

SERVICE JOURNAL

JANUARY 2026 / VOLUME 242 / ISSUE 7

Meet **new** people. Do **cool** things.



**2025-2026
District Governor
Cathe Picek**



Bringing Ideas to Life: Featured Speakers at our 5M9 2026 Mid-Winter Convention

Dates to Note

**5M9 MW5M9
MW
Convention**

**Grand Casino
Mille Lacs
Onamia MN
January 9 –
11, 2026**

**Roar for a
Cause
Special
Olympics &
LCIF**

**Chanhasen
Dinner
Theaters
February 28,
2026**

**Northern Pride
Lions Forum
Lions
Leadership**

**Radisson
Harborview
Duluth MN
March 20 – 21,
2026**

**MD5M Multiple
Convention**

**Sheraton
Minneapolis
West
Minnetonka MN
April 24-26,
2026**

**USA Special
Olympics
Host of MD5M
Family Night**

**U of M and
Blaine MN
June 20 -26,
2026**



**International Director
Dr. Mark Mansell**



**Past District Governor
Debbie Mansell**



**Minnesota Lions Kidsight
Dennis W. Kelly III**



**Lions Gift of Sight
Sean Poppoff**



**Corneal Transplant Recipient
Rick Odenthal**



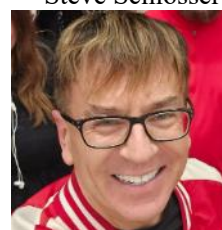
**Jacob's Voice
Kaitlyn Schroeder**



**B93 Program Director/On-Air-Person
Bill Satre**



**Sheltered Reality Drumline
Steve Schlosser**



JANUARY 2026





Message from the 5M9 District Governor Cathe Picek

cathe.picek@gmail.com

LIONS SERVICE SHINES!

Welcome to the second half of our 5M9 Lions year! I'm looking forward to celebrating our success with many Lions at the 2026 Mid-Winter Convention. It is going to be so much fun seeing, talking, and interacting with Lions from all corners of the district. To spend time together and share our experiences, participate and discover new service project ideas, learn new things from our guest speakers, relax, have fun and enjoy each other's company.

We are supporting our [Hunger Week of Service](#) (1/3 -1/11/2026) with a Zone Hunger Food Drive. The 5M9 zone that brings in the highest number of pounds in food will win a \$200.00 GC to apply toward a zone event. Other forms of [hunger relief](#) and food security service ideas can be found here. Submit your hunger service [reports and videos](#) by January 23, 2026, for a chance to be featured in the [Weeks of Service Video Showcase](#).

As one collective 5M9 Lions Team we have accomplished so much in the first six months. Support the district's global causes of Vision and Youth. Aim for a net gain of three new members per club. We have achieved our goal of one new club, started a second club and our stretch goal is to establish three additional clubs. To reach this target, we should consider innovative approaches beyond our usual concepts of club structure.

Additional goals include 100% Lion and Leo clubs service reporting (which we still need to work on), 95% club officers trained (completed at 100%), 100% of zone chairs attend training (completed) and 100% club donations to LCIF (any amount qualifies) and ask each member to donate \$5.00 or more to reach our goal of 60% of member donations to LCIF.

It is up to all of us to continue that momentum and reach the goals and complete the plans in the second half of our Lions year. We Can Do It!

Thank you for your Lionism, talents, vision, time, and your passion to serve your communities.

Believe in Yourself! Believe in Lions!

Lion Cathe Picek

5M9 District Governor



**Message From
1st Vice District
Governor**

Sheri Greenwaldt
lionqsher@gmail.com

Lions of 5M9,

The new year always brings new resolutions. With a new year, it invites us to pause, reflect, and look forward with hope. The turning of the calendar is more than a fresh start; it is a renewed promise to serve with compassion, courage, and unity. Our resolutions are not just words; they are commitments that we live daily through service.

Through Lions Clubs International, we are reminded that every act of kindness, no matter how small, has the power to change a life. As we begin this New Year together, let us embrace resolutions that inspire action and strengthen our shared mission.

Let's resolve to serve with passion. May we continue to see the needs in our towns and rural communities and respond with open hearts and willing hands. Our service is the light that reminds others they are not alone. Let's resolve to lift one another up. Our district is strong because of Lions like you. I am so proud of all of you! Let us encourage, mentor, and support one another, celebrating successes and standing together through challenges.

Let's resolve to lead with courage and integrity. Whether in a formal leadership role or simply leading by example, may we step forward with confidence, guided by our values and our commitment to serve. Let's resolve to grow and adapt. A new year brings new opportunities. Let us remain open to fresh ideas, new partnerships, and innovative ways to expand our impact while honoring the traditions that make Lions who we are.

Let's resolve to serve with gratitude. May we never forget to say thank you to our fellow Lions, our families, and our community partners. Gratitude fuels joy and strengthens our purpose. As Lions, our New Year's resolution is timeless: to serve where needed, lead with heart, and leave a legacy of kindness. Together, let us make 2026 one filled with meaningful service, strong fellowship, and hope for the communities we proudly serve.

I am looking forward to seeing you all next week at the Midwinter convention! It will be a blast and a way to reconnect with our fellow lions and to also "Meet new people and do cool things!"

Lion Sheri- 1st VDG

Message From 2nd Vice District Governor Diane Kunze



As I begin to look ahead to the upcoming new year, I am reminded of International President A.P. Singh's motto, "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead".

Are the service projects in our communities inspiring others to offer an opportunity to lead a new project that you are passionate about?

Are these projects exciting others to join your club in the valuable projects that your club has chosen to take part in?

Keep the ideas flowing into the new year. Don't settle into repeating the same routines without growth or change. Create new and refreshing projects. Brainstorm and share any idea—none are wrong. Be inclusive, ensuring that as many as possible can benefit or take part in these new projects. It can be as simple as a new spin on a previous idea. For example, instead of a spaghetti dinner, try a baked potato bar or a taco bar.

Take those first nervous steps into leading projects not just taking part in them. Our future leaders are those that are doing just that. Finding the courage to get out of our comfort zone and lead. Every member who is willing has this ability.

Your community needs your leadership. Your club needs your leadership. Growth is not always easy. It takes time and energy for those courageous few that are willing to take that step.

Yours in service,
Diane Kunze
2nd VDG



Meet **new** people.

Do **cool** things.

5M9 Convention Schedule

Friday, January 9, 2026

Registration & Information	NOON - 9:00 p.m.	Foyer
Credentials	NOON - 9:00 p.m.	Foyer
Zone Hunger Food Drive Drop Off	NOON - 9:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Foundation Displays Set Up	NOON - 4:00 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
LIONS Games	NOON - 8:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
5M9 Cabinet Meeting	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Autumn
PDG Meeting	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Autumn
Vision & Hearing Screening	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Bullhead
5M9 Foundation Displays	4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
Silent Auction	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
District Service Projects Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, Cell Phones & Ink Cartridges	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
Box Lunch Dinner	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Speaker: PDG Dennis Kelly III MN Lions KidSight	6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Cash Bar	6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
First Timers Meeting	7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Autumn
Entertainment "Name That Tune" with Bill Satre Games	7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer





2026 MID-WINTER CONVENTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026



Registration & Information	7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Foyer
Credentials	7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Foyer
Silent Auction & Service Projects	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
5M9 Foundation Displays	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
Coffee Station	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
All Lions Pride Breakfast Speaker: ID Dr. Mark Mansell	7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Business Meeting	8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Election Voting	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Speaker: PDG Debbie Mansell	10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Break	11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Color Guard & National Anthem	11:45 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Lunch	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Tail Twisting	12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Youth Scholarship Awards		Winter, Spring, Summer
Speaker: Sean Popoff MN Lions Gift of Sight	1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer



5M9 Convention Schedule

Saturday, January 10, 2026



5M9 Service Projects	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Eyeglass Service Project		
The Portal – Q & A		Winter, Spring, Summer
Zone Hunger Food Drive Weigh In	3:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
5M9 Foundation Displays Closed	3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Service of Remembrance	3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Autumn
Silent Auction Open	4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
First Timer Book Turn In	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Cash Bar	4:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Winter Spring, Summer
ID Reception with All Lions	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Winter Spring Summer
ID Dr. Mark & PDG Debbie Mansell		
Dinner	5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Speaker: ID Dr. Mark Mansell	6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Awards Presentation	7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Entertainment	7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Sheltered Reality Drumline		
Music & Dancing	8:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Silent Auction Payment/Pickup	9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
First Timer Books Tabulated	9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Autumn



5M9 Convention Schedule

Sunday, January 11, 2026



Registration & Information	7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Foyer
Club Presidents/ID's DG's ZC's	7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Autumn
Silent Auction Pick Up	7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Eagle, Lynx, Bear, Wolf
Prayer & Meditation	7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Autumn
Breakfast & Program	8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Speaker: Kaitlyn Schroeder Jacob's Voice	9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Break	9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Business Meeting LCIF Tail Twisting	9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Awards/Gifts	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
ID Dr. Mark Mansell Closing Comments	11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer
Color Guard Retires the Colors Convention Concludes	12:15 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Winter, Spring, Summer

Letter of Intent

November 21st, 2025

Cathe Picek
5M9 District Governor
Lions Club International

Dear District Governor Cathe,

It would be the highest honor to be on the ballot at the 5M9 Mid-Winter Convention in January 2026 as a candidate for the leadership role of District Governor of District 5M9.

Since joining the Lions in 2017, I have been fortunate to have many roles and responsibilities within my clubs and our district and to attend many leadership training sessions within the Lions as listed below.

- 1st Vice District Governor for 5M9 2025-present
- Guiding Lion for the Jacobs Crew Lions Club 2024-present
- Current member of Verndale Lions 2023-present
- 2nd Vice District Governor for 5M9 2024-2025
- Zone chair advisor 2024-2025
- Can Do Canine Co-chair 2019-2025
- 5M9 District Secretary 2021-2024
- 5M9 GST team member 2022-2024
- Hewitt Club 2nd Vice President 2019-2020
- Hewitt Club 1st Vice President 2020-2021
- Hewitt Club President 2021-2022
- Hewitt Club Service Chair 2022-2023
- Hewitt Club LCIF Chair 2022-2023
- USA/Canada Forum attendee 2020 (virtual) 2021, 2025
- Lions International Convention Attendee 2021 (Virtual), 2022, 2023, 2025
- Attended many 5M9 District Conventions
- Attended many MD5M Conventions
- Emerging Lions Leadership Institute Graduate 2019
- Regional Lions Leadership Institute Graduate 2019
- Advanced Lions Leadership Institute Graduate 2022
- Lions University Bachelor Graduate 2021
- Lions University Masters Graduate 2021
- Attended many 5M9 District Leadership Trainings

Recognitions that I have received within the Lions organization:

- Melvin Jones Fellowship
- Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship
- International Presidents Leadership medal
- 2 International President's Certificate of Appreciation
- GAT Chairperson's medal
- Dream Catcher Award
- Friends of Kamp KACE Award
- Club Excellence Award

I am very proud to say that I am ready to join the leadership team within District 5M9 as the District Governor. I am aware of the dedication and responsibilities of being a District Governor and I am excited for the next step in leadership. I love being a lion and I am very proud to be a member of Lions International, Multiple District 5M and District 5M9!

Sincerely,
Lion Sheri Greenwaldt

Letter of Intent



Lions International

Cathe Picek

5M9 District Governor

Lions Club International

District Governor Cathe:

It would be an honor to be considered as a candidate for 1st Vice District Governor for 5M9.

I began by adventure in Lions 10-1-2016 in the Rothsay Lions Club. In that time I have served on various committees and led those committees. In 2017 I took on the role of Club Treasurer which I held until 2023. Served as Club President from 2022 to 2024. Club secretary and LCIF Coordinator from July 2024 to present.

My pathway to learning began with the college of leadership training 2021 through 2024. I graduated from ELLI in 2022, RLLI in 2024.

I have earned awards from my club and peers.

- Club Lion of the year 2021
- College of Leadership 2021,2022, 2023,2024
- Club Excellence Award 22/23 and 23/24
- Certificate of Appreciation 22/23 from Dr. Patti Hill
- Leadership Medal 23/24 from Fabricio Oliveira

I have attended 5M9 conventions in 2022, 2023 and 2024, Lions Pride Forum in 2023, and the multiple 5M Convention in 2022 and plan to attend the Multiple Convention this spring.

I am proud to join the leadership team of 5M9 as 1st Vice District Governor. I look forward to learning my new role in Lions. I humbly and graciously accept the responsibilities of 1st Vice District Governor. I am proud to shout that I am a Lion of Lions International, Multiple 5M, District 5M9 and as a Member of the Rothsay Lions Club, "The Little Club that Can".

Sincerely

Lion Diane Kunze

Letter of Intent

To the District 5M9 Cabinet and Nominations Committee,

I, Lion Joe Laudenbach of the Nisswa Lions Club, respectfully submit this letter as my formal request to have my name placed on the ballot at the district 5M9 Business Meeting on January 10, 2026, for consideration as a candidate for the position of 2nd Vice District Governor Elect. It would be a privilege to continue serving our great district in this leadership capacity, supporting our clubs, and strengthening the mission and values of Lions International. My goal is to bring experience, collaboration, and enthusiasm to the role—helping inspire service and leadership growth throughout 5M9.

Over the past 15 years as a proud Lion, I have had the honor of serving in several leadership roles, including Nisswa Club President, Club Service Chair, and Service Project Chair for numerous community events.

At the district level, I have served as 5M9 Zone 1 Chair, Guiding Lion for 5M9, and GMT for two years, and I am a graduate of both the Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) and the Faculty Development Institute (FDI). My service and dedication have been recognized with multiple honors, including 2 Presidential Leadership Medals, Helen Keller Award, Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship, LCIF Medal of Achievement, Hearing Foundation Award, Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, and recognition as a Service Partner to the MD5M Council Chair.

I am deeply committed to living the principles of honesty, trustworthiness, reliability, and accountability, always giving my time freely with no expectation of return—only the joy of serving others. I respectfully ask for your consideration and support in my candidacy to serve as your next 2nd Vice District Governor Elect.

Yours in Lionism,
Lion Joe Laudenbach
Nisswa Lions Club

2026  5M9



MID-WINTER



CONVENTION

LIONS SERVICE SHINES



**JAN 9-11
2026**

**GRAND
CASINO
MILLE LACS**

**HOSTED BY:
GARRISON BAY
LAKE AREA
AND
PILLAGER & AREA
LIONS CLUBS**



Please Remember to Bring the Following to the Convention:

Your club banners for proud display

All used eyeglasses collected for Eyes for Mexico

Any hearing aids your Club has gathered — ideally brought separately to help the Vision Foundation avoid extra sorting

Lions clubs assign your voting delegates in the Lion Portal

And of course... bring yourself!

We're looking forward to seeing you there and celebrating the great work your Club is doing.



Dear Fellow Lions,

We are excited to announce the chartering of the **Lake Park Audubon Lions Club**, and we invite you to join us in celebrating this milestone on **Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Lake Park American Legion**. Please see the attached flyer for event details.

As Lions, we are part of a global family dedicated to service, compassion, and community. The formation of a new club is not just an expansion—it's a powerful statement that the spirit of service is alive and growing. It is a spark of hope and a promise to a new community that they are not alone.

Launching a club is an exciting journey, but it comes with costs, banners, administrative materials, service supplies, and foundational training that ensure success. That's where you come in.

We are asking for your **support in the form of a financial donation** to help set the Lake Park Audubon Lions Club on a strong path forward. Your generosity will demonstrate to our new Lions that they are not just starting a club—they are joining a global family that stands together in service.

Most importantly, **we want you to show up** (present your gift in person to our new club). Your presence on Charter Day will mean the world to these new Lions. Let's show them, through our unity and fellowship, what it means to belong to a worldwide family of service.

Together, let's show them what it means to be a Lion.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission. We look forward to celebrating with you in January. In service and fellowship,

Lion Jay Norby

Guiding Lion

Lions Clubs International *We Serve.*





LAKE PARK AUDUBON LIONS CLUB CHARTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, January 17, 2026

at the

Lake Park American Legion

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Burger and Salad Bar

\$20.00/person

Reserve your spot today

by calling PDG Jay Norby,

218-298-1031

or email ljnorbs@arvig.net



January Service

5M9



HUNGER WEEK OF SERVICE

JANUARY 3 – 11, 2026

This January, Lions and Leos, with the support of LCIF, improve food security and access to nutritious food to help alleviate hunger.

Scan the QR code to reach the Hunger Global Cause webpage.



This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of mental health and well-being (October 2025), **hunger (January 2026)**, and the environment (April 2026). 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!

Create or support projects that fight hunger, strengthen food security, and raise awareness and show the world the power of Lions united!



Here we Grow Again!



Hill City Lions had their annual membership drive and Vikings watch party. What a great game!! Thank you to our District Governor Cathe for joining us. We had 9 new members join our awesome organization today. What a great day, very **AWESOME!!** Kyle Woodford, Brent Welk, Steeven John Smith, Dylan Fett, Dylan Enga, Shawn Pehrson, Not Pictured: Shelly Welk, Larry Pexa, Aldo Mercado. We are so excited, to show these new people what our club does for our small town.



Crosslake Fire Chief Chip Lohmiller accepted a \$15,000 donation to the Crosslake Fire Department from the **Crosslake-Ideal Lions Club**.



Santa Brings Smiles at the Laporte School Bazaar!
Santa stopped by the Laporte School Bazaar and the kids left with smiles and free gifts from the **Laport Benedict Lions Club!**

Lions at Work!



The **Battle Lake Lions** working on their winter service project: sorting, cleaning & reading prescriptions lenses in donated glasses. Pictured: John Peterson, Becky Koplin, Jerry Begley, Jon Tamke, Kathy Neese, Brian Kvebak & Connie Krusemark.



Parkers Prairie Pride of LIONS with Santa Claus (and Mrs. Claus) at Prairie Christmas.



Deerwood Crosby Area Lions

Cups of Cheer for area seniors made by L to R
Lions Sarah Halvorson Brunko,
Angelina Likens, Joyce Johnson, Dan Deleney,
Cathe Picek and Shane Miles.



Wadena Lions Sang Christmas Carols and handed out over forty gifts to residents of Fair Oaks Lodge Nursing Home, A tradition for over 50 Years.



The **Garrison Bay Lake Area Lions** Christmas Party was a joyful gathering filled with festive fun and community spirit.”



We are overjoyed to receive generous donations to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)!

A special thank you to the **McGregor Lions** and the **Nisswa Lions**, who each donated \$10,000 in December to support the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, coming to Minnesota in June.

Your generosity will make a meaningful difference, and we are truly grateful for your support!

Photo: Dale Christensen and Joe Laudensch, Nisswa Lions, present check to LCIF District Coordinator Erin Beck.



A few of the **Park Rapids Lions** spent a few hours caroling at the nursing homes on Dec. 10. Lions Phil Sailer, Zelda Novak, Mike Carroll, AJ Wibe, Terry Meaurtag, Frank Bender and Bickey Bender.

Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service

This initiative brings Lions and Leos together worldwide to tackle mental health, hunger, and environmental challenges. Join three powerful weeks of service that create real, positive change in communities across the globe. Get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!



Lions International

LIONS AND LEOS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF), IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO HELP ALLEVIATE HUNGER.

Food Collection, Preparation and Distribution

Agricultural Development and Support

Hunger Initiatives for Women and Children



COMMUNITY FEEDING EVENT

Promote wellness and nutrition by providing meals and community engagement for local families.

JAN

HUNGER
(JAN. 3-11)

DIABETES
HUMANITARIAN
VISION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. The 17 goals are an urgent call for action by all countries — developed and developing — in a global partnership. Achievement of the SDGs also relies on the involvement of volunteer organizations who connect governmental strategies and initiatives with complementary, yet essential, community action.

THIS SERVICE AREA SUPPORTS SDG #2

2

ZERO HUNGER



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Approximately **2 billion people** globally do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food (United Nations).



While it can vary, **food insecurity is higher among rural communities** while lower in urban areas, highlighting the need to support rural populations globally (Food and Agriculture Organization).



Densely populated areas experience food insecurity due to rises in urban poverty, inequality and other health risks associated with city living (World Food Program).



Rising food prices, regional conflict, environmental disasters and economic instability all **affect a person's ability to access food**, leading to a consistent rise in hunger (World Food Program).



Vulnerable populations, including those who are lower-income or underrepresented, are **most likely to be undernourished** (World Health Organization).



Eating with community members can **improve quality of life and overall feeling of hopefulness** (Oxford University).



Use the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) **Hunger Map** to research the prevalence of undernourishment and food insecurity around the world and in your community, and explore what issues are most impactful for your club, district and multiple district.



Consider collaborating with local food organizations and businesses for support with your community feeding event. Use our [Developing Local Partnerships guide](#) to start planning.



Provide community members with meals during local or regional celebrations and significant holidays.



Watch and share the most recent [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) video created by FAO.



Serve meals at a soup kitchen, homeless shelter or feeding event organized by a local organization alleviating food insecurity.



Host a feeding event to provide relief in times of crisis, such as a natural disaster (earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, droughts), conflict, famine, emergency or other occurrences that displace people and communities.



Work with your club, district or multiple district to organize a recurring community feeding event that brings people together regularly to increase sustainability. Use our [Direct Food Service Project Planner](#) to get started.



Identify groups in your community that can benefit from feeding events and explore how your club can engage with them. Use our [Club and Community Needs Assessment](#) to get started.



Plan a community feeding event to bring people together to address food insecurity on an international day of action, such as **World Food Day** on October 16. Share your impact with photos, videos and other assets on social media using the **#WorldFoodDay** hashtags.



Sponsor a community kitchen or cooking class where families can be involved in creating their own meals while learning useful cooking skills and gaining important nutrition education.

NISSWA LIONS CLUB

THURSDAY
JANUARY
22

4:30-
7 PM

HELD AT
YE OLD
PICKLE
FACTORY

2026 DIAPER DRIVE



Donate a box of infant or adult diapers and enjoy Rafferty's Pizza plus beer & wine tasting from Spirits of Nisswa.

Door prizes and drawings throughout the night!



Donated diapers will be given to the Relationship Safety Alliance, Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center, Central Lakes College and the Lakes Area Food Shelf.



Don't have time to shop for diapers?

Buy them at the door the night of the event!

Can't make it to the event?

You can still drop off diapers during normal business hours at the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce.



Thank you to Brainerd General Rental for providing a trailer to help us store and deliver diapers to families in our community!



EMERGING LIONS
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
ELLI



Develop. Lead. Inspire.

The Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI) is a leadership development experience designed for Lions and Leos who are ready to grow, lead, and serve at a higher level.

This interactive weekend builds confident leaders who will strengthen clubs, districts, and the future of Lions in MD5M.

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

Why Attend ELLI?

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

Who Should Attend?

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



Registration due April 1, 2026
Use QR code to Register

Contact your District GLT for more information
Lion Michelle Nickolausen
goodman.michelle@rocketmail.com





Serving With Compassion: How Lions & LCIF Fight Hunger Every Day

Across the world, millions of families face the uncertainty of not knowing where their next meal will come from. Hunger is more than an empty stomach, it's a barrier to learning, to working, and to living with dignity. As Lions, we recognize hunger as one of the most urgent issues facing our communities, and we step forward with the courage to serve.

Hunger is one of Lions Clubs International's eight global causes—alongside Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian Efforts, Vision, Youth—and it remains a powerful reminder that service begins with meeting the most essential human needs. But every community is different, and Lions know that meaningful service starts by listening first. Whether it's a small-town pantry, a school backpack program, or a large-scale food distribution, Lions shape their service to the unique challenges around them.

The Power of LCIF: Turning Compassion Into Impact

While Lions serve locally, **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)** strengthens that service with the resources to reach further and help more people. Through LCIF grants, Lions are empowered to expand hunger-relief programs with greater scale, innovation, and sustainability.

LCIF supports Lions in: **Launching or expanding food pantries, Funding refrigeration or storage for perishable goods, providing meals during disasters and emergencies, supporting farming, nutrition, and food security initiatives, creating long-term programs that break cycles of hunger.**

These grants turn local passion into lasting change. They help Lions transform a simple food drive into a lifeline for families. They help clubs move from temporary relief to sustainable solutions. And most importantly, they allow us to extend hope with dignity and compassion.

Service Rooted in Our Values

Our work to fight hunger reflects the core values of Lionism: **Service** that meets immediate needs. **Integrity** in how we support and uplift those we serve. **Collaboration** with local partners, food banks, and community leaders. **Diversity** in understanding that hunger affects people of all backgrounds. **Dedication to Excellence** in ensuring our programs make measurable impact. **Innovation** in creating new ways to support long-term food security.

A Call to Serve

Every meal shared is an act of love. Every partnership formed is a step forward. And every Lion who raises their hand to serve becomes part of a global movement working to ensure no family is overlooked and no child goes hungry.

Together—with LCIF we can build stronger, healthier, more nourished communities. Let us continue to lead with hearts open, hands ready, and a commitment to serving where the need is greatest.

Where there's a need, there's a Lion—and together, there is hope.

5M9 LCIF Co-Chairs

Lion Erin Beck

218-845-2204

elb_18@yahoo.com

Lion Linda Albrecht-Norby

218-298-4743

pdglinda@gmail.com

Ways to Give



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Donate online

lionsclubs.org/WaysToGive



Make a Pledge

lionsclubs.jotform.com/90524105483149

Mail

Mail USD checks drawn from a U.S. Bank
and payable to LCIF to:

Lions Clubs International Foundation
Department 4547
Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547 USA

Visit lionsclubs.org/WaysToGive for mailing checks in Canada and India.

Wire transfer

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
ABA Routing Number: 021000021
10 S. Dearborn St.
Account Name: Lions Clubs International Foundation
Chicago, IL 60603 USA
Account Number: 754487312
Swift International Banking number: CHASUS33

Email a copy of your receipt or transfer form – along
with your name, Member ID, club name, and district
name – to donorassistance@lionsclubs.org.

If requesting recognition for someone else, please
include the recipient's name, Member ID, club name,
and district name.

Contact Donor Services

For assistance, contact Donor Services at +1.630.203.3836 or donorassistance@lionsclubs.org.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



Why Moving Forward with Technology Matters

Lions have always been leaders in service. For over a century, we have adapted to meet the changing needs of our communities—guided by our core values of **Service, Integrity, Collaboration, and Dedication to Excellence**.

Today, embracing technology is one more way we continue that proud tradition.

Technology is not about replacing the heart of Lionism; it is about **strengthening our ability to serve**. It helps us communicate more effectively, reach new members, reduce administrative workload, and focus more of our time and energy on what truly matters—service.

Across our district, technology allows us to:

- Share service opportunities and success stories more widely
- Engage younger members and new Lions who connect digitally
- Coordinate projects and respond more quickly to community needs
- Highlight our impact in areas such as **Vision, Hunger, Diabetes, Youth, Childhood Cancer, Disaster Relief, Environment, and Humanitarian Efforts**

Service comes in all shapes and sizes, and technology helps us better understand and respond to the unique needs of each community we serve.

Change can feel challenging, especially in an organization rich in tradition. But Lions have never stood still. We lead by serving, and sometimes serving well means learning new tools that help us work smarter—not harder.

By moving forward with technology, we honor our past while building a stronger future—one where our service is visible, accessible, and impactful for generations to come.

Together, let us continue to ask not, *“Why change?”* but *“How can we serve better?”*

In Service,

PDG Jay Norby

CA1 GAT Area C Leader

ND/SD/MN/WI/IA

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
MINNESOTA 2026

2026
Coming to
MINNESOTA
JUNE
20-26



SAVE THE DATE

ROAR
for a
CAUSE



Special Olympics & LCIF are partnering for the
2026 Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota

Saturday February 28, 2026
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
501 W 78th St, Chanhassen, MN 55317



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**



HONG KONG 2026
108th Lions International Convention



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
MINNESOTA 2026

2026
Coming to
MINNESOTA
JUNE
20-26



Multiple District 5M
proudly announces...



Lions Clubs International **FOUNDATION**

Your donations designated to
Special Olympics USA Games
Minnesota to LCIF will help make
our \$300,000 grant possible!

Family Night!

For all athletes & their families

Opening Eyes®

Vision Screening for
participating athletes

A Ball For All

A sensory ball is gifted
from MD5M to all
participating athletes.

Scan this code
for more about
All Balls



Through the Years: A Journey in Time

by District 5m9 Historian Lion Zelda Novak

1948 & 1993 Rose Bowl Parade Floats

The history of the 1948 Lions Rose Bowl float is marked by its initial participation in the Rose Parade and the subsequent commitment to continuous float entries since 1992. The float's design and production were a significant undertaking, with the Lions involved in the creation of their first float in 1948. Despite the effort, the Lions decided not to participate in the parade again in 1967. However, their decision was reversed in 1968, and since then, the Lions have been a consistent presence in the Tournament of Roses Parade.



1948 entry



1993 entry

photos from the “lionsfloat.org” site1948 & 1993 Rose Bowl Parade Floats

The history of the 1948 Lions Rose Bowl float is marked by its initial participation the the Rose Parade and the subsequent commitment to continuous float entries since 1992. The float's design and production were a significant undertaking, with the Lions involved the the creation of their first float in 1948.Despite the effort, the Lions decided not to participate in the parade again in 1967. However, their decision was reversed in 1968, and since then, the Lions have been a consistent presence in the Tournament of Roses Parade.



SERVICE PLANNER

LIONS YEAR 2025-26

<div><div>JAN</div><div>HUNGER (JAN. 3-11) DIABETES HUMANITARIAN VISION</div></div>		<div><div>FEB</div><div>VISION & CHILDHOOD CANCER</div></div>	
<div><div>MARCH</div><div>YOUTH</div></div>	<div><div>APRIL</div><div>ENVIROMENT (APRIL 18-26)</div></div>	<div><div>MAY</div><div>ENVIROMENT & HUNGER</div></div>	<div><div>JUNE</div><div>HUMANITARIAN</div></div>

*YELLOW HIGHLIGHTS A SERVICE FOCUS THAT LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL IS PROMOTING THOSE WEEKS



LITPC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



The Lions International Trading Pin Club (LITPC) has announced for the 2025 – 2026 school year that there will be **8 US \$4,000** scholarships awarded. Graduating Leos OR graduating sons/daughters, grandsons/granddaughters of Lions are eligible to apply for the LITPC Youth Scholarship. The LITPC goal is to help our future leaders and give students a financial helping hand. This program started in 2012. The 2026 recipients will be announced at the LITPC Annual Meeting in 2026.

To obtain the current LITPC Youth Scholarship information:

1. Go to the **LITPC website**: www.litpc.org
2. In the left column, click on **Scholarship Application Form**.
3. Read and follow **ALL** directions. Be sure to fill out **ALL** the forms neatly and correctly which includes the 4 essay questions (in 350 words or less) and the question about scholarships that you have been offered along with submitting a **certified** copy of your high school transcript including activities. Plus, you also need to attach recommendations from 2 persons (i.e. teacher, coach, clergy, employer, etc.) **AND** attach a recommendation letter from a Lions Club member indicating the name of the Club and state/province and country in which the Club is located.

ALL forms and letters are to be submitted by **MARCH 1, 2026** to:

Lions Bill & Marcia Guthrie, Scholarship Chairman 763-232-9357

9 101st Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 bmguthrie9@myctl.net

You can either mail us your application OR email it to us.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!!

The LITPC fulfills the motto of Lions Clubs International – “WE SERVE”



2026 MD5M CONVENTION IS HAVING A...

BEACH PARTY!

APRIL 24-26, 2026



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

Sign up today and save!

First 150 Receive a Free souvenir Beach Ball with early sign up.

<https://sites.google.com/view/md5m-multipleconvention/home>

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

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





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



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

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

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

Full Hospitality Book:

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

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

*Hospitality book includes convention and all meals

Separate Meals:

*Do not select if you have purchased a hospitality book

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

Total amount if separate meals chosen: _____

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

No meals available after March 31, 2026.

Make Checks payable to: 2026 MD5M Conv.

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

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

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

HOTEL INFORMATION: Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel, 12201 Ridgedale Drive Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305

Call (952) 593-0000 to book your room reservation. Ask for the "Lions 2026 Convention" rate.

Room rates are \$135.00 per night plus taxes and fees. Room reservation cut-off is April 9, 2026.

[Book your group rate for MD5M Lions 2026 Convention here](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact: PCC Rob Rand at (612) 715-6055, robrandmn@gmail.com
Lion Rhonna Hed at (651) 248-0749, rhed@summitfire.com

5M9 District Governor, 1st and 2nd Vice District Governor Club Visit Request Form

[Click here for form](#)
[Link address](#)

District Governor, 1st and 2nd Vice District Governor Travels

DG/VDG	Zone	Clubs	Chartered	Years	January	February	March
CATHE	2	AITKIN	5/5/1926	99	1/20/2026		
SHERI	5	ALDRICH	2/24/1986	39	1/22/2026		
DIANE	6	CALLAWAY	9/29/1976	48			
CATHE	2	CUYUNA RANGE	12/29/1937	87	1/15/2026		
CATHE	2	DEERWOOD CROSBY AREA	10/23/2025				
SHERI	7	DUNVILLA	6/23/2016	9		2/17/2026	
CATHE	3	EMILY OUTING 50 LAKES	1/18/1982	43			3/30/2026
SHERI	4	GATEWAY- MENAUGA	9/21/1978	46		2/3/2026	
SHERI	5	HEWITT	3/31/1978	47			
CATHE	1	LEADER	8/20/1998	26			
SHERI	5	NEW YORK MILLS	11/22/1968	56	1/14/2026		
DIANE	8	OTTERTAIL	5/5/1976	49	1/26/2026		
DIANE	8	PARKERS PRAIRIE	12/9/1963	61	1/22/2026		
DIANE	8	PARKERS PRAIRIE PRIDE					3/9/2026
SHERI	5	VERNDALE	2/21/1968	57	1/22/2026		
		Name	Zones		January	February	March
		DG Cathe Picek	1, 2 & 3				
		1st VDG Sheri Greenwaldt	4, 5, & 7				
		2nd VDG Diane Kunze	6, 8				



How to submit an article

Please submit material for these sections. by the 15th of each month for the following months newsletter.

I would like to publish your most recent community service and your upcoming fundraisers, in which Lions from other clubs could, perhaps, participate.

Submit pictures, flyers or text. In photos please put names of who is in it. When possible, send photos in jpeg format and articles as a word document. Use of a pdf is also acceptable.

Contact me for assistance or with questions
Submit to: 5m9newsletter@gmail.com
Sue Stebbins editor



District Governor

Cathe Picek (Jerry Bohnsack)
24254 Placid Dr.
Deerwood MN 56444
C: 218-330-7804
cathe.picek@gmail.com

1st Vice District Governor

Sheri Greenwaldt
60502 Co. Hwy 40
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361
C: 507-456-0788
lionqsheri@gmail.com

2nd Vice District Governor

Diane Kunze
210 North Circle Drive
Rothsay, MN 56579
C: 218-671-0885
dimarku@icloud.com

Cabinet Secretary

Kim Donahue
PO Box #84
Park Rapids MN 56470
612-968-3640
5M9secretary@gmail.org

District Treasurer

Linda Albrecht-Norby (Jay)
1021 5th Ave NW
Perham, MN 56573
C: 218-298-4743
H: 218-346-3200
pdglinda@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Sue Stebbins (Dick)
26390 Glen Drive
Garrison, MN 56450
C: 218-851-2510
5m9newsletter@gmail.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 5M9 <https://www.lionsof5m9.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)

