), Mason (Sierra), Amanda (Kody), Montgomery (Emma), Lexi (Riley), Addy; several step-great grandchildren; canine companions Angel and Diesel.

He was preceded in death by his parents Marshall and Thora; first wife Lynn; grandson Carl; step-daughters Lori and Lynn.



*Pastor Paul Anderson will officiate funeral services for Erling: 11 AM; Friday, February 27, 2026 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Rush City. A time for family and friends to gather is planned from 5-7 PM; Thursday, February 26 at the Olson Funeral Chapel in Rush City and also one hour prior to the funeral service at the church. The interment will take place at a later date at West Rock Cemetery, Rock Creek.*

**Thank You PDG Erling for your Service to Lions International and District 5M8**

### ATTENTION CLUB SECRETARIES, CLUB ADMINISTRATORS, OR CLUB SERVICE COORDINATORS

February is coming to an end – remember to report your club's global service activities on the Lions Club Portal. Also please report your club's

meeting. You can also go back and report on any month you might have missed since July 1, 2026.

Thank you for all the services that you and your club have provided. Thank you to those clubs who report monthly.

Global Service Team

PDG Amy Leidenfrost

PCC Debbi Harms



## 2026 Parade of Green Donation Totals

LCIF	<u>\$ 43,300.00</u>
MN Lions Hearing Foundation	<u>29,725.00</u>
MN Lions Vision Foundation	<u>40,918.75</u>
Leader Dogs for the Blind	<u>26,175.00</u>
Can Do Canines	<u>24,300.00</u>
District 5M8 Foundation Childhood Cancer	<u>22,650.00</u>
District 5M8 Foundation Diabetes	<u>33,450.00</u>
District 5M8 Kidsight	<u>18,000.00</u>
District 5M8 Foundation Leos	<u>2525.00</u>
District 5M8 Foundation Peace Poster	<u>325.00</u>
District 5M8 Foundation Youth Exchange	<u>250.00</u>
District 5M8 Foundation Youth Outreach	<u>950.00</u>
District 5M8 Foundation Undesignated	<u>                    </u>
Special Olympics	<u>                    </u>
Project New Hope	<u>14,100.00</u>
Team Sheehan Foundation	<u>12,300.00</u>
Friendship Venture/True Friends	<u>                    </u>
Camp Confidence	<u>5,850.00</u>
MN Lions Mission, Inc.	<u>5,300.00</u>
Environmental	<u>                    </u>
Other	<u>                    </u>
Other	<u>                    </u>
<b>Grand Total Donations</b>	<b><u>\$280,118.75</u></b>

***Thank You to all the Lions Clubs from 5M8 who work tirelessly and give so generously! YOU ARE AWESOME! 5M8 ROCKS!!!!***

**Add to these total:**

**Saturday Tail twisting for Diabetes \$410.00**

**Sunday Tail twisting & Human Slot Machine Donations \$1590.00 proceeds to LCIF Special Olympics**



Acceptance Speech – District Governor (2026–2027) Diane Bellmont

Good morning, fellow Lions, distinguished guests, and friends,

I am deeply honored and truly humbled to stand before you today as I accept the position of District Governor for District 5M8. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me, and I do not take this responsibility lightly. This moment is not about one individual—it represents the collective strength, service, and heart of every Lion in our district.

First, I want to thank the Lions of District 5M8 for your confidence and support. To my mentors and fellow leaders who have guided me along the way—thank you for your encouragement and wisdom. And to my family, who support me through every meeting, project, and late night—thank you for your patience, love, and belief in me.

Lions Clubs International has shaped my life in meaningful ways. One of the experiences I am most proud of is being part of the development of the Stearns County Heartland Champions Lions Club. Building that club alongside Lion Rose Hansen, their dedicated mentor, and Guiding Lions Trish and Vince Theil reminded me

what Lions do best—come together to create something lasting that serves others and strengthens our communities.

Through our service—whether supporting vision and hearing programs, addressing diabetes and hunger, investing in youth, or meeting local community needs—I have seen how powerful our impact can be when we work together. Service is our calling, and it is what unites us.

As we begin the 2026–2027 Lions year, my theme is “Let Service Ring.” Let it ring in our clubs, in our communities, and in our hearts. Let it ring as we strengthen our clubs, develop future leaders, grow membership, and ensure every Lion feels valued and inspired to serve.

Leadership is never about standing alone—it is about standing together. I ask each of you to join me this year: to serve with passion, to lead with integrity, and to support one another. When we do that, there is no limit to what District 5M8 can accomplish.

Thank you for your trust, your dedication, and your commitment to Lions Clubs International. I am excited for the year ahead and honored to serve alongside you.

Together, let service ring—and let’s get to work.

**5M8 Leadership Team**  
District Governor Zach Wozmek, 2nd Vice District Elect Governor Kim Stommes, 1st Vice District Governor Elect Marty Breuer,



Leadership is never about standing alone—it is about standing together. I ask each of you to join me this year: to serve with passion, to lead with integrity, and to support one another. When we do that, there is no limit to what District 5M8 can accomplish. Thank you for your trust, your dedication, and your commitment to Lions Clubs International. I am excited for the year ahead and honored to serve alongside you. Together, let service ring—and let’s get to work.



**5M8 Leos received a signed snowman from International Director Bert Nelson**



Both of these are to good not to share with all of 5M8

Fellow Lions, Leos, visiting Lions, and honored guests:  
 We gather today as part of something truly extraordinary.  
 As Lions Clubs International moves beyond its centennial, we now stand as a global family of nearly 1.4 million Lions, serving in more than 200 countries and geographic areas around the world. With that global family in mind, let us pause together and give thanks. Please bow your heads.  
 In Pakistan, families begin each meal with the words:  
*"I begin in the name of God, most gracious and ever merciful."*  
 In Israel, the blessing is spoken:  
*"Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe."*  
 In Ghana, one gives thanks by saying:  
*"Earth—when I am about to die, I lean on you.  
 Earth—when I am alive, I depend on you."*  
 In Latin America, a prayer is offered:  
*"To those who have hunger, give bread.  
 To those who have bread, give the hunger for justice."*  
 In American Sign Language, gratitude is expressed simply and powerfully with the sign for *"Thank you."*  
 And among the Native American Plains peoples, food is blessed with smoke, giving thanks to the Great Spirit for the "resources and relationships that made the meal possible."  
 As Lions, we pray:  
 Almighty God—  
 May Your love be our liberty,  
 May Your grace guide our intelligence,  
 May Your will be our nation's safety,  
 For Yours is the power and the glory.  
 May this meal nourish our bodies, renew our spirits, and strengthen us for the work ahead.  
 As we return to our local clubs after this convention, let us remember that we are not just neighbors- we are a global community of service. May we continue to give thanks, to act with compassion, and to proudly live our motto: WE SERVE.  
 Amen.  
 Written by PDG Mike Appel & 2nd VDGE Kim Stommes

- Hospitality room "CORN"**
- St Cloud Metro Lions Club**
- 8 cans whole kernel corn
  - 2 cans rotel tomatoes
  - 4 8 Oz blocks cream cheese
  - 2 sticks butter
  - 1 cup heavy whipping cream
  - Sea salt & pepper to taste
  - Put in crock pot until hot
  - Toppings: sliced jalapenos, bacon bits, hot sauce, barb que sauce



Some of the Registration "crew"



Some of the Hospitality "crew"

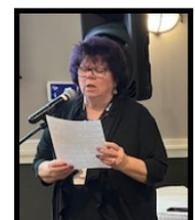
In Loving Memory UNTIL WE MEET again  
 We think about you always,  
 we talk about you still  
 You have never been forgotten  
 And you never will.  
 We hold you close within our hearts,  
 and there you will remain.  
 To walk and guide us



IPDG Deb & DG Zach & the Official "passing of the gavel" and start of Midwinter convention.



Just some "fund" for LCIF





Zone Chair Angie Schuerman was given the 2nd highest honor, the International President Medal



VDG Dianne Bellmont was given the 3rd highest honor the Leadership Medal



The 4th highest honor was given to PCC Deb Harms, 2nd VDGE Kim Stommes & Lion Christine Wozmek

*Congratulations to All*

PCC Judy Loken was voted 5M8 Hall of Fame recipient. She will be honored at the Multiple Convention in April



1st Place Isaiah Bredeck \$250.00 sponsored by Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions



2nd Place Blake Roshaven \$225.00 sponsored by St Joseph Lions Club

3rd Place Kiera Suchy \$200.00 Sponsored by Paynesville Lions Club



Theme for 2025-2026 "Together as One"





PDG Daniel Marney Elkins



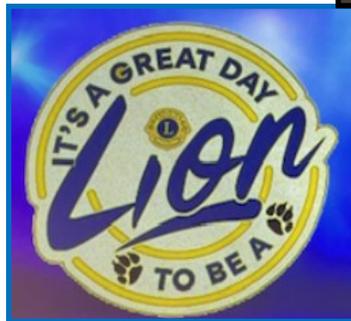
International Director David Wentworth & Lion Valerie Wentworth



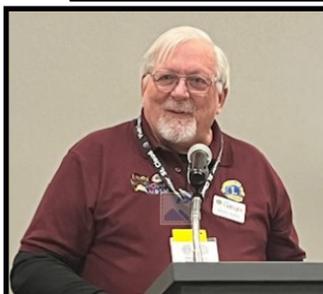
Bri's Lodge Program



International Directors David Wentworth & Bert Nelson



Fun was had by all!





**Cold Spring & Homepride  
Lions Clubs**

# All You Can Eat Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

Includes garlic  
bread and  
beverages



Adults: \$10  
Kids 12 and Under:  
\$5

**Red River Inn**  
All Dinners are  
from 5 to 7 pm

**First Monday of the Month**  
October 6th, November 3rd  
December 1st, January 5th,  
February 2nd, and March 2nd

# Annual Rice Lions Breakfast

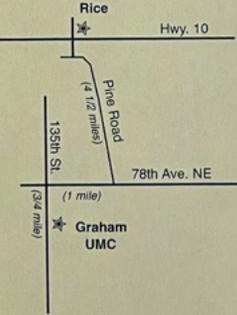
Sunday, March 1st, 2026  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Graham United  
Methodist Church  
Dining Hall

Serving: French Toast, Eggs, Sausage, Juice, Coffee

**Silent Auction**  
Tools, Gift Certificates, Wildlife Prints, Craft Items

**Bake Sale**

Sponsored by  
Rice Lions Club

Adults \$11.00 (\$10.00 in advance)  
Children (7-12) \$5.00  
Children (6 and under) FREE

Proceeds to Sauk Rapids/Rice Deep Portage Trip



# 21st Annual LENTEN FISH FRY

FARMING LIONS

## FRIDAY MARCH 20 4:30-8:30PM

Trapper's Pub + Grub

**\$15 ADVANCE**  
**\$17 AT THE DOOR**  
**CHILDREN 5-12 \$8**  
**CHILDREN 5 & UNDER FREE**

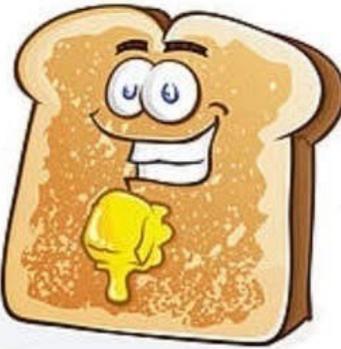


# Buckman Area Lions Breakfast

**Sunday March 29th**  
"Palm Sunday"  
8 am until 11 am

St. Michael's Church Hall Buckman, Mn.





Please bring your old  
prescription  
eyeglasses to donate  
for the Lions Eyeglass  
Recycle Program.



French Toast, Thielen Sausage & Full Buffet

12 and up \$14  
4 - 11 \$7  
3 and Under Free

Help Support the Local Community



**Can Do Canines Fetching Ball Gala**

Can Do Canines will host its annual Fetching Ball Gala on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**. This year's event will be held at the Radisson Blu Mall of America, and KARE 11 Anchor Lauren Leamanczyk will serve 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](http://candocanines.org/fetchingball) for more information and to purchase tickets by April 1.




**Sal's Bar**

109 West Minnesota Street St. Joseph, Mn.

**Fish Fry**

**Meat/Mega Meat Raffle**



**April 3rd**  
**4pm -7pm**



**Proceeds go to:**  
**St. Joseph Lions Club Endeavors**

**Adult: \$13**  
**Ages 6-12: \$7**  
**Ages 0-5: Free**  
**Takeout Available**

Meal includes:  
Fried Fish  
Chicken Strips  
Potato Salad  
Green Beans  
Mashed Potato & Gravy  
Dinner Roll

**St. Cloud Lions Club**

*Pancake Breakfast*



**ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**50/50 Raffle and limited Silent Auction**




**Sunday, April 19, 2026 8:30 until noon**

**Moose Lodge, 1300 3<sup>rd</sup> Street N., Waite Park, MN**

Adults (13 yrs and up) \$12; Children (5-12 yrs) \$6; 4 yrs and under FREE



## CLUB OFFICER TRAINING AND ZONE CHAIR TRAINING FOR LIONS YEAR 2026-2027!

The Dates have been set! If you are an incoming Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Zone chairs for next Lion year, please plan to attend One of the In person sessions below!

Have you been in your position for a very long time? We need you at this training. why? 1. Because we need your expertise. You've been in this position for a while and we need you to help others understand what the position entails and your knowledge will be essential in the collaboration session. 2. LCI Is changing all the time, to keep up to date and keep your Club moving in the right direction there is essential information that you should be up to speed on every year. Please plan to attend. You may learn something new.

I will have a sign up online that will be coming out in the next newsletter or in the near future from your zone chair so please do look for that and please sign up. The reason I need you to sign up on the sign up sheet is for space for the training and also for food and drinks that will be provided. Please plan to attend at least one of these trainings if you are in one of these listed positions.

There will be a group training and then we will break out into your individual areas for collaboration sessions and resident experts to teach in your respective area. I have planned for 2 and 1/2 hours but that does not mean that we're going to use that whole time. I'm doing that so that people who want to ask questions or need extra time to learn properly.

### MARK THE DATES!!!

Wednesday **May 20th** 6-8:30pm  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
901 W Broadway Ave, Little Falls

Thursday **May 21st** 6-8:30pm  
Veterans Memorial Building, Mora

Saturday **May 30th** 9:30am - 12pm  
River of Life Church  
22881 178th Ave Cold Spring  
Door 13 - Fireside Room

Be looking this fall for new member orientation meetings and membership chair trainings. We heard you and we are going to accommodate. More on that next year.

\*\*\*\*If you are unable to make these three trainings, trainings for your respective areas are online in your lions portal. If you're unable to attend the meetings, it is expected that you go through the trainings online. If you have problems finding your trainings online, please reach out to the GLT team for further information and help.  
\*\*\*\*\*

I look forward to seeing ALL Club officers and Zone Chairs at this year's training for next year's leaders!

Thank you, GLT Team Carrie, Jack and Allen



Thank you to everyone who supported the Parade of Green at the 5M8 Convention. Your generosity allows the MN Lions Vision Foundation to continue serving individuals experiencing vision loss across our communities. We are grateful for your commitment to preserving sight and changing lives. Many Lions clubs currently have \$1,000 or more in their Helen Keller accounts, making them eligible to present prestigious Helen Keller Awards. These awards recognize outstanding individuals—both Lions and community members—who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to serving those with vision challenges. Clubs are encouraged to contact Lion Jordan or Lion Sherri to determine how many awards your club is eligible to present. Applications for the Helen Keller Award can be downloaded at: [www.mnlionsvisionfoundation.org/helen-keller-award/](http://www.mnlionsvisionfoundation.org/helen-keller-award/)



**SAVE THE DATE: SHE LEADS ~ A Global Lions Symposium**  
 Sunday, March 8, 2026 ~ International Women's Day  
 8 a.m. Central Standard Time

This International Women's Day, join us for She Leads—a powerful, global, symposium uplifting women in Lionism and shaping the future of inclusive leadership in service.

Theme: Empowering Women. Inspiring Action, Leading Together  
 For Lions, Leos, Allies and Change-makers worldwide. It's Global & Worldwide!

Register at: <https://lionsvirtual-org.zoom.us/j/niwkOFXDTL6HfoHKwAVWeQ>  
 Meeting ID: 879 1014 7859 Passcode: 636835

Full Join Instructions ~ Expect powerful panels, Regional spotlights and hold dialogue on:

- Leadership & Visibility
- Global storytelling & allyship
- Strategies for growth and inclusive innovation

Together, we rise. Together, She Leads.

#SheLeads #LionsWomenLead #IWD2026 #GlobalSymposium #LeadToServe



## Global Service March 2026

Lions Clubs International recognizes April as Environmental Awareness Month. This global initiative encourages members to protect the planet through large scale projects and community service.

Week of service is scheduled for April 18-26. This week is dedicated to high impact environmental activities. Some activities for your clubs to consider:

- Cleanup:** Clean ditches, a park, a beach, community gardens or planters etc.
- Conservation:** Tree planting—for every ton of paper recycled, 17 trees can be saved.
- Waste Management:** Recycle- plastic, cardboard, aluminum cans, papers and magazines—11.2 billion tons of solid waste are collected worldwide every year.

When you do your environmental service projects throughout the month report them on the Lion Portal.

Earth Day is April 22, 2026

Global Service Team

PCC Debbi Harms

PDG Amy Leidenfrost



## Zone 6 Meeting



Wednesday, April 15, 2026

6:00 p.m. Social

6:30 p.m. Meal & Meeting

### Swanville City Park

405 DeGraff Ave, Swanville, MN

Meal: Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn & Ice Cream.... \$15.00  
 Drinks.... \$3.00



Hosted by the Swanville Lions Club

RSVP by Tuesday, April 7 to Lion Cheri  
 507-829-3562 or Cheri52appel@gmail.com



We have just finished the 5M8 mid-winter convention and I would say it was very successful. The Parade of Green where 47 clubs donated \$31,650.00. Thank you all very much. I sent a thank you to all the clubs that donated. I included a form for the foundation awards that your club is eligible for. Don't forget to get them filled out when you select someone deserving the award. Remember they do not have to be a lion to get the award. A business as well can qualify. On Tuesday of the convention, we were lucky enough to get Samir Khariwalla, MD. He is Chair for Leadership in Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Khariwalla gave us an update on several research studies being conducted at the U. of MN. that have been funded in part by your donations. He was very appreciative of the Lions. Dr. Khariwalla is a lion himself. I will be mailing out information for all clubs concerning the up-coming D-Foot Walk for hearing on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>. In Chanhassen MN. Landscape Arboretum or Diamond Point Park in Bemidji. Please consider attending. Get a team together, enjoy the day and meet some lions or come by yourself. Hearing screenings are continuing, Staples/Motley elementary was completed in mid-February. We also did screenings at the St. Martin's Lions breakfast in February.

Mike Appel, District 5M8 Hearing trustee



\$30 ea  
Contact Lion Carrie Shofner to Get yours Today!



Lions International Convention support available: Contact Lion Carrie Shofner



**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Recycling and Waste Management Information from the United Nations Report 2022.

“Globally approximately 37% of waste is disposed in some type of landfill, 19% undergoes recycling and composting and 11% is treated through incineration. For every ton of paper recycled , 17 trees could be saved.” What could your Lions’ Club do to increase recycling in your local area? Reminder: March 18<sup>th</sup> is Global Recycling Day; April 18 – 26 is Lions’ Environmental week and April 22 is Earth Day. Many environmental service project ideas are available on the LCI website.

Contact District 5M8 Cabinet Environmental Chairs with questions or comments.  
PDG Sandy Sandwick [ssandwick.17@gmail.com](mailto:ssandwick.17@gmail.com)  
Lion Makayla Thompson [thompsonmakayla400@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonmakayla400@gmail.com)



**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



Charms are approximately:  
1" x 1"; 1" x 3/4"; 1" x 3/4"; 1" x 1/2"

Pin- \$100  
Charms \$25 or all 4 for \$75



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



## Board of Trustees

Matt Huggenvick & Cindy Stansfield, 5M1

Kathleen Bleckenberg & Wanda Breimhorst,  
5M2

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Bob Kulbeik & Pam Erickson, 5M4

Cheryl Jechorek & Kevin Walsh, 5M5

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Mike Benedetto, Vice Chair

Rose Thies & Sue Vos, Treasurers

Lori Steinemann & Bob Jechorek

Executive Secretaries

## WEBSITE:

[www.5mhf.org](http://www.5mhf.org)

## EMAIL:

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

## Registration & Payment Info

Checks payable to:

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

Rose Thies, Treasurer

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

21515 371<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Green Isle, MN 55338-2027

# DFEET WALK

2026 MN Lions Hearing Foundation Fundraiser

Dear Lions and Friends:

Your Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation 2026 Walk to DFEET Hearing Loss is just around the corner on June 6th, 2026.

It is not too late to help those with hearing-related issues.

Please consider participating in our 2026 Walk at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and at Diamond Point Park in Bemidji, MN. If you or your club cannot participate at either site, you can take a walk at your local park, bring some club members together for a walk in a park, jump on your treadmill, or ride your bike.

## Levels of Support

\$25

\$35 includes a walk t-shirt

\$100

\$250

\$500

\$1000 gets your Club name on back of the t-shirt

Children under 12 will receive a free walk shirt.

We challenge your club to create a team to help raise funds for this important event. Please complete the attached registration form and mail to Lion Rose Thies by April 15th, 2026.

We hope you will support the Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation to raise the much-needed funds to support our mission of research, education, and clinical support to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

With regards,

**Kathleen Bleckenberg**

Board Chair

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation



## D-FEET WALK REGISTRATION FORM

June 6, 2026

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dis-  
trict \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (please print)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email ad-  
dress: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Check the box for the type of donation:

Club Donation

Personal Donation

*\$25 donation with no t-shirt.*

*\$35 donation includes a t-shirt. Registration form must be received by April 15th, 2026 to receive a t-shirt.*

*\*Complete the next page for t-shirts*

**Club Sponsorships:**

*\$1000 level - Club's name on the back of the t-shirt and up to 28 entrants with t-shirts*

*\$500 level - Up to 14 entrants with t-shirts*

*\$250 level - Up to 7 entrants with t-shirts*

*\$100 level - Up to 3 entrants with t-shirts*

Check the box for which event you/your club are attending:

Dfeet Walk at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Dfeet Walk at the Diamond Point Park in Bemidji

Donation Only



MARCH 24, 2026  
1:30 - 4:30 PM

# LIONS DAY AT THE CAPITOL




The goal of Lions Day at the Capitol is to Increase Public Awareness, Advocate for Change & Strengthen Partnerships

**How Clubs Can Participate:**

- Generate Enthusiasm:** Share event details at club meetings.
- Set Attendance Goals:** Aim for 5 – 10 attendees per club to ensure strong representation.
- Engage with Local Governing Representatives:** Schedule meetings with your local officials in advance to discuss key issues and invite them to attend.

**To sign-up click the link below:**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A4AF2DA3FCC34-60193134-2ndannual>



Host: Maple Grove Lions

# NORTHERN PRIDE LIONS FORUM

To strengthen leadership skills, membership, and service impact through learning, networking, and inspiration

MARCH 20-21, 2026  
RADISSON HARBORVIEW, DULUTH  
ALL LIONS ARE WELCOME

FRIDAY: WELCOME SOCIAL  
SATURDAY: EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

REGISTER HERE



SCAN HERE!







EMERGING LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
**ELLI**

**Develop. Lead. Inspire.**

The Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI) is a leadership development experience designed for Lions and Leos who are ready to grow, lead, and serve at a higher level.  
This interactive weekend builds confident leaders who will strengthen clubs, districts, and the future of Lions in MD5M.

**Join Us April 17- 19, 2026  
Holiday Inn Detroit Lakes**

**Why Attend ELLI?**

- Develop practical leadership and communication skills
- Learn how to lead without a title
- Strengthen teamwork and collaboration
- Build confidence to lead projects, committees, and clubs
- Network with emerging leaders across MD5M
- Learn from experienced Lions leaders
- Create a personal leadership action plan to take home
- FUN, FUN, FUN

**Who Should Attend?**

- Lions or Leos in good standing within MD5M interested in leadership growth and service
- Willing to actively participate in all sessions
- Committed to applying learned skills in their club or district
- Lions who have **NOT** served as Club President

Registration due April 1, 2026  
Use QR code to Register

Contact your District GLT for more information  
Lion Carrie Shofner  
davecarrieshofner@gmail.com





# 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](http://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

# Northern Pride Lions Forum



March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Radisson Duluth Harborview



## 2026 Registration Form

Your District & Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Circle if

Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten or Vegetarian

Lions Membership# \_\_\_\_\_ Circle if

Companion Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten or Vegetarian

Companion Lions# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov/Zip/Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee \$110.00 (US)**

Registration includes Friday evening Meet & Greet, Seminars on Saturday, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner with dynamic guest speakers

Checks payable to: Northern Pride Lions Forum

Mail to: Lion Dennis Heinen, 12069 Bluegill Dr, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Hotel Reservations: Duluth Radisson Harborview

800-333-3333 Group Northern Lions Forum

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/IZ07S7>

Dive In! Register Now for the 2026 MD5M Convention –

Minnetonka Beach Party! Dear Lions Club Members, Get ready to make waves — 5M5 is thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 Multiple District 5M Convention!

Join us April 24–26, 2026 at the Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel in Minnetonka for a weekend full of fellowship, fun, and Lions spirit!

This year's theme is "Minnetonka Beach Party" — so pack your best Hawaiian shirt, throw on your flip-flops, and get ready to celebrate Lions Service in true beach style. Whether you come for the camaraderie, the inspiring speakers, or the sunny surprises, this convention will be one to remember!

You won't want to miss: • Friday Night Beach Party — music, laughter, and tropical vibes. • Motivating speakers and inspirational seminars to strengthen your club and service impact. • Hands-on Service Projects — join fellow Lions in making a difference together. • International Guest: We're honored to welcome Lions International President A.P. Singh to Minnesota!

**HOTEL & REGISTRATION:** • Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel, Minnetonka, MN • \$135 per night (220 rooms available — reserve your room now!)

Convention Registration: (All 2026 MD5M Convention information can also be found on the Multiple District website or by using this link — <https://sites.google.com/view/md5m-multipleconvention/home> )

This is your chance to connect, learn, and celebrate the power of service — Lions style! Let's make the 2026 MD5M Convention unforgettable.

So, grab your shades, your Lions pin, and your beach spirit — we'll see you at the Beach Party in Minnetonka! In friendship and service,

2026 MD5M Convention Host Committee, District 5M5



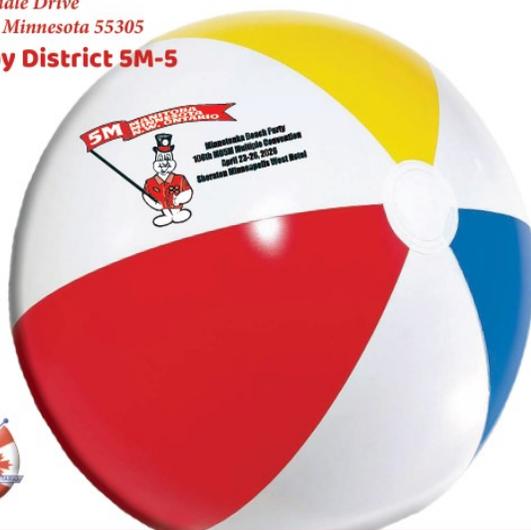
## 2026 MD5M Convention

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
--	---

## Bring home a piece of the 2026 MD5M Convention

April 24-26, 2026



Order Here:

<https://bit.ly/4anBTG1>



**\$40**

\$3 Additional charge for  
3XL and above

## Minnetonka Beach Party

Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel  
12201 Ridgedale Drive Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305  
Hosted by District 5M-5



**April 24-26, 2026**  
**106<sup>th</sup> - MD5M Multiple Convention**  
**Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel**  
*2026 MD5M Registration Form*



Lion       Leo       Guest

Check if this is your 1<sup>st</sup> Multiple Convention

Lion       Leo       Guest

Check if this is your 1<sup>st</sup> 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](#)

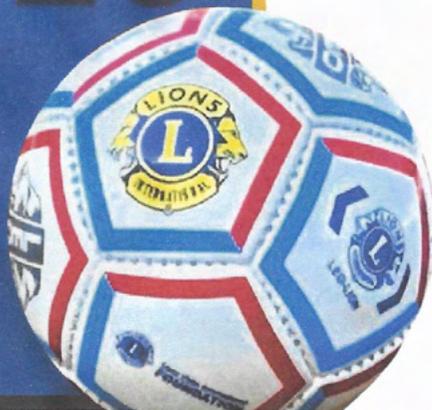
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** contact: PCC Rob Rand at (612) 715-6055, robrandmn@gmail.com

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



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
MINNESOTA 2026

**2026**  
**Coming to**  
**MINNESOTA**  
**JUNE**  
**20-26**



**Lions Clubs International**  
**FOUNDATION**

We are also hosting a very special Family Night Celebration, and each athlete will receive an “All Ball” —branded with the logos of MD5M, LCIF, LEOs, and Lions USA. This is more than just a ball—it is a symbol of unity, fun, and the spirit of inclusion we all believe in.

Our Multiple’s role in this partnership:

- Raise \$350,000 to sponsor
- Family Night for 3,500 Olympians and their families.
- As well as provide every athlete with A Ball for All, a goodwill gift specially designed for the athletes.

How you can help:

- Consider designating club or individual donations to LCIF’s MD5M Special Olympics Fund.
- Gifts still count towards Melvin Jones Fellowships (but not District or Community Grants).
- All donations, no matter what fund they go to, are greatly appreciated!

We are asking every club in MD5M to support this effort through a contribution to LCIF, earmarked for the 2026 Special Olympics Games in Minnesota.

Any donation is a good donation!

Send all checks made out to LCIF to:

**PDG Frank Leidenfrost**  
**110 4th Ave NE**  
**Staples MN 56479**  
or  
**IPDG Deb Bialke**  
**5559 355th Ave**  
**Hillman MN 56338**

**\*\*\* Note MD5M Special Olympics**  
**on memo line !!**



# 2026 DONATION OPTIONS



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
USA GAMES  
MINNESOTA 2026

## LCIF Special Olympics Donation Link

LCIF has launched a dedicated QR code and donation link for the Special Olympics USA Games. Donations from individuals or clubs count toward Melvin Jones Fellowship credits.

[Click Here to Online Donate!](https://lionsclubs.org/special-olympics-2026)

<https://lionsclubs.org/special-olympics-2026>



Scan QR code  
to Donate



## MD5M / Roar-For-A-Cause — Registration is Live

**Signup  
made  
easy!**

### Option#1: ONLINE

*Fast, secure, and easy.  
(Service fee is optional)  
Select "Other" and enter 0.)  
Instant confirmation!*

[Click here to Register Online!](#)

### Option#2: PAPER:

Fill out the attached form  
**Check**  
**Venmo:**  
**Paypal:**

**Table Sponsorships  
Available:**

Bring a group or make a bigger impact—  
details included on both registration options.



## “A Ball For All” Special Olympics Fundraiser

Our new “A Ball For All” fundraiser—an easy, fun way to raise funds. The top seven clubs will have their name and logo featured on official balls!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
USA GAMES  
MINNESOTA 2026

## Corporate Plaque Program / Special Olympics USA Games

*A great way for businesses to gain recognition while supporting  
an important cause!*

Local businesses can support LCIF and the *Special Olympics USA Games* through the Corporate Plaque Opportunity.

- Minimum donation: \$1,000
- Not eligible for MJ Fellow credits
- Not tied to Roar-For-A-Cause sponsorships



# **VOLUNTEER** for the Special Olympics USA Games

Make a difference. **Have fun.** **Serve with the Lions.**



## THREE EASY STEPS:

### 1. Register

Scan the QR code or use the link below to sign up.

Registration includes uploading a photo.

<https://cerv.is/0430rLionsClub>

### 2. Choose Your Volunteer Role

#### **Family Night Setup**

Tuesday, June 16 • 1:00–6:00 PM

#### **Opening Eyes Vision Screenings**

Friday, June 19 – Thursday, June 25

#### **Family Night Guest Service**

Wednesday, June 24 & Thursday, June 25 • 4:30–9:30 PM

#### **Family Night Greet Team**

Wednesday, June 24 & Thursday, June 25 • 5:00–7:00 PM

### 3. Show Up and Enjoy the Experience

You'll be part of something meaningful for athletes, families, and our community.

#### **Early Access for Lions, Family & Friends through March 20**

Feel free to share – the best spots will fill quickly.



# Consider Hosting a Youth Exchange Student this summer

<b>What is Youth Exchange?</b>	Students from around the world come to Minnesota for the month of July and live with host families. This is an amazing way to share our culture and learn about others.
<b>Travel Dates</b>	Jul 1, 2026 to Aug 2, 2026
<b>Camp Spicer Dates</b>	July 24, 2026 to August 1, 2026...all students come together for a week of activities. No hosting required during this week.
<b>What's next?</b>	Stay inspired, and participate in achieving World Peace one young person at a time!

For more information about this incredible opportunity please contact your District Youth Exchange chair or PDG Sue Mullen/ES Cindy Walters at MD5MLionsyouthexchange@gmail.com.

## Not able to host this summer? Perhaps you/your club would consider sponsoring a Camp Activity

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$8,800 Bussing for the week        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200 Valleyfair            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Camp Confidence Team Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,500 Brainerd Housing (3 nights) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 Zoo Event               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 T-shirts                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$4,000 Metro Housing (3 nights)    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 Banquet facility rental | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Evening Snacks                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,700 Chanhassen Dinner Theater   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 A Meal for Camp         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Any amount is helpful!!!       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Dorm Housing (2 nights)     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Mini-Golf               |  |

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated by the students and staff of MD5M Youth Exchange. MD5M Youth Exchange Foundation is a 501(c)3 and can accept gambling funds. (EIN #46-4182698)

Checks can be mailed to: MD5M Youth Exchange Foundation; attn: Cindy Walters; 1915 Waterford Circle, Chaska MN USA 55318





Cold Spring Home Pride Lions Sponsor American Red Cross Blood



Sandstone Quarry Lions brought Valentine treats to care centers in Sandstone. Thanks to Lions Val, Norma, Carol, & Cheri



St Martin Lions & Farming Lions join together in making fleece blankets for the Masonic Children's Hospital.



How Do You Do That DG Zach?



DGE Dianne, DG Zach PDG Tracy having some fun at 5M2 convention! PDG Tracy won a prize for great costume !(lobster) PDG Tracy, DG Zach DGE Dianne & IPDG Deb ready for the banquet.



Princeton Lions fishing tournament fun!





Lion Robert Peterson	Isle Lions Club
Lion Del Roy Kardell	Rice Lions Club
Lion William Leppanen	Ogilvie Lions Club
Lion Gary Gannon	Randall Cushing Area Lions Club
Lion Daniel Symanietz	Randall Cushing Area Lions Club
Lion Jeff Austing	St Rosa 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



Cinamon Lancaster	Eagle Bend Lions Club
Jeff Ahrens	Greenwald Lions Club
Travis Ahrens	Greenwald Lions Club
Austin Kulzer	Greenwald Lions Club
Maria Archer	Little Falls Lions Club
Michelle Halomen	Long Prairie Lions Club
Stephen Stifler	Long Prairie Lions Club
Corey Spanier	Paynesville Lions Club
Angela Heinz	Randall Cushing Are Lions Club
Vincent Wiskus	Randall Cushing Area Lions Club
Chantz Axelson	Royalton Lions Club
Denise Baumgart	Staples 93 Lions Club
Heidi Kroening	Sturgeon Lakes Lions Club

**5M8 Membership update as of February 2026**

**2761 Lions Members & 73 clubs**

**162 dropped members in FY**

**105 members added in FY**

**-57 Net growth in FY**

**-2.06 % net Growth in FY**



**5M8 Service update**

**as of February 2026**

**2,321 overall activity count**

**542,617 overall people served in FY**

**58,670 overall volunteer hours in FY**

**94% clubs reporting**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**



**Northern Pride**

March 20-21, 2026 Duluth 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             |
| <b>June 29-July 3, 2029</b> | <b>Minneapolis MN</b> |
| June 28- July 2, 2030       | San Antonio TX        |
| July 4-8, 2031              | Helsinki, Finland     |

**USA/CANADA Forum**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| September 3-5, 2026   | Memphis Tennessee  |
| September 16-18, 2027 | Huntsville Alabama |

**5M8 Midwinter Convention**

February 5-7, 2027

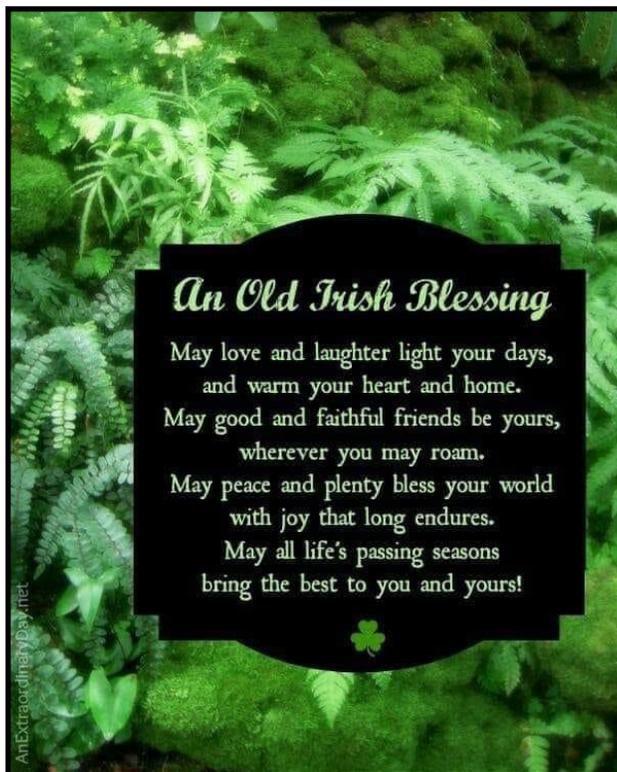


**Environment  
April 18-26, 2026**

**SERVICE PLANNER**

**LIONS YEAR 2025-26**

<b>JULY</b> PLAN FOR THE YEAR	<b>AUG</b> YOUTH	<b>SEPT</b> DISASTER & MENTAL HEALTH	<b>OCT</b> MENTAL HEALTH
<b>NOV</b> HUNGER & DIABETES	<b>DEC</b> MENTAL HEALTH & HUMANITARIAN	<b>JAN</b> HUNGER & DIABETES	<b>FEB</b> VISION
<b>MARCH</b> HUNGER	<b>APRIL</b> ENVIROMENT	<b>MAY</b> ENVIROMENT	<b>JUNE</b> CHILDHOOD CANCER



**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.

**LCIF**

PDG Frank Leidenfrost

frankandamyl35@gmail.com 218-820-2323

IPDG Deb Bialke

liondebbialke@gmail.com 320-248-6704

**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

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**Vacant- Help Needed****MN Lions Diabetes Foundation**

PDG Dave Thompson

dthompson1530@gmail.com

Lion Cathy Talberg

cathytalb95@gmail.com

**Special Olympics Chairperson**

Lion Rose Hansen

3202935441

**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 [kidsightmd5m.org/resources.php](http://kidsightmd5m.org/resources.php)**

Lion Marty Breuer

mjbreuer@msn.com

**Vacant- Help Needed****Environmental**

PDG Sandy Sandwick

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](mailto:teddibob@gmail.com) 612-390-2629 [www.MNLERC.org](http://www.MNLERC.org)



### Project New Hope

Lion Dave Shofner [davecarrieshofner@gmail.com](mailto:davecarrieshofner@gmail.com)

**Vacant-Help Needed**



### Leo's /Youth Exchange

Lion Christine Wosmek [chriswozmek@gmail.com](mailto:chriswozmek@gmail.com)

Lion Trish Thiel [tltboots@yahoo.com](mailto:tltboots@yahoo.com)



### Peace Poster/Essay

Lion Becky Stanart [wonderwomanbls@aol.com](mailto:wonderwomanbls@aol.com)

Lion Lisa Gohmen [Lisa.gohman@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.gohman@gmail.com)



**Sheehan Foundation PDG Donna Landwehr [billanddonnal@q.com](mailto:billanddonnal@q.com) [teamsheehan.foundation](http://teamsheehan.foundation)**

### Global Leadership Coordinators

PDG Allen Bailey [atbailey@eaglevalleytel.net](mailto:atbailey@eaglevalleytel.net)

PCC Jack Breikreutz [jabre@izoom.net](mailto:jabre@izoom.net)

Lion Carrie Shofner [davecarrieshofner@gmail.com](mailto:davecarrieshofner@gmail.com)



### Global Service Team Coordinators

PDG Amy Leidenfrost head coordinator [frankandamy135@gmail.com](mailto:frankandamy135@gmail.com)

PCC Deb Harms [1lionlady@charter.net](mailto:1lionlady@charter.net)



### Global Membership Team Coordinators

Lion Jordan Haukos [jordo1997@yahoo.com](mailto:jordo1997@yahoo.com) 320-828-7226

Lion Caleb Anderson [calebjohn133@gmail.com](mailto:calebjohn133@gmail.com)

Lion Mike Shay [lionmikeshay@icloud.com](mailto:lionmikeshay@icloud.com)

**GMT 5M8 Team**

### Global Extension Team Coordinators

PDG Vince Thiel [vincethiel@yahoo.com](mailto:vincethiel@yahoo.com)

Lion Trish Thiel [tltboots@yahoo.com](mailto:tltboots@yahoo.com)



### GMT Women's & Family Specialist

Lion Cheri Appel [Cheri52appel@gmail.com](mailto:Cheri52appel@gmail.com)

PDG Donna Landwehr [billanddonnal@myctl.net](mailto:billanddonnal@myctl.net)

PDG Bill Landwehr [billanddonnalw0@gmail.com](mailto:billanddonnalw0@gmail.com)

## Opportunities to grow!

**Lions University:** Provided by the Forum since 2014, you can take all the courses you want for free, however graduation requirements 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 “

**P.R. Lion Mike Shay**

lionmikeshay@icloud.com

### 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](http://www.mnlionsdiabetes.org)

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

MN Lions Hearing Foundation: [www.5mhf.org](http://www.5mhf.org)

MN Lions Vision Foundation: [www.mnlionsvisionfoundation.org](http://www.mnlionsvisionfoundation.org)

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

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





# 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

1697 247<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Belgrade, MN 56312

Email: lionzachwosmek@gmail.com

Cell: (320)905-7803

# 2025-2026 5M8 District Governor Contest

5M8 District Governor Contest 2025-2026														
	Pts	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
<b>Club Activities:</b>														
District M&A submitted by end of month	20													
Submit Membership Report to LCI by month end	20													
Submit Service report to LCI by month end (Don't forget your meetings count)	20													
Club newsletter sent to DG, 1VDDG, & Zone Chair	20													
Post Club Updates to Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Tiktok monthly	50													
New Members added or reinstated (Per Member)	30													
Total Membership at year end plus 1 (Membership beginning July 1, 2025- end June 30, 2026)	20													
5 members reported reading District Newsletter or Watched On Track with DG Zach weekly	50													
2 or more clubs do something fun together (Help with fundraiser, join meeting, etc.	30													
Governor Visit Scheduled by 12/20/25	20													
1st half of dues paid 7/28/25	50													
2nd half of dues paid 1/20/26	50													
Attend other Lions Club Fundraiser (10 pts per/max50)	10													
Host Youth Exchange (per youth)	30													
Club host a Service Carnival	50													
<b>District Committee Club Presentations</b>	<b>Pts</b>													
LCIF	30													
LeaderDog	30													
Leos	30													
Diabetes	30													
Hearing Foundation	30													
Vision Foundation	30													
Kidsight	30													
Can Do Canines	30													
Project New Hope	30													
MN Childhood Cancer	30													
Global Membership Team	30													
Global Leadership Team	30													
Global Service Team	30													
Global Extension Team	30													
Orientation	30													
<b>Additional Pts</b>														
Bring Eyes Glasses to Mid Winter Collection	50													
Club Officers attend Zone meetings (Pres, VP, Sec, Treas)	30													

General Members attend Zone Meetings (5 Max)	20													
Support a Mental Health Cause	50													
Club _____														
Zone Chair _____														
Date _____														
Activities Total														
Presentations Total														
Donations Total														
Zone Meeting Total														

