

SERVICE JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2026 / VOLUME 244 / ISSUE 3

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



2026-2027
District Governor
Sheri Greenwaldt

MARK S. LYON – INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



"Rooted in Service"

Being "Rooted in Service" is about more than just the service others see us do. It's about who we are at our foundation. Our roots in service are strong, and they run deep.

Lions are often the first to answer the call, find a solution or identify a need. And when we do, we step up. We help. We serve.

This year, work with your club to create service projects that are engaging, impactful and aligned with what your community needs. And if you want to make them even more fun, invite your family and friends to serve with you.

True impact starts with one act of service, big or small. I can't wait to see what you do!

In friendship and service,
Mark S. Lyon
International President

Make the Most of Your Service Journey

Ready to make an impact but not sure where to begin? The [Service Toolkit](#) has everything you need to get started — from quick-start projects and community needs assessments to tips for building strong local partnerships.

And be sure your club reports your service. [Service reporting](#) helps celebrate your impact, inspires new members to serve and highlights the difference you make.

For even more inspiration on why your service is so powerful, [watch this new video](#) from International President Mark Lyon.



September 2026



5M9 Lions
Learning Day

September 19
Bluffton

5M9 Lions
2025-2026
Appreciation
Day
September 20
Brainerd

RLLI
October
16-18
Roseville



Message from the 5M9 District Governor Sheri Greenwaldt

lionqsheri@gmail.com

Fellow Lions of District 5M9,

September is here, and with it comes the perfect opportunity to grow our Lions family!

This fall, Constitutional Area 1, all the United States and affiliates, Bermuda, and the Bahamas, is kicking off the year with a Fall Membership Drive, and I want to challenge every club and every Lion in our district to be part of it. You and your club can create a membership drive on whatever you choose that will work for your club! You should have received a flyer in your email from your zone chair, club president, or secretary. You may have heard about it at the recent zone fairs or talking to other Lions!

Our theme for this Lions year, as set by our International President, Mark Lyon, is "Rooted in Service." Our Lions clubs have deep roots in our communities because of the countless Lions who have served before us. But just like a tree, we need new growth to continue reaching higher and farther, and to do more for our communities and our district.

That growth starts with YOU! Think about what happens when a single drop hits the water. One small drop creates a ripple, and that ripple continues spreading outward. By bringing in more members, that ripple will continue to spread through service and by sharing our motto: We Serve. Your invitation to a new member can be that ripple! Maybe it's a friend, a family member, a coworker, a neighbor, or someone you meet at a community event. Invite them to join you for a service project. Bring them to a club meeting. Tell them your Lions story. You don't have to give them a sales pitch. Just share your passion for service. "Come serve with us and see what Lions is about!" You never know what that one invitation might become. One new member can bring new energy to a club. One new member can bring a new idea. One new member can introduce your club to new people. One new member can become a future leader. And one new member can make a difference in someone's life.

Let's make September FUN and prioritize growing membership and providing more service throughout our district. And we are going to have a little fun with this membership drive! The club with the highest percentage of membership growth in our district for September will be treated to 10 Pizzas and 2 Cases of Pop, served by the Governor Team! DG Sheri Greenwaldt, 1st VDG Diane Kunze, and 2nd VDG Joe Laudenbach will deliver the prize and help celebrate your success!

So, let's get those new members and, most importantly, make this membership drive fun! People want to belong to something meaningful. They want to make a difference. They want friendships and connections. They want to know that their time matters. Show them that Lions can be all those things. Our clubs are rooted in service, but our future depends on growing those roots and welcoming new people into our Lions family.

So, let's make September the beginning of something BIG. Drop that stone in the water. Be the Ripple. Let your invitation be the first ripple. Let your club create the next. And together, let's create a wave of new Lions and a lot more service across our district!

Let's grow 5M9, one Lion, one invitation, and one ripple at a time!

It's a GREAT day to be a Lion!

Lion Sheri Greenwaldt

District Governor 2026–2027

Message From 1st Vice District Governor Diane Kunze



I am thinking about IP Mark Lyon's phrase "Rooted In Service", specifically the word Rooted. Is it the planting of the seeds of growth? The Sun, water and nutrients needed for plants to grow? How do seeds take in the soil to begin forming roots? Next, how do we think of membership growth in this context.

Of course, there are several moving parts that must work in harmony to ensure that growth takes place. Which is the G-Team. Without the Global Service Team focusing on impactful service projects to bring new members into the fold we may not be able to entice new members or engage current members. The Global Leadership Team teaches new and current members important aspects of Lionism, giving Lions the nutrients to encourage us to be the Lions that we are meant to be. Even guide us in a direction that we did not realize we wanted to go.

The Global Extension Team finds the best soil to hold the seeds. Sometimes the location of the soil is difficult to find. But with perseverance and patience this team makes that happen. The Global Membership Team begins to tie recruitment, membership growth and retention together. Lastly The Marketing Team. The best cheerleaders so to speak, that will let the world know that we are here making a difference. Utilizing social media, radio and/or television to get the message out to members and future members.

Each team can do its respective job on its own, however when by working in harmony we can and will do so much more. As the Leaders of the District make the path for this to be possible, I ask each of you in 5M9 to step into the team for us to ensure that the possibilities for future growth are fully realized.

Yours in Service
1st District Governor
Diane Kunze

Message From 2nd Vice District Governor Joe Laudenbach



September — Let's Keep Connecting!

It's hard to believe we're already into September! The new Lions year is off and running, and I have to say, I'm having a lot of fun getting out and meeting with our clubs.

In August, I had the opportunity to visit two clubs, and I already have three more visits scheduled. This year, I'll be spending a lot of time visiting clubs in Zones 6 and 8, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know more of you and learning what makes your club special.

If we haven't connected yet, please reach out! I'd love to get a club visit on your calendar. There's nothing better than sitting down with Lions, hearing what's happening in your community, talking about the challenges you're facing, and—most importantly—celebrating the good things you're doing.

Sharing the Message

One of the things I've really enjoyed during my visits is sharing our new International President Mark Lyon's theme and messaging. It has given us some great things to talk about and, more importantly, some great reminders about why we do what we do.

Every club is a little different. We have different communities, different projects and different traditions. But at the heart of it, we're all here for the same reason—to serve our communities and make a difference.

And I believe that when we share our stories, our ideas and our successes with one another, we all become better Lions.

Let's Get Together!

So, if I haven't made it to your club yet, don't wait for me to find you! Give me a call or send me a message. Let's get something on the calendar.

I'm looking forward to getting out, shaking some hands, sharing some laughs, hearing your stories and finding ways we can work together to make this a great Lions year.

See you soon!

Second Vice District Governor
Joe Laudenbach
218-851-5540



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dennis & Jacque Heinen, Campaign Managers • denisemarieforid@gmail.com

Denise Marie Laudenbach Announces Candidacy for Lions Clubs International Director

Longtime Lions leader and Past Council Chair of MD5M launches "Be the One" campaign for the April 2027 MD5M ballot

NISSWA, Minn. — [8/7/2026] — Denise Marie Laudenbach, a member of the Nisswa Lions Club and Immediate Past Council Chair of Multiple District 5M, today announced her candidacy for International Director of Lions Clubs International. She will seek endorsement on the MD5M ballot at the Multiple District Convention in April 2027.

A Lion for more than 16 years, Laudenbach has served at every level of the organization — Club President, Zone Chair, District Secretary, District Governor of District 5M9, and Council Chair of MD5M. She is an LCIP Certified Instructor, RLI and USA Lions Faculty member, a facilitator and moderator at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, and holds a Doctorate from Lions University. She currently serves as Group Leader for First Vice District Governors at the international level and as Secretary of the 2029 LCI Convention Committee.

Laudenbach has personally sponsored 26 new Lions and helped charter multiple new clubs. Her service innovations include Empower Hour, a program connecting nonprofit leaders with Lions clubs; a district-wide food packing event; a diaper drive; and community fundraisers. She is a champion for pediatric vision care, an advocate for survivors of trafficking, and a co-founder of 100+ Women Who Care. Her honors include the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the Helen Keller Award, the LCIF Leadership Award, and the International President's Award.

"I became a Lion because someone asked me — and I said yes without even knowing what Lions was," Laudenbach said. "That one invitation changed my life. My campaign, 'Be the One,' is about that power we each carry: one invitation, one act of kindness, one moment of service. One Lion can change the world."

Laudenbach brings a professional background in enterprise leadership spanning manufacturing, marketing, sales, and distribution, with expertise in strategic and succession planning. Her platform centers on growing Lions through innovation, inclusion, and purpose; strengthening clubs with training and support; expanding impact through service and LCIF; and assuring the long-term sustainability of Lions service worldwide.

Her campaign is managed by Dennis and Jacque Heinen. For more information, contact denisemarieforid@gmail.com or follow "Denise Marie Laudenbach for International Director" on Facebook and @denise_marieforid on Instagram.

DISTRICT 5M9 · FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



September 1 – 30

Plant a seed.

Grow a club.

Change your community.

This fall, harvest new members — and new energy.

HOW TO GROW

- 1 Invite a guest to a meeting or project
- 2 Sponsor a new member — or welcome one back
- 3 Report new members by September 30

**HARVEST
THE
GROWTH**



THE CLUB WITH THE HIGHEST GROWTH % WINS
10 PIZZAS + 2 CASES OF POP

served to your club by

DG Sheri Greenwaldt · 1VDG Diane Kunze · 2VDG Joe Laudenbach

Winning club announced in October



Every new Lion starts as a seed someone planted. Plant one this fall.



District 5M9 Lions

Questions? Erica Keppers, District 5M9 GMT Coordinator
erica.keppers@gmail.com

**LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL**



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**





5M9 LIONS

2025-2026 DISTRICT GOVERNOR *Appreciation Day*



CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP. HONORING SERVICE. STRENGTHENING OUR PRIDE.



ALL 5M9 LIONS
are invited!

Join us for a fun and relaxed afternoon as we celebrate the achievements and service of **Past District Governor Cathe Picek** and all Lions across 5M9.

TOGETHER,
*We Serve. We Lead.
We Make a Difference.*

RSVP

Lion Nancy Cross
crossn00@gmail.com
or 218-829-9079
by 9/15/2026



**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**



**BRAINERD LIONS PARK
AT BUFFALO HILLS**

2104 Graydon Ave.
Brainerd, MN 56401



1:00 to 3:00 PM

Registration, Social & Games



3:00 PM

Awards & Recognition



4:00 PM

Picnic Dinner



Let's Celebrate

Come connect, share stories, enjoy great company, and celebrate the spirit of Lionism!

Bring a lawn chair!



BUILD



SHARE



CELEBRATE



THANK OUR



STRONGER

A WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

Honoring Bert Nelson

For his distinguished service on the Lions International Board of Directors

Hosted by the New York Mills Lions

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

VENUE 28 Centennial 84 Drive West, New York Mills

4:00
Social Hour

5:00
Dinner Provided

5:30
Presentations

RSVP richard.grotheer.nym@gmail.com

PID Bert Nelson, Pam and District Governor Sheri at Parkers Prairie Fall Festival parade





New member Steve Vorel (left) being welcomed into the **Hackensack Lions Club** by his sponsor and President of the club, Dean Husfeldt.



Pequot Lakes Breezy Point Lions Club 20 year service awards:

- Al Swanson
- Gary Amundson
- Laurie Daly & Troy Friberg (not pictured)

CLUB MARKETING TOOLKIT



MARKET YOUR CLUB LIKE A PRO

01 TAG US ON FACEBOOK

Tag @District5M9Lions (facebook.com/5m9lions) so we can reshare your posts.

04 POST CONSISTENTLY

Aim for 1–2 posts a week, not just one big push before an event.

02 GRAB THE BRAND KIT

Logos, colors & fonts at lionsof5m9.org → Resources → Marketing Resources.

05 USE REAL PHOTOS

Real members and real service connect better than clip art or stock images.

03 DESIGN WITH CANVA OR AI

Fast, pro-looking flyers — just use our official colors and fonts.

06 WATCH THE HOW-TO VIDEOS

Step-by-step tutorials are waiting in the Marketing Resources folder.



WANT HANDS-ON HELP?

Request a free 1-on-1 or small-group marketing session — District5M9Lions@gmail.com



District 5M9 Lions

lionsof5m9.org • facebook.com/5m9lions

LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL





PDG' Peter Van Erp, PDG Don Hendrickx, along with Lion Pat Hendrickx, **Bluffton Lions Club**, recently attended the 4-H Dirt to Dinner at the Perham Fair Grounds. The gardens are planted and maintained by 4-H children and then they invite the sponsors to a lunch made by the children with produce from the garden. Delicious lunch with pork sandwiches, potatoes, cauliflower, cole slaw, kale and lettuce salad.



Lions Pam Nelson, Pat Hendrickx, PDG Don Hedrickx, **Bluffton Lions**, and PID Bert Nelson of the **New York Mills Lions** helped provide snacks at the fourth rest stop for the Bike Across Minnesota MS Bike Tram. Don and Pat Hedrickx, Pam Nelson, and Bert Nelson worked the early shift at the Thomastown Church rest stop last Tuesday. It was their first time volunteering for this ride, and they learned a lot about the event and its mission. Approximately 300 riders pedaled the 300-mile route over five days, starting and ending in Menahga this year, raising about \$150,000 to support Multiple Sclerosis patients across Minnesota. Members of the Staples Lions Club joined later for the second shift. It was a great day of service, fellowship, and meeting dedicated bikers who inspire us all.



Hackensack Lions sponsor National Night Out in Hackensack on August 4th



Lions Pam and Sue manning the Lions Safari Hunt table at the Northwoods Arts and Book Festival on August 8th.

Kids come and receive their Pith Helmets, binoculars, and clues so they can go on the hunt for Leo the Lion who is hiding somewhere on the festival grounds.



John Burton, Paul Roth Jerry Leese and Con Molin are busy with root beer floats...



Baxter Lions had a busy time at Baxter Night to Unite! Free root beer floats are a hit!

It's always wonderful to come together, have fun, and serve our community. We're proud to be part of such a great community!



Dylan Tacket, Karlie Ray, Michelle Ray and Ann Powers are serving up food.



Cashiers Mike Powers, Sandy Johnson



Palisade Riverfest Parade



Fun night at **Osage Lions Park**! We've had an absolute blast celebrating Osage Dog Days — great friends, good food, and plenty of laughter all around. What a wonderful evening of community spirit and summertime fun!



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.

- 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!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **FREE! 9 AM: HAIRYMAN YOGA**
by B Still Yoga – Baseball Field.
- **10 AM-12 PM: TACO IN A BAG**
Vergas Lions – Loonie's Pub.
- **12 PM: SIDE-BY-SIDE TRAIL RIDE**
Loonie's Pub
Cost: \$20/Machine (*cash at registration*).
4 Groups – 45 miles – 2 Bar Stops.
Registration starts at 9 am.



Think you can
make the best
**RIBS or
WINGS?**



JOIN US AT THE
16th Annual

PIG N' WING CHALLENGE

**Burlington
Northern Park**
SERVING @ 1:00
Car Show 2-6 p.m.

**SEP.
12TH
2026**

RIBS • CHICKEN WINGS • CORN ON THE COB • FRESH FRIES

PROCEEDS GO TO WADENA LIONS CLUB

We are proudly sponsored by: **OMV VALLEY**



PUTTING FOR DOGS



PIRATES COVE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

10AM TEE OFF
HOSTED BY BRAINERD LIONS CLUB

SIGN UP A TEAM

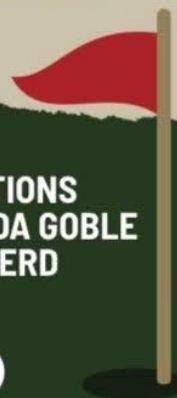
PROCEEDS GO TO HELP LOCAL
SERVICE DOGS

LIGHT LUNCH AND PRIZES
INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
REGISTER TODAY!



QUESTIONS & REGISTRATIONS
BRAINERD LIONS, C/O AMANDA GOBLE
7418 LEAF LANE, BRAINERD





**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 Fall clean up event on Saturday 9/12/26 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.



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.

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.

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.

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.**

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 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!



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.



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



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

5M9 LCIF COORDINATORS

Lion Erin Beck
📞 218-851-7267
✉️ elb_18@yahoo.com

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

TOGETHER, WE DON'T JUST SERVE—WE EMPOWER COMMUNITIES AND CHANGE LIVES. ♥

A message from your Environmental Chair.



Living green means making everyday choices that reduce your environmental impact. You don't need to overhaul your life overnight — small, consistent actions add up overtime.

Challenge club members to make 1 or 2 Living Green changes – lets start a ripple effect!

Simple & Effective Tips for Living Green

1. Reduce consumption first - *Before recycling, focus on reducing waste.* Simplify your belongings, buy only what you need, and use the “30-day rule” to avoid impulse buys. Replace disposables with reusables like cloth bags, metal straws, and refillable water bottles.
2. Save energy at home - Switch to energy-efficient lighting, seal windows and doors, and use smart thermostats. Unplug devices or use smart power strips to cut “phantom load” energy use. Consider solar panels for long-term savings and lower emissions.
3. Conserve water - Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, install low-flow showerheads, and collect rainwater for gardening. Fix leaks promptly to avoid wasting water.
4. Choose sustainable transport - Walk, bike, carpool, or use public transit. If driving, consider an electric or hybrid vehicle.
5. Eat more sustainably - Buy local, organic produce; reduce meat and dairy; grow your own herbs or vegetables; and compost food scraps to cut waste. Support community gardens and farmers' markets.
6. Shop mindfully - Check product labels for materials and environmental impact. Buy second-hand, refurbished, or from eco-conscious brands. Avoid excessive packaging and choose recyclable or compostable materials.
7. Green your garden - Plant native species, use natural fertilizers, and avoid synthetic pesticides. Xeriscaping (low-water landscaping) and using mulch can save water and reduce maintenance.
8. Reduce waste in cleaning - Make your own cleaning solutions with vinegar, baking soda, and essential oils. Use reusable cloths instead of paper towels.
9. Make and mend - DIY projects, repairs, and homemade goods reduce waste and save money.

By combining these habits — from reducing waste to conserving energy and water — you can live more sustainably without major lifestyle changes.

😊 Thank you, Lion Linnae Schansberg Environmental Chair linnsch61@gmail.com





Message from your District Global Membership Team



As a Lion, it can be intimidating to ask someone to join our club. A personal invitation is one of the most effective ways to introduce someone to our club. By sharing our purpose and welcoming others into service, each of us can help strengthen our club and make an even greater difference in the community. When speaking with a prospective member:

1. **Share your experience.** Explain why you became a Lion and describe the service projects that mean the most to you. Personal stories of impact are important.
2. **Talk about your club's impact.** Share personal stories about how your club helps the community. Tell them what your favorite service projects.
3. **Listen to their interests.** Learn what causes matter to them and connect those interests with opportunities to serve. Lions serve through 8 global causes, including childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, the environment, humanitarian efforts, hunger, vision and youth.
4. **Invite them to participate.** Ask them to attend a club meeting, service project or social event so they can experience Lions firsthand. Make sure you welcome them and answer their questions.
5. **Membership Application:** Hand them a membership application so it is convenient for them to fill out. Also, bring applications to other service projects and events.
6. **Follow up.** A friendly message after the invitation can help them feel welcomed and valued.

District 5M9 Fall Membership Drive (Please see the September Membership Flyer in this newsletter and share).

Details:

- The club with the highest % of membership growth from **Sept 1-30th** wins
- **TEN pizzas and TWO cases of pop**
- The pizza will be served at your club by the DG, 1st VDG, and 2nd VDG
- Report new members in the portal by September 30

Thank you for your service, your leadership, and your commitment to making a difference! Please reach out to me with any questions at ekeppers@gmail.com or 218-371-1321. Lion Erica Keppers



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!





MINNESOTA LIONS VISION FOUNDATION

PDG James A. Arvidson

218-639-5323

Jimarvidson@srperspective.com

Thanksgiving for Vision

Every fall, Lions, corneal recipients, and special guests observe Thanksgiving for Vision, an event that celebrates the miracle of restored vision.

Thanksgiving for Vision begins with an educational symposium that focuses on research and clinical work taking place at the University. An inspirational luncheon program follows the symposium. This program features a corneal recipient or parents of a recipient who speak about how their lives have been affected by the sight-saving work of the Minnesota Lions. A donor family member tells of their experience working with Lions Gift of Sight.

The Lions of Minnesota have invested millions in the University of Minnesota sight programs. Thanksgiving for Vision emphasizes the crucial role that Lions play in Lions Gift of Sight, the Lions Children's Eye Clinic, the support of research, the MAC Center, and more. It would be impossible to estimate the number of people the Lions have reached through these amazing programs!



A RECORD OF DEVELOPING LEADERS

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2026
Memphis, Tennessee





PDG Jay Norby, CA1 GAT Area “C” Leader

Why don't we promote our clubs?

Here are a few reasons why clubs often don't promote themselves as much as they can:

1. **Tradition & Humility** – Lions have always emphasized *service before self*. Many members feel uncomfortable “advertising” what they do, because they see service as something done quietly, without seeking recognition.
2. **Lack of Communication Skills or Tools** – Not all clubs have members with strong media, technology, or public relations backgrounds. Without clear tools or training, promotion can feel overwhelming.
3. **Focus on Service, Not Publicity** – Lions often pour their energy into projects, and when the project is done, they move on—forgetting to share the story.
4. **Fear of Being Seen as Fundraisers Only** – Some clubs worry that too much promotion will make the public think Lions just want donations, *instead of highlighting our mission of service*.

Why Promotion Matters

Promoting our clubs is not about boasting. It's about **sharing stories of service to inspire others**—future members, partners, and supporters. When people don't know what Lions are doing, they may never realize that *they too can be part of this global movement*.

Promotion connects directly to **Mission 1.5** (our initiative to reach 1.5 million members by 2027). If we don't tell our story, people will never know how much Lions are changing the world.

SMART Goals to Help Promote Your Club

Here's how your club can begin right away:

Specific – Choose one project this year to promote widely (ex: vision screening, food drive, diabetes walk).

Measurable – Set a goal to publish at least **one article, one social media post, and one community newsletter update** about that project.

Actionable – Assign a *Publicity Chairperson* or small PR team in your club who will take responsibility for gathering photos, writing short blurbs, and submitting them.

Realistic – Start small. Use free tools—Facebook pages, community newspapers, local radio, and your club website.

Time-Bound – Aim to post **within 48 hours** after each service activity. Timely news spreads farther than old stories.

Remember, promotion is not bragging, it is an invitation. Every picture, every story, every shared success says: **“Come serve with us. You belong here.”**



Fall Into Learning at the 5M9 Fall Festival!

Learning, Lions, lunch, and a little fall fun—what better way to spend a Saturday?

Join Lions from across District 5M9 for the **5M9 Fall Festival Learning Day on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 9:30 AM–3:00 PM at the Bluffton Community Center!**

It's your chance to gather with fellow Lions, harvest some fresh ideas, make new connections, and take home plenty of inspiration for your club.

Our festival of learning includes:

Food Insecurity in 5M9

Discover the needs in our own communities and how Lions can help make sure our neighbors have food on the table.

How to Market Your Club

Learn how to spread the word, tell your Lions story, and help your club get noticed in the community.

Lions Portal Made Easy

Take some of the mystery out of the Lions Portal with practical tips to make using it easier.

Orientation Training

Whether you're a newer Lion or a longtime member, strengthen your Lions knowledge and discover ways to help members feel welcomed, informed, and involved.

And yes—there's lunch!

A **freewill offering** will be accepted for lunch.

So grab your favorite fall attitude and come ready to **LEARN, LAUGH, CONNECT & GROW!**

 **Saturday, September 19, 2026**

 **9:30 AM–3:00 PM**

 **Bluffton Community Center**

 **RSVP by September 10, 2026**

 **Jay Norby: 218-298-1031**

 **Don't "leaf" this opportunity behind—join us for the 5M9 Fall Festival Learning Day!** 





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.

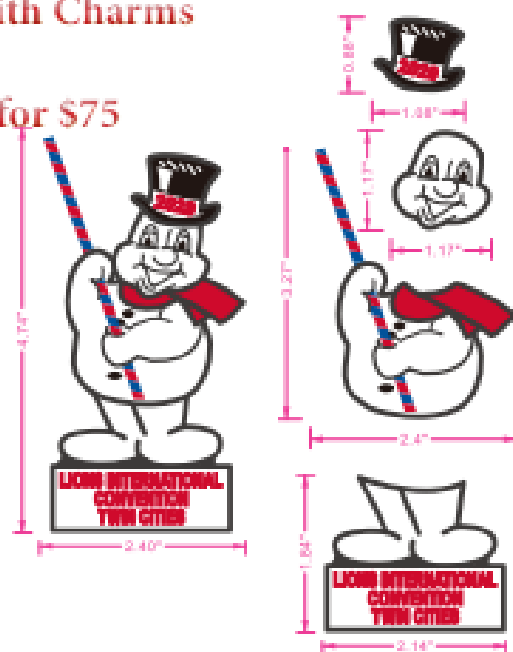
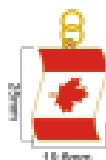
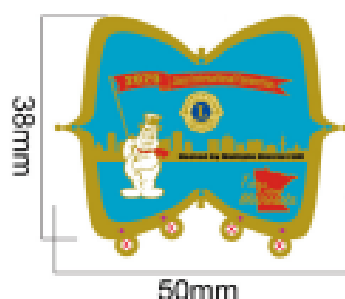
\$50 per piece for a total of \$200

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.

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	September	October
Sheri	5	BLUFFTON		10/26/2026
Sheri	3	CROSS LAKE IDEAL		10/14/26
Sheri	2	CUYUNA RANGE		10/15/26
Diane	7	DUNVILLA		10/20/26
Sheri	3	JENKINS AREA	9/21/26	
Sheri	2	MCGREGOR		10/19/26
Diane	4	PARK RAPIDS		10/13/26
Diane	5	WADENA		10/12/2026
		CABINET MEETINGS		
		COG MEETINGS		10/31/2026
		DG Sheri Greenwaldt (32)		
		1st VDG Diane Kunze (21)		
		2nd VDG Joe Laudenbach (17)		

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



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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)

