

# SERVICE JOURNAL

MARCH 2026 / VOLUME 242 / ISSUE 9



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



**2025-2026  
District Governor  
Cathe Picek**



**Lead to Serve,  
Serve to Lead with  
International President  
A.P. Singh**

When you join Lions, you may focus on how you will give back to others through service. What you may not immediately realize is how much Lions gives back to you. Becoming a Lion opens the door to experiencing more — more belonging, more purpose, more leadership and more community.

Lions is not only the world's largest and best service organization; it's a way of life. As a Lion, you grow as an individual while discovering how your unique talents and passions can make a real difference in the world. Lions is your place to shine.

Remember, every one of you is needed, important and valued. Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to seeing how you continue to grow on your Lions journey.

Together in service,

**A.P. Singh**  
**International President**

## **Get Ready for Our Environment Week of Service**

Take action during our [Environment Week of Service](#), April 18-26,

By helping reduce electronic waste in your community. We are encouraging clubs to lead e-waste collection drives, host recycling events and educate neighbors on the safe disposal of electronics.

Every effort keeps harmful materials out of landfills and protects the environment we share. Join Lions around the world and make a visible, meaningful impact through e-waste service.

### **Dates to Note**

**Northern Pride  
Lions Forum  
Lions  
Leadership**

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

**5M9 Lions Day  
of Learning  
Wadena  
April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**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**



**March 2026**





## Message from the 5M9 District Governor Cathe Picek

[cathe.picek@gmail.com](mailto:cathe.picek@gmail.com)

### MARCH MADNESS! MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE!

**There is no better time than NOW** to grow our clubs! We have the knowledge, the marketing tools, the audience and the cause to grow our clubs. Check out the **MARCH MADNESS! MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE!** flyer in this newsletter for challenge details.

**Imagine** what would happen to our District if each club grew by **1** new member in the month of March, had a diverse balance of women, men, younger Lions and had a new service project to work on. I can picture a healthier, balanced and fun club. Reach out to positive, fun people who are 10 years younger than you are and we'll make a difference.

**Invite** the people who will be attending your Lions service activities, fundraising projects, out shopping, going to school activities, and hopefully will have a positive attitude and open to your **INVITATION** to volunteer with you.

**Take advantage** of each opportunity you have to share your Lions story, what's going on in your club and district. **Invite** them to go with you to share the fun and camaraderie of our Lions family. <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/mission-to-grow>

**Listen** to what people you meet share with you about their likes and passions. Is there a Lions service project they might enjoy doing with you? People of all ages love to eat. Did you know Lions have more than pancakes for breakfast? Try adding something different to your menu if people you meet like waffles!

**Believe** that Lions are a force of change and we can **GROW** Lions Clubs International to **SERVE** more people at home and around the world.

**Plan** to attend the College of Leadership on Sunday, April 19 at the Wadena Deer Creek HS to learn what any Lion can do to expand their knowledge of the organization, their position in the club or satisfy their interest in growing as a Lion. **Invite** a new Lion to go with you and let your **Zone Chair** know that you will attend.

**Believe in yourself, Believe in Lions!**  
**DG Lion Cathe**



## Message From District Governor Elect

**Sheri Greenwaldt**  
[lionqsheri@gmail.com](mailto:lionqsheri@gmail.com)

As I sit down to think about what I want to share for March, I find myself reflecting on just how deeply Lions have impacted my life. The first week of February brought me a life-changing medical event, one that happened quickly and unexpectedly. I am incredibly grateful to say that I am still here, and more motivated than ever to keep moving forward and continue serving through Lions.

That experience caused me to pause and reflect on life, and on Lions. Life has a funny way of pulling us in a hundred different directions. Busy schedules, family responsibilities, work deadlines, and those moments when we simply need to catch our breath. And yet, somehow, Lions always find a way to fit into our lives, not as another obligation, but as a meaningful part of who we are. Being a Lion isn't just about meetings or service projects. It's about life. It's about showing up when someone needs help, celebrating successes together, and supporting one another through challenges. It's about friendships that feel more like family and service that fills our cups in ways we didn't even realize were empty. Life isn't always neat or predictable. There are seasons when we're running full speed ahead and others when we need to slow down and reflect. Lions understand that. We serve when we can, how we can, and together, we make an impact that no one person could make alone. Every act of service, big or small, truly matters. What makes Lions so special is that we don't just serve our communities, we serve each other. We cheer one another on, share laughs, offer a listening ear, and remind each other why service matters. Through life's ups and downs, Lions are there, wearing yellow vests, sharing smiles, and leading with hearts full of compassion. Life may change, but the spirit of Lions remains constant. Wherever you are in your journey, please know what you do matters. Your time matters. Your passion matters. And together, through life and Lions, we continue to make the world a better place, one act of kindness at a time.

Being a Lion isn't about titles, projects, or meetings. It's about community. It's about showing up for one another in both good times and hard ones. Lions understand that life comes in seasons. Sometimes we are the ones leading and serving, and sometimes we are the ones who need a hand, a meal, or a simple, heartfelt "How are you doing today?"

This experience reminded me to slow down, to take care of myself, and to truly appreciate the moments that matter most. It also deepened my gratitude for this incredible organization and the people who make it what it is. Life doesn't always go as planned, but Lions walk beside us through it all. Through every challenge and every celebration, we continue to serve, to care, and to lift one another up.

Life is precious. Service is powerful. And life is truly better when lived as a Lion.

DGE Sheri 😊

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



Time seems to have its own way of directing our lives. There never seems to be enough. There are 720 hours in a month and 168 hours in each week. 40 hours each week we spend at our jobs, about the same time sleeping.

However, sometimes we still seem to wake up just as tired as when we go to bed. With this in mind I am thinking that each of us needs to remember to balance our lives. Give a piece of ourselves to our jobs, spouse, family, Lions.... We seem to have forgotten ourselves. An evening at home enjoying the quiet. Watching our pets taking turns playing with each other.

As important as the tasks we do for Lions are. If we forget to take care of ourselves, our personal health can be at risk. So, with this in mind take some time each week to take care of your personal health. We are no good to anyone including ourselves if we keep saying yes to tasks and tell yourself I will get the rest that I need later. Take the time to rest so we can give the tasks the attention that they deserve.

Right now, I am going to take some time for myself under a blanket and rub some Vick's on my chest so that I can get rid of this wonderful sinus infection. Ok some antibiotics will be doing their magic as well.

Respectfully Submitted  
Diane Kunze  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Elect

# Message From 2nd Vice District Governor Elect Joe Laudenbach



## Growing Stronger Together in 5M9

Stepping into the role of 2nd Vice District Governor Elect has given me a new perspective on our district. I've been listening, learning, and paying close attention to what makes 5M9 special. What stands out most isn't just the projects or the programs — it's the people. We have dedicated Lions across our district who truly care about their communities.

And that's something to be proud of.

As I think about the future, one idea keeps coming back to me — we grow best when we grow together. With my farm theme in mind, I can't help but think about silos. On the farm, silos are useful. They store the harvest and protect what's been produced. But in leadership and service, silos don't help us thrive. When ideas stay contained, when communication only flows one direction, or when clubs operate in isolation, we limit what's possible.

Our district is strongest when we share.

When a club tries something new and tells others about it.

When we talk openly about challenges and learn from each other.

When we celebrate wins across club lines.

When we pick up the phone and simply connect.

My approach is simple — open, honest communication. No closed doors. No assumptions. Just real conversations about how we can strengthen our clubs, support one another, and serve our communities even better. Have an idea? Share it. Have a question? Ask.

As part of Lions Clubs International, we are united by service. But service multiplies when collaboration leads the way. Every partnership builds trust. Every shared idea plants a seed. Every new connection strengthens the field we're working in together.

The future of 5M9 is bright. I truly believe that. And I'm grateful to be on this journey with each of you.

Let's keep the fields open. Let's keep communicating. And most importantly, let's keep growing — together.

In Service,

Lion Joe Laudenbach

2nd Vice District Governor Elect

District 5M9



# Lions 5M9 Day of Learning

Sunday, April 19th, 2026

All Lions are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## Wadena High School

600 Colfax Avenue,  
Wadena, MN 56482

12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Registration, Social & Free Lunch Provided at 12:00 PM



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

- ✓ Lions 101
- ✓ Club President & Vice President Training
- ✓ Secretary Training
- ✓ Membership Training
- ✓ Service Chair Training
- ✓ Treasurer Training



RSVP to Leadership Chair  
Michelle Nickolauson at 218-366-1111





# MARCH MADNESS MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

**EVERY CLUB. ONE NEW LION. ONE POWERFUL MONTH.**

## The World Needs Lions Like Never Before

This March, we are challenging every club to grow stronger so we can serve more.

### GOAL: ADD AT LEAST ONE NEW MEMBER IN MARCH

#### March 1 – March 31

- ✓ One new Lion
- ✓ One new leader
- ✓ One stronger club
- ✓ Greater community impact

#### Why It Matters

When we grow, we multiply our service.

More members mean:

- More hands to serve
- More ideas and innovation
- Greater diversity and leadership
- Expanded impact in our global causes

**Service can come in all shapes and sizes — but growth fuels it all.**

## Recognition

#### Sweet 16 – First clubs to add a member

First 16 clubs in March will receive a membership Certificate

#### Membership Champion Recognition

Top recruiter in March will receive an International Presidents Certificate of Appreciation

#### Final Four – Top recruiting clubs

Top 4 clubs in March in recruiting will receive a CA1 GAT Certificate of Appreciation

#### District Spotlight Recognition

All Clubs that have new members in March will be recognized in the 5M9 Newsletter

## Four Simple Steps

- ★ Identify five potential members
- ★ Invite them to a meeting or service project
- ★ Share why YOU became a Lion
- ★ Ask directly: "Would you consider becoming a Lion this month?"

**People join for purpose. People join for belonging. People join for impact.**

## We Live and Grow to Serve

If every club adds ONE member, imagine the multiplied impact across our district.  
*Let's make March count.*

**EVERY CLUB. ONE NEW LION.**



By Joe Laudenbach, District Global Membership Chair – 5M9

March is bringing more than the excitement of basketball — it's bringing a fun, high-energy opportunity for growth across District 5M9.

This month, we are launching the **March Membership Challenge**, inviting every club in the district to focus on one simple but powerful goal: between March 1 and March 31, add at least one new member.

It sounds simple — and it is. But the impact could be tremendous.

Imagine the momentum if every club in 5M9 welcomed just one new Lion. Growth fuels service. When membership increases, so does our ability to serve. We gain more hands to help, more ideas at the table, greater diversity in perspective, and stronger leadership for the future. This challenge isn't about chasing numbers; it's about creating energy, visibility, and renewed excitement around inviting others to be part of something meaningful.

And since it *is* March basketball, we're leaning into the fun.

Throughout the month, we'll be celebrating milestones bracket-style. The first 16 clubs to report a new member will earn "Sweet 16" recognition, end of March will advance to and receive a CAI GAT Certificate of Appreciation.

We'll also crown a Membership Champion — the Lion who sponsors the most new members during March — with an International President's Certificate of Appreciation. Every club that adds at least one new member will be highlighted in district communications and the 5M9 Newsletter.

But here's where it gets even more fun: I encourage clubs to create their own mini-competition. Track invitations. Celebrate prospects. Ring a bell when a new member commits. Post a team photo when someone says "yes." Build excitement at your meetings. Make it visible. Make it contagious.

Success doesn't require a complicated strategy. It starts with identifying a few potential members, inviting them to a meeting or service project, sharing why you became a Lion, and simply asking the question: "Would you consider becoming a Lion this month?"

People join for purpose. They join for belonging. They join for impact.

As members of Lions Clubs International, we know the needs in our communities continue to grow. Service can take many forms, but growth fuels it all. If every club adds one new member, the multiplied impact across District 5M9 will be significant.

Let's make March count. Have some fun with it. Bring the energy!  
Every club. One new Lion.

In Service,  
Joe Laudenbach  
District Global Membership Chair  
District 5M9



The four clubs with the highest growth by the end of March will advance to our "Final Four"

## Busy Lions!



### Hope on the Slopes was a fantastic success!

Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer on the 27 teams racing down Mount Ski Gull's tubing hill on covered mattresses. All proceeds raised will support Bridges of Hope's programs, including Operation Sandwich, making a real impact in our community.

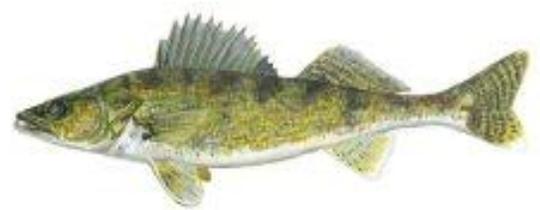
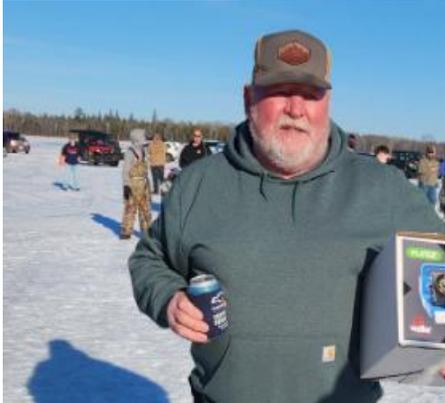
So much fun was had at the Hope on the Slopes! **Brainerd Lions** members Vicki Foss, Jamie Neyens, David Kaul, and **Brainerd Leo**, Oliver Paulson, participated.



The Hewitt Lions presented a donation to the Bertha-Hewitt class of 2026.

# Hill City Lions Club 27th Annual Ice Fishing Contest Saturday February 14th 2026

Our Hill City Lions ice fishing contest wrapped up with plenty of fish, fresh air, and good-natured rivalry. A fantastic turnout and a great day on the lake. Our grand prize winners were. 1st Mike Wentz, 2nd Jon Bishop, 3rd Glenn Kingsley, 4th Erik Pearson, and 5th Cody Becker.



**NEW YORK MILLS  
ANNUAL LIONS AUCTION**

**You're  
invited!**



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**Saturday,  
April 11, 2026**

**6:00 PM Social Hour  
7:00 PM Live Auction**

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**See you there!**

New York Mills City Hall Ballroom  
28 W Centennial 84 Dr  
New York Mills, MN 56567

A light meal will be provided and the Lions Bar will be open.

Auctioneer Services provided by Perala Bros Auctioneers



# BEER & WINE TASTING EVENT

Join us at the Pequot Lakes Breezy Point Lions **FUN**draising event on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 2 PM - 5 PM at the Pequot Lakes American Legion.

Enjoy a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw and a cookie, sample great beer and wine and get in on our Silent Auction items!

**Tickets \$30 per person.**

Beer and Wine samples provided by Spirits of Nisswa.



Scan to follow our Facebook page!

Get your pre-event tickets at Spirits of Nisswa and you will receive a \$5.00 coupon towards a future purchase!!





## ROAR LIKE A LION!

The living mantra of the Lions throughout the world is “We Serve”. We sponsor service events such as Lions Kidsight Screening at the Minnesota State Fair, County Fairs, Schools and other events. The Crosslake Lions conduct two yearly blood drives, and this year sponsored the Crosslake Community School in the Outreach Meal Packaging Program to stock local food shelves. Over 30 of our sponsored students in Robotics and Trap teams from Crosslake Community and Pequot schools helped us with our yearly Roadside Clean up followed up with complimentary pizza and refreshments at Zorbaz.

Our contributions, to name a few, were provided to the Crosslake Fire Department, Camp Knutson, the Crosslake Food Shelf, Wounded Warriors, Shriners, PAL, Knights of Columbus, WAPOA along with Local School Track & Field - Trap - Hockey and Robotics teams. We provided Sponsorship of the fun Camp Spooktacular at the Army Corps of Engineers, the Senior Expo, ACE Hardware Crosslake Days Band, as well as were participants in the St. Patty’s Day Parade. This year fun events will continue with our Music in The Square as well as the Peaches Sale and Lions Fishing Contest.

When humanitarian emergencies strike, we as Lions, are ready to help and right beside us is Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). This past year, our Club donated 18,000.00 dollars to LCIF in support of our eight dedicated pillars- Disaster Relief, Childhood Cancer, Humanitarian, Vision, Youth, Diabetes, Hunger, and Environment. Service is our expression of appreciation for our Lakes community, and for those living in our community. Whether we are stocking food shelves, supporting youth, safeguarding the environment, or assisting in all things vision and hearing, we do so with a spirit of gratitude and thanks that defines who we are. As we prepare for a new year of service, may we continue to lead with grateful hearts, recognizing the volunteers who give tirelessly as well as the partners who make our impact stronger and the communities that welcome our efforts with open arms.

As always, we invite you to join us and share in this journey - “Together We Can”! The Crosslake Ideal Lions Club meet monthly, every second Wednesday at Maucieri’s Restaurant in Crosslake. The Social Hour begins at 5:30 PM and General Meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Many members arrive early for added fellowship. We have speakers from different Local Enterprises along with Lion speakers specializing in one of our Eight Pillars.

For more information, please contact us at Crosslake Ideal Lions online at [info@crosslakeideallions.org](mailto:info@crosslakeideallions.org), or come to a meeting and find out more about the club. Hope to see you soon. Lions continue to Serve!

Kim Walesheck  
Crosslake Ideal Lions Secretary

# **VOLUNTEER** for the Special Olympics USA Games

Make a difference. **Have fun.** **Serve with the Lions.**

## THREE EASY STEPS:

### 1. Register

Scan the QR code or use the link below to sign up.  
Registration includes uploading a photo.

<https://cerv.is/0430rLionsClub>



### 2. Choose Your Volunteer Role

#### **Family Night Setup**

Tuesday, June 16 • 1:00–6:00 PM

#### **Opening Eyes Vision Screenings**

Friday, June 19 – Thursday, June 25

#### **Family Night Guest Service**

Wednesday, June 24 & Thursday, June 25 • 4:30–9:30 PM

#### **Family Night Greet Team**

Wednesday, June 24 & Thursday, June 25 • 5:00–7:00 PM

### 3. Show Up and Enjoy the Experience

You'll be part of something meaningful for athletes, families, and our community.

#### **Early Access for Lions, Family & Friends through March 20**

Feel free to share – the best spots will fill quickly.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
MINNESOTA 2026

# Lions Worldwide Induction Day!

Register Today!



## 5M Multiple Convention

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 1:00 PM

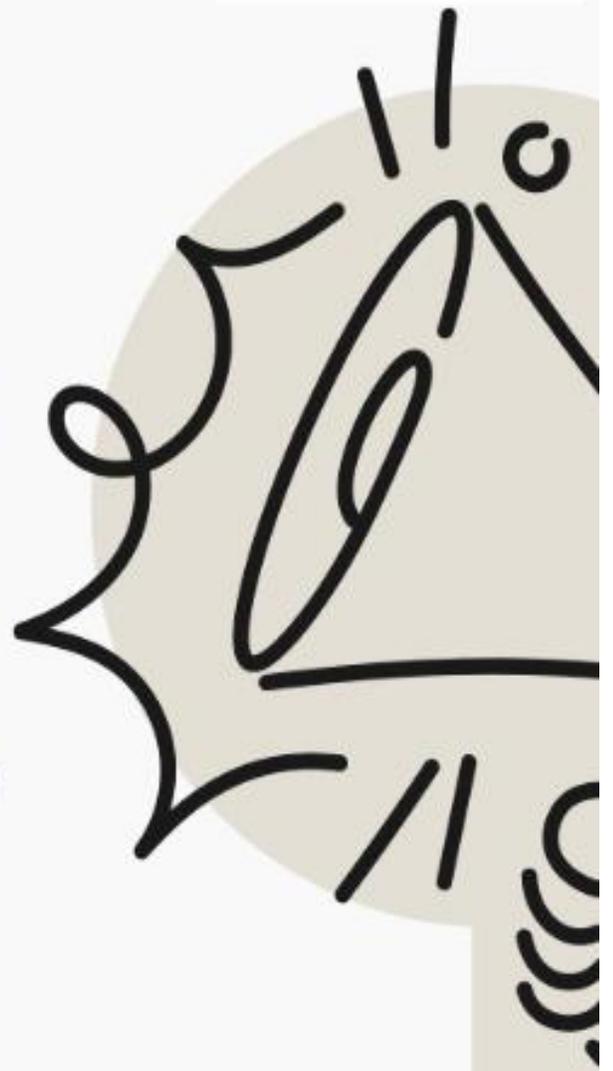
Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel  
Minnetonka, Minnesota

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>





## How to Apply for a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Grant

When Lions see a need, we respond. Sometimes that response requires resources beyond what a single club or district can provide. That's where LCIF steps in — empowering Lions to serve their communities through impactful grants.

Since 1968, LCIF has awarded thousands of grants to support humanitarian service around the world. If your club or district has identified a significant community need, applying for an LCIF grant may be the next step.

### What Does LCIF Support?

LCIF supports projects aligned with our eight global causes:

- Childhood Cancer
- Diabetes
- Disaster Relief
- Environment
- Humanitarian Efforts
- Hunger
- Vision
- Youth

These areas provide a framework — but remember **service comes in all shapes and sizes**. The goal is always to meet the needs of your community, not to fit service into a predetermined box.



### Step-by-Step: How to Apply for an LCIF Grant

#### 1 Assess Community Needs

Before applying, conduct a thoughtful community needs assessment.

Ask:

- What is the real need?
- Who will benefit?
- Is this sustainable?
- Can Lions provide leadership and hands-on involvement?

Strong grants begin with strong assessments.

#### 2 Choose the Right Grant Type

LCIF offers various grant programs, including:

- Humanitarian Grants
- Diabetes Grants
- Vision Grants
- Hunger Grants
- Childhood Cancer Grants
- Disaster Relief Grants
- Youth-focused Grants

Each grant has specific eligibility requirements, funding limits, and matching fund expectations. Carefully review the guidelines on the LCIF website.

#### 3 Engage District Leadership

Most LCIF grants require:

- District endorsement
- Cabinet approval
- Multiple District support (in some cases)

Grants are typically submitted at the **district or multiple district level**, not by individual clubs alone.

Collaboration reflects one of our core values: **Collaboration** — together we accomplish more.

## 4 Prepare Required Documentation

Common application components include:

- Detailed project description
- Clear budget (with quotes)
- Timeline
- Description of Lions involvement
- Sustainability plan
- Matching funds documentation

Be specific. Be measurable. Be realistic.

## 5 Submit the Application

Applications are submitted electronically through the LCIF grant portal.

Be mindful of:

- Submission deadlines
- Required signatures
- Complete documentation

Incomplete applications may delay review.

## 6 Grant Review & Approval

LCIF staff review the application, and final approval is granted by the LCIF Board of Trustees.

If approved:

- Funds are disbursed according to grant guidelines.
- Progress reports are required.
- Final reporting ensures accountability and impact measurement.

Integrity and Excellence are essential throughout the process.

## 🌟 What Makes a Strong LCIF Grant Application?

- ✓ Clear community impact
- ✓ Strong Lions involvement
- ✓ Realistic and well-documented budget
- ✓ Sustainable outcomes
- ✓ Measurable results
- ✓ Collaboration across clubs/districts

Remember: LCIF exists to empower Lions service — not replace it. Lions leadership and volunteer engagement must be central to every project.

## 💡 Servant Leadership in Action

Applying for an LCIF grant is more than completing paperwork. It is an expression of servant leadership — identifying need, mobilizing people, and creating lasting change.

We **lead to serve and serve to lead**.

When Lions combine:

- Service
- Dedication to Excellence
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Diversity
- Innovation

... there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

If your club or district is considering applying for a grant and would like help walking through the process step-by-step, we'd be honored to assist. Together, we grow stronger — and our communities thrive because of it.

## **District 5M9 LCIF Co-Chairs**

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

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

## Through the Years: A Journey in Time

by District 5m9 Historian Lion Zelda Novak



It was a noisy time in the LA area with motors roaring and horns blaring as racers roared up and down the streets of L.A. and surrounding areas. Long Beach judge Fred Miller became outraged at the increasing numbers of street racers appearing before his court and decided “something” had to be done. So he arranged with Lion Eddie Baker a member of a Long Beach Lions Club and together with members of nine L.A Lions clubs committed to raise the \$45,000 capital to build a drag strip. This would be called Lions Associated Drag Strip and was sanctioned by Lions International.

The first drag race was held October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1955, and the last one was held December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1972, which turned out to be one of the most successful in the history of the drag strip. Seventy thousand dollars was turned over to the Lions charity fund at year's end. This was in addition to a total of over \$300,00 already donated over the 17 years of operation.

After the track closed there was formation of a Lions Drag Strip Museum to learn how racing and the car culture impacted the community.

The idea for this article started with Lion Larry Novak of the Park Rapids Lions Club reading his “Old Cars” magazine which has a short story and from several online and u tube articles.

Lion Zelda Novak  
District Historian.



# Recycling Lions!!



After collecting 10,000 lbs of plastic for recycling through the NexTrek Recycling program we received our second bench!! 🕶️

We were able to donate that beautiful bench to the Breezy Point City Hall today.

Big shout out to Roger for all the collection coordinating he does as our club recycling Captain!



The Aitkin Lions kept thousands of pounds of clean, stretchy plastic out of landfills—over 7,400 pounds in 2025 alone—turning it into durable NexTrex benches for the community. Every Wednesday, volunteers sort and prep the plastic so it can be transformed into long-lasting seating that comes right back home to serve neighbors.



## Environment

**April 18-26, 2026**

The recycling and waste management service area resource is designed to help you learn the facts on waste and plan service projects centered on responsible recycling in your community. Consider planning an e-waste recycling project on Earth Day on April 22!

**Ottertail Lions 2025-2026 Awards**  
*Celebrating Service & Leadership*

**Top Dog Award**

**Recipients:**

Chris Peterson  
 Chad McDonald  
 Stephanie Swenson



**MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation**

**Recipients:**

Mike Potocki  
 Ron Grobeck  
 Kathy Grobeck



**Leader Dog Award**

**Recipient:**

Nicole McDonald



**MD5M Lions Kidsight Foundation Sight**

**Recipient:**

Jerry Smith



**Hearing Foundation Award**

**Recipients:**

Linda Dunker  
 Denise Anderson  
 Jenna Hanson  
 Roxanne Thompson  
 Diane Peycke  
 Arnie Ehlert



**LCIF Melvin Jones Award**

**Recipients:**

Randy Hekman  
 Linda Brasel  
 Jack Galvin  
 John Walsh

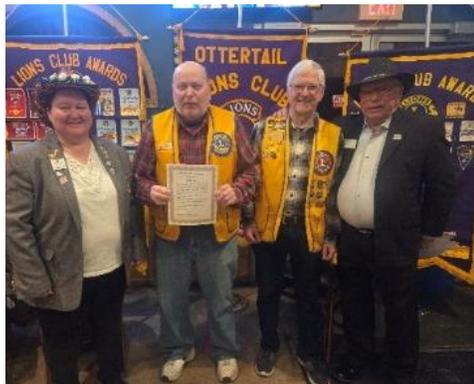


**Helen Keller Sight Award**

*Awarded by James Arvidson*

**Recipients:**

Robert Brauch  
 Donna Galvin



**Team Sheehan Award**

**Recipient:**

Stacey Cannady



**Project New Hope Award**

**Recipient:**

Kelsey Spanswick



***Thank you to all Ottertail Lions members for your service!***

# 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!**





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



# 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

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
MINNESOTA 2026

**2026**  
Coming to  
**MINNESOTA**  
**JUNE**  
**20-26**



 **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



**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

<b>MARCH</b> YOUTH	<b>APRIL</b> ENVIROMENT (APRIL 18-26)
<b>MAY</b> ENVIROMENT & HUNGER	<b>JUNE</b> HUMANITARIAN

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

MARCH 24, 2026  
1:30 - 4:30 PM

# LIONS DAY AT THE CAPITOL



The goal of Lions Day at the Capitol is to Increase Public Awareness,  
Advocate for Change & Strengthen Partnerships

### How Clubs Can Participate:

- Generate Enthusiasm:** Share event details at club meetings.
- Set Attendance Goals:** Aim for 5 – 10 attendees per club to ensure strong representation.
- Engage with Local Governing Representatives:** Schedule meetings with your local officials in advance to discuss key issues and invite them to attend.



Host: Maple  
Grove Lions

To sign-up click the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A4AF2DA3FCC34-60193134-2ndannual>



**SAVE THE DATE: SHE LEADS ~ A Global Lions Symposium**  
Sunday, March 8, 2026 ~ International Women's Day  
8 a.m. Central Standard Time

This International Women's Day, join us for She Leads—a powerful, global, symposium uplifting women in Lionism and shaping the future of inclusive leadership in service.

Theme: Empowering Women. Inspiring Action, Leading Together  
For Lions, Leos, Allies and Change-makers worldwide. It's Global & Worldwide!

Register at: <https://lionsvirtual-org.zoom.us/j/niwkOEXDTL6HfoHKwAVwQ>  
Meeting ID: 879 1014 7859 Passcode: 636835

Full Join Instructions ~ Expect powerful panels, Regional spotlights and hold dialogue on:

- Leadership & Visibility
- Global storytelling & allyship
- Strategies for growth and inclusive innovation

Together, we rise. Together, She Leads.

#SheLeads #LionsWomenLead #IWD2026 #GlobalSymposium #LeadToServe



## Celebrating Can Do Canines

Join us for an evening celebrating the amazing teams of Can Do Canines. Enjoy dinner, games, and silent and live auctions – all benefitting the organization.

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**  
*Radisson Blu Mall of America*

For questions regarding The Fetching Ball, please contact Melissa Herman at [mherman@candocanines.org](mailto:mherman@candocanines.org).

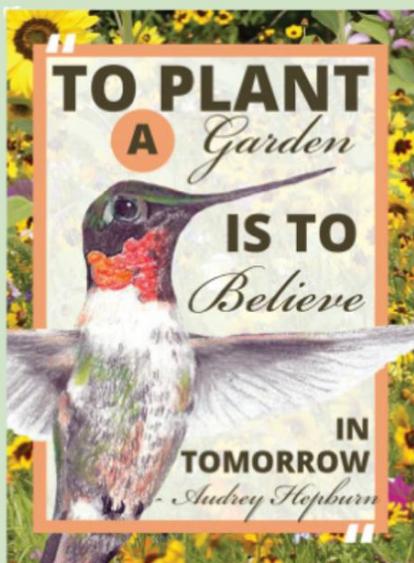


# Help Us Turn Empty Spaces Into Blooming Places!

# PLANT THE FUTURE

5M9 Lions Week of Service  
April 18 - 26, 2026

Each club will receive seed  
packs from Zone Chairs to  
plant during this week



## Why Plant?

- Support bees, butterflies & local wildlife
- Improve soil health
- Create natural, colorful landscapes
- Promote environmental sustainability

A donation was made in memory of Ed Blazek, honoring his deep commitment to preserving nature. His daughter, Erica Keppers, is a member of the Wadena Lions



# Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation Annual Walk

TO D-FEET HEARING LOSS



**June 6, 2026**  
**Diamond Point Park - Bemidji, MN**

Registration: 8:30am-9:30am | Walk Starts: 9:45am | Lunch Begins: 11:30am

- Entry Fee: \$25 (no t-shirt) or \$35 (includes t-shirt)
- Fee includes entry to park, lunch, plus lots of activities and games!
- Kids under 12 are free!
- Fun for families of all ages!
- A chance to change a person's life through your registration donation.
- Register at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/2025-d-feet-hearing-loss/>
- Learn more at: [5mhf.org](http://5mhf.org) or at [facebook.com/5mhf.org](https://facebook.com/5mhf.org)



*Sign up  
Today!*



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Jazzed for Service, United in Purpose**



*Join the Krewe of 5M9 for the  
2027 Mid-Winter Convention*

**January 8-10, 2027**

**Cragun's Resort, Brainerd MN**

**Early Registration Prices Through  
June 30, 2026**

**Hosted By: The Verndale Lions**



# Jazzed for Service, United in Purpose

## 5M9 Mid-Winter Convention Registration January 8 - 10, 2027 at Cragun's Resort Host By The Verndale Lions

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

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

(Please circle one) **Lion Leo Guest**      **1st Time at 5M9 Convention**

2027 Lions Title (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Check if Need Accessible Seating       Check and List Dietary Needs

### Full Hospitality Book:

**Includes all Meals, Entertainment,  
Mid-Winter Book and Pin**

**Cost until June 30, 2026      \$155**

**Cost until Sept. 30, 2026      \$165**

**Cost until Dec. 14, 2026      \$175**

**Total Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Verndale Lions Club 2027  
5M9 Convention. One form per person. Please mail form  
and check to Tina Wegscheid at 13251 140th Street  
Wadena MN 56482.

Venmo: @Verndale-Lions and email form to  
mnverndalelions@gmail.com

Credit Card Payment and Online Registration Available at  
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/krewe-of-5m9-jazzed-for-service-united-in-purpose-2027-mid-winter-convention>



All Sales Are Final

### Individual Meal Tickets:

(includes individual meal and entertainment/  
speaker/seminar during or immediately following  
until next meal)

**Friday Evening \$25** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Breakfast \$29** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Lunch \$39** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Governors Banquet \$58** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday Brunch \$29** \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Pin \$5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seminars & Pin (no meals) \$20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

Room Reservation Must Be Booked Through Cragun's  
for group rate of \$139 plus tax per night before 12/8/26

[https://craguns.formstack.com/forms/lions\\_5m\\_9\\_jan2027](https://craguns.formstack.com/forms/lions_5m_9_jan2027)

Questions: Please Call Chelsa Beaver at 218-371-7468



# 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/VDGE	Zone	Clubs	Chartered	Years	March	April	May
CATHE	3	BACKUS	8/4/1986	38		4/2/2026	
CATHE	1	BAXTER	6/20/1977	47		4/13/2026	
CATHE	1	BRAINERD LIONS	11/26/1921	103		4/20/2026	
CATHE	3	CROSS LAKE IDEAL	10/26/1982	38	3/11/2026		
CATHE DG	3	EMILY OUTING 50 LAKES	1/18/1982	43	3/23/2026		
DIANE	6	FRAZEE	10/15/1973	51	3/18/2026		
CATHE	2	BAY LAKE AREA	11/24/1981	43			5/12/2026
SHERI	4	GATEWAY-MENAHGA	9/21/1978	46	3/3/2026		
CATHE	3	LONGVILLE	9/27/1976	48			5/18/2026
CATHE	2	MALMO AREA	2/12/2016	9	3/17/2026		
CATHE	2	MCGREGOR	11/9/1965	59	3/16/2026	4/20/26	
CATHE	1	MERRIFIELD	1/31/1986	39		4/8/2026	
CATHE	1	NISSWA	12/26/1972	52		4/27/2026	
CATHE	1	NISSWA PTO			3/2/2026		
CATHE	2	PALISADE AREA	3/27/1989	36		4/14/2026	
DIANE	8	PARKERS PRAIRIE	12/9/1963	61	3/9/2026		
DIANE	8	PARKERS PRAIRIE PRIDE			3/9/2026		
CATHE	1	LAKES BREEZY PT.	4/3/2006	19	3/9/2026		
CATHE	3	PINE RIVER	11/17/1978	46	3/6/2026		
DIANE	8	UNDERWOOD	12/15/1977	47			

	MEETINGS					5/3/2026
	COG MEETINGS			3/14/2026	4/26/2026	
	Name			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



### 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  
Perham, MN 56573  
C: 218-298-4743  
H: 218-346-3200  
[pdglinda@gmail.com](mailto:pdglinda@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Sue Stebbins (Dick)  
26390 Glen Drive  
Garrison, MN 56450  
C: 218-851-2510  
[5m9newsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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](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)