

SERVICE JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2026 / VOLUME 244 / ISSUE 4

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



2026-2027
District Governor
Sheri Greenwaldt



"Rooted in Service"

MARK S. LYON – INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



One of the best things about being a Lion is our service. When we stay grounded in our service, we unlock our club's full potential. And while service is the most important thing, it's also important that we help every Lion unlock their potential. Offering an inclusive, welcoming club environment, leadership opportunities and opportunities for personal growth helps attract new members and keep all members engaged and enthusiastic. Lions is a place to serve and grow, and our clubs get stronger and our service gets better when all members make unique contributions based on their skills, interests and passions.

Keep up the great work as we stay Rooted in Service together.

In friendship and service,
Mark S. Lyon
International President

Vision | October 8–18, 2026

Plan a service activity for World Sight Day on October 8 or [International White Cane Day](#) on October 15! The new [Vision Service Project Ideas resource](#) can help you get started with popular service activities such as vision screening and eyeglass recycling as well as some new ideas. Join Lions and Leos around the world as they improve the lives of the visually impaired and help prevent avoidable blindness.

Learn more about vision programs and service ideas on the [vision global cause webpage](#).

RLLI
October
16-18
Roseville

Thanksgiving for Vision
October 24
St. Cloud

5M9 Mid-
Winter
Convention

January 8-10,
2027

Craguns
Resort

Board



October 2026





Message from the 5M9 District Governor Sheri Greenwaldt

lionqsher@gmail.com

Lions of 5M9!

I can't believe another month has gone by! Where, oh where, does the time go? If you know, please tell me! I can't believe we are already three months into this Lions year. It seems like it was just July! I have enjoyed these past three months so much, and I have had the opportunity to connect with many of you at club visits, zone fairs, fundraisers, and service projects. I am so proud of each one of you for all the amazing work you are doing in your clubs and communities!

Rooted in Service means looking for the needs in our communities and finding ways to make a difference. One of the most meaningful areas of Lions service is something we have been committed to for generations: vision.

International President Mark Lyon has again introduced three weeks of service this year, and the first week, focused on vision, is coming up in October. The first week will take place October 8–18, 2026. During this time, World Sight Day is October 8, and International White Cane Day is October 15. I encourage all of you to look at the vision needs in your communities and ask, "What can we do as Lions?" Whether it's KidSight screening, collecting eyeglasses, supporting a local vision project, partnering with an eye-care professional, or finding another way to serve, every project makes a difference. These projects may seem small, but their ripple effect can be life-changing. For many of us, seeing clearly is something we may take for granted. But for someone who cannot afford an eye exam, needs glasses, or is facing vision loss, a simple act of service can make an incredible difference in their everyday life.

A child who receives the glasses they need can see the board at school. An older adult may regain confidence and independence. A family can receive help with an unexpected vision expense. That is the power of Lions service.

Every act of service matters. Every project has an impact. And every Lion can create a ripple that reaches farther than we may ever see.

This year, let's stay Rooted in Service, branch out into our communities, and continue to Be the Ripple. Together, we can make a difference, and sometimes, that difference begins with helping someone see a little better.

It's a GREAT day to be a Lion!

Lion Sheri Greenwaldt
District Governor 2026–2027

Message From 1st Vice District Governor Diane Kunze



Greetings Fellow Lions of 5M9.

I hope that all Lions are in favorable health. As many of you know I spent this past weekend in Detroit touring the Leader Dog Facility. Also, as many know, it was also the first time that I had ever flown on an airplane. With this in mind please allow me to share my experience.

At 7:10 am my first flight took off at Hector international airport in Fargo, ND. My first flight was under one hour. The pilot informed us that there would be some turbulence due to storms that were scattered all along the flight path from Fargo to Minneapolis. It was a bit bumpy but not super uncomfortable. My nerves were a bit elevated. I am pretty sure that my Blood Pressure was also elevated for a short time. I was able to relax and enjoyed a movie. I chose Mama Mia. I really enjoy the music and the sunshine of Greece helps as well. The plane landed in Minneapolis and then it was off to the races as I had less than an hour to get from one end of the airport to the other end. I appreciated the moving sidewalks. I really appreciated that I chose to have all that I needed in just one backpack and my purse. Less to carry. About halfway A wonderfully nice person who just happened to be the driver of an electronic cart, asked if I would like a ride. I said yes please. I think my red, flushed face told the story. He brought me as far as he was allowed to drive the cart in the airport. I made it to the gate with about 15 minutes to spare. It was at this point where I had the pleasure to fly with a member of my DG class, Joel Anderson and his wife Becky. Having friends to make the remaining part of the journey to Detroit was a blessing. My nerves calmed a bit more, and I was able to relax more, once again enjoyed a movie. The remainder of the first Mama Mia and naturally I must watch the second. We landed safely and we were now in Detroit. We took a shuttle to the hotel got settled into our rooms then went to the lobby for a meet and greet with First Vice District Governors and plain old Lions from across the country.

It is my hope that many of my Lion friends and family at home watched the videos and photos that I shared chronicling my time at Leader Dog. Please take a look at The Rothsay Lions facebook page where you will find the videos and photos. We had an hour bus ride from the hotel to the Leader Dog facility. I was able to get to know a lion from Texas and shared a couple of Service Project Ideas and she took down some notes while I explained the projects to her. A Reverse Toy Drive and the Diaper Drive. While at Leader Dog I learned so many things. It is difficult to write about any one of them. I think one of the best experiences was helping to lead Juanita through Leader Dog. She is Blind and waiting for a dog. I was able to use some of the training from my two years as a CNA.

We traveled back to the hotel. This was the location for the highlight of the weekend Dining In The Dark. We dined to a meal of Chicken Marsala, broccoli, mashed potatoes, dinner roll and desert. I discovered that some of the bites were larger than I anticipated. I soon became full and was able to remove my blindfold. I discovered that I did not eat quite as much as I thought I had. The food was amazing.

I spent the remaining portion of the evening talking with the lions from MD5M were we realized how humbling the experience truly is. I will close by stating how grateful I am for this experience. So many things learned. As well as meeting new Lion friends from all over the United States. Thank you, Leader Dog, for this experience.

Yours in Service
First Vice District Governor
Diane Kunze

Message From 2nd Vice District Governor Joe Laudenbach



Fall Is a Great Time to Get Connected!

As we move into October, I want to take a moment to say THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Zone Fairs in August!

We had some great Zone Fairs, with Lions coming together, sharing ideas, talking about service, and—most importantly—having a little fun along the way. That’s what being a Lion is all about: connecting with each other so we can make an even bigger difference in our communities.

Zone Meetings Are for Everyone!

We already have a couple of Zone Meetings scheduled for this fall, with more coming soon.

And I want to make sure everyone knows something important:

You are all welcome to attend!

You don't have to be a Zone Chair.

You don't have to be a club officer.

You don't have to have a special reason to attend.

If you want to participate, learn something new, share an idea, meet other Lions, or simply see what is happening in your zone—you are welcome!

Zone Meetings are a great opportunity to:

- Meet Lions from other clubs
- Share ideas and successful projects
- Find out what other clubs are doing
- Talk about challenges and possible solutions
- Learn about upcoming Lions opportunities and training
- Build relationships between clubs
- Have some fun together!

Sometimes the best ideas come from simply sitting around a table with other Lions and asking, “What are you doing in your club?”

Keep having fun, keep serving, and keep spreading the joy of lionism!

Lion Joe Laudenbach

5M9 Second Vice District Governor



A Leader Who

Listens. Serves. Empowers. Delivers.

"I believe every Lion has a gift to share and the power to make a difference."

One invitation.

One moment of service.

One act of kindness.

One Lion can change the world.



MY PROMISE TO YOU

"I will be the voice for our members, a partner in our mission, and a leader who works for a stronger, brighter future for Lions everywhere."

— Denise Marie Laudenbach

WHAT TO EXPECT

- I lead with heart, integrity, and vision.
- I listen first and lead together.
- I turn ideas into action and challenges into opportunities.
- I am committed to every Lion and every community — globally.

WHO I AM

- A Lion leader, trainer, and motivator with a passion for people, growth and service.
- Proven leader at every level — **Past Council Chair, MD5M** and **Past District Governor, 5M9**.
- LCIP Certified Instructor, USA Lions & RLI Faculty, USA/Canada Forum facilitator, Lions University Doctorate.
- Sponsored 26 new Lions; helped build multiple new clubs.
- A relationship builder who believes in teamwork, mentorship, and celebrating success.

WHAT I STAND FOR

- Growing Lions through innovation, inclusion, and purpose.
- Strengthening clubs with training, resources and support.
- Expanding our impact through meaningful service and LCIF.
- Creating a culture where every Lion feels valued, heard, and inspired.
- Assuring the sustainability of Lions service — at home and around the world.

VOTE
2027

Cast your vote for Denise Marie Laudenbach for International Director.

MD5M Multiple District Convention • Rochester, Minnesota • April 2027

Delegates decide. Be the one who shows up — and bring another Lion with you.

Invite one. Impact many. Together, we can do more.

denisemarieforid@gmail.com
FB: Denise Marie Laudenbach for International Director • IG: @denise_marieforid

:
An Evening Behind Closed Doors
A Private Tour of the Lee Anderson Museum & Boat House
In support of Denise Marie Laudenbach



All Lions are invited to something truly rare — a private tour of the Lee Anderson Family's extraordinary collection at **5159 Nisswa Circle**, set against the golden colors of autumn on the lake. This exclusive evening is made possible through the Anderson Family's generosity in support of Denise's campaign for International Director.

Afterward, enjoy casual fellowship at **Jack Pine Brewery** beginning at **7:00 PM**.

Featuring: Native American Collection · Elite Worldwide Big Game Hunter Collection · Historic Antique Car Collection · Antique Boat Collection · and more

Date & Time: Saturday, October 10 · 4:00–7:00 PM, **Location:** Nisswa, MN · Lee Anderson Museum & Boat House. **Cost:** \$50 per person

Reserve Your Spot: Limited to the first 100 who respond. RSVP to **Dennis Heinen** — heinende@centracare.com · 320-491-3996



Gather in the Woods
A Private Luncheon & Celebration
In support of Denise Marie Laudenbach

Tucked into the woods at **5402 Hidden Lane** outside Brainerd, this private cottage sets the scene for an intimate autumn afternoon in support of Denise Marie Laudenbach. Enjoy a wonderful luncheon, bid on raffle items, and spend time with Denise and Joe. With room for only 60 guests, every seat belongs to someone who chose to be there.

Date & Time: Sunday, October 11 · 1:00–4:00 PM, **Location:** Brainerd, MN · Private Event Cottage **Cost:** \$100 per person

Reserve Your Spot: Only 60 reservations available — first come, first served.

RSVP to **Dennis Heinen** — heinende@centracare.com · 320-491-3996

Denise Marie Laudenbach for International Director

denisemarieforid@gmail.com · *Be the One.*

October 2026





Our **Hackensack Lions** bench is finally back in place. Lions Joe, Dean, Steve, Jeff, and Dave reinstalled it after finishing repairs from last year's car accident. Thank you to our Lions team for their hard work.



Park Rapids Lions raised \$4,271.29 in combined cash and products to support the Pregnancy Resource Center of Park Rapids during our 6th annual Diaper/Wipes collection drive.

McGregor Lions Corn Feed,

There were games for all ages at the '59th' Annual **McGregor Lions Corn Feed**, held Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. Kids enjoyed the inflatables; adults had the option of playing bingo with a guaranteed coverall prize of \$500. It was a picnic-like atmosphere and is truly the "Great Minnesota Get-Together" in McGregor! See you next year for our 60th.





Riverside Fergus Falls Lions invited representatives from the American Red Cross to their meeting. They learned about the local blood drives and how Lions can help with the event.

5M9 Zone Fair for Zones 3-4-5 August 20th hosted by the Crosslake Ideal Club. All had a great time!





left to right:

Palisade Lions Bruce Beck, Joe Pipp, Mark Greninger and Palisade Golf Tournament Chair Dave Redman present a check for \$678 to Lion Cora Hohnstadt, 5M9 Project Chair for Childhood Cancer and Kamp Kace.



It was a wonderful day of fun, friendship, remembrance, and raising money for a good cause. THANK YOU to everyone who stopped by Pirate's Cove Mini Golf and participated in the **Brainerd Lions Club** annual Putting For Dogs Fundraiser!

Join Us for a **COMMUNITY** *Evening*



GREAT FOOD • GREAT CAUSE • GREAT COMMUNITY



SEPTEMBER 18, 2026



4 TO 7 PM



**ROTHSAY
SCHOOL COMMONS**



Free Will Donation
**EVERY DONATION MAKES
A DIFFERENCE!**

— MENU —

- ✓ PULLED PORK SANDWICHES
- ✓ BAKED BEANS
- ✓ CHIPS
- ✓ BARS OR COOKIES
- ✓ COFFEE AND LEMONADE



Sponsored by the —

ROTHSAY LIONS

We Serve
**OUR COMMUNITY.
OUR PASSION.**



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER!





PANCAKE BREAKFAST

with an '80s twist!

**EAT
DRINK
RELIVE
THE '80s!**



**Sunday,
October 4th**
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM



The Center
803 Kingwood Street
Brainerd MN 56401

\$10
for Adults

\$5
for Youth

Come dressed in your best
'80s style
for a chance to win 1 of 3
door prizes!



Pillager Lions Fall Dinner



Friday November 6th 2026

Cost: \$15 – Adults, \$11 - Seniors (65+) & Children under 12, Under 5 Free

Meal: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetables, Cranberry sauce, Roll, Dessert & Beverage

Meat Raffles & Silent Auction with auction proceeds going to Special Olympics

5:00 to 7:00 PM or Until Gone

At the Pillager Community Center



2nd Annual Choose Kindness Smiles are for sharing! Community Event

at Forestview Middle School

Food!
Prizes!
Inspiration!
Vendors!

**Thursday
October 8**

5:30–7:30 pm

Watch for more information!!

Come together
with friends,
family, and
neighbors to
celebrate kindness
and strengthen
our community!



FREE TEXAS HOLD'EM NIGHT

Hosted by the Brainerd Lakes Area Poker League

Pillager Community Center – 207 E 2nd St, Pillager

2026 DATES – All Games Start at 6 PM

- Monday, October 19 – 6 PM
- Monday, November 16 – 6 PM
- Monday, December 21 – 6 PM

Doors open at 4:45 PM for meal service

Food, Raffles & Fun

- Cash-only venue
- **Food & Meat Raffles** provided by the Pillager Lions
- **Beverages** available from KC's Saloon
- All proceeds support the **Pillager Lions**

Come Learn, Play & Win

Whether you're new to Texas Hold'em or a seasoned player, join us for a fun night of cards, community, and prizes. **If you're one of the last 7 players standing—you win!**

October Menu

- Tomato Basil Soup — **\$5**
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich — **\$6**
- Soup & Sandwich Combo — **\$10**
- Pulled Pork, Chips & Slaw — **\$10**
- Pumpkin Bars — **\$1**





Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation



New LCI Director Lori Wick

Shirley Huff

Introducing Our New District 5M9 Director for the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation

Lion Lori Wick – Nisswa Lions Club

In December 2020, Lion Lori Wick moved to the Brainerd Lakes Area seeking a fresh start and a place to call home. Working remotely in a full-time management role made it difficult to meet people and get involved locally, but volunteering at the Northland Arboretum helped her begin building meaningful connections. Several moves later, her journey led her to Nisswa—and in July 2025, she knew she had finally found where she belonged.

A personal resolution to find deeper purpose, paired with a few well-timed Facebook posts from the Nisswa Lions Club, inspired Lori to join in January 2026. What began as a way to connect with her new community quickly grew into something much more. In just nine months, she has served with passion, built lasting friendships, and embraced the Lions family she now calls home.

Professionally, Lori has guided teams through restructurings, acquisitions, and major organizational changes. These experiences strengthened her skills in adaptability, teamwork, communication, and lifelong learning—qualities she now brings to her Lions service. She is grateful to Lion Lynn Christensen for welcoming and mentoring her as a new member, and to Lion Shirley Huff for her encouragement and support as Lori steps into this new leadership role.

Lori is honored to have been considered by Lions Denise Laudenbach and Jim Arvidson for the position of District 5M9 Director for the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation. She looks forward to helping advance the Foundation's mission and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely, Lion Lori Ann Wick

Supporting Vision Programs Locally

Lion Shirley Huff – Nisswa Lions Club

Assisting Lori at the local level is Lion Shirley Huff, a retired nurse with 24 years of experience at the Arkansas Department of Health. Her career included training new nurses, keeping staff current on policies, and helping develop new procedures—work that reflects her commitment to service and education.

Shirley moved to Minnesota three years ago and is grateful she did. She has been a proud member of the Nisswa Lions for two years, serving last year as Tail Twister and currently as First Vice President. Outside of Lions, she enjoys time on the lake, reading, movies, and quilting. Most of all, she values helping others and making a meaningful difference in their lives.

Lion Shirley Huff

KIDSIGHT VISION SCREENING

Big day for KidSight!

New York Mills Lions teamed up with Detroit Lakes Lions on Friday September 11th, and screened around 730 students at New York Mills school. Early detection matters, and thanks to our volunteers, 67 students were referred for follow-up care.

~730

STUDENTS
SCREENED

67

REFERRED FOR CARE

33 in grades K-6 • 34 in grades 7-12

Strong partnership. Strong community. Strong vision for our kids.



Can Do Canines Open House **Saturday, November 7, from noon to 2 p.m.** **9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, MN**

Potential volunteers, clients, or anyone who might be interested in finding out more about our organization can join us to learn how an assistance dog changes the life of a person with a disability.

Through a self-guided tour, attendees will be able to watch a trainer working with an assistance dog, hear from a volunteer dog host, talk with staff members from the volunteer department, pose questions to client services coordinators about the application process, and meet graduate teams from five of the types of dogs Can Do Canines trains: hearing, mobility, seizure, diabetes, and childhood autism.

There is no pre-registration for this event, though attendees will be asked to share some contact information when arriving.

To request a sign language interpreter for the Open House, please contact Laurie at lcarlson@candocanines.org or 763-331-3000 at least two weeks in advance. We'll do our best to accommodate late requests, but availability is not guaranteed.

More information about Can Do Canines is at CanDoCanines.org.



WANTED...

Gently Used LIONS ITEMS for LCIF



Your purchase will be
credited in your name
to LCIF!

THE EIGHT GLOBAL CAUSES OF LCIF



CHILDHOOD
CANCER



VISION



DIABETES



ENVIRONMENT



HUNGER



DISASTER
RELIEF



HUMANITARIAN
EFFORTS



YOUTH

Shop Local.
Support Global.

AT THE
5M9 LIONS
MID-WINTER CONVENTION
JANUARY 8-10, 2027



Together
We Serve!

District 5M9 Youth Outreach Poster Contest 2026-2027

Youth Outreach is asking that each club sponsor this contest in their school by awarding some prizes at the local level and to bring your winning poster to the Mid-Winter Convention Contest Rules:

1. Eligibility: Contest open to 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students in all schools in District 5M9.
2. Dates: Contest runs from now to the 5M9 Midwinter Convention.
3. Sponsoring clubs should plan to conduct the contest in November or December. Allow enough time for the students to complete the posters and for the collection of the posters so the club members can vote for their local winners at a meeting. The 1st place poster is brought to the convention.
4. Size: 18"x24" poster quality material. We recommend Pacon Tagboard; Item #5220; available at office supply stores and online. (@\$30 per 100) All others sizes will be disqualified.
5. Medium: Any directly applied paint, crayon, marker, pencil, etc. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the artwork in any way.
6. Suggested Subjects: Drug/Alcohol abuse, Anti-bullying, Peer pressure, Healthy living choices, Positive messages, Current and relevant topics, etc.
7. **NO COPYRIGHT SUBJECTS! NO LICENSED IMAGES!** (Cartoon characters).
8. Large lettering on the poster is encouraged, because it will show up better.

Keep the message simple. Posters should be similar to a highway billboard sign.

9. Have students put their name on the **back** of the poster, along with their school, grade, and sponsoring club. One student per poster; no partnering.
10. Judging: Each Lions club is to submit their winning poster to the District Youth Outreach Chairperson on or before 10:30 a.m. on Saturday of the Mid-Winter Convention in January. Everyone attending the convention will have a chance to vote for his or her favorite.
11. Winners will be announced prior to the close of the convention.
12. Prizes to be awarded by 5M9 Youth Outreach: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, 3rd place - \$50. All other participants will receive a \$25 gift card.
13. Poster images become the property of District 5M9 and may be used for display, etc.
14. Posters and prizes will be released to the sponsoring clubs at the end of the convention.

If you have any questions, contact:

Lion Evie Ladd
evieladd.5@gmail.com



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.



Through the Years: A Journey in Time by District 5m9 Historian Lion Zelda Novak

We serve. 



Lions served on September 11, 2001— a day our nation will never forget.

Shirley Brooks-Jones was on Delta Flight 15 headed from Frankfurt to Atlanta when her plane was diverted to Gander Newfoundland because of the terror attacks. Before long there would be 39 planes with 10,000 passengers and crew members on the tarmac. For four days, they were housed, fed and lovingly cared for by Canadians in Gander and other nearby towns.

Shirley was among 100 passengers driven 40 miles to hardscrabble Lewisporte, a tiny town with one main street. But it had an active Lions club with a clubhouse the size of a small gym. Brooks-Jones cried when she saw Lions greet them and fly about the club house to convert to a temporary shelter.

With no luggage, passengers had only the clothes on their backs and shoes on their feet.

Lions provided bedding, blankets, hygiene items including tampons. They cooked lavish meals and set up a bank of phones for use with no charge.

When she was finally on a plane heading home to Ohio she and another passenger had an idea to help the town of Lewisporte eventually raising over \$15,000 by the time the plane landed. She told her story to the Tri-Village Lions Club who invited her to become a Lion.

For the full article on Shirley and others, you can read it online in the July 22, 2021 edition of the Lions Magazine.

How LCIF Can Help Your Lions Club Create a Vision Project

Look. Listen. Lead to Serve. Every community has needs—some visible, some hidden. Vision is one of LCIF’s global causes, and it can become a powerful local opportunity for your club. Meaningful service begins by discovering what your community truly needs.

Start with the Need

Talk with schools, health professionals, families and community organizations to understand local vision challenges. Maybe students need screening equipment, families face barriers to care, or local partners are already serving people with vision loss. **The first step isn’t choosing a program—it’s learning what your community needs.**

The Bigger Question

“What could we accomplish if we worked together?” Your club brings local knowledge, volunteers and trusted relationships. LCIF expands that capacity through grants that support Lions’ compassionate service. When the need is bigger than one club’s resources, collective action makes a bigger vision possible.

Vision Project Possibilities

- **Support Vision Screening:** Provide or expand access to equipment and services.
- **Partner with Schools:** Identify student vision needs.
- **Build Community Partnerships:** Work with organizations already serving people with vision challenges.
- **Expand Access to Care:** Identify barriers and explore ways Lions can help.
- **Prevent Avoidable Blindness:** Develop projects that respond directly to local needs. **Let the community need determine the project.**

Five Steps to Start Your Vision Project

- 1 — Assess:** Discover the need through conversations with local partners.
- 2 — Define:** Describe who you will serve, what will change, and how success will be measured.
- 3 — Build:** Create a team of Lions and community partners.
- 4 — Explore:** Connect with your district LCIF Coordinator to learn about grant opportunities
- 5 — Engage:** Invite community members and partners to help shape and sustain the project.

Service Doesn’t Have to Fit in a Box

The Lions global causes—including Vision—are great starting points, but service comes in many forms. Don’t force a need into a predetermined box. Listen first, then act. When Lions combine service, collaboration and innovation, a local idea can become a much greater opportunity to make a difference.

Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion. And with LCIF, your club may be able to turn that need into an even greater opportunity to serve.

Contact Your 5M9 LCIF Coordinators

Erin Beck — elb_18@yahoo.com · 218-851-7267 **Linda Albrecht-Norby** — pdglinda@gmail.com · 218-298-4743

Have an idea? Start the conversation:

“What does our community need—and what could we accomplish together?”



DISTRICT 5M-9 ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST

2026-2027

JUDGING

All winners will be People's Choice.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, based on voting at the Midwinter Convention.

Voting will take place at the convention from Friday, January 8th through the morning of Saturday, January 9th.



WHO CAN ENTER:

The 2026-2027 Environmental Photo Contest is open to Lions and Leos in District 5M-9

HOW TO ENTER:

Each Lions and Leo club in District 5M-9 is invited to select and submit **one** entry by December 17, 2026. Mail the photo entry along with the entry form to:

Linnae Schansberg
32966 427th Street
Aitkin, MN 56431

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS:

- Photo must depict a nature theme (i.e. plants, animals, landscape, weather, etc.)
- Photo must have been taken in 2026
- Photo must be original and unaltered
- Photo must have been taken by the submitting Lion or Leo
- Photo must depict the local environment of the community the Lion or Leo serves
- Photo must not include people. Photos that include people will be disqualified
- Photo must be printed on high-quality **photo** paper and measure 8" x 10" (20.3 x 25.4 cm)

Questions? Contact 5M-9 Environmental Chair:
Lion Linnae Schansberg
linnsch61@gmail.com



5M9 Environmental Photo Contest 2026-2027 ENTRY FORM



Name of Photographer:	
Lions or Leo Club of Photographer:	
Email of Photographer:	
Title of Photo:	
Date Photo was Taken:	
Place Photo was Taken:	

RULES:

Each Lions and Leo **club** in District 5M9 is invited to select and submit **one** entry by December 17, 2026

- Photo must depict a nature theme (i.e. plants, animals, landscape, weather, etc.)
- Photo must have been taken in 2026
- Photo must be original and unaltered
- Photo must have been taken by the submitting Lion or Leo
- Photo must depict the local environment of the community the Lion or Leo serves
- Photo must not include people - photos that include people will be disqualified
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JUDGING:

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Voting will take place at the convention from Friday, January 8th through the morning of Saturday, January 9th.

Mail the photo entry along with the Entry Form to:

Lion Linnae Schansberg
32966 427th St.

Aitkin, MN 56431-4130

QUESTIONS?: Email Lion Linnae Schansberg at linnsch61@gmail.com



Message from your District Global Membership Team



Happy October!

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the September Membership Challenge! Membership growth has been outstanding! Thanks to everyone who invited prospective members to learn more about Lions and helped them feel welcome. Your efforts—and those of Lions who ensured current members felt included and valued—are strengthening our clubs and expanding our impact in the community.

Club Membership Chair Check-Ins

Our first check-in was on August 18 and was well attended, and participants agreed to continue meeting quarterly. A Zoom link will be sent one week before each meeting. If you did not receive an invitation to the first meeting, please contact me so I can add you to the email list.

Please save the following dates:

- **October 28, 2026 | 7–8 p.m.**
- **January 27, 2027 | 7–8 p.m.**
Topic: March Membership Challenge
- **April 28, 2027 | 7–8 p.m.**
Let's finish the Lions year strong!

Lions Learning Center

The Lions Learning Center offers valuable, easy-to-use courses and resources for membership chairs and other Lions leaders.

To access the Lions Learning Center:

1. Sign in to the **Lion Portal** using your email address and password.
2. Open the **Learn** application.
3. Select **Lions Learning Center**.
4. Browse the available courses and select one to begin.

Recommended courses and learning paths include:

Club Membership Chairperson Learning Path

- New Member Orientation Learning Path
- Effective Listening
- Introduction to Lions Quest
- Mentoring

Thank you for all you do to support membership and strengthen our clubs. Please contact me with any questions—or if you would like to brainstorm membership ideas.

Erica Keppers

ekeppers@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.



Take the Next Step IN YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY!
Learn. Lead. Connect. Serve.
REGISTER TODAY! SPACES ARE LIMITED!

TOGETHER, WE SERVE. ❤️ TOGETHER, WE LEAD.

SERVICE | DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE | INTEGRITY | COLLABORATION | DIVERSITY | INNOVATION

**Grow as a Leader. Connect with Lions.
Make a Greater Impact.**

Great leaders are not simply born, they are developed through experience, learning, and a willingness to grow. **Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI)** offers Lions an exciting opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills while connecting with fellow Lions who share a passion for serving their communities.

RLLI is designed for Lions who want to become more confident, effective leaders—whether they are stepping into their first leadership role or looking to sharpen skills they already have. Participants explore practical leadership strategies, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and ways to inspire others.

But RLLI is more than leadership skills. It is about **building relationships**. The friendships and connections made with Lions from across the region can become a valuable source of ideas, encouragement, and collaboration long after the institute ends.

So, if you've ever thought, *"I'd like to become a better leader,"* or *"I'd like to help my club become stronger,"* RLLI is a great place to start. Get registered today!

**Any questions please reach out to
GLT Michelle Nickolauson**

goodman.michelle@rocketmail.com

218-366-1111



Message from your District Global Service Team

Hello Lions of 5M9!

Lions and Leos around the world are coming together for the **Vision Week of Service**, taking place October 8–18, 2026. This special initiative unites clubs in service activities that help improve the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired while raising awareness about preventable vision loss.

Clubs can plan projects throughout the week, including activities connected to **World Sight Day on October 8** and **International White Cane Safety Day on October 15**. Possible service activities include vision screenings, eyeglass recycling, and other projects that support healthy vision and blindness prevention.

Vision Week of Service is an opportunity for your club to collaborate with community partners, invite new volunteers, and demonstrate the meaningful impact of Lions service. By serving together, we can expand our reach and help create healthier, more inclusive communities.

We encourage 5M9 Lions to participate, share the opportunity with friends and community organizations, and report our service through the Lion Portal. Together, we can help make vision care and support more accessibility to those in need.

Learn more: [Weeks of Service](#) or this specific [Vision Week of Service](#) for project ideas on the Lions International website.

If you have any questions or need any help with service projects or the Lions Portal, please let me know.

Also, if you have ideas on a district-wide service project we can do together next Spring, please reach out to me at toddshansberg@gmail.com or 612-518-7947.

Thank you for your service and your support with the GST.

Lion Todd Schansberg





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!

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:



**2026-2027
MINNESOTA
RETREATS**

2026 OCTOBER 2-4
Good Earth Village - Spring Valley, MN
2026 DECEMBER 4-6
Faith Haven Camp near Battle Lake, MN
2027 APRIL 30 - MAY 2
Camp Shetek near Slayton, MN
2027 JUNE 4-6
Osprey Wilds near Sandstone, MN



Save the Date!

Thanksgiving for Vision

Saving and Restoring
people's sight

OCTOBER 24, 2026

Holiday Inn & Suites
ST. CLOUD, MN

More Details Coming Soon!

ChatGPT



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.

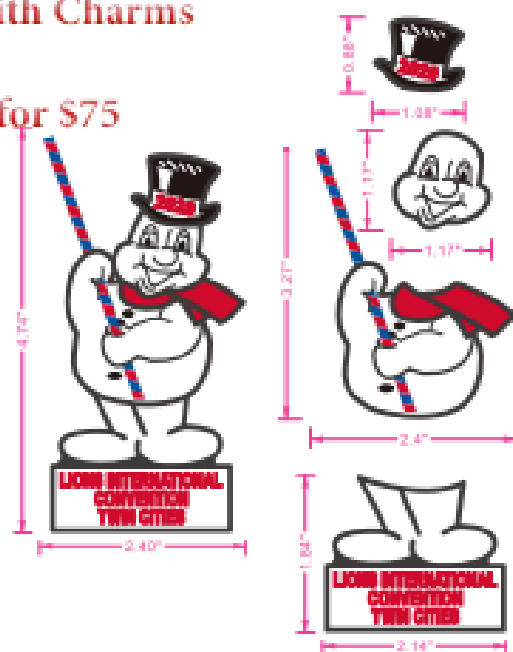
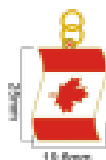
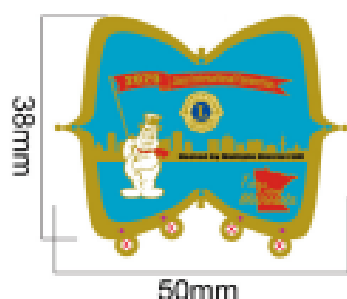
\$50 per piece for a total of \$200

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	October	November
Sheri	2	AITKIN	10/20/26	
Sheri	3	BACKUS	10/1/26	
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	2	MCGREGOR	10/19/26	
Diane	4	PARK RAPIDS	10/13/26	
Diane	5	WADENA	10/12/2026	
		CABINET MEETINGS		11/1/26
		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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Newsletter Editor

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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)

