

# SERVICE JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2026 / VOLUME 242 / ISSUE  
8

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



2025-2026  
District Governor  
Cathe Picek



## Service of Remembrance



Past District Governors from District 5M9, with the invaluable support of Lion Jim Johansen, once again led a deeply heartfelt Service of Remembrance at the 5M9 Mid-Winter Convention. The ceremony offered a meaningful space for reflection and gratitude, featuring a solemn Wreath Laying, the gentle Lighting of Memorial Candles, placing of roses, and a respectful Roll Call honoring our deceased members. It was a touching tribute to those who served Lions of 5M9 with dedication, reminding us of the lasting impact their lives and service continue to have on our communities.

### Participating PDG's

Back Row L-R International Director Mark Mansell, Bruce Beck, Denise Laudenbach, Jay Norby, David Coates, Don Hendrickx, Les Swift, Tom Plagman, Dick Stebbins, ,

Front Row L-R , Debbie Mansell, Pete Van Erp, , Sandy Remington, Rose Marie Puckett, Linda Albrecht-Norby, Dale Johansen, Dick Labraaten, Jim Arvidson

### Dates to Note

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



FEBRUARY 2026





## Message from the 5M9 District Governor Cathe Picek

**cathe.picek@gmail.com**

### **Are You Ready to Make Changes in your club?**

**Are you ready** to achieve the goals that were set for 5M9 2025-2026.

New Clubs – 1 stretch 3 currently 2; New Members 248 currently 140; Club Service Reporting-100% currently 97%; Zone Chairs trained – 100% currently 100%; Club Officers trained – 95% currently 100%; LCIF Club donations 100% currently 87%; LCIF Individual donations increase by 60%.

**Are you ready** to evaluate your club service projects? Are they meaningful, relevant, inclusive and fun? Are they still meaningful to your community, is it relevant to what your community needs, does it include all your members in some way? Reflect on the feelings you felt when it was fun!

**Are you ready to take on the challenge of adding 2 new members or more to your club?** The ability to add new members is all around you. Take advantage of asking people who live in your area, go to your church, meet at the grocery store, at a school function. Just Ask!

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/mission-to-grow>

### **Are you ready to add a new club to help achieve our district membership goal?**

Think beyond the Traditional club format and reach out and expand with a Branch Club, Specialty Club, Virtual/Hybrid Club or Join Together Club.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/mission-to-grow>

### **Are you ready to be more involved in the learning opportunities and service projects in your club, zone, district and multiple district?**

Now is the time to learn more about Lions, what we do, where we're going and how you can be a part of that. Read the 5M9 Newsletters for upcoming Zone meetings, enhance your Lions knowledge at ELLI (Emerging Lions Learning Institute) April 17-19. Join us at the College of Leadership for All Lions on April 19. Attend the MD5M Convention April 24-26 with our visiting dignitaries International President A.P Singh and Past International Director Sangeeta Jatia!

**Believe in yourself, believe in Lions!**

**DG Lion Cathe**



## Message From District Governor Elect

**Sheri Greenwaldt**  
**lionqsher@gmail.com**

As I sit here at the computer writing February's newsletter article, I have reflected on our midwinter convention. Our District 5M9 Mid-Winter Convention was nothing short of **AWESOME!** From the moment you all arrived, the energy, laughter, and unmistakable spirit of service filled the room. It was a wonderful reminder that while we come together to learn and conduct business, we also come together to have fun and truly enjoy one another.

Throughout the weekend, we shared countless smiles, stories, laughter, and moments of fellowship, proving once again that Lions know how to balance meaningful work with meaningful connections. Whether reconnecting with longtime friends, meeting new Lions, or enjoying a few laughs along the way, the sense of camaraderie was contagious. As our district says, everyone had the opportunity to *meet new people and do cool things!*

The convention also featured engaging sessions, inspiring speakers, and opportunities to celebrate the incredible service happening across our district. We were deeply moved by Rick Odenthal, who shared his powerful journey with vision challenges and cornea transplants; an inspiring reminder of the life-changing impact of Lions service.

We were equally inspired listening to ID Mark Mansell share his connection to 5M9 and his remarkable efforts riding his bicycle and motorcycle to raise funds for Leader Dogs for the Blind. And hearing from Kaitlyn Schroeder of Jacob's Voice powerfully illustrated how quickly cyberbullying can impact a life. These stories remind us exactly why we are Lions; we make a difference every single day, often in ways we may never fully see.

Add in lighthearted moments, creative presentations, and plenty of Lion pride, and it truly made for a Mid-Winter Convention to remember. I am incredibly proud and honored to be a Lion, and I hope you all feel the same.

By the time this is printed, our stretch of deep winter cold will be behind us. We are officially on the tail end of winter, and the light at the end of the tunnel is growing brighter. In just a few short months, winter will give way to spring—and I can't wait.

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. There is something so uplifting about watching the flowers bloom, especially tulips and daffodils, and seeing green grass and leaves return after a long winter. It's a season full of renewal, hope, and fresh energy.

The next couple of months will be especially busy. I will be participating in several international training sessions via Zoom, and our leadership team will be meeting in early March to begin planning for the 2026–2027 year. That planning season always brings excitement as we look ahead to new ideas, goals, and opportunities to serve.

I've already started reaching out to many of you about staying on the cabinet or joining the team, and I want to extend that invitation to everyone. If you have a passion for service, leadership, or helping our district grow, please don't hesitate to reach out. We will find a spot for you! There is always room at the table for dedicated Lions who want to make a difference.

As we look forward to spring and all the possibilities ahead, thank you for your continued commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve. The best is yet to come!

Lion Sheri- District Governor Elect

## Message From 1st Vice District Governor Elect Diane Kunze



### THANK YOU 5M9

I would like to express my gratitude for the support from my club, friends, family and most importantly my husband.

First I would like to thank a trio of persons who started me on the journey. They saw something that I may not have seen within myself. They gave that "gentle nudge" one year ago. Now I am your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Elect. My friends gave me a wonderful demonstration at convention. My family and family of Lions that love and support me along this journey. Giving me advice and answer my questions along the way. My husband, John who is truly where my strength is centered. He questions and challenges me every day. He understands me without me ever having to say things out loud. We are a team and I could not be where I am today without his unconditional love, support and understanding. Besides he knows what I am going to do before I even tell him most of the time.

The first 6 months have gone by quickly. I am continually grateful for this opportunity and am learning many new skills along the way. This makes me a better person and a better Lion.

I will strive in my remaining 6 months to visit as many of the clubs in Zones 6 and 8 as I can. So for those that have not scheduled a visit please do so. Also I will be continuing to help restart the Club in Breckenridge. We meet the first Monday of every month at the Breckenridge Public Library, 7PM.

With Gratitude  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Elect  
Diane Kunze



## Message From Vice District Governor Elect Joe Laudenbach



### With Gratitude and Excitement for the Journey Ahead

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support, encouragement, and confidence in me as I step into the role of Second Vice District Governor Elect. It was awesome to see all of you who attended the 5M9 Midwinter Convention! Thank you all who voted for me! 😊 It is truly an honor to serve our district in this capacity, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me.

I look forward to learning the ropes of district governorship and growing into this role with the guidance of some truly outstanding leaders. I am fortunate to have the Immediate Past District Governor Denise and many other great advisors at my fingertips—experienced Lions who are always willing to share their knowledge, wisdom, and support.

Finally, I encourage you to keep inviting your friends, family members, and neighbors to join this incredible service organization. Together, we can continue to make a difference in our communities and strengthen our Lions family.

Thank you again for your support—I look forward to serving alongside you!

Lion Joe Laudenbach  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor Elect

Mid-Winter Presidential Awards  
presented by International Director Mark Mansell and DG Cathe Picek



Presidential Leadership Medals  
Gail Hustad, Battle Lake Lions and Robert Swedeen, McGregor Lions  
Connie Kruzmark Battle Lake Lions (below)

**PDG Jay Norby** presented the Extension Award.



## Mid-Winter Awards Certificates of Appreciation

### What the Award Represents

Given personally at the discretion of the Lions International President.

Recognizes Lions who have gone above and beyond in service, leadership, or impact.

Considered the fourth-highest form of recognition in Lions Clubs International.

Presented by DG Cathe Picek and International Director Mark Mansell



IPDG Denise Laudenschach



Joe Laudenschach



Erika Keppers (Bob Keppers representing her)



Michelle Nicholason



## Mid-Winter Awards

### Bruce Beck Award

Robert Sweeden-McGregor Lions



Honorable mention Robert Jacoby-Vergas Lions



Club Excellence Awards, (L) McGregor and (R) Vergas Lions clubs.  
Presented by CC/IPDG Denise Laudenbach



2VDG Diane Kunze, Clubs with the most 1<sup>st</sup> timers award **Four Corners Lions**



1VDG Sheri Greenwaldt, Traveling Trophy for highest percentage of Club membership attending the convention, **Verndale Lions** at 63%



## Youth Outreach Scholarship Awards 2026

presented by Evie Ladd and Mike Kern



Logan Torma and Mariah Alderson  
attended the Saturday noon lunch.

- Mariah Alderson \$1000 from McGregor Lions  
 \$1000 from Nisswa Lions  
  
 Brittney Wolter \$1000 from Nisswa Lions  
 \$ 500 from Underwood Lions  
 \$ 500 from Baxter Lions  
  
 Logan Torma \$1000 from Pillager Lions  
 \$500 from Verndale Lions  
 \$500 from Baxter Lions  
  
 Kayla Meeks \$1000 from Baxter Lions  
 \$750 from Frazee Lions  
 \$250 from 5M9 Youth Outreach



**First Timer Leo Award**  
Brainerd Leo Mari Kaul



## First Timer Lion Awards by 2VDG Diane Kunze

1. Joe Delany-Park Rapids Lions in Photo
2. Mary Lou Smith-Cuyuna Range Lions
3. Lori Walden-Wadena Lions

## 5M9 Hall of Fame

Congratulations to **Jim Arvidson** who was elected to be this year's 5M9 Hall of Fame representative for MD5M. Jim Arvidson will be officially inducted in April at the MD5M convention. Jim was nominated by **Parkers Prairie Lions club** for his service to Parkers Prairie and his dedication to our 5M9 district. Congratulations Jim!





Presenting awards Dale Johansen,  
Sean Abernathy, Dick Labraaten

### Project New Hope Medals

Baxter

Brainerd

Dalton

Emily Outing 50 Lakes

Garrison Bay Lake

Gateway

Hackensak

Hill City

Laport Benedict

McGregor

Ottertail

Pillager Area

Ubank

## PROJECT NEW HOPE



Military Family Retreats  
at no cost to Veterans



*"At Project New Hope, we are driven by our mission - to provide education, training and skills necessary to manage their lives after wartime service."*



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
[WWW.PROJECTNEWHOPE.NET](http://WWW.PROJECTNEWHOPE.NET) OR SCAN THIS CODE:



# 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

# PROJECT NEW HOPE



*"So glad to see young families involved in retreats for military families - gives me hope for the future"*





## LCI Peace Poster Contest Results presented by Evie Ladd and Mike Kern

We had 7 poster entries for the LCI Peace Poster contest this year.

### Theme Together As One Awards

The 5M9 Youth Outreach awarded higher value gift cards to the top 3 posters and \$25 gift cards to the remaining entries.

#### Top 3 Posters

- 1st Place – \$150

Makayla Henderson – Sponsored by New York Mills Lions

- 2nd Place – \$100

Azariah Ogundeji – Sponsored by Nevis Lions

- 3rd Place – \$75

Riley Dittberner – Sponsored by Parkers Prairie Leos

Congratulations to all participants for their creative contributions to this year's theme!



#### Winners

- 1st Place – \$100

Bella Scholten – Lions Club of Battle Lake

- 2nd Place – \$75

Ala Patnode – Lions Club of Palisade Area

- 3rd Place – \$50

Grace Skog – Lions Club of Gateway Menahga

## 5M9 Youth Outreach Poster Contest Results

This year, the 5M9 Youth Outreach Poster Contest received 11 entries — matching last year's participation. A heartfelt thank you to all the Lions clubs that encouraged youth involvement and made this opportunity possible in their communities. To celebrate the creativity and effort of these young participants, Youth Outreach is awarding higher-value gift cards to the top three posters. All remaining entries will receive \$25 gift cards in recognition of their contributions.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants for their inspiring artwork and dedication to community outreach!



## Mid-Winter Moments!







## 5M9 MID-WINTER CONVENTION CONTEST WINNERS

### ONLINE AUCTION

Lion Quilt - Sandy R. Backus  
Ice Fishing Pkg. - Joan K. Hackensack  
Snowshoe Pkg. - Erica K. Wadena  
Lions Pin Clock - Erica K. Wadena  
3Day/Night RV Pkg. - Christy Lou H.  
Pillager

### CASH RAFFLE

Steve S. Rothsay \$1,000  
Travis L. Hackensack \$500  
Art E. Pine River \$250

### ZONE HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

1st Place Zone 1 - 300.6 lbs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Zone 7 - 101.6 lbs  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Zone 2 - 91.4  
Total of 680 lbs!



## Thank you for your generous donations toward the 5M9 PDG trailer!

We were grateful to put it to use at the Mid-Winter Convention. The trailer now serves as essential storage and transportation for our Eulogy equipment, helping us continue this meaningful tradition with care and dignity.





# Lions Worldwide Induction Day!

Register Today!



## 5M Multiple Convention

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 1:00 PM

Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel  
Minnetonka, Minnesota

WWID is a global membership celebration held on the last Saturday in April to unite clubs around the world in welcoming new members.

MD5M is hosting a Worldwide Induction Day at this years Multiple Convention.

We welcome any new member (joining around Oct. 1 or after) to be inducted by International President AP Singh.  
Register using the QR code or this link:

<http://bit.ly/4202Uec>





## Membership & Engagement Update

One of the best ways to grow Lions is simply by inviting others to *join us in service*. When friends and family experience a hands-on service project alongside you, they see firsthand the impact Lions make—and the fun we have doing it. Consider inviting a guest to your next project and let service speak for itself.

A big **thank you** to the clubs across District 5M9 that have already hosted membership drives this year. Your energy and commitment are making a real difference, and it shows in our momentum.

We also encourage all Lions to take advantage of **Lions USA Zoom trainings**:

- **Newer clubs** 5 years and younger are encouraged to attend the **New Club Navigator Series**, designed to support strong foundations and long-term success. Calls are every third Monday. Request an invite by emailing: [membership@lionsusa.org](mailto:membership@lionsusa.org)
- **All Lions** are invited to **Wisdom Wednesdays**, the first Wednesday of every month, where practical tips, ideas, and “aha moments” are shared each week. Register once, join every month. <https://bit.ly/LUSAWisdom>
- **Membership Mondays are for all Lions**: 4th Monday of the month. Register once at: <https://bit.ly/MbrshpMondays> Learn and share clear strategies, real success stories, & easy-to-use tools that grow clubs, keep members excited to stay, & start awesome new ones.

There are some great nuggets of information on these calls—please be sure to share the highlights with your fellow club members at your next meeting or service project.

Thank you for an **awesome year so far**. Keep up the great work inviting others to be part of this wonderful organization called Lions. Together, we’re making a difference!

Lion Joe Laudenbach

District 5M9 Global Membership Team Chair

Any questions? Call me at 218-851-5540 or send me a text.








## Lions Clubs International **FOUNDATION**

### **LCIF - February Is Giving Lions Month**

February is **Giving Lions Month**, a special time for Lions everywhere to reflect on the power of generosity—and the extraordinary impact we make when we give together through **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)**.

LCIF is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International, created for one purpose: **to empower Lions to serve**. Through grants and global partnerships, LCIF provides the resources that allow Lions to respond quickly and effectively when communities are in need.

Because of LCIF, Lions are able to:

-  Restore sight and prevent blindness
-  Respond to disasters near and far
-  Support youth and families
-  Address hunger, health challenges, and humanitarian needs
-  Strengthen communities through sustainable service

LCIF supports Lions' work across the association's global causes—**Vision, Youth, Disaster Relief, Humanitarian Efforts, Hunger, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer, and the Environment**. These focus areas guide our efforts, while Lions continue to meet the unique needs of their own communities in meaningful ways.

For Lions who have never donated before, Giving Lions Month is an ideal time to begin. LCIF is **100% donor funded**, and every contribution—no matter the size—helps multiply the impact of Lions' service. A single gift can help fund a local grant, support a global response, or provide hope where it is needed most.

Giving to LCIF is also an expression of the values that define Lionism: **Service, Integrity, Collaboration, Dedication to Excellence, Diversity, and Innovation**. It is an act of servant leadership—leading with compassion and serving with purpose.

This February, consider how you can participate



- Make your first personal gift to LCIF
- Encourage your club to recognize Giving Lions Month
- Learn more about how LCIF supports Lions' service

**When Lions give, lives are changed.**

**When Lions give together, the world is transformed.**

#### **5M9 LCIF Coordinators**

Erin Beck  
[elb\\_18@yahoo.com](mailto:elb_18@yahoo.com)  
H) 218-845-2204  
C) 218-851-7267

Linda Albrecht-Norby  
[pdglinda@gmail.com](mailto:pdglinda@gmail.com)  
C) 218-298-4743





# NORTHERN PRIDE LIONS FORUM

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

**MARCH 20-21, 2026**

**RADISSON HARBORVIEW, DULUTH**

**ALL LIONS ARE WELCOME**

**FRIDAY: WELCOME SOCIAL**

**SATURDAY: EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS**

**REGISTRATION \$110**

**ROOM RATE: \$139/NIGHT**



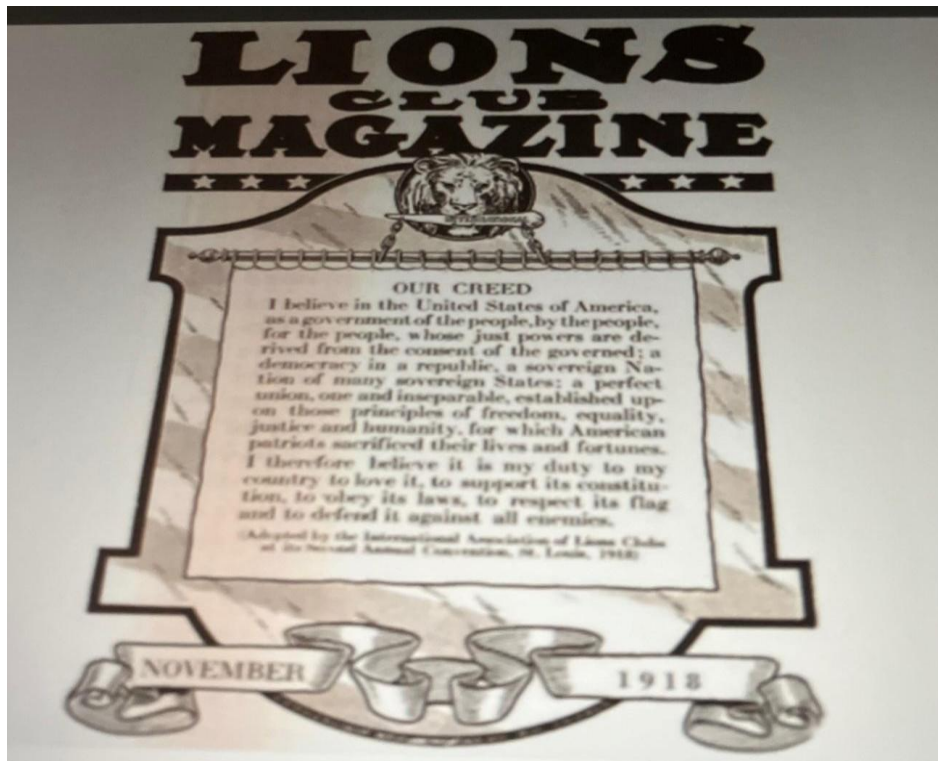
**SCAN HERE!**





# Through the Years: A Journey in Time

by District 5m9 Historian Lion Zelda Novak



## THE ROAR STILL HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

The first Lions magazine was published in November 1918, just as WW 1 was ending to keep members informed and excited about their growing association. The publication determined that it would benefit members, clubs and, as stated in this first issue, “the great causes in which they are all interested. It has been published ever since.

The first issue was 32 pages. Today, 33 editions of the magazine are printed in 20 languages, plus digital and audio. The English-language headquarters edition has the largest circulation of

360,000 and covers Lions clubs in the US and Canada.

Leading the Lions during this time were the first president of Lions Clubs International, elected at the first convention in Dallas in 1917, Dr. William P. Woods of Evansville, Indiana, who served until 1918, with L.H. Lewis of Dallas succeeding him for the term of 1918-19 term.

Information for this article was taken from Touchstone Stories at [LIONS100.org](http://LIONS100.org)!”

## Busy Lions!!



Congratulations to **Hackensack Lions** Linnea (left) and Stacy (right) aka “the Pancake Ladies” on their Melvin Jones awards.

Both ladies are also very involved with activities within their church and our community. Great job gals!



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**!





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.



For Lions International Hunger Service Week, the **Lakers Lions** joined Robyn and the Emily Care N' Share team to prep and package over 150 sloppy joe meals for local distribution.

Assembly Crew: Chris Adkins Weber, Joe C. Juetner, Diane Juetner, Donald Smude, Rhonda Smude, Jill Hannah Anderson

Prepping Crew (not pictured): Linda Duchscherer, Kevin McGarthwaite

Care N' Share provides 150–175 free meals each Wednesday to home-bound individuals within a 25-mile radius of Emily. Volunteer-run since 2008, the program has served more than 100,000 meals with support from Second Harvest, private donors, and community grants.

# 19th Annual Verndale Lions **PRIME RIB & COMEDY NIGHT**

Saturday, February 21, 2026  
at the Verndale Community Center

SOCIAL HOUR @ 6:00PM  
PRIME RIB DINNER @ 7:00PM  
SHOW TO FOLLOW



## COMEDY MAGICIAN **ALAN SMOLA**

Upscale, mind-bending comedy magic that's clean, hilarious, and unforgettable - perfect for audiences of all ages.

Featured nationwide at corporate events, colleges, and private events (Target, Microsoft, 3M, University of Minnesota & more!)

## TICKET COST: \$40.00 EACH

Purchase tickets from Verndale Lions Members or call 218-639-2098



## Can Do Canines to Host Open House February 28

Can Do Canines invites you to attend an open house on Saturday, February 28, from noon to 2 p.m., at its Can Do Canines campus (9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, Minnesota). Potential volunteers, clients, or anyone who might be interested in finding out more about our organization can join us to **learn how an assistance dog changes the life of a person with a disability.**

Through a self-guided tour, attendees will be able to watch a trainer working with an assistance dog, hear from a volunteer dog host, talk with staff members from the volunteer department, pose questions to client services coordinators about the application process, and meet graduate teams from five of the types of dogs Can Do Canines trains: hearing, mobility, seizure, diabetes, and childhood autism.

There is no pre-registration for this event, though attendees will be asked to share some contact information when arriving.

To request a sign language interpreter for the Open House, please contact Laurie at [lcarlson@candocanines.org](mailto:lcarlson@candocanines.org) or 763-331-3000 at least two weeks in advance. We'll do our best to accommodate late requests, but availability is not guaranteed.

More information about Can Do Canines is at [CanDoCanines.org](http://CanDoCanines.org).







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](mailto:goodman.michelle@rocketmail.com)



# 5M9 KidSight Newsletter – Year-to-Date Update



## Quarter 1 Highlights

KidSight began the year with strong momentum. Co-Directors David Coates and Sandy attended the New Directors Meeting, setting the tone for leadership engagement. Training expanded with 18 new members at Rothsay Lions Club (already completing two screenings) and six new members at Wadena Lions Club, scheduled for screenings in October.

Our presence at the **Kindness Event in Baxter** was especially impactful, with 16 KidSight crew members participating in both training and screenings. Screenings were also conducted by clubs in Battle Lake and Underwood, while my own club completed two screenings.

## 2025 Minnesota State Fair Vision Screening Recap

The Lions KidSight vision screening at the 2025 Minnesota State Fair was a resounding success! Over the course of 12 days, **eight days set new records** for screenings. In total, the **Lions of Minnesota screened 3,808 children**, identifying **383 children** who needed further vision support—changing lives and futures through better sight.

We truly made a difference. However, we faced some challenges with volunteer coverage. Some days were short-handed, and more helping hands would have made an even greater impact. **Please consider volunteering at the 2026 State Fair**—your time could help a child see the world more clearly.

## District 5M9 Screening – August 30, 2025

On Saturday, August 30th, the **Lions of District 5M9** screened **354 children**. Of those:

- **27 were referred** for further testing by licensed professionals
- **319 were cleared**
- **8 were considered as “could not be screened”**

A heartfelt **thank you** to all the Lions who stepped up and made this day a success. Your dedication and service continue to inspire!

## Quarter 2 Results

Momentum carried forward into Q2 with **20 screening events**, reaching **2,438 children** and referring **254** (a 12% referral rate). This marks the **highest number of children screened in the past two years**—a milestone worth celebrating!

Year-to-date totals now stand at:

### 25 events held

- **3,076 children screened**
- **335 referrals made**

Training remains strong, with **104 Lions trained across 26 clubs**, ensuring KidSight continues to grow its reach and impact.

## Quarter 3 Outlook

As we move into Q3, screenings traditionally slow down due to holidays and winter weather. Despite this seasonal pause, outreach efforts are underway to strengthen connections across the district. Plans include visiting more clubs, with outreach already in progress, to build momentum for the months ahead. If you wish to learn more about KidSight or KidSight Screening in your community, please reach out to Lion Sandy Remington or Lion David Coates.

Yours in Lion Service, Lion David Coates, PDG, Co-Director KidSight Foundation and Program 5M9



# **Hill City Lions Club 27th Annual Ice Fishing Contest**

**Saturday February 14th 2026**

**Hill Lake Beach, Hill City MN**

**Noon -3:00**

**Entry Fee \$10**

**Over 100 Door Prizes**

**Given out during the contest plus silent auction,**

**Bean Bag toss & other games for prizes**

**Special door prizes for kids 12 and under**

**Fish Prizes**

**Largest Fish—\$200**

**Second Largest Fish—\$100**

**Third Largest Fish—\$50**

**Grand Door Prizes**

**#1—Ice Fishing package includes:**

**Vexilar FL8 SE Genz Pack, Eskimo Fat Fish Insulated Fish House, E40 Eskimo 8" Auger, & Jet Sled.**

**#2—E40 Eskimo 8" Electric Auger**

**#3—Vexilar FLX-12 Genz Pack**

**#4—Eskimo Fat Fish Insulated Fish House**

**#5— \$250 L & M Gift Card**





# LIONS UNITE BOWLING CHALLENGE



*Enjoy a fun night of bowling with your fellow 5 M9 Lions!*

***Date: February 20th, 2026***

***Time: 5-9pm***

***Location: Jack's House 300 MN-25, Brainerd, MN 56401***

***Admission: \$20 per person***

*RSVP to Amynda Hadfield for a lane to bowl with your friends. More games can be purchased for additional fees. There will be a silent auction. Food and drink to be purchased on your own, proceeds will go towards the Camp Confidence East Gull Lake Lions to fund service projects.*

*If you have any additional questions, please contact Amynda Hadfield with the following information listed below.*

*Amynda Hadfield:*

*[amynda@confidencelearningcenter.org](mailto:amynda@confidencelearningcenter.org)*

*(218)-454-5071*





**Lions Deutschland**



Dr. med. Anke Hornemann  
Distrikt Governor elect 111-NB  
Region-Chairperson 111-NB

Lions Club Bremen Buten un Binnen



Dear Youth Exchange,

I read on the Lions Youth Camp list that the Lions Youth Camp of District M5, Camp Spicer, is also taking place again this year.

I myself was a 16-year-old participant (maiden name Anke Küpper) in this camp in the summer of 1986. These experiences later inspired me, as an adult, to become a Lion. I am currently the District Governor Elect in my district 111 NB in Germany, and 40 years after my participation in the international youth camp, I will be helping to organize our youth camp in Bremerhaven this August as District Governor.

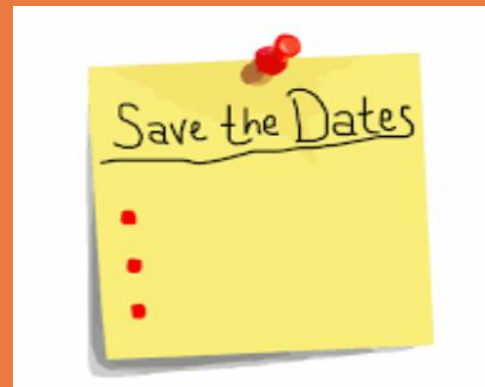
I have very vivid memories and experiences from Camp Spicer. Unfortunately, I no longer have any contact with the camp directors at that time, Orwell and Elvira Trettin. Could it be that both of them are shown on the left side of the photo? I would be very happy if I could reconnect with them. Would it be possible to forward my contact details to them?

I would also be delighted to hear something about the current camp.

I wish you lots of success and lots of fun at the camp.

Best regards

Anke Hornemann



**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**

Click here for info and registration:  
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/roar-for-a-cause>  
Register by Feb. 5



**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



# SERVICE PLANNER

LIONS YEAR 2025-26



\*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](http://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**

**9 101<sup>st</sup> Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448    [bmguthrie9@myctl.net](mailto: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”**



## LCIF Special Olympics Donation Link

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

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

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



Scan QR code  
to Donate



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

**Signup  
made  
easy!**

### Option#1: ONLINE

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

[Click here to Register Online!](#)

### Option#2: PAPER:

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



**Table Sponsorships  
Available:**

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



## “A Ball For All” Special Olympics Fundraiser

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



## Corporate Plaque Program / Special Olympics USA Games

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

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

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



# ROAR for a CAUSE



Fundraiser Registration Form-Special Olympics 2026 USA Games  
Saturday, February 28, 2026, 10:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Chanhassen Dinner Theater 501 West 78th Street Chanhassen, MN 55317  
**Registration Deadline: February 5, 2026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL ADMISSION -

\$65.00 per person (includes registration, lunch, and program). Cash bar available.

# of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ Total @ \$65 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## TABLE SPONSOR (8 Guests)-This is a group ticket for 8 people.

# of Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$800.00 per table \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Table sponsors receive lunch, program and one drink ticket each for eight guests. In addition, your Company/Club name (logo) will appear on the table tents and in the program, and you will be mentioned by name during the luncheon.

Sponsor/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please scan or email your registration form to:  
[rtgies001@gmail.com](mailto:rtgies001@gmail.com) or text information to 612-756-1316

**\*PLEASE COMPLETE NAMES & MEAL CHOICES ON THE BACKSIDE OF THIS FORM.**

**Make checks payable to:** LCIF Roar for a Cause  
**Mail to:** Lion Rose Thies, LCIF Roar for a Cause  
 21515 371st Ave, Green Isle, MN 55338-2027

**Pay online by Venmo or Pay Pal.**

**Pay Pal:** Rosemary Thies [paypal.me/GreenIsleLions](https://www.paypal.me/GreenIsleLions)

**Venmo:** @Rose-Thies

**Please scan or email your registration form to:**  
[rthies001@gmail.com](mailto:rthies001@gmail.com) or text information to 612-756-1316

#	Name	Email	Phone	Meal Choice Circle One
1				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna
2				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna
3				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna
4				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna
5				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna
6				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna
7				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna
8				Chicken Chan; Sirloin Steak. Veg. Lasagna

**Chicken Chanhassen** (chicken breast with wild rice dressing and Hollandaise sauce.  
 Roasted seasonal vegetables. Includes side salad, baked bread and coffee.

**Top Sirloin Steak** (choice of one sauce: Burgundy Mushroom, Veal Demi-Glace, Gorgonzola, Chimichurri, Bearnaise) your server will ask/explain the choices at your table. Garlic mashed potatoes and roasted seasonal vegetables. Includes side salad, baked bread and coffee.

**Vegetarian Lasagna** (ricotta cheese, mozzarella, carrots, celery, onions, mushrooms, house marina sauce), roasted seasonal vegetables. Includes side salad, baked bread and coffee.



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  
106<sup>th</sup> - MD5M Multiple Convention  
Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel  
2026 MD5M Registration Form



☐ Lion ☐ Leo ☐ Guest  
☐ Check if this is your 1<sup>st</sup> Multiple Convention

☐ Lion ☐ Leo ☐ Guest  
☐ Check if this is your 1<sup>st</sup> Multiple Convention

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

**Full Hospitality Book:** 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 \$27 US - \$39 CDN \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Breakfast \$38 US - \$55 CDN \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Lunch \$43 US - \$62 CDN \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Banquet \$70 US - \$101 CDN \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday Brunch \$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 Convention.

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





## Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Sharing Secretary and Treasurer Duties

Lions have always known that the greatest service is accomplished together. From hands-on projects to major fundraising efforts, **teamwork is at the heart of everything we do**. That same spirit of collaboration is just as important in our club leadership roles—especially for our Secretaries and Treasurers.

These two positions are essential to the health and success of every club. They require organization, accuracy, communication, and time. When these responsibilities rest on one person alone, burnout can occur—and valuable Lions may hesitate to step into leadership.

That's where teamwork makes the dream work.

Sharing or supporting Secretary and Treasurer duties—through assistant roles, mentoring, or task-sharing—strengthens clubs in meaningful ways:

- Ensure continuity and smooth transitions year by year
- Reduces stress and workload on individual Lions
- Build leadership skills in newer members
- Improves accuracy, accountability, and communication
- Encourages more members to say "yes" to leadership

This approach reflects our core Lion values of **Collaboration, Integrity, and Dedication to Excellence**. It also reinforces our belief in *servant leadership*—leading by supporting one another.

Clubs that work as a team behind the scenes are better positioned to focus on what truly matters: **serving our communities**. Whether supporting Vision programs, Youth initiatives, Hunger relief, Disaster response, or other humanitarian efforts, strong administration enables strong service.

Service comes in many forms, and so does leadership. Sharing responsibilities doesn't diminish a role—it **multiplies its impact**.

As clubs plan for the coming year, consider asking:

- How can we support our Secretary and Treasurer?
- Who can learn alongside them as an assistant or partner?
- How can we build a leadership bench for the future?

When we work together, everyone wins—and our service grows stronger.

**Teamwork truly does make the dream work.**

In Service,  
PDG Jay Norby  
CA1 GAT Area C Leader  
ND/SD/MN/WI/IA



# 5M9 District Governor, 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor Club Visit Request Form

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

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

DG/VDGZone		Clubs	Chartered	February	March	April	May
CATHE	3	BACKUS	8/4/1986			4/2/2026	
CATHE	1	BAXTER	6/20/1977			4/13/26	
CATHE	3	CROSS LAKE IDEAL	10/26/1982		3/11/26		
CATHE	2	DEERWOOD CROSBY AREA	10/23/2025	2/11/2026			
SHERI	7	DUNVILLA	6/23/2016	2/17/2026			
CATHE	3	EMILY OUTING 50 LAKES	1/18/1982		3/30/26		
CATHE	2	GARRISON BAY LAKE AREA	11/24/1981		3/10/2026		
SHERI	4	GATEWAY- MENAHGA	9/21/1978	2/3/26			
CATHE	3	JENKINS AREA	8/6/2020	2/16/2026			
CATHE	3	LONGVILLE	9/27/1976				5/18/26
CATHE	2	MALMO AREA	2/12/2016	2/17/26			
CATHE	2	MCGREGOR	11/9/1965		3/16/26		
CATHE	1	MERRIFIELD	1/31/1986			4/8/26	
CATHE	1	NISSWA	12/26/1972			4/27/26	
CATHE	1	NISSWA PTO	6/13/2025		*		
CATHE	2	PALISADE AREA	3/27/1989			4/14/2026	
DIANE	8	PARKERS PRAIRIE PRIDE	2/9/2007		3/9/26		
CATHE	1	PEQUOT LAKES BREEZY PT.	4/3/2006		3/9/26		
CATHE	1	PILLAGER & AREA	12/11/1984	2/26/2026			
CATHE	3	PINE RIVER	11/17/1978	2/11/2026			
DIANE	8	URBANK	12/17/1977	2/18/26			
		CABINET MEETINGS					5/3/2026
		COG MEETINGS			3/7/2026	4/26/2026	
		Name		February	March	April	May
		Zones					
		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](mailto:5m9newsletter@gmail.com)  
Sue Stebbins editor



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

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

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

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

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



### District Governor

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

### District Governor Elect

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

### 1st Vice District Governor Elect

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

### Cabinet Secretary

Kim Donahue  
PO Box #84  
Park Rapids MN 56470  
612-968-3640  
[secretary@lionsof5m9.org](mailto:secretary@lionsof5m9.org)

### District Treasurer

Linda Albrecht-Norby ( Jay)  
1021 5th Ave NW  
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C: 218-298-4743  
H: 218-346-3200  
[pdglinda@gmail.com](mailto:pdglinda@gmail.com)

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