



5M8 News

We Serve

5M8 Newsletter
www.lions5m8.org
MAY 2026



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Lions Day of Learning
All Lions are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Wednesday, May 20th
Bethel Lutheran Church
901 W Broadway Ave, Little Falls
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Thursday, May 21st
Veterans Memorial Building
Mora
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Saturday, May 30th
River of Life Church
22881 178th Ave Cold Spring
Door 13 - Fireside Room
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet the Leadership Team and Learn Goals & Objectives for the Upcoming Lions Year.

- ✓ Club President & Vice President Training
- ✓ Secretary Training
- ✓ Treasurer Training

RSVP to Leadership Chair
Carrie Shofner -
Please Call or Text (507) 829-3568



Leadership training is upon us! If you will be in an office in your Club starting July 1st and have not signed up for leadership training. Please contact Carrie Shofner ASAP to register for leadership training /officer training. Please see the attached flyer for dates and locations. When contacting, please advise name of participant, Club and position, and location that you're going to be going to training at so that I can register you.



News from 5M8



Growing Together, Blooming Stronger

Dear Lions of 5M8,

Thank you for all that you continue to do to strengthen your clubs, your zones, and our incredible district. Your service, leadership, and dedication are what allow our communities—and our mission—to truly bloom.

As April has come and gone, it marked the beginning of a new personal journey for me as I navigate life with Type 2 diabetes. It has certainly been an adjustment, and at times, the medication slowed me down more than expected. Because of that, I am especially grateful for the support we have in this district.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing DGE Diann, who stepped in to attend two club visits on my behalf. She did a phenomenal job, and her leadership is a perfect example of what makes 5M8 so special—we lift each other up when it matters most.



April Showers Bring May Flowers: A Season of Growth

Spring reminds us that growth often begins beneath the surface. The seeds we plant today—through service, leadership, and connection—will soon blossom into something impactful and lasting.

That spirit of growth is alive and well across our district!



Planting New Roots: St. John's & St. Ben's Lions Club

We are incredibly excited about the progress being made toward establishing a traditional Lions Club at the College of Saint John's and the College of Saint Benedict.

We recently held a fantastic meeting filled with energy, ideas, and passion for service. With the momentum we're seeing, we fully expect this club to be officially established by the end of May!

Adding to this excitement, we had the incredible honor of welcoming our International President, AP Singh, to visit the college. His presence brought a whole new level of enthusiasm and inspiration to the effort. It was truly special for him to witness firsthand the amazing things happening right here in District 5M8.

Zach Wosmek
District Governor - District 5M8
(320) 905-7803 // Cell



Multiple Convention Momentum

As we closed out April, many of us gathered for the Multiple Convention—an energizing and inspiring experience. Having President Singh in attendance made it even more impactful as he shared a powerful message about how we can finish the year strong.



One idea stood out for its simplicity and impact: Each club and each cabinet member invites just ONE new member. That's it. One conversation. One invitation. One new Lion. If we all commit to this small action, the collective impact will be tremendous—setting our district up for strength, sustainability, and even greater service in the year ahead.



Let's Keep Growing Together

May is a time of renewal, energy, and opportunity. Let's continue planting seeds of kindness, cultivating leadership, and growing our Lions family.

Remember, you are never alone in this journey. I am here for you—whether you need support, ideas, encouragement, or simply someone to connect with. Please don't hesitate to reach out. Serving alongside you is truly an honor.



A Final Thought

"Growth is not always easy, but just like flowers in May, with patience, care, and a little sunshine, something beautiful always emerges."

Let's make this a month of growth, connection, and impact.

With gratitude and Lion pride,



MISSION 1.5

We're on a mission to grow.



District 5M8 – May Porch Notes

As we welcome the arrival of spring, District 5M8 Lions are embracing a season of renewal, service, and celebration. Warmer weather brings opportunities for **gardening projects, community clean-ups, and outdoor service activities** that make a visible impact in our communities.

Spring Activities Clubs are encouraged to take part in:

- Community gardening initiatives
 - Yard clean-up and beautification projects
- Environmental service efforts

Celebrating Graduations

This is also a time to recognize and celebrate **graduating students** in your communities. Whether through scholarships, recognition programs, or participation in ceremonies, Lions continue to support youth and education.

Strengthening Communication Across District 5M8

The District 5M8 Leadership team is proud to announce the formation of a new Communications Committee dedicated to enhancing connection and collaboration throughout our district.

This committee has been established to improve communication between the Cabinet, Lions Clubs, Club Secretaries, and all members across District 5M8. In addition, a key focus will be expanding outreach to the general public to better share the impactful work Lions are doing in our communities.

Comprised of Lions with experience in communications, newsletters, technology, and marketing, this group brings a diverse skill set and a shared commitment to innovation. Their goal is to explore effective, low-cost communication strategies that keep members informed, engaged, and inspired.

As part of this effort, the committee will also seek out new tools and platforms, creating opportunities for Lions to learn and grow in today's evolving digital and networking landscape.

Through these efforts, District 5M8 aims to build stronger connections, increase visibility, and ensure that the story of Lionism continues to reach and inspire both our members and the communities we serve.

Officer Reporting

Please ensure all **club officers are reported in the Lions Portal** in a timely manner to maintain accurate district records and communication.

Training Opportunities

- **Zone Chair Training** and **Club Officer Training** are essential for strong leadership
 - Participation helps ensure your club remains effective and well-supported
- Any and all Lions are welcome to attend to obtain knowledge about the Lions Clubs International Organization.

Service Reporting

All clubs are reminded to:

- Report **service projects and club celebrations** directly in the **Lions Portal**

This ensures your club's impact is recognized globally

Note:

The **District 5M8 reporting site is currently down** and no longer required. It will direct you to the LCI Portal site.

District Governor Contest

Clubs wishing to participate must: Have the **Club Secretary or Administrator** complete the **District Governor Contest Form**

Submit by: **July 30, 2026** Send via **mail or email to your Zone Chairman**

Closing Message

Let's continue working together to keep District 5M8 strong, active, and engaged. Your service, leadership, and commitment make a difference every day.

Thank you for all you do as Lions!



In Memory of
 Immediate Past International
 Director Joanne Ogden
 2023-2025
 From 5M10



Joanne Ogden passed away on April 13, 2026 at her home in Emo, Ontario. She was a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, and sister. Predeceased by her parents, Irene and John Ploegman, who taught her the importance of doing her best for her family and neighbors.

Her legacy continues to live on in the hearts of her devoted husband, Kent Ogden; her beloved daughters, Chelsey (Ben) and Riley (Jeff); her grandchildren Cassidy and Lauren; and her dear brothers Ken (Susan) and Travis (Angie). She resides in the memories of family, friends, colleagues, and through the lasting impact her contributions have made on the community and its members.

Joanne was known for her warmth, generosity, compassion, and commitment to advocate for those in need—characteristics that anyone around her grew to know and admire. This was reflected in her deep involvement in bettering her community.

She became a nurse in 1985, beginning a career that spanned 38 years, making herself a pillar of healthcare in the Rainy River District. She dedicated 20 years to the ICU at La Verendrye General Hospital before turning her focus to community health. As a published expert in wound care, she established a Wound Care Centre of Excellence to provide community members with care closer to home. She served as a health program supervisor for the Naicatchewenin First Nation where she advocated for healthcare equity—specifically for Indigenous health and wellness. Her contributions were recognized in 2017 with the First Nations and Inuit Health Award of Excellence in Nursing. Her vision extended forward as she returned to Riverside Health Care: becoming a member on the Board of Directors, a senior Quality Assurance Auditor, and Health Team Executive Lead

where she was able to continue her advocacy for improving patient care—being a voice which represented those who needed one the most.

She made huge commitments to volunteering. This started with the Emo and District Lions Club, allowing her to continue serving the community in meaningful ways. Her contributions locally eventually led to her being offered the position of an International Director (2023–2025) where she continued to serve those in need—whether it was advocating locally, or volunteering internationally. Joanne shared many heartfelt moments with family, close friends, and colleagues of her time supporting communities in need.

While she had many professional achievements, Joanne found comfort at her home in Emo, with her husband. After their loving union in 1985, Kent and Joanne built their lives together: where they loved and cared for their daughters, and later continued to enjoy spending their quiet moments together. Whether it be tending to the horses or relaxing with the dogs. No matter the time apart during her years of international service, they always made the effort to reconnect, making unforgettable memories and sharing a lifetime of adventures.

IPDG was an amazing writer and below are just a couple of them.

They did not vanish into silence.
 They dissolved into starlight and memory,
 into the quiet places of our becoming.
 They are the breath between heartbeats,
 the ache that teaches us how deeply we can love,
 the invisible hand steadying us when the world
 feels too heavy.
 An amazing soul never leaves—
 they transform into legacy,
 into a thousand small mercies we carry forward,
 into courage we didn't know we had,
 into love that refuses to end.
 To honor them
 is to live gently,
 to love fiercely,
 and to walk this world as proof
 that their light was real,
 and it still burns within us. -j

Spring....

"In the tender hush of spring, the earth awakens not with haste, but with quiet certainty—petal by petal, breath by breath, life returns.

Beneath gentler skies, we are invited to loosen our grip on yesterday, to let old sorrows fall like melting frost, and to open—softly, bravely—toward the light.

This is the season of becoming:
 of buried dreams remembering their names,

of fragile hopes daring to rise again.

Let your spirit follow the courage of the bloom—

unafraid to unfold, even after the longest winter.

For spring does not ask if we are ready...
 it simply reminds us that we are meant to grow."

-j

Leadership Opportunity in District 5M8

We are looking for a Quest Chairperson to join the District Cabinet!

Lions Quest focuses on:

- ✨ Youth development
- ✨ Life skills
- ✨ Social-emotional learning

This is your chance to:

- ✓ Make a difference in schools
- ✓ Support youth programs
- ✓ Grow your leadership

Interested or know someone who would be great? Reach out to district leadership today!

Let's invest in the next generation



We're looking for a passionate Lion to step into the role of Zone 6 Chairperson for the 2026–2027 year!

Zone 6 includes the amazing clubs of:

- 👉 Albany
- 👉 Avon
- 👉 Avon Hills
- 👉 Grey Eagle-Burtrum
- 👉 Holdingford
- 👉 Sobieski
- 👉 St. Stephen
- 👉 Swanville
- 👉 Upsala

After 4 years of dedicated service, Lion Cheri Appel will be stepping down — and we thank her for her incredible



leadership!

Now it's YOUR chance to:

- ✨ Grow as a leader
- ✨ Support fellow clubs
- ✨ Make an even bigger impact in your community



Interested or know someone who would be a great fit? Reach out to District Leadership today!

#LionsLeadership #WeServe #LionLeaders #District5M8



Board of Trustees

Matt Huggenvick & Cindy Stansfield, 5M1

Kathleen Bleckenberg & Wanda Breimhorst, 5M2

Gordon Mulder & Eric Hanson, 5M3

Bob Kulbeik & Pam Erickson, 5M4

Cheryl Jechorek & Kevin Walsh, 5M5

Marlene Hayman & Jeff Carnes, 5M6

Mike Benedetto & Chad Vokaty, 5M7

Mike Appel, 5M8

Dick Kimball & Dale Christensen, 5M9

Bonnie Jorgensen & Mary Sorenson, 5M10

Officers

Kathleen Bleckenberg, Chair

Mike Benedetto, Vice Chair

Rose Thies & Sue Vos, Treasurers

Lori Steinemann & Bob Jechorek

Executive Secretaries

WEBSITE:

www.5mhf.org

EMAIL:

mndfeetwalk@gmail.com

Registration & Payment Info

Checks payable to:

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

Rose Thies, Treasurer

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

21515 371st Avenue

Green Isle, MN 55338-2027

D FEET 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 Founda-
tion





2026 ANNUAL WALK TO D-FEET HEARING LOSS



**Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Chaska, MN**
Registration: 9am - 10am
Walk Starts: 10:15am
Lunch Begins: 11:15am

**Diamond Point Park
Bemidji, M**
Registration: 8:30am - 9:30am
Walk Starts: 9:45am
Lunch Begins: 11:30am

- Entry Fee: \$25 (no t-shirt) or \$35 (includes t-shirt)
- Fee includes entry to arboretum/park, lunch, plus lots of activities and games
- Kids under 12 are free!
- Fun for families of all ages!
- A chance to change a person's life through your registration donation.
- Register at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/2026walktod-feethearingloss/>

T-Shirt Order

Please list each member/guest that would like to receive a t-shirt along with their email address and size. T-shirts are available in adult sizes small to 5XL and child small-large. **Save Time for Everyone! Emails are required for us to send electronic waivers before the event.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>T-Shirt Size</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



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 re-
ceive 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





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



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!



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.





Reporting Club Officers

Club Officers **MUST** be reported by **15th of May** to ensure details are correct for the Lions Directory and for International transition into the new Lions year.

From LCI Main page (www.lionsclubs.org) click on **LION PORTAL**

Select **MY CLUB**

Select **OFFICERS**

Click on **MANAGE OFFICERS**

A pop-up box will appear. Click on **CREATE NEW ASSIGNMENT** then **NEXT**

A pop-up box will ask "When should this assignment begin?"
select **THE UPCOMING YEAR**

A pop-up will ask "What is the Officer and Title type for this title?"
Click on the small arrows and choose either **OFFICER** or **ADMINISTRATOR**, do the same for the next item **OFFICIAL** or **LOCAL** and click on **NEXT**

Officer options are Officer or Administrator
All appointments are Officer, you only use Administrator if you have a member strictly assigned to update portal details for your club.

Title Type is Official or Local
Official titles are President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Marketing, LCIF, Service, Club Director.
Local titles are positions like Bulletin Editor, Social, Health & Safety.

A list of your Club members will be shown, at the top you select the **OFFICER TITLE** Then select the **CLUB MEMBER** to fill this position, click **NEXT**

Always select **YES** for adding officer address and check to see details are correct and update if required.

You will follow the same procedure for each of your elected officers

Lions are instrumental in contributing to the services Leader Dogs for the Blind provides and sharing the mission with those who need us. Each year, hundreds of people who are blind or low vision learn the skills they need to travel with confidence and purpose thanks to your support.

As we approach the end of the Lions year, we hope you will consider honoring a club member or a Lion Leader in your district, or multiple district, with a recognition piece from Leader Dogs for the Blind. The [Lions Leader](#)

[Dog medallion](#), [tribute brick](#), and [symbolic puppy sponsorship](#) are each unique tributes to those who are supporting your community. When you honor individuals in this way, you extend their impact by supporting the cause of vision – one of the eight Lions Global Causes – and by helping clients like Deb.



“I am getting my wings back. Leader Dog Olaf is really gentle and focused on making sure I’m okay. His puppy raiser did a beautiful job with him. He’s very proud of himself when he gets it right - and he works really hard to get it right!”

Leader Dog Graduate Deb, Oregon

Future Leader Dogs Harper, Jackson and Tica will only be available for symbolic sponsorships through the end of June. Don’t miss out on these puppies before they return to campus for formal guide dog training.

Congratulations on another year of impact.
Together , we serve.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Martin-Gardner
Director of Philanthropy for Lions Engagement
Leader Dogs for the Blind



Can Do Canines Open House Saturday, May 16, from noon to 2 p.m. 9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, MN

Potential volunteers, clients, or anyone who might be interested in finding out more about our 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 of the types of dogs Can Do Canines trains: hearing, mobility, seizure, diabetes, and childhood autism.

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.

WOMEN AND FAMILY SPECIALIST

MEMBERSHIP! How is your club doing? Lost more than you have gained? If so, it is time to start acting on this problem. If your club hasn't already incorporated a membership drive, May is the month to get it done. What incentives can you use to build up new members? Wine & Cheese party? Take a perspective member out to supper for one-on-one conversation? How about a cook out? Sounds strange to you? Sometimes you have to get creative to increase those numbers and to pique interest in your club, and believe me some of our club meetings will not make this happen!



Would you believe that women have been part of the Lions Clubs International for the past 39 years? Looking at our District numbers from July 2025 when we started the new year up until April 2026, we had a total of 71 drops and 56 new women members for a minus -15. Our 5M8 total membership started with 2785 and are now sitting at 2756 which gives us a -62 in growth. We acquired 122 members but lost 184. Wow! Think what our clubs could have done in your community with that extra 184 members! How are we going to retain members in the new Lions year?

We still have over 2 months left in the year to make up the loss. One idea is to make our clubs more welcoming to women and families. Create an action plan that focuses on the key areas of your club; include some steps like Club Meetings, Service Activities and Marketing efforts. Do you have a signature project that would attract new members? Encourage your existing members to bring their own family members to club meeting and service projects. This may increase your membership. Let's get those new members registered with Lions International by June 15th to make sure you end your year with a BANG!

WE SERVE.

PDG Donna Mae Landwehr
PDG Bill Landwehr
Lion Cheri Appel



I hope all of you made it through the Easter season in good shape. It was an opportunity for your clubs to utilize the audiometers that your zone chairs have. A number of clubs have fish fries, breakfasts and health fairs/ Expos etc. during this time of the year. You miss an opportunity to get hearing screening done at these events. I know of at least 4 events that were held recently that had screening available. We are trying to get adults screened as well as the kids and young adults.

I recently attended the state-wide Hearing Foundation in April. 5M8 is leading the way with screenings conducted and numbers screened. I can't begin to thank those clubs and individuals who have conducted these screenings. The De-Feet walks are fast approaching. It is not too late to get your registrations in concerning the up-coming D-Feet Walk for hearing on Saturday June 6th at the Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen or Diamond Point Park in Bemidji. Please consider attending. Get a team together, enjoy the day and meet some lions or come by yourself.

Reminder—All clubs and zone chairs that have an audiometer. We will collect your audiometer for recalibration on Aug.1st. This is an annual check-up on your units. I will try to coordinate a pickup sometime in July. Stay posted.

Good News- A new member for our 5M8 Hearing has joined us, Sheila Worm from the Duelm lions will be a new trustee on the board. We welcome her as she will be great addition to the Foundation.

Mike Appel, District 5M8 hearing trustee

think
SPRING



We welcomed Lions Clubs International President A. P. Singh to Minnesota yesterday. He was at St John's University and College of St Benedict going on a tour, sharing a meal and giving a short presentation to current Lions and prospective Lions. The day was hosted by Lion Kingshuk Mukherjee, chair of Global Leadership Department at CSB/SJU.



Lion Kingshuk is a long-time friend of President Singh.



Please support a **"Champions" Color Run** event being planned for local Special Olympics athletes. This year, many of these local Champions were unable to attend the usual statewide events due to the scheduling and travel demands connected to the National Special Olympics Games. In a typical year, they are able to participate as part of the statewide games experience. District 5M4 would like to host this Color Run to ensure these athletes and their families still have a meaningful celebration and community event close to home.

District 5M4 has invited the Lions of 5M8 to assist in this grand event. Volunteers will be needed to assist in the success of this event. Please check your calendars and plan on celebrating our Champions.

The event plan includes:

A Color Run experience for Special Olympics athletes ("Champions")

- A meal provided for each athlete and their family

Event T-shirts for participants

This will be a wonderful day of inclusion, recognition, and fellowship for everyone involved, and a great opportunity for Lions to support and celebrate these athletes.



Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to service and inclusion.

The Champions Color Run
Date: August 16, 2026
Registration time: 2:00 PM
THE RUN Time: 3:00 PM
Dance Time: 4 to 6 PM
LOCATION: The Stearns County
Fair Grounds
in Sauk Centre, MN

LCIF UPDATE

LCIF, MD5M Special Olympics, PDGS Frank and Deb would like to thank all Lions Clubs and individual Lions for their generosity and support at our recent Parade of Green and MD5M Special Olympics Fundraising Events. We are truly amazed with the generosity and support that we have received. Thanks to you and Lions Like you, LCIF and Lions continue to make good things happen throughout the world.

Have a great summer, thanks for being Lions and your service.

PDGS Frank and Deb

5M8 LCIF Coordinators



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

St Augusta Lions
6th Annual



Spring Sale Plant



Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Thursday, May 7, 2026, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM



BEHIND HARVEST BANK
24952 CTY RD 7,
ST AUGUSTA, MN 56301

COME EARLY FOR THE BEST SELECTION OF VEGETABLES, ANNUALS & PERENNIALS



21ST ANNUAL PORK CHOP BARBECUE



Duelm Lions Club



Wednesday June 10th, 2026
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

\$16.00 Per Person for Meal
Dine -In or Takeout

\$10 Kids Meals (12 & under) sold at the door

• 50/50 Raffle • Tip Boards • Booze Raffle • Silent Auction


JACK & JIM'S EVENT CENTER • DUELM, MN
Purchase tickets with a Duelm Lion Member or the bartender at Jack & Jim's.

MEGA MEAT RAFFLE
FEATURING MCDONALD'S MEATS
OVER \$10,000 IN PRIZES

\$20/TICKET
SELLING 1,000 TICKETS

Buy pre-sale dinner tickets to enter a \$50 drawing!

Visit Dulem Area Lions Club on Facebook for more information
MN Gambling #35992
Proceeds for Community Programs and Charities Lions Club accepting used Eye Glasses, Hearing Aids, & Magazines at this event



The Avon Lions Club



Dear Fellow Lions,

The Avon Lions Club cordially invites you and your members to join us in celebrating 60 years of Lionism in Avon on Friday, June 19th at 6:00 PM at Lake Wobegon Park.

As our guests, each attendee will receive a complimentary drink ticket and be entered into a drawing for fantastic door prizes, including a pair of Adirondack chairs, two Lions fire rings, a gift certificate for a complete vehicle detail and oil change, and many other great prizes.

This celebration also supports an important cause. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for LCIF and the Eye Bank, and all pledges will be credited directly to your chapter. To ensure proper credit and charitable reporting, checks should be made payable directly to LCIF or the Eye Bank. These checks should be issued from charitable gambling funds.

Please RSVP by emailing bryan@tanidivision.com and include whether you will be attending, the number of members in your party, and the amount you plan to pledge to LCIF.

Thank you for considering support of our 60-year celebration and, more importantly, for your continued dedication to serving our local communities through Lionism. We truly hope you can join us for this special milestone.

Warm regards,
Avon Lions Club
President Scott Welle

WHERE COMMUNITY, AVIATION, AND SERVICE COME TOGETHER
Closing out Rum River Festival at the Princeton Airport



Princeton Lions Club
AIRPORT BRUNCH

WE SERVE

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026
7:30 AM - 12:00 NOON
AT THE PRINCETON AIRPORT

Experience the sights and sounds of history in motion.



The T-6 Thunder Group will perform a three aircraft formation flyover with smoke, followed by a ramp display where attendees can meet the pilots and view these historic aircraft up close. Their planned arrival is 9 am - 10:45 am. (weather permitting)





ALL YOU CAN EAT BRUNCH: EGGS, HASH BROWNS, PANCAKES KIELBASA, ORANGE JUICE, MILK AND COFFEE
ADULTS \$15 KIDS \$8 (KIDS AGE 12 & UNDER)

PROCEEDS GO TO LIONS CHARITIES IN THE PRINCETON COMMUNITY

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!

BEAUTIFY MINNESOTA
 SPONSORED BY
Avon Hills Lions Club

**Avon Hills Lions
 Pollinator
 Open House**

Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
1st St. NE & 1st St. SE, Avon MN

(Just follow the signs)
 Join us for an Open House of the Avon Hills Lions Club Pollinator Project on I-94. Visit booths with various organizations involved in this project, enjoy refreshments and walk the Pollinator area to see the plants and insects (must be 18 or older to enter the area).

This is the first project of its kind along a Federal Interstate in MN.

Don't miss your chance to see this project up close!

BRING YOUR USED EYEGLASSES!
Recycle!
 Collection on Site for eyeglasses, old cellphones & hearing aids MORNING COLLECTION
RECYCLE YOUR OLD GLASSES & HELP GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT!

Lions International Convention support available:
 Contact Lion Carrie Shofner

2029 International Convention
\$30 ea
 Contact Lion Carrie Shofner to Get yours Today!

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:

2026 MINNESOTA RETREATS

- 2026 MAY 1-3 Camp Shetek near Slayton, MN
- 2026 JUNE 5-7 Osprey Wilds near Sandstone, MN
- 2026 OCTOBER 2-4 Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN
- 2026 DECEMBER 4-6 Faith Haven Camp near Battle Lake, MN

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



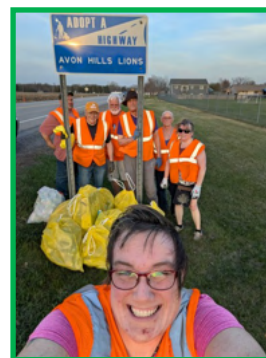
Kimball Expo with Lions Kidsight



Little Falls Lions Club did a service project for "Cooking For Our Neighbors" Our crew of 11 made 138 meals (this time a yummy egg bake) which were Frozen and made ready to distribute in our community to anyone experiencing food needs. We met at Sprout Commercial Kitchen and worked with Micki Czech who is trained to guide a group of volunteers through the process of safe food practices. Thanks to the volunteers and Micki for a very worthwhile



The St Martin Lions and the Farming Lions along with community members made 44 fleece blankets to donate to U of MN Masonic Children's Hospital. PDG Jeff Thompson delivered the blankets to the Children's Hospital.



Avon Hills did their part – cleaning their section of roadway!



Cold Spring Home Pride Lions had an information booth at the ROCCORI area Expo, they offered a hearing & vision screening. They also held a blood drive in April.



Heartland Champions Club at the ROCORI area Expo



I received a request from a Lion in our district for the following information. Included is the breakdown of dues for Lions International, Multiple, & District. This is for the Lions year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 . Your individual club may add more to cover their club expenses as well. Thanks goes to PDG Dave Thompson for this info.

International Dues

New Membership Dues Billing and Fees --Effective July 1, 2025, \$50.00

Billing for a new member begins the first of the month in which the member enters a club at the average rate of \$4.17 per month and billed through the end of that semi-annual period. Billing is issued semi-annually thereafter. Below is a schedule of the new member dues throughout the year:

Member accepted by club in the month of...	Billing date for new members	Semi-annual dues billed for each new member	New member entrance fee (not pro-rated)	Total dues & fees billed
July	July 1 st	\$ 25.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 60.00
August	August 1 st	20.84	35.00	55.84
September	September 1 st	16.68	35.00	51.68
October	October 1 st	12.50	35.00	47.50
November	November 1 st	8.34	35.00	43.34
December	December 1 st	4.17	35.00	39.17
January	January 1 st	25.00	35.00	60.00
February	February 1 st	20.84	35.00	55.84
March	March 1 st	16.68	35.00	51.68
April	April 1 st	12.50	35.00	47.50
May	May 1 st	8.34	35.00	43.34
June	June 1 st	4.17	35.00	39.17

Billing for a new Family or Student member begins the first of the month in which the member enters a club at the average rate of \$2.09 per month and billed through the end of that semi-annual period. Billing is issued semi-annually thereafter. Below is a schedule of the new member dues throughout the year:

Billing for a new Family or Student member begins the first of the month in which the member enters a club at the average rate of \$2.09 per month and billed through the end of that semi-annual period. Billing is issued semi-annually thereafter. Below is a schedule of the new member dues throughout the year:

Member accepted by club in the month of...	Billing date for new members	Semi-annual dues billed for qualifying family member	New member entrance fee (not pro-rated)	Total qualifying family member dues & fees billed	Student member pro-rated dues with entrance fee waived.
July	July 1 st	\$ 12.50	\$ 35.00	\$ 47.50	\$ 12.50
August	August 1 st	10.42	35.00	45.42	10.42
September	September 1 st	8.34	35.00	43.34	8.34
October	October 1 st	6.25	35.00	41.25	6.25
November	November 1 st	4.17	35.00	39.17	4.17
December	December 1 st	2.09	35.00	37.09	2.09
January	January 1 st	12.50	35.00	47.50	12.50
February	February 1 st	10.42	35.00	45.42	10.42
March	March 1 st	8.34	35.00	43.34	8.34
April	April 1 st	6.25	35.00	41.25	6.25
May	May 1 st	4.17	35.00	39.17	4.17
June	June 1 st	2.09	35.00	37.09	2.09

Multiple District Dues 2025-26

Breakdown of per capita tax, (dues) - The annual tax of eight dollars and fifty-five cents (\$8.55), U.S. Funds, shall be apportioned as follows:

\$4.84 MD5M Administrative Fund

.25 Campaign Fund

.25 GMT Fund

.50 GLT Fund

.46 MD5M Geographical Area Assistance Fund

.50 MD5M Convention Fund

.25 MD5M International Parade Fund

1.50 MD5M 2029 International Lions Convention Host Fund beginning July 1,2024 ending with the January 1,2029 second half dues payment.

\$8.55 Total annual tax per member

There is also a Technology tax billed the first of every new Lions year, which I divide by the number of clubs and the district and pass thru at actual cost.

District 5M8 Dues Structure

Breakdown of per capita tax, (dues) - The annual tax of Nine dollars and fifty cents (\$9.50), U.S. Funds, shall be apportioned as follows:

\$4.25 to the District 5M-8 administrative fund;

\$0.50 to the District 5M-8 convention fund

1 st Half Semi Annuals Dues	
Multiple District 5M Administrative Fund per member	4.84
Multiple District 5M Campaign Fund per member	*0.13
Multiple District 5M Band Fund per member	*0.13
Multiple District 5M GMT Training Fund per member	*0.13
Multiple District 5M Geo Area Assistance Fund per	0.23
Multiple District 5M Annual Convention Fund per	0.25
Multiple District 5M GLT Training per member	0.25
District 5M8 Administrative Fund per member	4.25
District 5M8 Convention Fund per member	0.50
Club Officer Bond per club	**8.75
Technology Fee for Multiple per club	**1.25
	TOTAL

*2nd half Dues this amount is .12

**these two are only billed on the 1st half statement





Lion Wilfred Finken
 Lion Ronald Czek
 Lion Tony Rekowski
 Lion Tom DeFrance
 Lion Robert Koetter

Melrose Lions Club
 Sobieski Lions Club
 Sobieski Lions Club
 Swanville Lions Club
 Swanville 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

Isaiah Alexander
 Heather Veldkamp
 John Nelson
 Joseph Belland
 James Cross
 Bailey Anderson
 Jennifer Anderson
 Brian Bennett
 Megan Bennett
 Alyssa Nelson
 Shane Nelson
 Janice Czech
 Karen Sturm
 Jill Bruno
 Bonnie Williams
 Mishelle Mehr
 BethYoung
 Thomas Anderson
 Suzy Gruttkoski
 Justin Ainali
 Corey Schulte
 Kris Crosby
 Daniel Bartkowitz
 David Goetze

Central MN Police Academy Lions Club
 Eden Valley Lions Club
 Richmond Lions Club
 Rock Creek Lions Club
 Rock Creek Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sandstone Lions Club
 Sobieski Lions Club
 St Augusta Lions Club
 St Joseph Lions Club
 St Joseph Lions Club
 St Martin Lions Club
 Stearns County Heartland Champions Lions Club
 Sturgeon Lake Lions Club
 Sturgeon Lake Lions Club
 Swanville Lions Club
 Swanville Lions Club
 Swanville Lions Club
 Swanville Lions Club
 Swanville Lions Club



5M8 Membership update as of

April 2026

2771 Lions Members & 73 clubs
 196 dropped members in FY
 149 members added in FY
 -47 Net growth in FY
 -1.70 % net Growth in FY



5M8 Service update

as of **April 2026**

3141 overall activity count
 720,301 overall people served in FY
 85,884 overall volunteer hours in FY
 94% clubs reporting

DATES TO REMEMBER



MD5M Multiple Convention

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

5M8 Midwinter Convention

February 5-7, 2027



MAY Environment



SERVICE PLANNER

LIONS YEAR 2025-26

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

leppa73@mnval.net

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

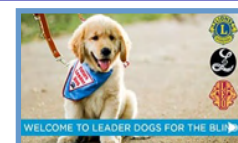
Lion Bob Thompson

rthompson@minpack.com

**5M8 Leader Dog**

PDG Tracy Voigt

mnhomeof4@hotmail.com 320-630-1264

**KIDSIGHT kidsightmd5m.org/resources.php**

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 612-390-2629 www.MNLERC.org



Project New Hope

Lion Dave Shofner davecarrieshofner@gmail.com

Vacant-Help Needed



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 Breikreutz jabre@izoom.net

Lion Carrie Shofner davecarrieshofner@gmail.com



Global Service Team Coordinators

PDG Amy Leidenfrost head coordinator frankandamy135@gmail.com

PCC Deb Harms 1lionlady@charter.net



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 vincethiel@yahoo.com

Lion Trish Thiel tltboots@yahoo.com



GMT Women's & Family Specialist

Lion Cheri Appel Cheri52appel@gmail.com

PDG Donna Landwehr billanddonnal@myctl.net

PDG Bill Landwehr 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

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

