



5M8 News

5M8 Newsletter
www.lions5m8.org
July 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.

PCC Jack Breitkreutz jabre@izoom.net

PCC Todd Neuman deerhilltgn@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.



Lions International 2017-2026



News from 5M8

District Governor Porch Notes

As we begin this Lions year, our nation is also celebrating a historic milestone—250 Years of Freedom. This commemorative year reminds us of the importance of community, citizenship, and service. It is my hope that we carry this spirit of celebration and pride throughout the year as we continue to grow our impact across District 5M8.

As I begin my new role as District Governor of District 5M8, the reality of this journey has truly set in. I am excited to meet new friends, learn about new service projects, and visit communities throughout beautiful Minnesota. Witnessing the dedication, hard work, and commitment of the Lions in District 5M8 has been both inspiring and humbling.

I recognize that this leadership position comes with great responsibility, and I hope to honor the legacy of those who have served before me. Most importantly, this role is about teamwork. Each of us is a vital cog in the wheel of progress, and together we can continue building a strong and successful district. I trust that, as a team, we will make all the Lions of District 5M8 proud.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Global 1.5 Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. It was an outstanding experience filled with collaboration, brainstorming, and fellowship with Lions from around the world. The leadership and vision shared by upcoming International President Mark Lyon were both inspiring and enlightening.

Joining me at the summit were PDG Zach Wosmek, Global Membership Team (GMT) Coordinator, and PDG Vince Thiel, Global Extension Team (GET) Coordinator. We enjoyed exploring Atlanta, visiting local landmarks, and sharing meals and Lions stories with friends old and new. Saturday was devoted to discussing goals, strategies, and plans for the future. The membership growth ideas presented were exciting, and I look forward to seeing District 5M8 continue to grow and thrive.

Please support IP Mark Lyon new focus areas of service will focus on Vision, Youth and Environment. Get ready to energize your club in the upcoming new Lion year!

Please be sure to complete and return the District Governor Club Visit Request Form included in this newsletter. Clubs that schedule their visit by December 20, 2025, will receive extra points in the Governor's Contest.

On a personal note, I have always appreciated Minnesota's milder seasons, so if possible, I would prefer club visits be scheduled before December 15 or after March 1.

Thank you for all you do to serve your communities and for your dedication to Lionism. Together, let's continue to make a difference and truly "Let Service Ring" throughout District 5M8.

Yours in Service,

District Governor Diann Bellmont

District 5M8



MISSION 1.5

We're on a mission to grow.





I look forward to a great Lions year as we continue doing what Lions do best: serving others with passion, purpose, and teamwork.

I was born in Madison, South Dakota, and moved to Southern California at age 10. In 1970, I enlisted in the United States Air Force, where I began as a medic, retrained as an optometric technician, and ultimately made the Air Force my career. I retired in 2000 as a Chief Master Sergeant after 30 years of service.

Minnesota has long been part of my story. Before joining the Air Force, I spent my summers working on my uncle's dairy farm, where I met the young woman who became my wife in 1972. We have two daughters, one living in Texas and one in Minnesota.

After retiring from the Air Force, my wife and I moved to Minnesota, where I began a new career path and was first introduced to Lions. Since joining, I have been active in the Mora Lions and District 5M8, with KidSight serving as my primary focus for the past three years. I will continue as the 5M8 KidSight Director this year and am pleased to welcome Lion Kathi Schmidt of the St. Joseph Y2K Lions as Co-Director.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as I move toward the role of District Governor. My experience with the Lions of 5M8 has been outstanding, and I look forward to working with all of you this year. Together, we will continue to promote Lionism and strengthen our service across the district.

Looking forward, WE SERVE!

Martin Breuer,
1st District Vice Governor, 5M8





2nd Vice District Governor Kimberly Stommes

I am honored and excited to serve as your Second Vice District Governor. I look forward to getting to know even more of the incredible Lions throughout our district and working together to continue the life-changing service Lions provide in our communities every day.

I live in Sartell and am the owner of Jeddelloh Snyder Stommes, P.A., a law firm with offices in St. Cloud, Cold Spring, and Big Lake. My practice focuses primarily on family law, criminal defense, child protection and appellate work. I have always believed that service to others extends far beyond the courtroom, which is one of the reasons Lions has been such a meaningful part of my life since I was 18 years old.

My Lions journey began with joining my grandparents, Cy and Jane Reinert and my parents, Scott and Lori Reinert as members of the Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions Club. I quickly discovered that Lions is much more than a service organization; it is a family. Through Lions, I have had the opportunity to develop lasting friendships, grow as a leader, and witness firsthand the incredible impact we can make when we work together.

One cause especially close to my heart is diabetes awareness and support. I am a former trustee on the MN Lions Diabetes Foundation and for the past eight years, I have served as a pro bono legal consultant for them as well. I have also had the privilege of serving two terms as a trustee. Seeing the difference Lions makes in the lives of individuals and families affected by diabetes has reinforced my belief in the power of service and our ability to create meaningful change. If you have never attended the University of MN's research update tour, you NEED to!

Outside of Lions and my legal practice, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling the world, and supporting my daughter in her many activities. I am also a huge Swiftie

As I begin this leadership journey, my goal is simple: to support our clubs, encourage membership growth, develop future leaders, and help ensure that every Lion feels valued and empowered to serve. Our district is filled with talented, dedicated people who make a difference every day, and I am excited to learn from each of you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to visiting clubs, hearing your stories, celebrating your successes, and working alongside you as we continue to strengthen Lionism throughout our district. Yours in Service,

Kimberly Stommes





2026-2027 District Governor Club Visit Request Form

Date Requested: _____

Club Requesting: _____

Preferred Date: _____

Alternate Date: _____

Address of Meeting: _____

Social: _____ Meal: _____ Meeting Time: _____

DG Attire (Circle) : DG Suit or Lions Business Casual

Point of Contact for Visit: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Email: _____

List if more than one Club is attending:

Club Name:

Pres/Sec/Treasurer Names:

Special Requests/Inductions: _____

My Chosen Charities:

LCIF

MN LIONS VISION FOUNDATION

MN LIONS DIABETES FOUNDATION

Diann Bellmont

15433 - 241ST Street

Cold Spring, MN 56320

Email: LIONPRIDECS@GMAIL.COM

Cell: (320)492-1974

5M8 DISTRICT GOVERNOR CONTEST 2026-2027

<u>Club Activities:</u>	PTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Submitted Service report on the LCI Portal	20													0
Submitted held a Club Meeting report on the LCI Portal	20													0
Club Newsletter or Minutes sent to the DG, VDG & Zone	20													0
Post Club Updates to Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or 1	50													0
New Members added or Reinstated (per member)	30													0
Total Membership at year end is at plus 1 - 7/1/26 -6/30	20													0
5 members reported reading the District 5M8 Newsletter	50													0
Members reported or watched a Podcast or Webinar (e	20													0
Members reported participated in Learning Activity on f	30													0
2 or more Clubs do an fun activity together (Fundraiser-f	30													0
Governor Visit scheduled by 12/20/2026	30													0
1st half of LCI Dues paid by 7/28/2026	50													0
2nd half of LCI Dues paid by 1/28/2027	50													0
Attend other Clubs Fundraiser (10 pts per limit @ 50 pts	10													0
Total														0

<u>District Committee Club Presentations</u>	PTS	Date of Visit	Donation Made	PTS	Total
LCIF	30			50	
Leader Dog	30			50	
Leos	30			50	
Diabetes	30			50	
Hearing Foundation	30			50	
Vision Foundation	30			50	
KidSight	30			50	
Can Do Canines	30			50	
Project New Hope	30			50	
MN Childhood Cancer	30			50	
Global Membership Team	30				
Global Leadership Team	30				
Global Service Team	30				
Global Extension Team	30				
Orientation	30				
Total				0	



5M8 DISTRICT GOVERNOR CONTEST 2026-2027 Page #2

PTS

Additional Pts

Bring Eyeglasses to MidWinter Convention Collection	50
Club Officers attend Zone Meeting (Pres, VP, Sec, Treas)	30
General Member attend Zone Meeting (5 Members)	20
Club Officers attend Convention (Pres, VP, Sec, Treas) EA	40
General Member attend Convention (5 Members)	20
Host Exchange Student pts per	50
Club host an Service Project Mental Health Cause	40
Club held an Membership Drive Event with a gain of 2 n	50

Total 0

Activities Total _____

Presentation Total _____

Donations Total _____

Additional Pts Total _____

Total Of All _____

Secretary/President _____

Club _____

Contact # _____

Zone Chair _____

Date _____

Club Presidents or Secretaries prepare and send to your Zone Chair by August 15, 2027

If you wish to participate in the contest

DG Diann Bellmont
15433 241st Street
Cold Spring, MN 56320
320-492-1974
LIONPRIDECS@GMAIL.COM



2025-2026 Roadmap to Success! Club Excellence Award

2025-2026 Excellence Awards updates

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

Club Excellence Award criteria

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

MEMBERSHIP

- Induct **a minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater** (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or sponsor **a new Lions club**.

SERVICE

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

Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service

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

Mark your calendars

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

Hunger
January 3-11, 2026

Environment
April 18-26, 2026

LEADERSHIP

- Report **newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15** of the current Lion year. A minimum of **10% of the club's members** complete any **three courses** in the Lions Learning Center.
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than **two consecutive terms**.
- A minimum of **two or more club officers** (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Of which, **one must be the club president**) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) **between July 1 – December 31** of the current Lion year.

DONATIONS

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

THE WATKINS LIONS CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS

WATKINS TOUGH DAY

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

Live Entertainment All Day Carter Geislinger 1-3 pm Mathew Lease 4-7 pm Rhino! 8 pm-midnight	Face Painting & Fairy Hair 11 am-1 pm Beanbag Tournament 11 am Sidewalk Chalk Contest Noon Frozen Shirt Race 1 pm Motorcycle Stunt Show 2 pm Belt Sander Races 3 pm Waterslide & Bounce House 10 am-7 pm Olde Tyme Specialty Cocktails by Mike from the Store Saloon! 5-7 pm Twistin' Vixens Hula Hoop Station 5-7 pm Gunny Sack Races 6-7 pm Kiddie & Adult Pedal Pulls 7 pm Gale Force Yard Games Zone 9 am - 7 pm Gone With the Wind Medallion Hunt (Tootz Edition) 9 am 'til found
Tornado Alley Vendor & Farmer's Market 9 am - 1 pm 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 Beer Garden Bloody Marys, Beer, Seltzers & Mixed Drinks 9 am - midnight 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 Pull Tabs 11 am - 4 pm Video Horse Races 4 pm Silent Auction 9 am - 6 pm	

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.

CHAMPIONS LIONS COLOR DASH
SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2026
AT THE STEARNS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1105 ASH ST S SAUK CENTRE, MN 56378

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

RAIN OR SHINE!
WE'RE COLORING OUR COMMUNITY!

FREE TO ALL DASHERS!

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

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

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!
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CHAMPIONS OF ALL ABILITIES. TOGETHER WE SHINE!

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

DANCE WITH DJ Pete!

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

KIMBALL LIONS CLUB 5K 2026 RUN - WALK

AUGUST 8TH

REGISTRATION DETAILS

PRE-REGISTRATION DUE JULY 25, 2026

\$30.00 PER PERSON

Pre-Registered Participant will receive a T-shirt

Registration Form can be found at <https://www.kimballdayrun.com/>

Harvest Bank - Kimball

Contact Information

(320) 249-7000 * Steve Goldman
(612) 741-9589 * Wayne Roth

RACE DAY

7AM * REGISTRATION

8AM * RACE START

WILLOW CREEK PARK
LIONS SHELTER

AWARDED METALS BY AGE AND GENDER GROUPS

WALK-INS ARE WELCOME

FOLLOW ERIN'S STORY ON

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT "ERIN DIFFLEY KJER"

Sturgeon Lake Lions Club 46th Annual Sunfish Contest

August 1st, 2026 1 - 4 pm

Starting Point: Edelweiss Resort on the west side of Sturgeon Lake

Entry Fee per boat:

\$25 pre-register or \$30 day-of

2 occupants per boat

Prizes awarded for total weight of fish. Limited to 50 boats on a first come basis. All boats must register to compete.

Raffle!! Buy tickets & Win prizes!

Prize money based on net entry fees:

1st Place-20%
2nd Place-15%
3rd Place-10%
4th Place-5%
5th Place-5%
6th thru 10th place other prizes

Mail registration fee to:

Sturgeon Lake Lions
C/O Brian Birkholm
33215 Co Rd. 43
Willow River, MN 55795
Checks payable to: Sturgeon Lake Lions

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.

Lions Amber Appel, Trish & PDG Vince Theil worked the Special Olympics along with the photo-bomber!



DGE Diann and DGE Toltzman with incoming International President Mark Lyon

WEEKS OF SERVICE

THREE WEEKS. THREE POWERFUL CAUSES.

2026-2027

LIONS SERVE. COMMUNITIES THRIVE. TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

VISION

OCTOBER 8-18, 2026

Opening eyes. Changing lives.
Promote eye health and support sight-saving initiatives in your community and around the world.

YOUTH

FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027

Empower today. Lead tomorrow.
Invest in our youth through service, mentorship, and programs that build brighter futures.

ENVIRONMENT

MAY 29-JUNE 6, 2027

Protect today. Preserve tomorrow.
Take action to care for our planet through sustainability, conservation, and clean community initiatives.





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

Lions International
Convention
support available:
Contact Lion
Carrie Shofner



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

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!

ChatGPT

Register Now!

WELCOME HOME Celebration

for
BERT & PAM NELSON

as we honor Bert's dedicated service on the Board of Directors for Lions Clubs International.

FRIDAY, JULY 24TH, 2026

KELLY INN
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

We Serve

SCAN TO REGISTER!

OR VISIT:
<https://buy.stripe.com/aFa6o10C1cin0GAcuU24000>

Save the Date – Thanksgiving for Vision

Mark your calendars for **October 24** and join the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation for our annual **Thanksgiving for Vision** celebration. Invitations will be sent this fall to two Lions from each club, as well as all Helen Keller Award recipients recognized between **July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026**.

Since Helen Keller challenged Lions to become the "Knights of the Blind" at the 1925 Lions International Convention, vision has remained a cornerstone of Lionism worldwide. Thanksgiving for Vision is an opportunity to celebrate the impact Lions have made in restoring and preserving sight while raising funds to support programs that assist individuals who are visually impaired.

We are currently seeking donations for our Silent Auction. If you or your club would like to contribute an item, please contact:

Lion Sherri Schmitz
5M8 Director
320-293-8672
27846 Sundance Lane
Cold Spring, MN 56320



MINNESOTA LIONS
VISION FOUNDATION

Lions District 5M8 "Family & Women"



We ended the 2025-2026 Lions year with less members than we started with. Why is that? Our year started out with 2,811 and ended with 2,757 which makes total membership down -61 or -2.16%. This is total membership, men & women. Now with just counting women we started with adding 79 new women and drop 90 women ended with minus -11. We still have a few days left. Let's see if we can get it into the plus. Our District is gaining clubs but is struggling in keeping members. What do we need to do differently as a club to keep members interested, involved and happy to be a Lion? Think about what our club could do IF we still had every member that quit. You can't expect every member

to work every project that your club runs for your community. It's called burn out and causes your members to say "I quit". Let's stop the quit and increase the enthusiasm to stay and participate. Do we want to be more open to members ideas? If the club is small, what project can we let go of to try and new project? If the club is larger, how can we divide the membership into groupings to work in an area that "they" are interested in and not expect them to be in every project? Think about it, as a board- how about taking an hour to brainstorm to make all these question marks go away and move forward. One more question- What would happen in your community IF your club decided to fold? Think of all the events you run, the contributions your make and the activities that your Lions Club does. Keep up the good work & "Let Service Ring!"

Lion Cheri Appel
PDG Donna Mae Landwehr
PDG Bill Landwehr

Cabinet Meeting dates:

Monday July 27

Monday November 30

Monday March 29



East side VFW, St. Cloud
5 pm social
5:30 Foundation
6 pm meal
6:30 meeting

As I finish my 6 years of serving on the District 5M8 Hearing Foundation as a board member it is my pleasure to turn our duties over to 2 very capable individuals, Lion Bev Dolezal and Lion Sheila Worm. They are replacing Lion Bob Harms and myself on your district Hearing Foundation board. As with any transition of duties, it will take awhile to get up to speed. Give them time to get going and request them for club visits.

PDG Mike Appel

My name is Bev Dolezal. I have been a member of the Staples 93 Lions since October 2013. During my time as a Lions, I have been on the board, president 2 times, co membership chair & zone chair for 3 years. Being a Lion has broadened my horizons and I have met so many great people.

My husband Patrick & I live on a farm and have beef cattle and raise crops. I also work full time for a CPA firm doing payroll & bookkeeping.

When an individual loses their hearing, it can be very isolating. I feel it is important to educate people to protect their hearing from an early age. It is hard to watch people struggle to hear.

I look forward to serving on the Hearing Foundation.

Lion Bev Dolezal

patrickbevdolezal@gmail.com



My Name is Sheila Worm I have been a member of the Duellm Area Lions since November 2019. My husband and I were attracted to become members when seeing all of the wonderful ways that the Lions Serve our community and wanted to be a part of that! Also, my parents are Lions in Wisconsin and it makes my mother proud to see us following in her footsteps. We have 5 adult children and just found out we will be Grandparents this coming November to a Grandson, adding to our one 9 year old Granddaughter. Blessings abound!

I am joining the Hearing Foundation because I know firsthand how difficult life is when you cannot hear what is going on around you. I want to be a part of helping people who struggle with hearing issues to be able to have a better quality of life by being able to find ways to make their hearing better, or catch hearing problems early and help with speech and social skills they would otherwise struggle with due to not hearing things correctly. I am excited to do what I can in this Foundation.

Thank you for the opportunity to Serve in this way! Lion

Sheila Worm

sheila3angels@gmail.com

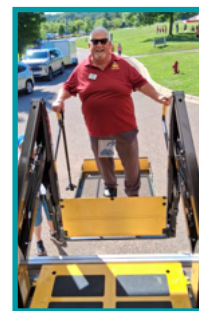


PDG Mike

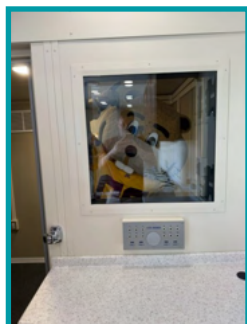
Appel re-

ceived the
"Bob Harms" Award
from the Hearing
Foundation for
work above

(presented by Lion
Bob) and beyond
and received the
Hearing Research
Fellow as he com-
pleted six years as a
Trustee on the
board. Thank You
PDG Mike !!



The Department of Otolaryngology joined the MN Lions Hearing Foundation at their annual Dfeet walk at the U of MN Arboretum with the new CATSS handicap assessable mobile hearing clinic. Watch for it in your community! DGE Diann, Lion Bob Harms & PDG Mike Appel were there to check it out and volunteer at the walk. As well as Goldie Gopher & Lion friend.





Lions Clubs International

Make someone smile when its cloudy and grey.

A small act of kindness will brighten their day

We Serve



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

Save The Date!



Lions Clubs International

FOUNDATION

Changing Lives. Together.

LCIF GALA

Empowering Service. Changing Lives.

 **THURSDAY**

APRIL 15, 2027

Thursday night

BEFORE THE MD5M MULTIPLE CONVENTION!

We Serve.
We Give.
We Change Lives.



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.)

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.
- 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.

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

TOGETHER WE SERVE. TOGETHER WE EXCEL.

Making a Difference, Together

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

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.

2026-2027



Lion David DePaulis presented a \$2500 Lion Wayne Oak Living Tribute Scholarship to East Central graduate, Theodore Shervheim, on June 1. The Sandstone Lions were pleased to honor PDG Wayne Oak by presenting this scholarship.



Avon Spunktacular Days- Grand Marshal's were 60-year charter members of Avon Lions. Jerry Litchy (back), Ed Beuning, and Dave Blattner.

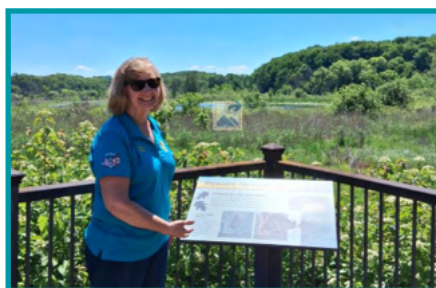
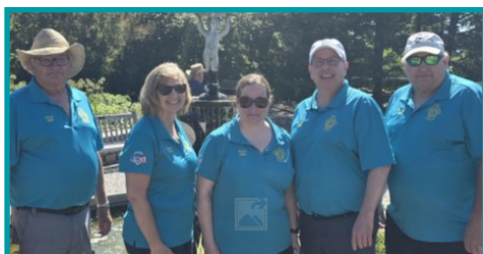


Big Thank You to the Freeport Lions for the use of their Lion for the Spunktacular Days Parade- Avon Hills Lions were ready to "walk the line" for the day! Theme was "Liberty & Lions"

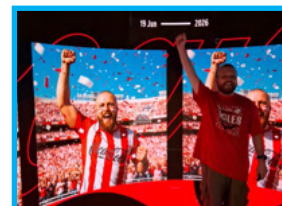
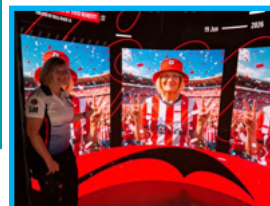
And Every Patriotic Parade should have a dinosaur! Kids loved it!



DG Zach, DGE Diann & PDG Vince attended the Global Membership Summit in Atlanta and checked out the Coca-Cola World



DGE Diann & Fellow DG supported Dfeet walk



Princeton Lions Fly-in Breakfast folks including PCC Jack's sponsor 95 year old Lion Dan Liestman!





Lion Laura Theisen
Lion Ed Tomsche
Lion Bruce Nelson
Lion Gail Mattison
Lion Jon George

Cold Spring Home Pride Lions Club
Melrose Lions Club
Pine City Lions Club
Pine City Pine Area Lions Club
Princeton 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

Jasmine Ulland
Josie Dingmann
Trent Johnson
Gloria Langer
Jennifer Tolzman
Matthew Doubek
Jamie Johnson
Roger Nelson
Gail Brennhofer
Thomas Brennhofer
Jean McGuire
Sharon Sandberg
LaDonna Erickson
Kason Olson
Bradley Mick
Dean Syvestson
Ken Schlagheck
Pamela Schlagheck
Zachary Dahl
Katherine Spaulding

Belgrade Lions Club
Belgrade Lions Club
Belgrade Lions Club
Eden Valley Lions Club
Eden Valley Lions Club
Grey Eagle-Burtrum Lions Club
Hinckley Lions Club
Hinckley Lions Club
Isle Lions Club
Isle Lions Club
Isle Lions Club
Princeton Lions Club
Randal Cushing Area Lions Club
Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions Club
Sauk Rapids Tinville Lions Club
Sauk Rapids Tinville Lions Club
Sauk Rapids Tinville Lions Club
Sturgeon Lake Lions Club
Sturgeon Lake Lions Club



5M8 Membership update as of

June 2026

2727 Lions Members & 73 clubs

278 dropped members in FY

186 members added in FY

-92 Net growth in FY

-3.37 % net Growth in FY



5M8 Service update

June 2026

3912 overall activity count

**983,802 overall people served in
Fiscal Year**

**105,101 overall volunteer hours
In Fiscal Year**

95% clubs reporting

DATES TO REMEMBER



5M8 Midwinter Convention

February 5-7, 2027 Kelly Inn St Cloud

MD5M Multiple Convention

April 16-18, 2027 Kahler Hotel Rochester MN

April 28-30, 2028 Kelly Inn 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
September 21-23, 2028	Grand Rapids Michigan
September 21-23, 2029	Shreveport Louisiana

District Governor Diann events

July 9, 2026 Arrival home from Hong Kong
 July 13, 2026 -Communication & Tech Meeting at GRRL St. Cloud @ 5PM
 July 19, 2026 Avon Hills Lions Club DG visit
 July 24, 2026 Welcome Home ID Bert Nelson @ Kelly Inn
 July 25, 2026 COG at Kelly Inn -Youth Exchange International visit & Meal
 July 27, 2026 District 5M8 Cabinet Meeting 5 Social 5:30 PM Foundation Meet 6 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Cabinet Meeting
 July 31, 2026 MN Lions Vision Foundation Training as I am the DG Liaison for MLVF
 August 1, 2026 MLVF Meet
 August 11, 2026 Sauk Rapids Lions DG Visit
 August 15, 2026 Rockville Lions 50th Anniversary



MAKE A
SPLASH



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 Sherri Schmitz

allen.sherri.schmitz@gmail.com

IPDG Zach Wosmek

lionzachwosmek@gmail.com

**MN Lions Hearing Foundation**

Lion Bev Dolezal

patrickbevdoezal@gmail.com

Lion Sheila Worm

sheila3angels@gmail.com

**MN Lions Diabetes Foundation**

PDG Dave Thompson

dthompson1530@gmail.com

Lion Cathy Talberg

cathytalb95@gmail.com

**Special Olympics Chairperson**

Lion Rose Hansen

320-293-5441

Lions Quest

Lion Keith Schleper

drschleper@gmail.com

**MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation**

PDG Jeff Thompson

lionjeffthompson@gmail.com

Lion Christine Wosmek

chriswosmek@gmail.com

**5M8 Leader Dog**

PDG Tracy Voigt

mnhomeof4@hotmail.com 320-630-1264

**KIDSIGHT Lion Marty Breuer**

mjbreuer@msn.com

Lion Kathi Schmidt

kathilou1@hotmail.com

PDG Tracy Voigt

mnhomeof4@hotmail.com

**Environmental**

Lion Jack Frechette

jack.h.frechette@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

Lion Adrian Feigl alfeigl@outlook.com



Leo's

Lion Trish Thiel tlitboots@yahoo.com



Youth Exchange

Lion Jess Radamacher saukrapidsjess@gmail.com



Peace Poster/Essay

Lion Becky Staneart wonderwomanbls@aol.com

Lion Lisa Gohmen Lisa.gohman@gmail.com



Sheehan Foundation PDG Donna Landwehr billanddonnal@myctl.net teamsheehan.foundation

Global Leadership Coordinators

PCC Jack Breitkreutz jabre@izoom.net

PCC Todd Neuman deerhilltgn@gmail.com



Global Service Team Coordinators

PDG Amy Leidenfrost head coordinator frankandamyl35@gmail.com

PCC Debbi Harms (320-699-0393) 1lionlady@charter.net



Global Membership Team Coordinators

IPDG Zach Wosmek
Lion Carrie Shofner

lionzachwosmek@gmail.com
davecarrieshofner@gmail.com

GMT 5M8 Team

Global Extension Team Coordinators

PDG Vince Thiel
Lion Trish Thiel

vincethiel@yahoo.com
tlitboots@yahoo.com

GMT Women's & Family Specialist

Lion Cheri Appel
PDG Donna Landwehr
PDG Bill Landwehr

Cheri52appel@gmail.com
billanddonnal@myctl.net
billanddonnalw0@gmail.com



2026-2027 Lions International Officers

International Lion President Mark Lyon

Brookfield Connecticut USA

Immediate Past President Arvinder Pal Singh

Kolkata India

1st V.P. Dr Manoj Shah

Nairobi Kenya

2nd V.P. Tony Benbow South

Vermont Australia

District 5M8 Officers

District Governor Diann Belmont

lionpridecs@gmail.com

Immediate Past District Governor

Zach Wosmek lionzach-

wosmek@gmail.com

1st VDG Marty Breuer

mjbreuer@msn.com

2nd VDG Kimberly Stommes

kim@jssmn.com

Secretary Colleen Rosenow, Watkins

colleen.rosenow.5m8@gmail.com

Treasurer David Thompson, Princeton

dthompson7053@yahoo.com

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. Chair Lion Donna Orstad

orstadacres@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 requirement do include attendance at events

@ lionsuniversity.org

Lions Learning Institute: LCI's online learning portal.

@lionsclubs.org

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

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



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

