

SERVICE JOURNAL

AUGUST 2026 / VOLUME 244 / ISSUE 2

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



2026-2027
District Governor
Sheri Greenwaldt

MARK S. LYON – INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



”Rooted in Service”

Mark S. Lyon of Brookfield, Connecticut, USA, was elected International President of Lions Clubs International at the 108th International Convention in Hong Kong, China, July 3–7, 2026.

Before retiring in 2024, President Lyon spent more than 40 years in corporate legal administration and financial services. A long-time Brookfield resident active in community, church, and local government, he joined the Brookfield Lions Club in 1996. He has since served as international director, multiple district council chairperson, multiple district GLT coordinator, and in numerous leadership roles including LCI Forward project team member, Global Action Team area leader, District Governor-Elect Seminar group leader, and board liaison to the 2019 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

His service has been recognized with multiple International President’s Awards, Certificates of Appreciation, an International President’s Leadership Award, and the prestigious Ambassador of Good Will Award. He is also honored as a Connecticut Knight of the Blind and Connecticut Ambassador of Sight.

Beyond Lionism, President Lyon has served on the boards of the Silver Lake Conference Center and Wide Horizons for Children and has been active in several professional associations. He is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. His wife, Lyn, also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, is a long-time Lion. They are the proud parents of three daughters.

5M9 Cabinet
meeting
August 1st
Aitkin

5M9 Lions
2025-2026
Celebration,
September 20,
2026

RLLI
October
16-18
Roseville



August 2026





Message from the 5M9 District Governor Sheri Greenwaldt

lionqsheri@gmail.com

What an incredible honor it has been for Mom and me to represent District 5M9 at the International Convention in Hong Kong and for me to be officially installed as your District Governor for the 2026–2027 Lions year.

Standing alongside thousands of Lions from around the world was both humbling and inspiring. No matter where we come from or what language we speak, we are united by one purpose: to serve. During the plenary sessions, Lions shared inspiring stories of service from countries around the globe. It was incredible to witness the impact Lions are making worldwide and to realize that the work we do here in District 5M9 is part of something so much bigger.

One of the proudest moments of the convention came during the second plenary session when District 5M9 was recognized alongside Jacob's Voice for our partnership in promoting Lions Quest. Watching the video presentation and hearing the powerful message about kindness and raising awareness of cyberbullying was truly inspiring. It was a reminder that the work we do today can change lives for generations to come.

Here in District 5M9, we are committed to expanding Lions Quest throughout our schools. We are proud to have the program in two school districts, and this is just the beginning. Our goal is to continue growing that number and equip students with the social and emotional skills they need to build healthy relationships, make positive choices, and create kinder, more compassionate communities. Together, we can help ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn these life-changing skills.

Another highlight of the convention was hearing International President Mark Lyon introduce this year's theme, "Rooted in Service." He reminded us that, just like a mighty oak tree, our strength comes from our roots. Our strength comes not from standing alone, but from the help, hope, and care we provide for others. Those roots are built on compassion, integrity, leadership, and service. When our roots are strong, we can weather any storm, continue to grow, and provide shelter, hope, and encouragement to those around us. Service is the soil in which we grow. Our roots run deep, our impact endures, and our work is built to last for generations.

District 5M9 is embracing this message throughout the 2026–2027 Lions year. You'll see International President Mark Lyon's "Rooted in Service" theme woven throughout our district initiatives, marketing campaigns, newsletters, emails, and social media posts—so be sure to watch your inbox and follow our social media channels!

Throughout this year, we will focus on strengthening our roots by growing membership, developing leaders, supporting our clubs, and expanding our service to meet the needs of our communities. Every service project, every new member, every act of kindness, and every life we touch helps our roots grow even deeper. Together, we will build a stronger district, cultivate future leaders, and ensure that the legacy of Lions service continues to flourish for generations to come. As I begin this journey as your District Governor, I want to thank each of you for the trust you have placed in me. I am excited to visit your clubs, celebrate your successes, and work alongside you as we continue making a difference throughout District 5M9 and beyond.

Remember, whether your club serves five people or five hundred, every act of service matters. Like a pebble dropped into a pond, every act of kindness creates a ripple that extends far beyond what we can see. Together, we are creating a ripple effect that reaches farther than we may ever know.

Thank you for everything you do as Lions. I look forward to an amazing year as we remain Rooted in Service!
Lion Sheri Greenwaldt
District Governor 2026-2027

Message From 1st Vice District Governor Diane Kunze



It is the start of a new year. We seem to be off and running making plans for the upcoming year. Scheduling Club visits, creating event, making plans for our clubs ,deciding service projects for the upcoming year the list goes on.

This makes me think about IP Mark Lyon's "Be the Ripple".

Where does the Ripple start? Does it start with the impact of the service project? Does it start with the planning? The idea of a project or event?

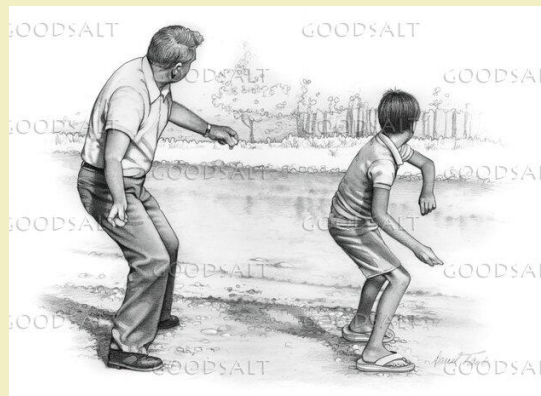
A ripple begins after the splash from tossing a pebble or another object into the water. We all know this from tossing the rock as kids into the lake. When did that ripple start? When did we choose to find that perfect rock? Searched on the shore for the perfect rock? When did we pick up the rock? Threw the rock into the lake? When the rock entered the water? Watching the splash turn into ripples on the water? Celebrating the splash and ripples?

As I ponder this, I am learning that it is all of the above. Allow me to explain. For the ripple to happen, we first must decide to pick up the rock. A member must have an idea for a service project to bring to the club or district. Then convince the club members that the project has value and is relevant to pursue. As the project takes shape, build a team to begin to research and plan the event or service project. We just searched for that perfect rock then picked the rock from the shore. You can hold the rock in your hand and see the colors and shape the rock has and marvel at its beauty and uniqueness. We now can toss the rock into the lake. Launch the project. Marvel at the possibilities looking forward, gazing at the hope of a big splash. Then here it is SPLASH! The first ripple begins and turns into another and another and another. That smile that shines on your face that your rock just made those ripples. Your service project is taking place and running like a well-oiled machine from all the planning meetings that took place. Jumping with a heart filled with joy as this project made a big splash just like the rock made in the lake as when we were kids.

The ripple is all of this. Be the Ripple embraces the process. From the beginning to the end. Each part of the process can and will of course determine just how big the splash and ripple will be in the end. Keep this in mind. The splash can be huge for one person to have a huge impact.

Just as a large turnout for a fundraiser will also have a huge impact. So my dear friends Be The Ripple. I look forward to see the splash the clubs in 5M9 will create.

Yours in Service
1st Vice District Governor
Diane Kunze



Message From 2nd Vice District Governor Joe Laudenbach



By Second Vice District Governor Joe Laudenbach

As we begin another exciting Lions year, I want to challenge each of you with a simple question:

Do you have a friend, coworker, neighbor, or acquaintance who would make a great Lion?

If someone comes to mind, don't wait—reach out and invite them to join you at your next club meeting or service project. Sometimes all it takes is a simple invitation to change someone's life and strengthen your club.

Every act of service creates a ripple. When we invite a new member, start a new service project, volunteer for a project we've never participated in before, or join a committee that's outside our comfort zone, those ripples spread throughout our communities. One invitation can lead to a lifetime of service.

Don't be afraid to share your ideas, your enthusiasm, and your passion for serving others. Compassion is contagious. When people see Lions making a difference—serving meals, collecting eyeglasses, supporting youth, helping families, or improving our communities—they want to be part of something meaningful.

Our clubs accomplish incredible things because of dedicated Lions who are willing to step forward and serve. Imagine the impact we can make if every Lion invites just one person to experience the joy of service.

This month, I encourage you to:

- Invite someone to join you at a club meeting or service project.
- Participate in a service project you've never attended before.
- Volunteer for a committee or leadership role that's new to you.
- Share your ideas and inspire others to get involved.

Together, we can create ripples that become waves of positive change across District 5M9. Thank you for everything you do to serve your communities. Keep spreading the joy of Lionism, one act of kindness—and one invitation—at a time.

Service is our motto, and together, our ripple effect is limitless.

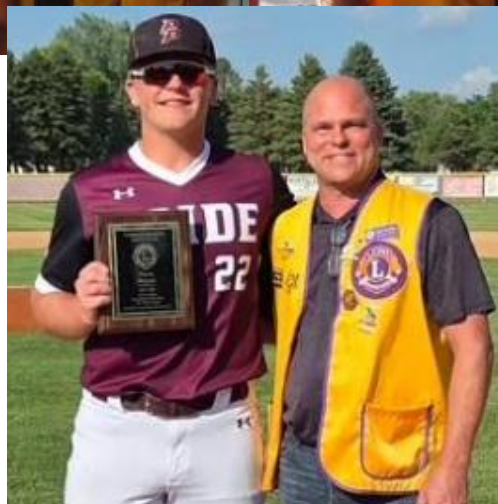
Lion Joe 218-851-5540

District 5M9 Youth Outreach Scholarship application 2026-2027 is available!

Our college students are home on their summer breaks and now is the best time to let them know about the District 5M9 Youth Outreach Scholarship. This scholarship is available to 2-year technical, bachelor, and graduate school students who are earning degrees that will lead to working directly with youth.

The scholarship application is available to download on the 5M9 website: www.lionsof5m9.org. It is under "Resources" and is the 2nd item listed under "Forms." You can print the cover letter that instructs the students on how they can access the fillable application form or print the entire scholarship to distribute to potential applicants. Keep a few copies available for your club members to reach out to any eligible college students in your community.

Parkers Prairie LIONS met in the Park for their Annual Steak Fry. President David Arvidson and Lion Mark 'Doc' Helgeson announced the Athletes of the Year which the Club sponsors. Male Athlete was Trevor Rounds and Female Athlete was Norah Froslee. President Dave presented Longevity Pins to Lion Paul Talley / 25 years and Lion Mark 'Doc' Helgeson / 35 years.



Trevor Rounds and Pres. Dave



The **Battle Lake Lions** had a successful D-Feet Walk/Bike Ride on June 6th with 25 people, and a couple dogs, participating. The Riverside Lions Club, Fergus Falls, won the prize of 4 year around State Park passes for the most members participating.

The **Ottertail Lions** won a beautiful Glendalough State Park print for the largest Club donation to the MN Lions Hearing Foundation. A total of \$1,578.00 was donated to the MN Lions Hearing Foundation .





Sweetheart Days parade **Hackensack Lions**

Picture #1: Sweetheart days parade. Lion Steve in his motorized Lion's recliner complete with lamp, TV, phone and more!

Picture #2 – Our Lions club joined the Sweetheart Days parade with our newly renovated float. Joining us was the Nevis Robotics Team (consists of youth from Nevis and the surrounding towns)... a talented group that our club loves to support.

Picture #3: Sweetheart Days parade

Left to right: Back - Lions Sue, Brenda, and Steve

Seated – Helper Caden, Lion Vicki, Linnea, and Karen



Park Rapids Lions welcomed three new members at the July 14th meeting. returning Lion Connie Green with her sponsor Lion Dick Kimball Michele Bond with her sponsor Lion Zelda Novak, Lion Phil Sailer and his new member Marshall Howe. Presiding over the ceremony was our esteemed president Lion Michelle Mickolauson.



From Bags to Benches



The **Aitkin Lions** through there plastics project just received three Trex Benches for there efforts in collecting plastics (wraps, bags, and other plastics) These benches will be placed in three area churches, St. Johns Lutheran. Ist Lutheran, and Aitkin United Methodist. Benches have already been placed at St. James Catholic, Glory Baptist, Riverwoods new Surgical unit, and Rippleside Elementary School to honor a fallen student.

With continued recycling by the Aitkin Lions, more Benches will be placed in the Aitkin Area.

August 2026



“2026 Festival of Wieners” coming to Vergas Looney Days on August 1

The NWDR, (National Wiener Dog Racing Association,) has announced that Dachshund racing will return to Vergas on **Saturday, August 1st** at **9:00AM** during the village’s annual Looney Days celebration.



Stop by the Vergas Lions Tent and enjoy a delicious breakfast sandwich!



Park Rapids Lions Parade Float. Lion John Fischer made the lion and cake. Fun time



Parkers Prairie Lion Gary Olson received the MJF



Parkers Prairie Lion Rick Gappa received the Helen Keller Award. (He and his Family are in the Picture)



Merrifield Lions Club had 5 Scholarship recipients this year. They each received a scholarship of \$600.00 each. A few of our recipients came in person to Parkfest on Saturday to receive their Scholarship.



Thank you to everyone who came out to our 2026 Park fest & Car Show last Saturday! And to everyone who helped to make it a success! We appreciate the support of our wonderful Merrifield Community!

We got to celebrate the 40th Birthday of our Merrifield Lion's Club! And thank you to every car who participated in our Car Show!



YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN US FOR THE ZONES 1, 2 & 9

ZONE FAIR



DATE: **MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026**

LOCATION: Nisswa Community Center
25628 Main St, Nisswa, MN 56468

SCHEDULE:

- 5:00 PM:** Social and visit with your Project and Foundation Representatives
- 6:00 PM:** Dinner (menu and pricing tbd)
- 6:40 PM:** Program

Club Presidents/Secretaries: Please bring your calendars, Zone Chairs will be scheduling your club visits. This will also be a great time to schedule club visits with your Project and Foundation Representatives.

We will ask you to pay at the Door. If you register and don't attend your club will be billed for your meal. We will send more information about the menu and cost before the RSVP deadline.

RSVP BY AUGUST 10TH to your Zone Chair:

- **Zone 1:** Lion Lynn Christensen at guadianangel4392@gmail.com
- **Zone 2:** Lion Robert Swedeen at rswedeen@gmail.com
OR Lion Terry Carter at tcarter51@msn.com
- **Zone 9:** Lion Dale Christensen at daleandlynn4392@gmail.com

We're excited to kick off the new year and will have lots of information about our District's goals, a district-wide service project, strategic focus areas and increasing our impact through LCIF.

Warmest Regards,

Lions Lynn & Dale Christensen
Lion Robert Swedeen, Lion Terry Carter



District 5M9 Lions
Ask your club how to participate

**LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL**



ZONE FAIR

ZONE 3, 4 AND 5

IN KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED AND INVOLVED.



The Zone Fair is scheduled for

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20,
hosted by the Crosslake Ideal Lions.

FESTIVITIES BEGINNING AT 5:00PM AT THE

IDEAL FIREHALL

35458 Butternut Point Rd, Ideal

5:00 PM: Visit with the Projects

6:00 PM: Dinner

6:40 PM: Program

PAY AT THE DOOR

RSVP by August 15th to Zone Chair Kim Walesheck at

218-892-4290 or **KWALESCHECK@LIVE.COM**

IF YOU RSVP AND DON'T ATTEND,

YOUR CLUB WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR COST!

MENU SO FAR:

Pork Roast • Chicken breast on the bone • Potato Salad

Bread • Set Up Bar

COST: \$22.00 PER PERSON • CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Unfortunately, Pricing is still to be provided.



District 5M9 Lions

Ask your club how to participate

**LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL**





You're Invited!

JOIN US FOR THE ZONES 6, 7 & 8 JOINT ZONE FAIR



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26



201 W Main St, Parkers Prairie



Schedule: 5:30PM: Social/Visit with the Projects

6:30PM: Dinner

7:00PM: Program

THE GOAL

- Have every club send two (or more!) officers.
- Create connections with representatives from the projects that we support.
- Book 2-3 projects to visit your club in the next year and share what their doing.
- *Meet Cool People, so we can Do MORE Cool Things!*

*Please RSVP by
August 19*

NEED MORE INFO?

Contact Zone 8 Chairman
Lion Forest Dittberner



612-210-8335



lion.forestd@gmail.com



5M9 PDG PICNIC



★ AUGUST 16 ★

★ AITKIN FAIRGROUNDS ★

632 Minnesota Ave N, Aitkin, MN 56431

1:00
PM

GATHERING

2:00
PM

AMERICAN PEAT
TECHNOLOGY PLANT TOUR

3:00
PM

REGROUP AT THE FAIRGROUNDS
BUSINESS MEETING

4:00
PM

STEAK FRY
catered by
Smokey Jakes Barbecue

Safe travels home.

Hosted by
Tom & Michele Plagman
Aitkin Lions





Through the Years: A Journey in Time

by District 5m9 Historian Lion Zelda Novak

COMMEMORATING
56th CONVENTION
LIONS INTERNATIONAL



District 24-D Governor John W. Wroten, at Gill's left, and other district officers join Oceana members in ovation for the Millionth Lion at the first club meeting following announcement of his status.

Who Was Barney Gill?

With a background working with young people in athletics and the Army, **Barney Gill** recognized that joining the Lions would give him the opportunity to continue serving his community. Sponsored by **Lion Ray Campbell**, Gill joined the **Virginia Beach Lions Club** in **February 1973**, becoming the **One Millionth Lion** to join **Lions International**.

That same year brought several other milestones for Lionism:

- The **Nisswa Lions Club** was chartered, sponsored by the **Brainerd Lions**.
- The **5M Hearing Foundation** was formed.
- LCIF** awarded its first-ever disaster grant—**\$5,000** to assist flood victims in **South Dakota**.

- During the **1973 International Convention in Miami**, the **Lions International Trading Pin Club** was established.

The **International President** at the time was **George Friedrichs** of **Quebec, Canada**.

Lakers Lions Corn Feed

Sat., Aug. 15 • 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Pickled Loon Saloon, 44025 Hwy 6, Emily

• Pork on a Stick, Brats & Hot Dogs. Plus All-The-Corn-You-Can-Eat!

• Music

• 30+ Vendors

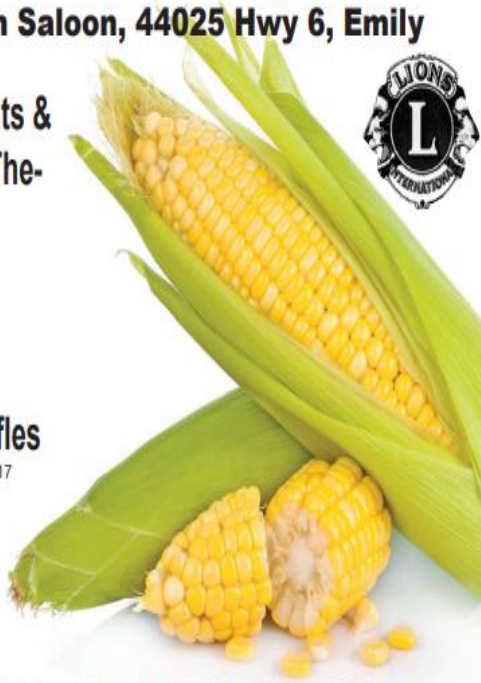
• \$1 Hourly 50/50 Raffles

Permit# X-00913-26-017

\$1 Raffle Tickets

Sold By

Lakers Lions Members.



Free Sweet Corn Furnished by The Pickled Loon Saloon



59th Annual

MCGREGOR LIONS

CORN FEED



McGregor Airport & Community Center
401 Main Street, McGregor 210

Entrance Fee
\$16 Adults
\$8 Kids 3-12
Free Kids under 3

Sun., Sept. 6

Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Gate Closes
* at 4 p.m. *

• Beer, Pop & Coffee
• Free Parking/Shuttle Bus
• Silent Auction

Activities for Kids

Petting Zoo • Bounce-H
Inflatables • Kiddie Tractor
Bouncy Houses • Side-Obstacle Course
Games

All-You-Can-Eat
CORN ON THE COB

VISIT OUR CANTEEN
Sandwiches • Popcorn
Ice Cream • Candy • Chips

BINGO - 1:00 p.m.
Coverall Jackpot \$500

NO Coolers or Dogs

Dance to the Music by...
Ben's Hot Country Karaoke
Win Prizes!



VERNDALE LIONS
ANNUAL PORK CHOP
and SWEET CORN FEED

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th

At Verndale Lions Community Center

Serving from 4:30pm — 7pm

Cost is \$15.00 per person



MEAL INCLUDES PORK CHOPS, SWEET CORN, BAKED POTATO,
DINNER ROLL, COLESLAW, DESSERT AND BEVERAGE

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT GO TOWARDS
IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY OF VERNDALE





MIKE WILDER GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Proudly Supporting our Veterans through Project New Hope
and Other Lions Initiatives.**

Friday, August 21st at Crosswoods Golf Course



The event will begin with a **2:00 p.m. shotgun start**
and feature an 18-hole, 4-person scramble.



Registration includes golf, dinner, and prizes.



The cost is **\$80** per person,
with a discounted rate of **\$70** for veterans.

**ENTRY DEADLINE IS
AUGUST 15th**



TO REGISTER

call 218-692-4653

or stop by Crosswoods Golf Course
Crosslake, MN



*Join us for a
enjoyable afternoon
of golf, camaraderie,
and community.*

**Business and individuals interested in sponsoring a hole or
donating prizes are encouraged to contact Cheryl at**

612-812-8435

You're Invited!

COMMUNITY PICNIC

FOOD • FUN • GAMES • COMMUNITY

⇒ Hosted by ⇒
Brainerd Lions Club

 **FRIDAY,
AUGUST 21**

 **5:00 – 7:30 PM**

 **LIONS PARK
AT BUFFALO HILLS**

⇒ *Bring a chair!* ⇒

 **FREE MEAL**

 **KIDS' ACTIVITIES
& GAMES**

 **PARK UPDATES
& IMPROVEMENTS**

 **MEET YOUR
NEIGHBORS**

 **ACCESSIBLE
PLAYGROUND**

 **FEATURING**
WonderTrek
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Hands-on fun
for kids and
families
throughout
the evening!

  *All are welcome!*
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE! 

PALISADE LIONS



GOLF FUNDRAISER!



SWING FOR A CAUSE!

50% OF FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS
CHILDHOOD CANCER
AND 50% TO COMMUNITY PROJECTS!



**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 23RD, 2026**

EMILY GREENS GOLF COURSE



ARRIVE 11:00AM,
SHOTGUN START 12:00PM



9 HOLE, 4 MAN SCRAMBLE,
14 TEAMS ONLY



1ST 14 TEAMS PAID ARE IN
MUST BE PAID BY AUG. 14TH, 2026



PRIZES AND
LUNCH AFTERWARDS



ONLY
\$300⁰⁰

PER TEAM

(INCLUDES GOLF,
CART, PRIZES, MEAL)

ONLY

14

**TEAMS
AVAILABLE!**

SIGN UP TODAY!

REGISTER:

**CALL DAVE @ 612-803-6847
OR 218-845-0138
& LEAVE MESSAGE!**

Emily Greens
golf course

EMILY GREENS GOLF COURSE
39966 REFUGE RD., EMILY, MN 56447

Park Rapids Lions Club

Diaper & Wipes Collection Drive

A cause we can all get BEHIND!



Donate NEW diapers and wipes to help our local Families!

Cash contributions also accepted!

**All proceeds donated to
Pregnancy Resource Center**

Saturday August 29, 2026

9am - 2pm

Hugo's South Parking Lot

**Monetary Donations collected at:
Ace Hardware & Hugo's Entry**





Meet **new** people.

Do **cool** things.

Fall Festival

LEARNING DAY



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
19, 2026**



**BLUFFTON
COMMUNITY
CENTER**



**9:30 AM
— to —
3:00 PM**



PLEASE RSVP: CALL JAY NORBY 218-298-1031



SCHEDULE



	Registration	9:30 AM – 10:00 AM
	Welcome – DG Sheri Greenwaldt	10:00 AM – 10:15 AM
	Food Insecurity in 5M9 – Shawn Hansen	10:15 AM – 11:00 AM
	Marketing your Club – Lion Denise Laudenbach	11:15 AM – NOON
	LUNCH – Free Will Offering	NOON – 1:00 PM
	How to use the Portal – Lion Evie Ladd	1:00 PM – 1:45 PM
	New Member Orientation – Lion David Coates	2:00 PM – 2:45 PM
	Wrap-Up – DG Sheri Greenwaldt	2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Together We Serve.
TOGETHER WE GROW.



VISION



ENVIRONMENT



HUNGER



DIABETES



CHILDHOOD
CANCER

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
IN OUR
COMMUNITIES**





Message from your District Global Membership Team



Hello Lions,

July is always an exciting time in the Lion's year. It's a season of new beginnings — new officers stepping into leadership, clubs exploring fresh ideas, and districts looking for even better ways to serve our communities. It's also the perfect moment to welcome new members, share the pride you feel in service, and show others how meaningful it is to give back.

Over the years, I've learned that every Lions club is unique. While most clubs elect a president, secretary, and treasurer, the additional officer roles can vary widely. One role that not every club includes is a **Membership Chair**. If your club doesn't currently have one, you may not be familiar with how important this position can be.

Below is an overview of the **GMT Membership Chair** role as described by Lions Clubs International.

The main roles of a **Global Membership Team (GMT) Club Membership Chairperson** include:

- 1. Serve on the club's Global Action Team** as the club Membership Chairperson.
- 2. Work with the District Global Action Team** on membership initiatives and attend relevant district, region, and zone meetings and events.
- 3. Lead a membership committee** to support action plans and help achieve the club's membership goals.
- 4. Encourage all members to recruit prospective members** and follow up promptly with prospects.
- 5. Promote a positive, harmonious club atmosphere** by listening to concerns and helping improve the member experience.
- 6. Engage new members in activities** that match their interests.
- 7. Ensure new members receive effective orientation** so they understand how the club operates within the district, multiple district, and Lions Clubs International.

My challenge to clubs that do not currently have a Membership Chair is simple: **elect one this month**. A dedicated Membership Chair strengthens your club, supports growth, and ensures every Lion has a meaningful place to serve.

Thank you for your service, your leadership, and your commitment to making a difference!

Please reach out to me at ekeppers@gmail.com or 218-371-1321. Lion Erica Keppers



Message from your new District Global Service Team



Hello Lions of 5M-9. I am the new Global Service Team (GST) District Coordinator for 5M-9 for the 2026-2027 Lions Year. I may be unfamiliar to most of you since my wife, Lion Linnae, and I moved to Aitkin last October from Jordan, MN (District 5M-2). We transferred our memberships to the Palisade Area Lions Club and are enjoying our new lake home and what our new club is doing for our community.

I am excited to work with DG Sheri and her team to make 5M-9 an even better district within the Multiple. I am in the process of developing Service Goals that support DG Sheri's goals and those of the MD5M Multiple. One goal is to coordinate a district-wide service project involving either Hunger or Youth. A second goal is to help clubs in 5M-9 with their Lions Portal service reporting to ensure all clubs report the great work that they do throughout the year.

As a relatively new member in 5M-9, I am looking for feedback from clubs on what is needed within our district to serve its communities around hunger and/or youth. If you have ideas on how we can serve these two areas, please reach out to me to share your thoughts. I will also need some help to pull this service project together, so let me know if you want to participate with me on the GST.

I am looking forward to meeting you at club meetings, Zone meetings, and the Mid-Winter Convention. Enjoy your summer and let's serve our communities doing what Lions do best.

Lion Todd Schansberg
toddschansberg@gmail.com



Lead Today.
SERVE TOMORROW.
LEAD TO **SERVE**. **SERVE TO LEAD**.

RLLI

REGIONAL LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



OCTOBER 16-18, 2026



DoubleTree by Hilton Roseville
Roseville, Minnesota

*Stronger
Leaders.
Stronger
Communities.*



RLLI is an inspiring weekend of leadership development, teamwork, and personal growth designed to equip Lions to lead with confidence and make an even greater impact.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS



Develop Your Leadership Skills

Strengthen communication, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities.



Build Lasting Connections

Network with Lions from across the region and build lifelong friendships.



Gain New Ideas & Inspiration

Discover fresh approaches to serve your club and community.



Grow in Confidence

Step out of your comfort zone and discover your leadership potential.



Make a Greater Impact

Return to your club energized and ready to lead with purpose.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



Lions, Leos, Lioness, and all Lions Club members



New members and experienced leaders alike



Anyone with a desire to grow, serve, and lead

INVEST IN YOUR LEADERSHIP!

COST: \$150



Registration includes all training materials, meals, and Saturday evening banquet.

DOUBLETREE by HILTON



Take the Next Step
IN YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY!

Learn. Lead. Connect. Serve.

REGISTER TODAY! SPACES ARE LIMITED!



Stronger Together Project

Free Community Youth Mental Health and Anti-Bullying
Event

Hosted by the Park Rapids Lions



August 15th, 2026

Park Rapids Century Elementary School Gym

501 Helten Ave Park Rapids, MN 56470

2:00PM – 7:00PM

Silent Auction – Raffle – Kid's Games – Speakers

Drum Line – Bake Sale – Resource Booths

Please follow us on Facebook for updates and information about the event.



A RECORD OF DEVELOPING LEADERS

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2026
Memphis, Tennessee



Register Now at LionsForum.org



HOW CAN LCIF HELP YOUR Community?

*Empowering Lions.
Transforming Lives.*



LCIF
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION



Every Lions club dreams of making an even greater impact—but sometimes the needs in our communities exceed the resources we have available. That's where the **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)** becomes one of our greatest partners in service.

LCIF is the charitable foundation of Lions Clubs International. Funded entirely through contributions, LCIF provides grant funding to support the compassionate works of Lions, empowering our service and addressing the needs of our communities both locally and globally.

Whether your club wants to improve vision care, provide disaster relief, support youth, or address other pressing local needs, **LCIF offers grant opportunities that can turn a good idea into a life-changing project.**

DID YOU KNOW?



Since 1968, LCIF has awarded more than **19,000 grants** totaling over **US\$1.2 billion** empowering Lions to serve locally and globally.

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

- ✓ Purchasing vision screening equipment for local schools.
- ✓ Expanding access to diabetes education and prevention.
- ✓ Providing emergency assistance after floods, tornadoes, or wildfires.
- ✓ Creating accessible playgrounds and community parks.
- ✓ Supporting food security initiatives and youth leadership programs.



LCIF SUPPORTS 8 GLOBAL CAUSES



CHILDHOOD CANCER

Helping children and families face this devastating disease.



DIABETES

Reducing the prevalence and improving quality of life.



DISASTER RELIEF

Providing aid and rebuilding communities in crisis.



ENVIRONMENT

Protecting and restoring our natural world.



HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Responding to humanitarian needs worldwide.



HUNGER

Combating hunger and improving food security.



VISION

Preventing avoidable blindness and improving eye care.



YOUTH

Supporting the next generation of leaders and changemakers.



LCIF MULTIPLIES THE GENEROSITY OF LIONS.

Every donation made to the Foundation is transformed into grants that return to communities around the world—including our own.

Together, we can do more!

**“WHERE THERE'S
A NEED, THERE'S
A LION.”**



YOUR NEXT STEP:

If your club has a vision for a larger service project, connect with your district's LCIF Coordinator to learn about grant opportunities and the application process.



*Together, we don't just serve—
we empower communities
and change lives. ♥*



A Membership Message

"Everybody thought somebody would recruit a new Lion. Anybody could have done it, but nobody did. The strongest clubs are built when every Lion accepts the responsibility to invite one person to serve."

That's a classic leadership and volunteerism lesson often called **"Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody."** It's especially relevant to Lions membership growth and service.

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

In the end, Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Applying This to Lions Membership

When it comes to recruiting new members, many clubs fall into this trap:

- Everybody thinks membership growth is important.
- Somebody on the Membership Committee is expected to handle it.
- Anybody could invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member.
- But if Nobody extends the invitation, the club doesn't grow.

The solution is simple:

Every Lion takes personal responsibility to invite at least one person to learn about Lions.

If every Lion recruits one member, membership growth becomes everyone's responsibility—not somebody else's.

PDG Jay Norby
CA1 GAT Area C Leader
ND/SD/MN/WI/IA
Lions Club International





Foundations at the St. Fair

Greetings Lions Clubs of MD5M -

For the past many, many years the MN Lions Vision Foundation, MN Lions Hearing Foundation and the MN Lions Diabetes Foundation have sponsored an information booth on the Foundations at the MN State Fair at the end of August.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

The booth is open from 8:45 a.m. each day until 9:00 p.m. and takes lots of volunteers to fill the shifts. We are asking you to consider volunteering your time during one of the open shifts. Shifts consist of at least 2 persons per shift and are for a 3 1/4 hours shift. Please use the Sign Up Genius link below to view the open shifts and sign up for those that will work into your schedule.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49ADAD2EA3F49-62998506-2026#/>

Once members have signed up, the foundations will supply you with the necessary information to answer visitors' questions.

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO SPREAD THE WORD ON LIONS AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT 3 OF OUR FOUNDATIONS.



2029 Lions International Convention fundraiser

Brought to you by the Host Committee for the 2029 Minneapolis International Convention

2029 Convention Pins and Snowman Patches

The International Convention is coming to
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Now is your chance to get a piece of history and help raise the
needed funds to Host this great Lions event.

Build the Snowman patch fundraiser.

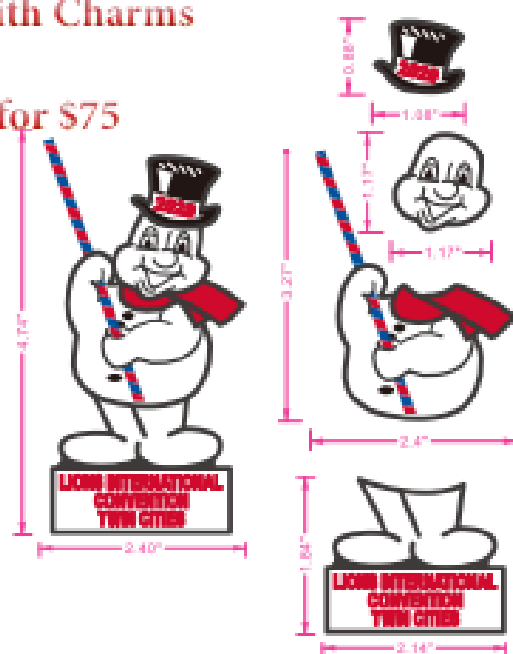
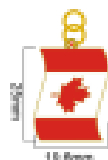
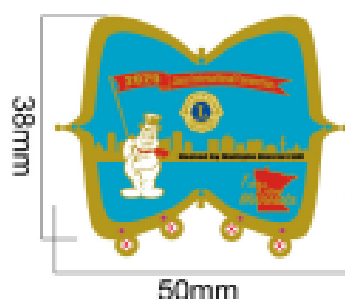
\$50 per piece for a total of \$200

Limited Edition

2029 Minneapolis Pin with Charms

Pin - \$100

Charms \$25 or all 4 for \$75



Contact Joe Laudenbach at 218-851-5540 or
joelaudenbach@gmail.com to order your pin set or patch set.
We are encouraging every club in our multiple to purchase
a snowman patch set to put on your club banner.
We appreciate your support.

WANTED:

The Verndale Lions are looking for new, old or slightly used Lions shirts from our fellow Lions Clubs in the 5M9 district.

Any Lions shirts would be great, preferably with your clubs name somewhere on the shirt.

Contact information is below; I am willing to come pick up or have a central drop-off location. Deadline is July 15th, 2026.

(if you want to know what we are doing with them, you will need to come to the convention to find out 😊)



Contact: Lion Lindi Rousslang

lrousslang@icloud.com

text or call 218-639-5360

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.farmstack.com/forms/lions_5m_9_jan2027

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



Jazzed for Service, United in Purpose

5M9 Mid-Winter Convention Program

We are reaching out to invite you to place an advertisement in the 2027 Mid-Winter Convention program book. Your ad not only is a great way to show case your business or organization, but also helps offset the cost of the convention to ensure a successful and engaging event for Lions members across the district. Thank you for your continued support of your community and the Lions of 5M9.

Business Name: _____

Size of Advertisement: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Business Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Cost of Advertisement:

Business Card Size: \$50

1/4 Page: \$75

1/2 Page: \$125

Full Page: \$250

Please email ad to mnverndalelions@gmail.com for best quality results. If unable to email, ads can be mailed to address below.

Please make checks payable to **Verndale Lions Club 2027 5M9 Convention** and send them with this form to:

Tina Wegscheid
13251 140th Street
Wadena MN 56482

Deadline: November 14, 2026

Venmo: @Verndale-Lions

Credit Card Payments Can Be Sent Through Zeffy using the QR Code

Venmo and Credit Card Payments Can Email Form to mnverndalelions@gmail.com



If you have any questions or for assistance with your ad submission, please contact: Chelsa Beaver at 218-371-7468 or contact us via email at mnverndalelions@gmail.com



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

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

DG/VDG	Zone	Clubs	Chartered	Years	July	August
Joe	6	CORMORANT	1/4/1985	40		8/10/26
Sheri	2	GARRISON BAY LAKE AREA	11/24/1981	43		8/11/26
Sheri	2	NORTHLAND REMER	12/4/1973	51		8/17/26
		CABINET MEETINGS				8/2/2026



District Governor,

1st and 2nd Vice District Governor Travels

Travel Calendar

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

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60502 Co. Hwy 40
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C: 507-456-0788
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secretary@lionsof5m9.org

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Newsletter Editor

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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)

