

SERVICE JOURNAL

APRIL 2026 / VOLUME 242 / ISSUE 10



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



2025-2026
District Governor
Cathe Picek



PROJECT IDEAS
ENVIRONMENT

The **Lions Clubs International Environment Week of Service** in April 2026 runs from April 18–26, inviting members worldwide to participate in green initiatives like tree planting, habitat restoration, and cleanups. This global effort encourages protecting natural resources, reducing plastic pollution, and engaging local communities.

Plant trees with guidance from local environmental authorities.

Meet monthly as a club to clean up a beach, park, or roadside.

Host an environment-themed photo contest at a local school; plant a tree in the winner's honor.

Challenge club members to adopt one new green habit and share progress online, such as:

- Using reusable bottles or mugs
- Switching to energy-saving bulbs
- Shortening showers to save water

Create a simple Green Living Tip Sheet and share it electronically.

Recognize a local leader or organization for environmental stewardship.

Volunteer with your local park service to help maintain trails.

Try “Meatless Mondays” or skip meat one day each week.

Collect used cellphones and donate them to people in need.



5M9 Lions Day of Learning
Wadena
April 19th

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



April 2026





Message from the 5M9 District Governor Cathe Picek

cathe.picek@gmail.com

It's Time to Grow and Serve More People

What does it take to truly grow—and serve more people?

It takes **every Lion**.

It takes Lions in each of our clubs who are committed to expanding service—because when we serve more, we create meaningful impact in our communities. Growth begins when we look for **new opportunities to serve** and **invite others to join us** in making a difference.

It takes Lions who are willing to **step into leadership**, share the story of Lionism, and take on roles that are purposeful, impactful, and forward-thinking. Join us at the **Lions Day of Learning on 4.19.2026** at the Wadena Deer Creek School for new information.

It takes Lions who are open to **listening to new members**, embracing fresh ideas, and having the willingness to try something new. Maybe it *is* time to refresh our projects—because innovation is how we stay relevant and responsive to community needs.

It takes Lions who are passionate about service and who actively work to ensure that **everyone feels included**—within our clubs and in the communities we serve.

It takes Lions who **inspire, ask questions, provide directions, and support one another**, ensuring that our clubs are guided by an action plan focused on leadership development, membership growth, and meaningful service.

It takes Lions who discover their **voice, passion, and strength**—and use them to build stronger clubs and better communities. Come to the **MD5M Multiple Convention 4.24 – 4.26.2026** to experience four service projects, the Worldwide Lions Induction of new members with International President A.P. Singh!

And most importantly, it takes every Lion living our motto: **“We Serve.”**

Service is not just what we do, it is who we are. We are a source of **help, hope, and happiness** to every person we meet.

As Lions of 5M9, we are **a force for change**. Together, we have the power to grow, to lead, and to serve more people—right here at home and beyond.

Believe in yourself. Believe in your club. Believe in Lions.

Because when **we grow, our service grows—and so does our impact**.

DG Lion Cathe



Message From District Governor Elect

Sheri Greenwaldt
lionqsheri@gmail.com

Happy April!

As Lions, we are known for our dedication to service, answering the call wherever there is a need. One of the growing needs in our communities and across the world is caring for our environment. It's not just about today, it's about ensuring a healthy, sustainable future for generations to come. Environmental service is one of our global causes, and it's something every Lion, every club, and every district can be part of in meaningful and impactful ways. Whether it's planting trees, cleaning up roadways, supporting local parks, or educating others on conservation, every effort, big or small, makes a difference.

Here in District 5M9, we are fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful lakes, forests, and open spaces. These natural treasures are part of what makes our communities so special. As Lions, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to help preserve and protect where we live. April also brings a special opportunity for all of us to take action during Lions Environmental Week of Service, April 18–26. This is a perfect time for clubs across our district to come together, plan a project, and make a visible impact in our communities. Whether it's a one-day cleanup, a tree planting event, or a week-long focus on environmental awareness, this week reminds us of the collective power we have when we serve together.

Environmental service projects can also be a wonderful way to engage members of all ages. Inviting families, youth, and community partners to join in a park cleanup or tree planting event not only strengthens our impact but also builds connections and inspires the next generation of Lions. Service becomes something we do *together*, creating memories while making a difference.

If your club is looking for ideas, consider:

- Organizing a community cleanup day
- Planting trees or flowers in public spaces
- Partnering with local organizations for recycling initiatives
- Supporting pollinator habitats
- Hosting educational events about conservation

These projects don't have to be complicated; they just need heart. And that's something Lions have plenty of.

As we move into the seasons ahead, let's take time to look around our communities and ask, "*How can we serve here?*" Sometimes the answer is right beneath our feet, in the parks we enjoy, the roads we travel, and the land we call home.

During Environmental Week of Service, and beyond, let's continue to protect, preserve, and serve. Because when we care for the environment, we are truly living out our motto: *We Serve*. After your club completes its environmental service project, don't forget to report it in the Lions portal so your club receives credit for participating and we can showcase the incredible impact of District 5M9!

And as always... It's a great day to be a Lion!
DGE Sheri Greenwaldt

Message From 1st Vice District Governor Elect Diane Kunze



My Husband and I attended the Northern Pride Lions Forum this past weekend. There were many memorable speakers. In which I learned new things. One I learned while gaining a look at membership from a new lense. I know and understand that people are hearing about membership alot these days. At times I have even groaned a time or two as well. But I also understand the need for growth. So I try to learn a new aspect of membership. Something that I have not thought of. A new perspective. That is what happened during one of the seminars that I attended. I learned about the different generations, the strengths in those generations.

The Baby Boomers (1945-1964)

This generation is work-centric, loyal, value structure, achievement, and material wealth. Saw the Rise of Television.

Gen X (1965-1980)

This generation is self-reliant, results oriented. Saw the beginning of the internet. Came to age during the rise of the Computer Revolution.

Gen Y Millennials (1981-2012)

Experienced the rise of the internet and digital communication. Prioritize a work and life balance.

Gen Z (2013-mid 2020s)

Children of Millennials, born into a fully hyper-connected and tech integrated world.

Generation Beta (Mid 2020s-2039) This Generation is expected to follow Generation Alpha

As we look at the strengths of these generations, we all can agree that we can learn lessons from the people of these generations. Instead of look at the gaps look at the ways we can learn from another person. Gain a deeper understanding of something that we may not be so strong in. I for one can always learn more about technology. Sometimes technology likes me and then again sometimes we do not seem to be speaking the same language. One thing we all need to remember is that there is always room to learn.

Diane Kunze

1st Vice District Governor Elect

Message From 2nd Vice District Governor Elect Joe Laudenbach



Preparing for Leadership: Supporting Our Future Zone Chairs

As I step into my role as 2nd Vice District Governor Elect, one of my key responsibilities is preparing to serve as the Zone Chair Advisor for the coming Lions year. This is a role I am truly looking forward to, as it provides a meaningful opportunity to support, encourage, and equip one of the most important leadership positions in our district.

Zone Chairs play a vital role in connecting clubs, strengthening communication, and helping ensure that each club has the tools and support needed to succeed. They are the bridge between district leadership and local clubs—helping to share ideas, celebrate successes, and identify opportunities for growth. Simply put, strong Zone Chairs help build strong clubs.

Over the coming months, I am excited to begin working closely with both new and returning Zone Chairs as they prepare for their leadership roles. My goal is to provide practical guidance, share resources, and create an environment where Zone Chairs feel confident and supported as they lead within their zones.

To help kick off this preparation, I, along with PID Lion Bruce Beck, will be facilitating a Zone Chair Training Session at the Verndale Community Center from 6:00–9:00 PM on May 19. This session is designed not only for those who have already committed to serving as Zone Chairs, but also for anyone who is interested in learning more about the role. Whether you are stepping into the position next year or simply exploring the opportunity, this training will provide valuable insights into what it means to serve and lead effectively.

We will cover key responsibilities, share best practices, and provide tools to help Zone Chairs succeed in supporting their clubs. Just as importantly, it will be a chance to connect, ask questions, and learn from one another.

I truly believe that leadership development is one of the greatest investments we can make in our district. By preparing and supporting our Zone Chairs, we are strengthening every club and expanding our ability to serve our communities.

I am looking forward to working with each of you and am excited about the year ahead. If you have any questions or are interested in attending the training, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we will continue to grow, lead, and serve.

Lion Joe Laudenbach
District 5M9 2nd Vice District Governor Elect



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



5M9 CABINET MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

REGISTRATION 12:30 TO 1:15 PM

**NEW YORK MILLS CITY HALL BALLROOM
(UPSTAIRS)**

28 W CENTENNIAL 84 DR.

**At our last Cabinet Meeting,
you'll have the opportunity to:**

- Review 5M9 2025-2026 goals and achievements
- Share your ideas and suggestions

This is your chance to make a difference in our 5M9 District.



**RSVP BY
4.24.2026**

612-968-3640



secretary@lionsof5M9.org



Celebrating the Success of the March Madness Membership Challenge

March has certainly lived up to its “Madness” theme—in the best way possible! As your Global Membership Team (GMT), we are thrilled to share the incredible momentum happening across District 5M9. At the time of writing, our district is **has added 41 members in the month of March**, with growth coming from **14 different clubs**.

This is a powerful testament to the dedication, energy, and commitment each of you brings to strengthening Lionism in your communities.

This success doesn’t happen by accident. It reflects intentional conversations, meaningful invitations, and a clear focus on sharing the impact of what it means to be a Lion. Whether it’s through service projects, community events, or simple one-on-one outreach—your efforts are making a difference.

Keep the Momentum Going

While we celebrate this achievement, now is the time to double down on what’s working. Membership growth and retention must remain at the forefront of our efforts. Every new member represents new ideas, new energy, and expanded service capacity for our clubs.

Set New Members Up for Success

One of the most important next steps is engagement and education. Please ensure that all new members are encouraged to attend an orientation session as soon as possible.

Orientation helps new Lions:

Understand how their club serves the community

Learn about the broader impact of Lions International

Discover how District 5M9 supports their success

Feel connected, informed, and inspired from the start

An informed Lion is an engaged Lion—and an engaged Lion is far more likely to stay and grow within our organization.

Thank You for Your Leadership

To every club contributing to this growth—thank you. Your leadership and commitment are building stronger clubs and stronger communities. Let’s keep the momentum rolling through the rest of the year. Together, we are not just growing numbers—we are growing impact.

Keep inviting. Keep serving. Keep leading.

Lion Joe Laudenschlager 5M9 GMT Chair

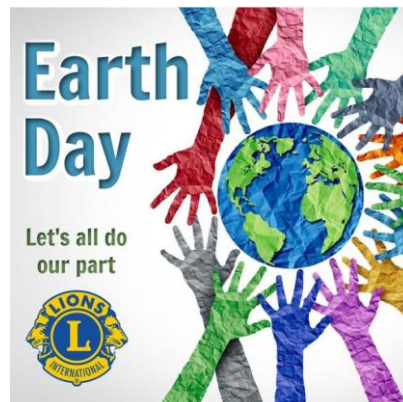




The **Hewitt Lions** presented a check to the B-H Sports Boosters club from the profits they made by selling hamburgers and fries at the home football games. This helps support all the athletic programs that are free for the Bertha-Hewitt students.



Park Rapids Lions supported the annual Hubbard County Chili Cook Off by making their famous "Willy Nilly Lions Chili", featuring Lions Dick Kimball, Jan Kahring, Juie LaFountain, Zelda Novak, Terry Murtaugh, Mike Carroll, Bobbi Zigmant, and Kim Donahue.



Parkers Prairie Pride of Lions Club (women), together with the **Parkers Prairie Lions Club** (mens) - welcomed Diane Kunze to our meeting Monday March 9th. We enjoyed fellowship and a good meal together.



62nd Annual 2026

PARKERS PRAIRIE LIONS

smelt AND FISH FRY

FUNDRAISER

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Serving: Smelt and Fish, French Fries, Coleslaw & French Dressing, Bread, and Beverage

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

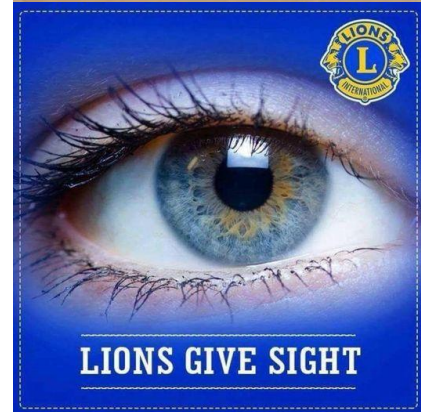
SATURDAY APRIL 11 12 noon - 7 PM

Adults: \$25
Ages 6-10: \$10
Ages 5 and under: Free

Prairie Event Center
210 West Main Street (Co Hwy 38)
Parkers Prairie, Minnesota



Hackensack Lions Karen and Dean delivered 1800 eyeglasses to Lion Jim Grainger/Detroit Lakes Lions Club. All these eyeglasses have been washed, dried, read, and labeled with prescriptions by members of the Hackensack Lions club.



The **Pillager Lions** recently made a generous donation to the Pillager Food Shelf, helping support local families who rely on this vital community resource. Our club is committed to meeting needs close to home, and this contribution reflects the Lions' ongoing mission of service, compassion, and neighbor-to-neighbor support. We're grateful for the dedicated volunteers who keep the food shelf running and for the opportunity to strengthen our community together.



What a blessing to have three generations of our family in the **Baxter Lions**. Serving side-by-side makes our commitment to community even more meaningful.

PDG Dick Stebbins Inducted our new member.(daughter). Michelle Ray (middle) was sponsored by her daughter, Baxter Lions President Karlie Ray. Welcome to the Pride we're excited to work alongside you!



Lakers Lions (Emily Outing 50 Lakes Area)

Group Photo
DG Cathe Picek, Jill Anderson (sponsor), Lions Phyllis Haldimann and Mary Laha, Robin Purgett (sponsor).

Lion 20 Yr Tenure Chevron
presented to Lion Laurie Baalson by DG Cathe Picek

**NEW YORK MILLS
ANNUAL LIONS AUCTION**

**You're
invited!**



**Saturday,
April 11, 2026**

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

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

Aitkin Lions Centennial Celebration

CHARTERED BY BRAINERD LIONS ON MAY 6, 1926
MERGED WITH RIVERBOAT LIONS IN 2014

Celebrating 100 years of service

Saturday May 9, 2026



Social Hour Begins 5 pm
Meal & Program 6-8 pm

\$25
PER
PERSON

Main Program

- *Storyteller/Comedian – Al Batt*
- *Special Guest Brian Sheehan*
(Past International President)

Aitkin Lions Supports:

- Minnesota Lions Vision, Hearing and Diabetes projects
 - Leader Dogs for the Blind
 - Operation Christmas
 - Can Do Canines
 - Donuts for Grown-ups

Scholarships:

- Dollars for Scholars
- Central Lakes Community College Foundation

Aitkin American Legion Post 86

20 1st Ave NE, Aitkin, MN 56431

Reservations for the Centennial by
Monday, April 20th to Aitkin Lion President
Tom Bruss 218-927-6034 or email
to tcb92074@yahoo.com or Lion Tom
Plagman at 218-839-1177 or email
to tplagman@hotmail.com

“How My Dad Tricked Me into Becoming a Lion”

Dear Dad,

I want to take a moment to thank you for the way you raised us, specifically for installing in us the importance of giving back to the community. At the time, I didn't realize it was a life lesson. I thought it was just your clever way of making us work for free.

While other kids spent their weekends relaxing, we were apparently enrolled in your personal “Community Service Boot Camp.” Somehow, we always ended up volunteering, helping neighbors, or doing something for someone else. Looking back, I'm starting to suspect this was less about you having a very effective unpaid workforce and more about character building.

And then there was the day you encouraged me to join Lions.

At first, I thought it meant a few meetings and maybe a pancake breakfast. I didn't realize it also meant a lifetime supply of service projects, community events, and wearing a vest that slowly becomes heavier with pins than actual fabric.

But in all seriousness, you were onto something.

Because of you, I got to experience what it really means to serve. Lions around the world focus on causes like childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, the environment, humanitarian efforts, hunger, vision, and youth. But the real lesson you taught us was simpler than that—when people need help, you step up.

You showed us that real leadership isn't about titles or recognition. It's about rolling up your sleeves and doing the work, usually before anyone even asks.

So yes, Dad, I'm blaming you. Because now I can't see a community need without thinking, “Well... I guess we should probably help with that.”

But honestly, I wouldn't have it any other way.

Thank you for the example you set, the values you gave us, and for tricking us into becoming people who care about others.

Turns out your plan worked.

With love (and a slightly sore back from all that serving),
Jay

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>



COMING TO YOUR 5M9 LIONS CLUB IN APRIL!

Dear Lions of 5M9,

Please keep your eyes out for the new “Just Ask” folded ‘napkin’; a handy Membership Tool to use on visits with new member prospects, at an event, parade or a membership table along with your club information and applications.



The “Just Ask” folded napkin is a unique way to invite new members to a service project to find out more about Lions.

Here’s how to use it:

- Invite a new member prospect to coffee or lunch.
- Unfold the napkin one section at a time and go through and explain each section. Describe your local club’s objectives/service projects and address each point.
- When you get to the end of the folded pieces, tell them that *they* are the missing puzzle piece in your club! Send it home with them so they have something from your visit to remind them what Lions do.

The 5M9 ‘napkin’ is printed on paper and folded like a napkin. The 5M9 Facebook page and website will be printed on the items you will receive. Each club will receive 36 napkins. Additional quantities can be ordered and purchased through the Marketing team when the current supply is distributed.

For more information, please contact Lion Nancy Cross at crossn00@gmail.com.

Yours in Service, 5M9 Marketing Team



Lions and Faith in Action Present on May 16, 9a-1p

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

What Clubs Will Do

- Raking, edging, trimming
- Minor house repairs
- Trash removal
- Document disposal/shredding
- Shop or carry groceries
- Dis/assemble furniture
- Power wash driveway or siding
- Technology assistance

Residents will request service via a returnable flyer or electronic form. Any eligible projects that cannot be completed during the event will be completed by Faith in Action for Cass County.

2026 communities are Crosslake, Pine River/Backus, Hackensack, and Emily/Outing/50 Lakes, but Lions from other clubs are encouraged to join!
For questions, info, or to pitch in, contact an Event club or the committee chair, Joan Kane, at joan@byobookkeeper.org. We hope to expand across Cass County in 2027.



Meet **new people**
do **cool things**.

509

Through the Years: A Journey in Time

by District 5m9 Historian Lion Zelda Novak



LIONS ROAR

The meetings were dead, quiet affairs until Melvin Jones, himself a tenor, decided to liven them up by singing and in 1926 the first official Lions International Songbook was published. Included in the songbook were reworked Lions-themed lyrics to popular songs such as “Ain't We Got Fun” as well as an original composition called “Don't You Hear Those Lions Roar?” music and lyrics by Lions Joseph W. Thurston and Robert Kellogg of Hartford Connecticut. Voices rang out in conventions halls everywhere. I purchased this second printing of the songbook on ebay.

The International President in 1926-27 was Wm. Westfall from Mason City Iowa. The Aitkin Lions Club was chartered in 1926, and the Wadena Lions Club was chartered in 1922.

I researched this information on the Lions “The Touchstone”

Lion Zelda Novak
5M9 Historian

Lions!!



Such a wonderful evening with friends and FOOD! Taste of The Lakes is a great event for a great cause for the Brainerd YMCA!

Everything changes when a community comes together. Thanks to the generosity shown at Taste of the Lakes, including **Brainerd Lions** more children in our area will be matched with mentors who can guide, encourage, and inspire them. Families will be able to access programs that would otherwise be out of reach. Young people will have a safe place to grow, connect, and truly belong.



The **Garrison Bay Lake Area Lions** along with Our Community partners collected monies for Garrison Food Bank.

KidSight Director Honors Top Lions for Outstanding Service

The West District 5M9's KidSight program recognized three Lions this year for their exceptional contributions to this year's vision-screening efforts. Program West Co-Director Lion David Coates for KidSight presented **KidSight Certificates of Appreciation** to the Lions who played a key role in the 2025-2026 program's success.

The honorees include **Lion Bob and Lion Erica Keppers** of the **Wadena Lions Club** and **Lion Connie Krusemark** of the **Battle Lake Lions Club**. All three were celebrated for their dedication to providing free vision screenings to children across the district, helping identify potential vision issues early and supporting families in accessing care.

The awards highlight the ongoing commitment of Lions throughout District 5M9 to improving children's eye health and strengthening community outreach. KidSight Awards are available for clubs that donate \$1,000.00 or more to the KidSight Foundation. However, 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.



Our **Wadena Lions** screened over 300 kids for vision. We don't serve for awards — we serve because our community matters.

5M9 Focus on Training: Building Stronger Leaders for Stronger Service

Leadership is at the heart of every successful Lions Club, and District 5M9 is shining a spotlight on the powerful training opportunities that help Lions grow, lead, and serve with confidence. Whether you're a new member building foundational skills or a seasoned Lion ready to mentor others, leadership development strengthens both your club and your community.

Lions have access to exceptional training programs—ELLI, RLLI, the Northern Pride Learning Forum, FDI, LCIP, district and multi-district events, and the Lions LEARN portal. Each one equips Lions with tools to become stronger leaders and more impactful servants.

Top 5 Reasons to Participate in Leadership Training

1. Empower Personal Growth

Build confidence, strengthen communication, and improve decision-making—skills that benefit club life and everyday life.

2. Strengthen Club Leadership & Team Collaboration

Effective leaders create effective clubs. Training provides practical tools for running meetings, managing projects, and inspiring teams.

3. Drive Community Impact & Strategic Planning

Great service is intentional. Training helps Lions plan meaningful projects that align with community needs and create long-term impact.

4. Mentor Future Leaders

A strong leadership pipeline ensures continuity, growth, and a thriving club for years to come.

5. Increase Member Engagement

Engaged members are active members. Leadership skills help motivate volunteers and build a vibrant, energized club culture.

A Roadmap for Growth: How the Five Focus Areas Work Together

1. Empower Personal Growth — Foundation

Confidence, communication, and decision-making form the bedrock of leadership.

2. Strengthen Club Leadership & Collaboration — Application

Lions apply personal skills to lead meetings, manage projects, and foster teamwork.

3. Increase Member Engagement — Culture Building

Strong leadership naturally boosts motivation and club participation.

4. Drive Community Impact & Strategic Planning — Expansion

Engaged clubs take on larger, more meaningful service projects.

5. Mentor Future Leaders — Legacy

Preparing new leaders ensures strong clubs and strong service for generations.

The Leadership Chain Reaction

- Personal growth builds confidence
- Confidence strengthens leadership
- Strong leadership boosts engagement
- Engaged members drive impactful service
- Impactful service inspires future leaders

Leadership training isn't just about learning—it's about building a legacy of service that grows stronger with every Lion who steps forward.

VERNDALE LIONS

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt!



Saturday, April 4th

8:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.



**VERNDALE COMMUNITY CENTER
FREE WILL DONATION**

**FRENCH TOAST, SCRAMBLED EGGS, HAM, FRUIT,
DONUTS & MUFFINS, MILK, JUICE, COFFEE**

**The hunt begins
at 10:00a.m.
in the park!**

Bring your Pirate Bag back & receive a prize

**If there is inclement
weather, it will be held
at the school**

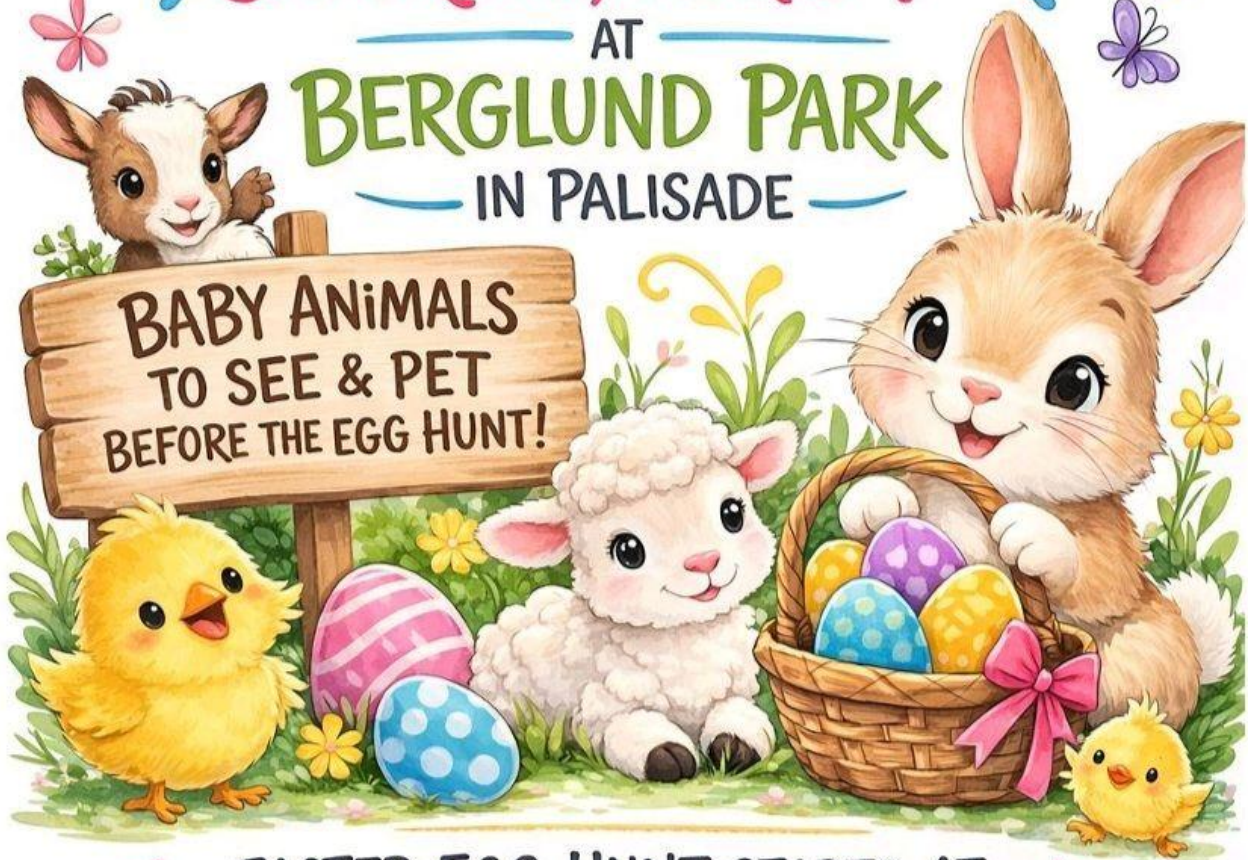
COLORING CONTEST:

Cash prizes for Pre-k through Sixth grade

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

AT
BERGLUND PARK
IN PALISADE



EASTER EGG HUNT STARTS AT
10:30 AM

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BASKET
TO COLLECT EGGS!

Sponsored by the Palisade Area Lions Club





Bluffton Lions

Pancake Breakfast

April 19, 2026

7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bluffton Community Center

Bluffton Lions will be serving an all-you-can-eat breakfast of pancakes, French toast, sausage, juice, and coffee. Gluten free options will be available.



Freewill Offering!

Breakfast proceeds go toward Bluffton Lions projects.

☀️ **Zone 7 Meeting** ☀️

Hosted by Elizabeth

Monday, April 7

5:30 pm — Social Time

6:00 pm — Beef Tips Dinner

💰 Meal Cost: \$17

Evening Program

Guest Speakers: Jim and Eugene Boyce

Local athletes preparing to compete in the Special Olympics in Minneapolis this June. Come enjoy fellowship, a hearty meal, and an inspiring program celebrating determination, community spirit, and local talent.



PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

DEER CREEK LIONS SPRING BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Deer Creek Community Center

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

EGG BAKE/ SAUSAGE/ FRENCH TOAST/ PANCAKES

JUICE/MILK/COFFEE



FREEWILL DONATION



Community Clean Up 2026

A collaboration between the Rothsay Lions, PARTNERS and the Rothsay community.



- A coordinated community effort to assist our neighbors, who need a hand, to prepare their property for summer
- Volunteers will assist with yard and gutter cleaning, window cleaning, garden bed preparation, mulching, etc.

May 15th, 2026
Morning, approx.
8:30 am - 11:30 am

May 16th, 2026
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Need help? Call 218-867-1234

Contact PARTNERS to sign up for someone to come help you get ready for summer on May 15 or May 16.

Want to volunteer? Call 701-412-1197

Contact Rothsay Lion Heather Weber for more information and to be added to the list of volunteers.

Want to help some other way?

We are also looking for refreshments & lunches for the volunteers, coordination assistance, etc. Call Heather Weber at 701-412-1197 for more information.

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 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



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

JOIN OUR 5M9 DISTRICT PROJECT

Get ready to make an area in your yard, Lions Park or community garden more attractive and inviting for bees and butterflies.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK
April 18 -April 26

Each 5M9 Lion is asked to plant one packet of seeds.

Take pictures of the planting/blooming and report in the Lions Portal.



For more information contact: Lion Erica ekeppers@gmail.com

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For more information contact: Lion Erica ekeppers@gmail.com



Lions and Our Environment



Lions Planting Trees



Bench Made From Recycled Plastic

JOIN THE CAUSE!

Help Your Club Make
a Difference!

Start an *Environmental Project*
Today!

- Recycling Initiatives
- Community Clean-Ups
- Sustainability Projects

Together, We Can Create
a Greener Future!



Community Clean-Up Volunteers

Turn Waste into Service

Lions can help turn plastic waste into community treasures! Recycled plastic can be transformed into useful items like benches and picnic tables.

By starting a recycling project, you not only clean up the environment but also create something valuable for your community.

5M9 LCIF Coordinators

Erin Beck – 218-851-7267

Linda Albrecht-Norby – 218-298-4743

BATTLE LAKE LIONS



CHALLENGE!!!
ALL CLUBS IN 5M9

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
“D-FEET WALK/BIKE RIDE”
IN BATTLE LAKE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

REGISTER AT THE LIONS PARK PICNIC SHELTER - ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 & 11

ALL AGES & ABILITIES - WALK or BIKE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS YOU WANT

\$ DONATIONS - ANY AMOUNT - to MN LIONS HEARING FOUNDATION

THE BATTLE LAKE LIONS CLUB

Contact: Pete Eggen 507-381-8759 Connie Krusemark 218-731-2818

Stan Ekren 218-405-0400

Prizes to Clubs with most participation or donation amount.

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

D-Foot Hearing Loss

2025 ANNUAL WALK

JUNE 7, 2025

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Chaska, MN

Registration: 9am - 10am
Walk Starts: 10:15am
Lunch Begins: 11:15am

Diamond Point Park Bemidji, M

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 arboretum/park, lunch, plus lots of activities and games!**
- **Kids under 12 are free!**
- **Fun for families of all ages!**
- **A chance to change a person's life through your registration donation.**
- **Register at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/2025-d-feet-hearing-loss/>**



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM



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



Attention

Club Secretaries!



2026-2027 Directory

All new officers for the 2026-2027
5M9 directory need to be sent to
Linda Albrecht-Norby, no later than

June 1, 2026

Otherwise, the current officers for 2025-2026 listed in the
directory will remain there!

Email new officer information to:

Linda Albrecht-Norby

pdglinda@gmail.com



District 5M9 Directory Order Form for 2026-2027

Name of person ordering the directory: _____

Name of Club _____

Contact Phone Number _____

of 5M9 Directories (\$12.00 each) _____

President _____ Secretary _____

Treasurer _____ Gamb. Manager _____

Please add the address to where it should go.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Make all checks out to: Lions District 5M9

MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE!

Total amount enclosed _____

Send the order blank & check made out to - **Lions District 5M9:** Linda Albrecht-Norby
1021 5th Avenue NW
Perham, MN 56573

Every club is asked to buy at least one but best to buy three, so you have one for the President, Secretary, & Treasurer. If you have a gambling manager, they should have one also.

Thank you all for ordering and enabling yourselves to connect with others in 5M9!



2026 MD5M Convention

Please bring a **Dog Toy** for Can Do Canines



WE Need You!

to please bring an auction item or basket



Amazon wish list, Recommended list for toys:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/339CLTUGFCQRJ/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex



*A container near registration will be available for toy drop off

This years foundation that receives all the proceeds is...
 *Drop off items at the convention silent auction room.



2026 MD5M Convention
 April 24-26, 2026
 Minnetonka, Minnesota
 Hosted by District 5M-5

2026 MD5M Convention
 April 24-26, 2026
 Minnetonka, Minnesota
 Hosted by District 5M-5



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 benefiting 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.

2026 MD5M CONVENTION IS HAVING A...

BEACH PARTY!

APRIL 24-26, 2026



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

Sign up today and save!

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

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

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

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





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



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

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

Name: _____
 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
mnverndalions@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.farmstack.com/forms/lions_5m_9_jan2027

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



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

[Click here for form](#)

[Link address](#)

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

DG	Zone	Clubs	Chartered	April	May	June	
CATHE	2	AITKIN	5/5/1926		5/9/2026*		100th Anniversary
CATHE	3	BACKUS	8/4/1986	4/2/2026			
CATHE	1	BAXTER	6/20/1977	4/13/26			Awards Dinner
CATHE	1	BRAINERD	11/26/1921	4/20/2026*			
CATHE	2	CUYUNA RANGE	12/29/1937			6/18/26*	Awards Dinner
CATHE	DG	DEER CREEK	5/7/1973	4/15/2026*			Inductions
CATHE	2	DEERWOOD CROSBY AREA	10/23/2025		5/13/26		
CATHE	2	GARRISON BAY LAKE AREA	11/24/1981		5/12/26		
CATHE	3	LONGVILLE	9/27/1976		5/18/26		
CATHE	2	MALMO AREA	2/12/2016	4/21/26			
CATHE	2	MCGREGOR	11/9/1965			6/15/26	
CATHE	1	MERRIFIELD	1/31/1986	4/8/26			
CATHE	1	NISSWA	12/26/1972	4/27/26			
CATHE	2	PALISADE AREA	3/27/1989	4/14/2026			
CATHE	DG	PARKERS PRAIRIE	12/9/1963			6/17/26*	Awards Dinner
		5M9 CABINET MEETING			5/3/2026		
		COG MEETINGS		4/24/2026			



How to submit an article

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

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

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

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



District Governor

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

District Governor Elect

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

1st Vice District Governor Elect

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

Cabinet Secretary

Kim Donahue
PO Box #84
Park Rapids MN 56470
612-968-3640
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

Newsletter Editor

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

Websites to know

Lions Club International: [www: lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

Multiple District 5M: [www: lionsmd5m.org](http://www.lionsmd5m.org)

District 5M9 <https://www.lionsof5m9.org/>

Lions Program Sites

Can Do Canines: [www: candocanines.org](http://www.candocanines.org)

Childhood Cancer: [www: MNlionschildhoodcancer.org](http://www.MNlionschildhoodcancer.org)

KidsSight MD5M: [www: lionsmd5m.org/lions-kidsight.html](http://www.lionsmd5m.org/lions-kidsight.html)

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF): [www: lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)

Leader Dog for the Blind: [www: leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org)

MN Lions Diabetes Foundation: www.mnlionsdiabetes.org

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

MN Lions Hearing Foundation: www.5mhf.org

MN Lions Vision Foundation:
www.mnlionsvisionfoundation.org

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

