



5M8 News

We Serve

5M8 Newsletter
www.lions5m8.org
JUNE 2026

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**Step up, get involved,
& help make a
difference
across District 5M8!**



HELP NEEDED !

District 5M8 is seeking Lions leaders to serve as **Zone Chairpersons for Zone 5 & 6** . This is a great opportunity to support clubs, encourage communication, strengthen leadership and help clubs succeed throughout the district. A Zone Chairperson serves as a link between the clubs in the zone and the district leadership. In this role you will:

- *Lead Zone meetings (3 annually), Support club health and growth
- *Encourage service, leadership and membership development,
- *Help strengthen communication between clubs and district leadership.

If you enjoy working with others. Supporting local clubs and helping Lions make an even greater impact, this may be the perfect opportunity for you.

If you are interested in serving as Zone Chairperson for Zone 5 or Zone 6 or would like to recommend a qualified Lions, please contact District5M8 Leadership Team.

PDG Allen Bailey atbailey@eaglevalleytel.net

PCC Jack Breitreutz jabre@izoom.net

Lion Carrie Shofner davecarrieshofner@gmail.com

Eyeglass Recycling Chair to take over the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center program.

Contact DGE Diann @ dibellmont@gmail.com for further information and questions.



WE NEED YOU!

LIONS QUEST CHAIRPERSON

Lions Quest is a comprehensive, positive youth development program that empowers young people with important social and emotional skills. Join us in making a difference in the lives of children and youth in our community.

Key responsibilities of the Lions Quest Chairperson include:

- Program Leadership
- Workshop Coordination
- Training Facilitation
- Resource Management
- Community Outreach
- School Partnerships
- Progress Reporting
- Youth Advocacy

District Chairperson Needed! Contact DG if interested in supporting Lions Quest for 26-27. Training and support will be provided from Multiple Lions Quest Chair.



News from 5M8



Hello Lions of 5M8!

District Governor Zach coming to you one last time in this newsletter as your District Governor! It truly feels like I blinked and this incredible year came to an end. What an amazing journey it has been. I have had the honor of meeting so many outstanding Lions, visiting incredible communities, and witnessing firsthand the tremendous service happening throughout our district.

I cannot begin to thank all of you enough for the trust, support, and encouragement you have given me during this unforgettable year. Serving as your District Governor has truly been one of the greatest honors of my life.

As we move into the 2026–2027 Lions year, I know our district will continue to shine brighter than ever before. The passion, dedication, and heart for service that exists within District 5M8 is something truly special, and I am excited to see all the wonderful things yet to come.

While my term as District Governor is ending, my commitment to Lions service certainly is not. I am looking forward to serving in several new roles in the coming year, including:

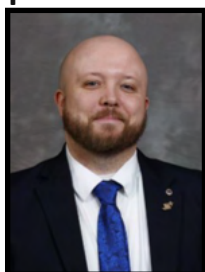
Serving with the Global Membership Team to help continue growing and strengthening our incredible district through impactful membership and retention efforts.

Becoming a Director on the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board.

Supporting soon-to-be District Governor Diann as Immediate Past District Governor and assisting in any way I can to help make her year memorable and successful.

Please know that if you ever need anything from me, I will always be here as a resource for you. I would love to continue visiting clubs, attending events, and connecting with all of you whenever possible.

Enjoy your summer, everyone, and please don't be strangers! Thank you again for allowing me the privilege of serving District 5M8 this year. Together, we truly Amplified our Lions Spirit!



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



MISSION 1.5

We're on a mission to grow.





Porch Notes – District Governor Elect

As we finally enter the warmer part of the year here in Minnesota, many of us are enjoying gardening or simply taking time to stop and smell the flowers. One of my favorite ways to relax is playing in the dirt and planting flowers to enjoy later in the summer.

It has been a busy and rewarding past month visiting clubs, attending zone meetings and participating in District Officer Training offered at three locations. Hopefully, most club officers were able to take advantage of this training opportunity. If not, training is available in the Lion Portal under the Learning section. Please be sure to report if you were able to participate in the training. What a wonderful opportunity it has been to meet the amazing Lions throughout our district and to learn about the caring service projects taking place in each community.

As you drive through our towns, you can truly see the impact Lions have made—from beautiful parks to pavilions that host local events—many of them built through the dedication and hard work of Lions members.

On Mother's Day, I had the joy of watching my grandchildren participate with a baseball team at Miracle Field for children and young adults with special needs, ages 6 to 25. Seeing the Lions volunteers who helped make the day such a success, along with the excitement of every participant as they hit the ball and ran the bases, was truly a heartwarming experience.

District 5M8 was also able to collaborate with District 5M9 and the Jacob's Crew Lions Club to help introduce the Lions Quest program to the Staples-Motley School District. Through the efforts of Council Chair Denise Laudenbach, who delivered an outstanding presentation to the middle school principal, Lions were able to share the possibilities and benefits of the program. CC Denise then guided us through the Quest grant application process to assist the Staples-Motley School in implementing the program.

We are excited to share that, with the assistance of PDG Frank Leidenfrost and PDG Deb Bialke, the grant has now been confirmed and is available to District 5M8. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who shared their time, knowledge and commitment to help make this possible for our district.

In addition, the visit of International President A.P. Singh to the campuses of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University has inspired the development of the new Collegetown Lions Club, with the St. Joe Lions Club serving as the sponsoring club. The assistance of Kingshuk Mukherjee, Chair of Global Business Leadership on campus, has been a driving force in this process. It has been a very enlightening and rewarding experience to be part of this development effort.

Our trip to Hong Kong is now less than a month away, and the time has truly flown by. My husband, Bob, and I are excited to share this journey with the District Governors-Elect of MD 5M. I am incredibly grateful for the friendships formed along the way, the leadership lessons learned throughout the process, and the many Lions leaders who have generously given their time to help prepare us for the coming year. Thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey.

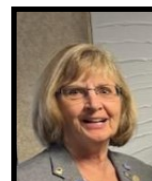
Before departing for Hong Kong, I, along with our outstanding GAT team—GET PDG Vince Thiel and GMT Zach Wosmek—will attend the MISSION 1.5 Summit in Atlanta. There, we will join incoming International President Mark Lyon and Lions leaders from around the world to collaborate on solutions for growing membership in the coming year.

Together, we continue building stronger communities through service, leadership and friendship.

WE SERVE

Diann Belmont

DGE District 5M8





Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

ANNUAL WALK TO D-FEET HEARING LOSS

JUNE 6, 2026

<p>Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Chaska, MN</p> <p>Registration: 9am - 10am Walk Starts: 10:15am Lunch Begins: 11:15am</p>	<p>Diamond Point Park Bemidji, MN</p> <p>Registration: 8:30am - 9:30am Walk Starts: 9:45am Lunch Begins: 11:30am</p>
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- 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/>

Logos for Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation, and Diamond Point Park.

To learn more visit us at: 5mhf.org or at facebook.com/5mhf.org



Come and join us for this fun event and support the MN Lions Hearing Foundation




Annual Walk TO D-FEET HEARING LOSS



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



One of MLVF's projects: Lions Children's Eye Clinic

Did you know that the leading clinic in the upper Midwest for the treatment of children's eye conditions is right in our own backyard? That would be your own Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic. Six pediatric eye doctors, four orthoptists, and two ophthalmic technicians treat more than 10,000 patients each year, assisting children as young as a few days old. Their expertise includes congenital cataracts, drooping eyelids, glaucoma, tear duct problems, lazy, misaligned, or wandering eyes, muscle palsies, and retinoblastoma. If you know a child or teen who has an eye problem, connect them with the Lions Children's Eye Clinic. 701 25th Ave S - Minneapolis, MN 55454 612-365-8350





2026-2027 CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD



★ RECOGNIZING CLUBS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

★ **New clubs chartered after January 1, 2027, are not eligible for the award.*

CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD CRITERIA

1 MEMBERSHIP



- ✓ Achieved a net growth of **two (2) members** or 10% or more members (Reinstated members and charter members above the minimum 20 members will qualify.)
- OR
- ✓ Sponsored a new Lions club or Club Branch



2 SERVICE



- ✓ Report a minimum of **four (4) service activities.** (Three (3) must align with our **Global Causes** around Youth, Vision and Environment (one in each Global Cause) these service projects can be completed throughout the 2026-2027 Lion year.)

 YOUTH

 VISION

 ENVIRONMENT

3 LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE



- ✓ Clubs in Good Standing: not in Status Quo or Financial Suspension. Club dues paid and no unpaid balance with Lions International greater than **US\$50** outstanding 90 days or more.
- ✓ Report newly elected club officers for the 2027-2028 Lions year in the **Lion Portal** by May 15, 2027, of the current Lions year.
- ✓ Club officers to attend instructor-led club officer training (in person or virtual), organized and reported in Learn by GLT coordinator, between March 1, 2026 - October 31, 2026.



INVEST IN LEADERS.
STRENGTHEN YOUR CLUB.
SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY.

- ✓ The club president for the current Lion year must not have served in that role more than two consecutive years.
- ✓ **10%** of the club's members complete any three (3) courses in the Lions Learning Center.

4 LCIF



- ✓ Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's membership total at the start of the 2026-2027 Lion year multiplied by **US\$20.**

5 DISTRICT, REGION AND ZONE CRITERIA



- ✓ For the District, Zone Chairperson and Region Chairperson, **50%** of the clubs must earn the club excellence award for them to receive this award.



TOGETHER WE SERVE.
TOGETHER WE EXCEL.

Making a Difference, Together

WE SERVE WITH COMPASSION. WE LEAD WITH PURPOSE. WE IMPACT LIVES.



More information on next page....

2026-2027 Excellence Awards



**New clubs chartered after January 1, 2027, are not eligible for the award.*

Club Excellence Award criteria

Membership:

- Achieved a net growth of two (2) members or 10% or more members (Reinstated members and charter members above the minimum 20 members will qualify.)
OR
- Sponsored a new Lions club or Club Branch

Service:

- Report a minimum of four (4) service activities. (Three (3) must align with our [Global Causes](#) around Youth, Vision and Environment (one in each Global Cause) these service projects can be completed throughout the 2026-2027 Lion year.)

Leadership & Organizational Excellence:

- Clubs in Good Standing: not in Status Quo or Financial Suspension. Club dues paid and no unpaid balance with Lions International greater than US\$50 outstanding 90 days or more.
- Report newly elected club officers for the 2027-2028 Lions year in the [Lion Portal](#) by May 15, 2027, of the current Lions year.
- Club officers to attend instructor-led club officer training (in person or virtual), organized and reported in Learn by GLT coordinator, between March 1, 2026 – October 31, 2026.
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served in that role more than two consecutive years.
- 10% of the club's members complete any three (3) courses in the Lions Learning Center.

LCIF:

Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's membership total at the start of the 2026-2027 Lion year multiplied by US\$20,

District, Region and Zone criteria

For the District, Zone Chairperson and Region Chairperson, 50% of the clubs must earn the club excellence award for them to receive this award.



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



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.



Scan QR code to Donate

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



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



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
Coming to MINNESOTA
JUNE
20-26

WANT TO VOLUNTEER for the

Special Olympics USA Games?



Family Night is **TWO NIGHTS** (Mariucci Arena)

Pick as many opportunities as you want to!

Family Night Setup Volunteers	FUL
Tue, Jun 16, 2026 - 01:00 PM to 06:00 PM Family Night	
Lions Club - Opening Eyes	66
Jun 19 - Jun 25, 2026 (Multiple Shifts Available) Healthy Athletes	
Family Night Guest Service Volunteer	41
Jun 24 - Jun 25, 2026 (Multiple Shifts Available) Family Night	
Family Night Greet Team Volunteers	FUL
Jun 24 - Jun 25, 2026 (Multiple Shifts Available) Family Night	

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

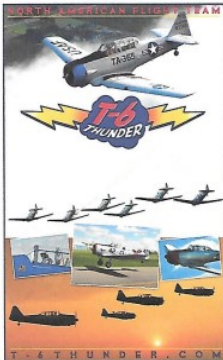


WE SERVE

Princeton Lions Club AIRPORT BRUNCH

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

21ST ANNUAL PORK CHOP BARBECUE



Duelm Lions Club



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

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

\$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

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

MN Gambling #35992



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 by 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!



PHEASANTS FOREVER
The Habitat Organization

PRAIRIESCAPES



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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!



The Luxemburg Lions will be grilling Hamburgers in the St. Wendelin's School parking lot Friday July 3rd from 10am-6pm.

There is plenty of room for parking campers and boats of any size.

Take your burger to go or sit and relax in our picnic area.

Proceeds support our local community.

Thank You for Your Support!

Bring your old eyeglasses and hearing aids for repurposing



THE WATKINS LIONS CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS

WATKINS TOUGH DAY

Saturday, July 11th, 2026
 McCarthy Park, Watkins
 9am - midnight

<p>Live Entertainment All Day Carter Geislinger 1-3 pm Mathew Lease 4-7 pm Rhino! 8 pm-midnight</p>	<p>Face Painting & Fairy Hair 11 am-1 pm</p>
<p>Tornado Alley Vendor & Farmer's Market 9 am - 1 pm</p>	<p>Beanbag Tournament 11 am</p>
<p>Coffee & Food Trucks Mocha Motion 8 am A Spud Above 8 am Pit Stop BBQ 11 am Mason's Sno 'n More 11 am Pearl Ridge Cake Shop 3 pm</p>	<p>Sidewalk Chalk Contest Noon</p>
<p>Beer Garden Bloody Marys, Beer, Seltzers & Mixed Drinks 9 am - midnight</p>	<p>Frozen Shirt Race 1 pm</p>
<p>Wicked Winds & Wheels Vehicle Meet-Up Featuring Rock On Trucks, the Twister Truck, SWAT Humvee, Mobile Command Unit and more! Bring your own wheels to show off, too - let's meet up! 10 am - 1 pm</p>	<p>Motorcycle Stunt Show 2 pm</p>
<p>Pull Tabs 11 am - 4 pm</p>	<p>Belt Sander Races 3 pm</p>
<p>Video Horse Races 4 pm</p>	<p>Waterslide & Bounce House 10 am-7 pm</p>
<p>Silent Auction 9 am - 6 pm</p>	<p>Olde Tyme Specialty Cocktails by Mike from the Store Saloon! 5-7 pm</p>
<p>Gone With the Wind Medallion Hunt (Tootz Edition) 9 am 'til found</p>	

Come out and join us for a spectacular day of fun as we commemorate the tenth anniversary of the F2 tornado that came through Watkins and tried to take us down. All proceeds from this event will be used toward the Watkins Community Projects Fund.

Cabinet Meeting dates: Monday July 27 and Monday November 9 at E. VFW St. Cloud 5 pm social 5:30 Foundation 6 pm meal 6:30 meeting



Ramey Morril held a Pancake & stuffed French toast Breakfast and did Ditch cleaning.




Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be **no preventable blindness**; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided?

I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind.

Will you not constitute yourselves **Knights of the Blind** in this crusade against darkness?

Helen Keller in her address to the 1925 Lions Clubs International Convention Cedar Point, Ohio



#womenleaders
#makingadifference

Helen Keller Day
June 27



The first two GLT officer trainings went wonderfully. With over a hundred people attending between the Mora and Little Falls sites the trainings were a success! Our last training will be on Saturday, May 30th In Cold Spring. If you weren't able to attend our trainings, please go online to lionsclubs.org and go to the learning center and complete the training video in your respective officer area. Our district does get credit for the trainings done by our club officers, so even if you've been in the position for a while, please do This important training. Thank you to everyone who pre-registered it made the process so much nicer and to our trainers who did a fantastic job teaching our people leaders. The GLT Team



DGE Diann & Lion Bob supporting Luxemburg Lions burger stand.





WE NEED YOU!



WE SERVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES MINNESOTA 2026

VOLUNTEER AT THE LIONS BOOTH

FAN FEST AREA!

CHAMPIONS LIONS CLUBS
Uniting Lions and Leos to support Special Olympics athletes and communities.

WE NEED WORKERS FOR ALL SHIFTS!

SUNDAY - THURSDAY JUNE 21 - JUNE 25

11:00 AM - 3:30 PM
3:30 PM - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY JUNE 26

11:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Be a CHAMPION of INCLUSION!

SIGN UP TODAY!
Scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4BA892FABFE3-64057339-lions>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REACH OUT TO LION DENNIS HEINEN AT 320.491.3996

Hello Fellow Lions,

The Lions will be hosting a booth at the USA Special Olympics Games, and we are looking for your help and support. Our goal is to promote what Lions do and highlight Champions Lions Clubs. The booth will be interactive and welcoming, with simple games, activities, and information to share with athletes, families, and visitors. We expect approximately 5,000 people per day to pass through the area, making this an incredible opportunity to tell our Lions story and expand awareness.

We are seeking Lions who are willing to:

Help staff the booth

Engage with attendees and answer questions

Assist with games and activities

Help share information about Champions Lions Clubs and other Lions service projects

This is a fun, high-visibility way to serve and support the Special Olympics while showcasing the impact Lions make in our communities.

Please see the flyer for more information and sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4BA8A92FABFE3-64057339-lions#/>

or would like more information, please reach out to me. Thank you for considering being part of this exciting opportunity. Feel free to share with other Lions.

JUNE 2026
LIONS QUEST

AWARENESS BEGINS

Lions across 5M are embarking on an exciting new journey—our Quest for Impact. This initiative invites every Lion to play a role in shaping the future of our youth through Lions Quest, a proven program that equips young people with the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

So, what is Lions Quest? At its core, it is an evidence-based social and emotional learning program designed for schools and youth organizations. It focuses on building life skills such as responsible decision-making, emotional awareness, leadership, and positive relationships. In today's world, these skills are more important than ever.

If Quest is new to you or your club, I would be happy to visit your club, zone, or cabinet meeting. This would be a chance to provide you / your club with specific information about Quest and answer any questions to help start Quest in your area. You can reach out to me with any questions or schedule a visit using the contact information below.



THE ASK...
 This month, our focus is simple: awareness. We are asking every club to learn about Lions Quest and begin conversations within your meetings. Share what you learn. Discuss how this program aligns with your club's mission to serve.

WE NEED YOU!

5M is hosting a series of 5 Webinars this year to educate Lions and Clubs about Lions Quest and how to get this curriculum into schools and community groups.

Please join us for the 1st in our series, "Ignite the Quest" on Tuesday, June 16th from 7:00 - 8:00pm. All Lions are welcome to attend to learn more!

To join, go to www.zoom.com, click "Meet", select "Join a Meeting" and enter

Meeting ID: 828 0316 4131
 Passcode: 087451

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:

Name:
 Phone:
 Email:

Lead the Pride. Launch the Quest.

5M LIONS QUEST WEBINAR SERIES

ALL LIONS INVITED!

IGNITE THE QUEST

Learn about Lions Quest and how your club can get involved!

A five-part webinar series for ALL Lions members to learn about Lions Quest - our Social Emotional Curriculum for youth - and the impact you can make in your community.

June 16, 2026
7:00 - 7:45 PM

Zoom: Join Virtually
Meeting ID: 828 0316 4131
Passcode: 087451

Or email: robrandmn@gmail.com for invite

Seminar Dates (tentative):

Webinar 1: June 16, 2026	Topic: Ignite the Quest
Webinar 2: August 18, 2026	Topic: Map the Territory
Webinar 3: October 20, 2026	Topic: Start the Conversation
Webinar 4: December 15, 2026	Topic: Build the Partnership
Webinar 5: February 16, 2027	Topic: Train, Prepare, Celebrate!



Lead the Pride. Launch the Quest!



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

FREE 18-INCH ROAD SIGNS
GET YOURS TODAY!



- FREE 18-INCH ROAD SIGNS** available while supplies last
- LIMIT ONE REQUEST PER CLUB** Thank you for helping us spread the word!
- FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED** Signs will be fulfilled on a first-come, first-served basis.

REQUEST YOUR SIGN TODAY:
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/marketing-events/marketing-public-relations/club-marketing/road-signs>


Show your impact. Inspire your community.



LIONS 18" STREET SIGN

Your mind is a garden. Your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers or you can grow weeds.

-Osho





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



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

Lions International Convention support available:
Contact Lion
Carrie Shofner



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!

CHAMPIONS LIONS COLOR DASH

SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2026

AT THE STEARNS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

1105 ASH ST S SAUK CENTRE, MN 56370

★ RUN. WALK. GET COLORFUL. HAVE FUN. SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY! ★

RAIN OR SHINE!

WE'RE COLORING OUR COMMUNITY!

IT'S A COLOR RUN! PLEASE WEAR OLD CLOTHES, SHORTS, SOCKS AND SHOES AS THE COLOR MAY STAIN!

FREE TO ALL DASHERS!

A COLOR RUN T-SHIRT WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE FIRST 200 PARTICIPANTS!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- SIGN UP BEGINS AT 2:00 PM TO PICK UP YOUR T-SHIRT
- COLOR RUN KICK OFF AT 3:00 PM
- LUNCH AT 5:00 PM
- DANCE 4:00 - 6:00 PM WITH DJ PETE!

CHAMPIONS OF ALL ABILITIES. TOGETHER WE SHINE!

Celebrating ability. Building friendship. Creating a more inclusive community together!

DANCE WITH DJ Pete!

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION AT FB OFFICIAL SAUK CENTRE LIONS CLUB PAGE



Thanks to all the Lions in 5M8 supporting the goal to screen as many children as possible. Your work has resulted in 10,876 kids screening with 1014 referrals this Lion year 2025-2026. April 28th KidSight was invited to an event Sponsored by United Way at the St. Cloud Library. Event was Llama Llama. We set up the canopy and had 2 screeners. Clubs represented were Mora, Pierz, Isle, Upsala, and St. Joe Y2K. In 2 hours, we screened 83 with 15 referrals. KidSight has been invited back to participate next year April 27th.

Please check your calendar for this year's State Fair screening. District 5M8 is scheduled for Friday, September 4. There are currently several opportunities to volunteer. Sign-up is managed through Sign Up Genius: search for Kidsightmd5m.org.schedule, then open the schedule, select State Fair, and scroll to September 4. After you sign up, please email me at mjbreuer@msn.com or text 320-336-8600 with your mailing address. I will mail the tickets to participants after I receive them. Volunteers receive fair admission, and mileage reimbursement is available if desired.

I want to thank Sandstone Quarry Lions, Staples 93 Lions and Zone 1 for inviting me to present KidSight to them. It is important to keep up to date with the program and how better to do that by inviting me to visit your clubs to do that.

Clubs who have purchased screeners are encouraged to send them in for updates and service every 2 years. With school year coming to an end this would be a great time to do that. Let's finish the year with a bang. Keep up the great work and remember We Serve.

Marty Breuer, 1VDGE, KidSight Director



Lions KidSight

VOLUNTEER TO HELP



Lions KidSight

SIGN UP TO WORK A SHIFT AT THE



FREE ADMISSION INTO THE FAIR & MILEAGE IS REIMBURSED!



Scan the QR code to access the online sign-up app and choose any shift that works for you! Onsite training will be provided. Below are the job descriptions for each position.

Team Lead (District Director) : Oversees the event and team operations.

Vision Screener (2) : Conducts screenings using the Welch Allyn SPOT or PlusOptix devices.

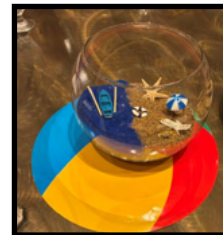
Greeter (2) : Welcomes families, explains the screening, assists with consent forms, checks for completeness, and manages the waiting line until a screener is ready.

Escort (2) : Guides families to the screener, delivers results, and files paperwork.

Note: Greeter and Escort roles require standing and interacting with families: Escort also requires attention to detail.



MD5M Convention Highlights



Past Council Chair Judy Loken received the Hall of Fame representing 5M8 from International President A.P. Singh



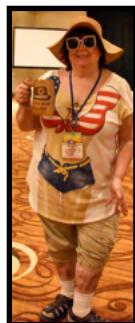
2026-27 District Governor Elects



LCIF Presidential medal award for reaching the 2025-26 District 5M8 LCIF goal



2025-26 MD5M District Governors



Little Falls Lindbergh Lions Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary with the other two Lions Clubs in Little Falls.

President Lion Doug Bednarek presented Lions Gregg Dick and Steve White with their 40 year anniversary pins for years of service and for being Charter members. Lion Deb Retka was honored with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for all the work that she does for the club, currently serving as Secretary and Gambling Committee Member as well as a Past President.



LFLC recognized five Little Falls Lions Club Members who compiled a total of 267 years of service in Lionism!!



Pierz Lions working Music in the Park and Ditch cleaning along with fellowship after



Little Falls Lions Club donated new picnic tables, bike racks and garbage receptacles for use at Lions Park., welcomed Maria, a new member, and cooked for "Day of Caring"



Cold Spring Home Pride Lions stuffed and sewed 103 neck pillows for Coborn's Cancer Center patients, participated in the "let the Sun Shine Run" to support mental health, and at the ROCORI area Expo providing info about their club and doing Kidsight vision screening and hearing screenings. Dollars for Scholars recipient





Lion Henry Ahrens
Lion Leander Maus
Lion Tony Rekowski

Eagle Bend Lions Club
Pierz Lions Club
Sobieski 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

Andrew Salzl
Linda Buckman
Jeff Warren
Craig Lieser
Ben Buttweiler
Matthew Doubek
Laurie Nepsund
Brayden Hughson
Evelyn Hughson
David Spinler
Patrick Spinler
Jessica DelGrand
Eric Morrison

Albany Lions Club
Cold Spring Home Pride Lions Club
Eagle Bend Lions Club
Freeport Lions Club
Freeport Lions Club
Grey Eagle-Burtrum Lions Club
Paynesville Lions Club
Randall Cushing Area Lions Club
Randall Cushing Area Lions Club
Rock Creek Lions Club
Rock Creek Lions Club
Watkins Lions Club
Watkins Lions Club



5M8 Membership update as of May 2026

2766 Lions Members & 73 clubs
214 dropped members in FY
162 members added in FY
-52 Net growth in FY
-188 % net Growth in FY



5M8 Service update as of May 2026

3526 overall activity count
844,239 overall people served in FY
94,081 overall volunteer hours in FY
95% 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



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

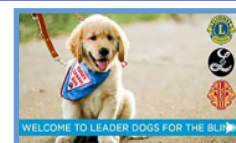
Lion Bob Thompson

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@myctl.net teamsheehan.foundation

Global Leadership Coordinators

PDG Allen Bailey atbailey@eaglevalleytel.net

PCC Jack Bretkreutz 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

