

SERVICE JOURNAL

MAY 2026 / VOLUME 242 / ISSUE 11



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



2025-2026
District Governor
Cathie Picek



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

One of the greatest strengths of Lions is our global reach and support. As a Lion, you are part of an international network united by a shared commitment to service, with so many resources to support your service journey and help you make an even greater impact.

Being a Lion also opens up a world of opportunities to connect and serve with Lions around the globe in meaningful ways — by attending international events like convention and Lions Day at the United Nations (LDUN), exploring service travel opportunities, taking part in global initiatives such as our Weeks of Service and more.

We are here to help you lead, serve and thrive in your Lions journey — and when we work together, there is no limit to what Lions can achieve.

Together in service,

A.P. Singh

International President

Keep Serving, Keep Growing

Every day is a great day to invite new members, and they bring so much to our clubs. New members not only strengthen your club; they expand your capacity to serve. To learn how you and your club can help drive growth and reach our *MISSION 1.5* goals this year, watch an [inspiring new video](#) featuring International President Singh and Past International Director Jatia.

If you're looking for tips on how to get started, visit our [Recruitment Made Simple webpage](#) to discover great tools and resources to support your club's efforts.

Share Your Week of Service Success

Are you participating in our [Environment Week of Service](#) April 18-26? Capture your club's service project in a short video for a chance to be featured in our video showcase. [Video submissions](#) will be accepted until **May 8, 2026, at 12 p.m. CDT.**

USA Special
Olympics
Host of
MD5M
Family
Night

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

Lions 108th
International
Convention

Hong Kong
China

July 3-7,
2026



May 2026





Message from the 5M9 District Governor Cathe Picek

cathe.picek@gmail.com

Lions of 5M9 - Let the countdown begin!

Fellow Lions, we have about 8 weeks remaining to make our communities stronger, healthier and ready to make our community service more visible across District 5M9.

Watch and share this inspiring [video](#) from International President A.P Singh outlining the role that all Lions play in helping us to grow. Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead. Membership = More Service!

Help 5M9 achieve our membership and service goals by “meeting new people and doing cool things” using the marketing and new membership tools available. Use the Lions “Napkin” [click here](#) at area and community events. Reach out to your communities with stories and pictures of the fun and exciting service projects that you do. Invite them to help and see what you do.

Help 5M9 reach its LCIF fundraising goal of 100% club donations this fiscal year with your [personal and club support](#). Our district goal is reachable. All donations, no matter the amount, make it possible for Lions in our district and worldwide to respond when communities need us most.

LCIF provides global grant funding to Lions and partners for humanitarian service projects focused on areas including childhood cancer, hunger, and the environment. The foundation allocates 100% of financial gifts to grants, covering administrative and fundraising costs with investment income. Donors can commit future gifts through estate plans, and LCIF accepts online donations in US and Canada for tax exemptions. All donations accepted on lionsclubs.org support **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)**, which is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charitable organization. [Read more](#). Check out the [LCIF Legacy Society](#). It acts as a cornerstone for ensuring that the dedication of Lions and Leos creates a "ripple effect" of kindness for years to come!

Lions of 5M9 Thank You! Thank you for your support, your dedication, your hard work, enthusiasm, passion and love for Lionism. I hope you are as proud to be a LION as much as I am.

Lions Service Shines!
DG Lion Cathe



Message From District Governor Elect

Sheri Greenwaldt
lionqsheri@gmail.com

Lions of 5M9,

I am sitting here reflecting on our Lions Day of Learning held this past Sunday. It was a wonderful day filled with learning, fellowship, and meeting new people from across our district. We had 120 Lions in attendance, and it was inspiring to see both new and seasoned Lions take time out of their day to grow their knowledge and strengthen our organization. The day began with a discussion of our goals for the upcoming year, as set by Lions International, focusing on new clubs and membership growth. These goals help ensure that Lions continue serving communities for generations to come.

We then heard updates from our district's "G Team" for 2026–2027:

GLT (Global Leadership Team) *Lion Michelle Nickolauson* shared her plans to identify and develop new leaders across our district. She is planning two leadership learning opportunities next year — one on the east side and one on the west side of the district — where Lions can hear speakers, build skills, and learn more about Lionism.

GMT (Global Membership Team) *Lion Erica Keppers* will be working closely with clubs to provide ideas and support for membership growth. She will also help guide us toward reaching our district membership goals during the final year of Mission 1.5.

GET (Global Extension Team) *ID Bert Nelson* will serve as our GET. Although he was unable to attend, *CC Denise Laudenbach* shared his vision of partnering with nonprofit organizations that already have a Lions mindset to help start new clubs. As many communities already have traditional Lions clubs, we must explore specialty clubs to continue growing. I have said many times that I still want to be a Lion in my 80s and 90s, and to make that happen, we must continue strengthening and expanding our organization.

GST (Global Service Team) *Lion Todd Schansberg*, who joins us from 5M2, has graciously agreed to serve as GST. He will assist clubs with service reporting and ensure your incredible work receives the recognition it deserves. He will also help plan a district-wide service project, with more details coming soon.

Another highlight of the day was welcoming 10 Lions who completed training to become Guiding Lions. These leaders will play an important role as our district grows, supporting clubs facing challenges and helping new clubs succeed. We would love to continue expanding our Guiding Lion team. If you have an interest, please reach out to me! Serving as a Guiding Lion has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Lions journey. I currently serve as a Guiding Lion for *Jacobs Crew*, and watching that club grow has truly been one of the best experiences I have had as a Lion.

We also held officer and training sessions, including:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership
- Service
- Lions 101

I know attendees left with a stronger understanding of their roles. With continual updates coming from Lions International, training remains essential. If you will be serving as an officer next year and were unable to attend Lions Day of Learning, please visit the Lions Portal and complete training through the Lions Learning Center. Once completed, please notify Lion Michelle Nickolauson.

I want to thank each of you for everything you do every day for your communities and for Lions. It is truly inspiring to see the many service projects taking place across District 5M9. Please continue sharing photos of your service and fellowship on social media so the public can see the impact and the fun of being a Lion!

DGE Sheri Greenwaldt

Message From 1st Vice District Governor Elect Diane Kunze



As I was sitting listening to our IP AP Singh at the MD5M Convention some things really spoke to me regarding membership and service in our district. I do know and understand that membership is talked about a lot. This speaks to the importance of membership and membership growth.

One of the items is that if we do not grow, the service we provide to our communities will cease without membership growth.

Second if we decrease our membership every year, where will we be in the future. Will we be able to serve our communities in 5, 10 or even 15 years? Our clubs need new faces to fill those voids to continue to serve our communities. There is no alternative. We must grow to continue to serve our communities at the current levels.

With this in mind, AP Singh has issued two challenges. First is for those clubs under 20 members. In 2 years' time each club in MD5M to grow to 20 members. Half in the first year and the second half in the second year. The second that he has challenged us is, in the remaining 2 ½ months, finding 75 new Lions. Last year we grew 69 members in the 4th quarter of the year. Our DG Cathe has committed 5M9 to meet this challenge.

We can do this. Talk to your neighbors. Invite them to your next service project. Hold a membership drive during that service project. ASK ASK ASK. We are all in to meeting and exceeding this challenge. We need your help to meet this goal. Each and every member in 5M9 will need to ask new potential members. Members of 5M9 I am confident that we will find 75 new members, one member at a time to meet and exceed this goal.

Message From 2nd Vice District Governor Elect Joe Laudenbach



I've just returned from an inspiring Multiple District Convention, and I'm energized by the passion, ideas, and commitment shared by Lions from across the region. It's clear that the strength of Lions Clubs International lies in members like you—dedicated to making a difference in your communities.

As we look ahead, I'm excited for what's possible in District 5M9. Together, we are well-positioned not only to reach but to exceed our service and membership goals. The momentum is real, and the opportunity to grow our impact has never been greater. Keep spreading the joy of service with your family, friends and neighbors and ask them to join us!

I am truly proud to be on this journey with all of you as your Second Vice District Governor Elect. Thank you for your continued service, leadership, and commitment to Lionism.

Lion Joe
District 5M9 2nd Vice District Governor Elect



Lions MD5M awesome 'Road trip' of adventures with our [Lions International President](#) A.P. Singh! With Lion Joe Laudenbach driving, CC [Denise Marie Laudenbach](#), [Bruce Beck](#), and Erin Beck. Our first stop. St. John's University to visit and speak with faculty & students!

WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT DO?

Great Clubs Don't Just Happen... They're Led!

THE ROLE:
The President leads with vision, serves with heart, and empowers others to make a difference.

WHAT THEY DO:

- Lead meetings and set the tone
- Work with officers and members as a team
- Plan and guide service projects and events
- Make decisions and keep the club moving forward
- Represent the club in the community and Lions family
- Inspire, motivate, and recognize members

THE GOAL:
Build a strong, united club that serves boldly and grows in membership and impact.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Provides leadership and direction
- Creates a positive and engaged culture
- Turns ideas into action and impact

REMEMBER:
You don't have to do it all alone – you just have to lead, believe, and bring out the best in others!

LEADERSHIP. SERVICE. IMPACT. That's the President Effect!

WHAT DOES THE VICE PRESIDENT DO?

Leaders Today. Presidents Tomorrow. They Step Up, Support, and Succeed!

THE ROLE:
The Vice President supports the President, leads when needed, and prepares to lead.

WHAT THEY DO:

- Assist the President and step in when the President is absent
- Learn the President's duties and help carry them out
- Lead committees, projects, or special initiatives
- Help plan meetings and club events
- Support club officers and encourage member involvement
- Bring fresh ideas and help drive the club forward

THE GOAL:
Ensure strong leadership, smooth transitions, and a thriving club now and in the future.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Keeps the club running smoothly
- Builds leadership skills and confidence
- Prepares future leaders and a strong succession plan

REMEMBER:
A great Vice President doesn't just wait their turn – they work, they learn, and they lead the way!

SUPPORT. LEADERSHIP. SUCCESS. That's the Vice President Effect!

WHAT DOES THE SECRETARY DO?

Great Meetings Don't Just Happen... They're Recorded, Shared, and Remembered!

THE ROLE:
The Secretary keeps our club's records, communication, and information organized, accurate, and accessible.

WHAT THEY DO:

- Take accurate meeting minutes
- Manage club correspondence and communications
- Maintain attendance records
- Keep and update important club documents
- Prepare reports and share information with members
- Support the president and other officers

THE GOAL:
Create clear, reliable records and communication so our club stays informed, organized, and strong.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Decisions are based on accurate information
- Members stay informed and connected
- Our club runs smoothly and professionally

REMEMBER:
It's all about accuracy, communication, and attention to detail – you're the keeper of our club's story!

RECORDS. COMMUNICATION. RELIABILITY. That's the Secretary Effect!

WHAT DOES THE TREASURER DO?

Strong Clubs Don't Just Happen... They're Planned, Tracked, and Trusted!

THE ROLE:
The Treasurer manages our club's money with integrity, accuracy, and transparency.

WHAT THEY DO:

- Keep track of all club income and expenses
- Record deposits and pay bills
- Maintain accurate financial records
- Prepare financial reports for meetings
- Present the budget and monitor spending
- Work with officers on fundraising and planning
- Ensure proper financial procedures and reporting

THE GOAL:
Protect our club's funds and provide clear, responsible financial stewardship so we can serve more and grow stronger.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Builds trust and accountability
- Helps us plan, give, and make a bigger impact
- Keeps our club strong and sustainable

REMEMBER:
It's not just about numbers – it's about responsibility, trust, and helping our club change lives!

ACCURACY. TRUST. IMPACT. That's the Treasurer Effect!



Reporting Club Officers

Club Officers **MUST** be reported by **15th of May** to ensure details are correct for the Lions Directory and for International transition into the new Lions year.

From LCI Main page (www.lionsclubs.org) click on **LION PORTAL**

Select **MY CLUB**

Select **OFFICERS**

Click on **MANAGE OFFICERS**

A pop-up box will appear. Click on **CREATE NEW ASSIGNMENT** then **NEXT**

A pop-up box will ask "When should this assignment begin?"
select **THE UPCOMING YEAR**

A pop-up will ask "What is the Officer and Title type for this title?"
Click on the small arrows and choose either **OFFICER** or **ADMINISTRATOR**, do the same for the next item **OFFICIAL** or **LOCAL** and click on **NEXT**

Officer options are Officer or Administrator
All appointments are Officer, you only use Administrator if you have a member strictly assigned to update portal details for your club.

Title Type is Official or Local

Official titles are President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Marketing, LCIF, Service, Club Director.
Local titles are positions like Bulletin Editor, Social, Health & Safety.

A list of your Club members will be shown, at the top you select the **OFFICER TITLE** Then select the **CLUB MEMBER** to fill this position, click **NEXT**

Always select **YES** for adding officer address and check to see details are correct and update if required.

You will follow the same procedure for each of your elected officers

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





Park Rapids Lions — Food Angels in Action 🍷 Lions teamed up to pack weekend meals for local students, making sure no child goes hungry.



The Nevis Lions Club recently completed their spring roadside clean-up, helping keep our community looking welcoming and well-cared-for. Volunteers gathered to pick up litter along our designated stretch of roadway, working together to make a visible difference in just a few hours.



The Deer Creek Lions
held their Annual Governor's Night on April 19.



Years of Service Recognition:
President Steve Gray, Lance Wohlwend, Dick Malone (20 years), and Terry Brasel (15 years)



Achievement Award:
Jerry Cloving



•50 Years of Service: Lance Wohlwend presented by DG
Cathe Picek



•Perfect Attendance



Congratulations to our newest **Baxter Lion** Greg Johnson, sponsored by Sheryl Crow. President Karlie Ray and District Governor Cathe Picek inducted him. Congratulations!



New **Aitkin Lions** members Scott and Amy Hugget and Kerry Hoppersted with their sponsors Steve Harvey and Dan and Karen Stifter. Welcome!

Baskets, Bunny Ears & Big Smiles! Hackensack Lions

Hackensack Lions donate \$2000 to the Hackensack Food Shelf. Pictured left to right is food shelf volunteer and Hackensack Lions member Vicki, club Gambling Manager Pam, and new Lion member Steve who also volunteers at the food shelf

Hackensack Lions sponsored a Kid's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th. After the hunt, games, and craft projects along with lunch were available for all to enjoy.

Picture #2 – Perfect weather for the Easter Egg Hunt
Picture #3 – Each child received a T-shirt with a Lion on it saying “Volunteering is Cool”

Picture #4 –Lion Steve as the Easter Bunny



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



From Tragedy to *Hope*: The Power of LCIF Across Our District



When disaster strikes, Lions answer the call.

LCIF provides funding and support for immediate and long-term disaster relief.

Global resources, **local impact.**
Serving where we're needed most.



Emergency Response



Long-Term Recovery

Global resources, **local impact.**
Serving where we're needed most.



Take Action for Our District!



Support LCIF

Donate to make a difference.



Promote Awareness

Spread the word in your community.



Engage Your Club

Get involved in disaster preparedness.



Share the Story

Tell how Lions bring hope.

Erin Beck 218-851-7267 elb_18@yahoo.com

Linda Albrecht-Norby 218-298-4743 pdglinda@gmail.com





Zone 5

Meeting

May 6, 2026

Sebeka Senior Center

104 E Minnesota Avenue

5:30 Social, 6:00 Dinner, speaker and Meeting to follow

RSVP BY May 1 to Bob and Erica

Cost is only \$15.00

Lasagna and treats

Questions?

Zone Chairs: Bob Keppers at 218-639-9867 or Erica Keppers at 218-371-1321

Or email RSVP to ericacat1@msn.com

ALL Lions members welcome!!! Have fun and learn with fellow Lions!



Pequot Lakes Cherry Car Show and Craft Fair

FREE to Spectators!

Date: June 6, 2026

Place: Trailside Park, Pequot Lakes

Registration: 7AM, Show runs from 9AM to 3 PM.

Trophies awarded at 1PM.

Fee: \$10.00 pre-registration and \$15 day of the show. Pre-registration - \$10 checks must be received by mail prior to the event.

Host: Pequot Lakes-Breezy Point Lions Club

The Cherry Car Show is entering its 18th year and is located in Pequot Lakes at beautiful Trailside Park on the corner of Patriot Ave & highway 11. Early registration is recommended as cars are first come first serve. The city of Pequot Lakes is located in the center of the Brainerd Lakes area where fun is easy to find! A craft fair is happening at the same time so there will be fun for everyone.

For more information, please call (218) 821-2496 or email info@plbplionsclub.com



We would LOVE to see you ... and your car!

Like us on Facebook to follow our events!



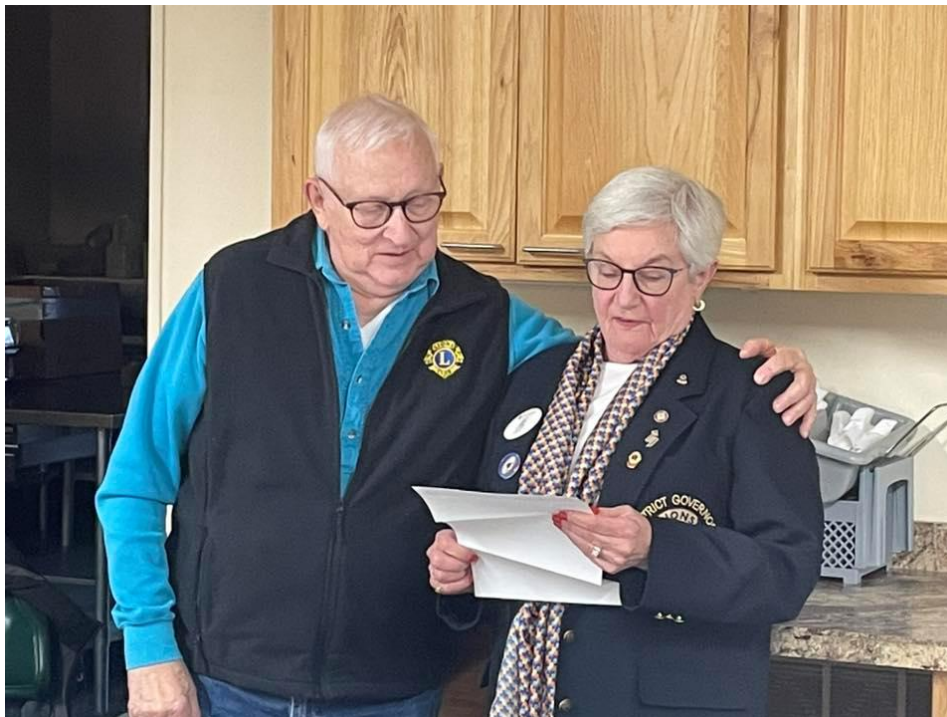
WHO IS LOOKING FOR A NICE summer walk?

Pequot Lakes Breezy Point Lions Club has adopted mile marker 52-53 on Highway 371! Mile marker 52-53 is between the intersections of north Patriot Avenue/371 and highway 11/371. We will be doing our Spring clean up event on Saturday 5/30/26 at 10 AM!

We are hoping for a beautiful MN day and would love to have you join us for the adventure. Message us on Facebook or email us at info@plbplionsclub.com to join the fun before our event so we can make sure we have the safety vests for all! Anyone between the ages of 12-18 must have a signed parent authorization form to participate.



WE SERVE.



Honoring 20 Years of Service — Pequot Lakes Breezy Point Lion Robert Vaughn, recognized by DG Cathe Picek



McGregor Lions Charter Night

Chartered by Aitkin Lions 11/9/1965
Please come and help us celebrate!

Monday June 15, 2026



Social Hour begins at 5:30 pm
Meal & Program 6:30-8 pm
\$14 Steak, Baked Potato, Veggies,
Dessert, Hors d'oeuvres

Special guest:
DG Cathe Picek

McGregor Community Center
41442 Hwy 65, McGregor, MN 55760

RSVP by June 2 to McGregor President, Robert Swedeen,
612-205-5468 or rswedeen@gmail.com or Secretary Terry Carter,
763-691-5192, tcarter51@msn.com

Deerwood Crosby & Garrison Bay Lake Lions

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE



BAKE SALE

Lunch – Sloppy Joe, Chips & Drink \$5

Shop Amazing Deals for only \$15.00 a Grocery Bag Full



Select Items Sold at Sticker Price



Kids Clothing
& Toys

Men &
Women's
Clothing

Blankets,
Towels &
Afghans

Books, Puzzles,
Games, CDs
& DVDs

Cleaning
Equipment &
Supplies

Kitchen Ware
& Dishes

Yarn & Craft
Supplies

Furniture &
Home Décor

PROCEEDS BENEFIT USA SPECIAL OLYMPICS

**Friday 5/23
&
Saturday 5/24**

**DEERWOOD AUDITORIUM
23770 Forest Rd E
Deerwood**

**900 AM to
4:00 PM**

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.



Pillager Lions Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser.



Friday May 8th

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm or until gone.

At the Pillager Community Center at the Fairgrounds.

\$12 Adults -Senior (65 and older), Veterans & children under 12 years \$10

Option of Brat all ages \$12 – Until gone.

Meal: Fish-Baked Potato- Coleslaw-Baked Beans-Dessert- Beverage

Meat Raffles

Silent Auction by the Huskies Fishing Team- All these proceeds go to the Huskie's fishing team

Come and Support your Pillager Area Lions Club. All proceeds from fish fry go to the Pillager Lions for projects in our community.



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 Hackensack, Crosslake/Ideal, Pine River/Backus, and Emily/Outing/50 Lakes, but all 5M9 Lions are encouraged to join!
For questions, info, or to pitch in, contact an Event club or the committee chair, Joan Kane, at joan@bybookkeeper.org. We hope to expand across Cass County in 2027.



Laporte – Benedict
Lions Club

**“Spruce” up
for Spring
Free tree saplings!
Saturday, May 2
10:00 -11:30 am**

Lakeport Township Hall

Red Pine, White Pine, Black Cherry,
Red Maple, Silver Maple, Crab Apple, Paper Birch,
Jack Pine, White Cedar, Chokeberry and
Elderberry saplings available.

**First-come, first-serve drive-thru event.
Please stay in your vehicle for easiest
distribution. We reserve the right
to limit quantities.
Sponsored by the Laporte-Benedict Lions Club**



Through the Years: A Journey in Time

by District 5m9 Historian Lion Zelda Novak



NOT JUST A WHITE STICK A SYMBOL OF INDEPENDENCE

Throughout the world, the long white cane is used by people who are blind or visually impaired as a tool for safe and reliable navigation. The white cane is a symbol of the user's skills and talents, mobility and independence. It also allows sighted people to recognize that the user is visually impaired.

Lions' members were instrumental in the development of the white cane movement.

1921—James Biggs, a photographer from Bristol England became blind following an accident. He was feeling uncomfortable in traffic around his home, so he painted a stick white to be more visible.

1930- A Peoria Lions Club member introduced the idea of using the white cane with a red band as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility. This idea spread quickly to other Lions Clubs across the United States.

1931-in France, Guilly d-Gerbemont launched a national "white stick movement" for blind people. Today white cane laws are on the books of every state in America.

International White Cane Safety Day (October 15th) gives Lions an opportunity to increase awareness of the white cane safety laws.

Many 5m9 Lions Clubs promote this cause. The Osage Lions Club was one of the first. According to club secretary Lion Bonnie Lerke, the first record of their club's participation was June 18th, 2004.

There is a you tube video called "The Blind Life- history of the white cane that I found interesting. And a reminder to please send me the names and addresses of members that are ill or experiencing difficulties so I might send a card from the district.

See you at the cabinet meeting in May.

Lion Zelda Novak

5m9 historian/sunshine chair.



Open House: May 16, 2026

We will be hosting an open house on Saturday, May 16, from noon to 2 p.m., at our campus. Potential clients, volunteers, or anyone who might be interested in supporting the organization is invited to attend to learn how an assistance dog changes the life of a person with a disability.

There is no pre-registration for this event, but you will be asked to share some contact information at our registration table upon arrival.

The two presentations are each repeated and offered three times throughout the event. The later sessions tend to be a bit less packed, so don't feel you need to arrive right at noon.



District 5M9 Growing Strong Through Membership Momentum



District 5M9 continues to build momentum through a strong focus on service, leadership, and membership growth—and the results speak for themselves.

As of April 24, 2026, the district has welcomed an impressive **237 new members**, including new, charter, transfer, and reinstated Lions. A major contributor to this success was the highly effective March Membership Madness campaign, which brought in 66 new members and led to the chartering of a new club. This achievement highlights the power of intentional outreach, engaged clubs, and collaboration across the district.

This growth is a direct reflection of the dedication of club leaders and members who continue to open their doors and invite others to be part of something meaningful - serving their communities through Lionism.

Looking ahead, the district is excited to announce that Lion Erica Keppers of the Wadena Lions Club will serve as the District 5M9 Global Membership Team (GMT) Chairperson for 2026–2027. With her enthusiasm and commitment to membership growth, she is well-positioned to support Club Membership Chairs and continue building on the strong foundation already in place.

To maintain this momentum, District 5M9 will launch two key membership initiatives in the coming year:

- Fall Membership Challenge (September 2026): A district-wide effort focused on increasing visibility, outreach, and engagement
- March Membership Madness (2027): A renewed and energized campaign to build on this year's success

For the upcoming Lions year, Lions International has set a district goal of **248 new members** (excluding charter members). This goal represents an exciting opportunity to expand service, strengthen clubs, and increase impact in communities across the district.

As clubs begin planning for the year ahead, consider the role you can play in reaching this goal. Every new member brings fresh ideas, new energy, and additional hands to serve. Growth not only strengthens individual clubs—it amplifies the collective impact of Lionism throughout District 5M9.

Thank you to all Lions for your continued dedication to service and membership growth. Together, we are building stronger clubs, stronger communities, and a stronger district.

Let's keep the momentum going—every invitation matters, and every new member makes a difference.

Lion Joe Laudenbach



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

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

ANNUAL WALK TO D-FEET HEARING LOSS

JUNE 6, 2026

**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/2026walktod-feethearingloss/>**



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM



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





D FEET WALK

2026 MN Lions Hearing Foundation Fundraiser

Board of Trustees

Matt Huggenvick & Cindy Stansfield, 5M1

Kathleen Bleckenberg & Wanda Breimhorst, 5M2

Gordon Mulder & Eric Hanson, 5M3

Bob Kulbeik & Pam Erickson, 5M4

Cheryl Jechorek & Kevin Walsh, 5M5

Marlene Hayman & Jeff Carnes, 5M6

Mike Benedetto & Chad Vokaty, 5M7

Mike Appel, 5M8

Dick Kimball & Dale Christensen, 5M9

Bonnie Jorgensen & Mary Sorenson, 5M10

Officers

Kathleen Bleckenberg, Chair

Mike Benedetto, Vice Chair

Rose Thies & Sue Vos, Treasurers

Lori Steinemann & Bob Jechorek

Executive Secretaries

WEBSITE:

www.5mhf.org

EMAIL:

mndfeetwalk@gmail.com

Registration & Payment Info

Checks payable to:

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

Rose Thies, Treasurer

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

21515 371st Avenue

Green Isle, MN 55338-2027

Dear Lions and Friends:

Your Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation 2026 Walk to DFEET Hearing Loss is just around the corner on June 6th, 2026.

It is not too late to help those with hearing-related issues.

Please consider participating in our 2026 Walk at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and at Diamond Point Park in Bemidji, MN. If you or your club cannot participate at either site, you can take a walk at your local park, bring some club members together for a walk in a park, jump on your treadmill, or ride your bike.

Levels of Support

\$25

\$35 includes a walk t-shirt

\$100

\$250

\$500

\$1000 gets your Club name on back of the t-shirt

Children under 12 will receive a free walk shirt.

We challenge your club to create a team to help raise funds for this important event. Please complete the attached registration form and mail to Lion Rose Thies by April 15th, 2026.

We hope you will support the Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation to raise the much-needed funds to support our mission of research, education, and clinical support to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

With regards,

Kathleen Bleckenberg

Board Chair

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation



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!



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/VDG	Zone	Clubs	Chartered	Years	May	June	
CATHE	2	AITKIN	5/5/1926	99	5/9/2026		100th Anniversary
DIANE	7	BRECKENRIDGE			5/4/2026		
CATHE	2	CUYUNA RANGE	12/29/1937	87		6/18/2026	Awards
CATHE	2	DEERWOOD CROSBY AREA	10/23/2025		5/13/2026		
DIANE	6	FRAZEE	10/15/1973	51	5/20/2026		
CATHE	2	GARRISON BAY LAKE AREA	11/24/1981	43	5/12/2026		
CATHE	3	LONGVILLE	9/27/1976	48	5/18/2026		
CATHE	2	MCGREGOR	11/9/1965	59		6/15/2026	Charter Night
CATHE	8	PARKERS PRAIRIE	12/9/1963	61		6/11/2026	Awards
DIANE	8	UNDERWOOD	12/15/1977	47		6/18/2026	



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)