



We Serve

www.5m7.org
FB: 5m7Lions

The Gram

December 2023



The latest news, views, and announcements for District 5m7

2023-24 5M7 Cabinet

DG Peter Lendway
1st VDG Mary Lea Curtis
2nd VDG Deb Weston
Sec/Treas Jim Pokela
IPDG Mark Landwehr

Zone Chairs:

Zone 1:
Zone 2:
Zone 3: Nancy Senn
Zone 4: Deb Weston
Zone 5: Angie Sedesky
Zone 6: Pete Yelle
Zone 7: Nancy Johnson
Zone 8: Cathy Kaiser
Zone 9: Vern Koepp

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Find Your Roar!

Hello Lions and Leos!

It is December. The Lions year is almost half over. Before you know it we will be meeting at the 5M7 Mid-winter Convention on January 12-14, 2024 at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud!

How is your clubs Community Needs Assessment efforts been going? Has your club done a new project this year? Or maybe tweaked one? Has it done a new fundraiser? Or made slight changes to one making it appeal to more members of the community? Come to the 5M7 Mid-winter Convention to share what you did that worked and what didn't. We can all learn from each other while having fun.

We are going to incorporate the giving of awards throughout our time at the convention so if you have Lions that have done outstanding work and you want to recognize them let me know and I'll see it is worked into the convention. We have Model Club Awards, Club Excellence Awards, Peace Poster Contest Awards, and we will recognize the length of service of some Lions in District 5M7. Come and celebrate!

It is December! I know I said it at the beginning of this article. I also know I don't need to remind everyone that with it comes the cold mornings, snow, and icy roads. It's a fact of life here in Minnesota. What also comes with winter is opportunities to serve the community through food baskets, toys, the occasional furnace repair or utility bill payment. Lions serve in summer or winter, hot weather or cold, wet or dry. Lives are made better and are saved because of you. Yes, you! I thank you, and your community thanks you.

Have a wonderful Christmas Day month!

Find Your Roar!

DG Peter



Greetings Fellow Lions and Leo's

By 1VDG Lion Mary Lea Curtis

Happy Holidays fellow Lions and Leos!

I can't believe it is December already. I trust everyone started off this season, that's rich of tradition, with a satisfying amount of turkey, football and possibly some shopping. Traditions look different from family to family. I'm sure they have even transformed over the years. How many of you have that family recipe that has been modified to be a tad bit healthier than that of our ancestors? I'm sure it is still tasty and quite satisfying.

Our Lions clubs are also rich in tradition. Have you tweaked things to match the current day? Change doesn't mean we throw out the old, it is a process to enhance and improve the tried and true. DG Peter wants us to do just that. His goal is for clubs to perform a community assessment that hopefully leads to a new project being added to your club legacy. International President Dr. Patti Hill's theme is 'Change the World'. Will a change in your Lions club - make a change in your community, towards that change for a better world?

Speaking of tradition, it's almost Midwinter Convention time! Does your club traditionally participate? Do you send delegates to vote on district matters and the upcoming governor team? Do you contribute to the Parade of Green? If not, maybe it is time to change and make attending the Midwinter Convention a club tradition.

You can expect thought-provoking speakers, the latest news from our visiting International Director, Celebration of Life Ceremony, silent auction, KidSight training and most importantly a good time! Whew, so much to soak in and enhance your experience as a Lion! Why wouldn't you want to attend?

DG Peter's Theme for this year is 'Find Your Roar', with his convention theme being 'Discover Your Passion'. Come socialize with your fellow Lions. Learn what makes them Roar. Share your traditions. Be the change. Discover updates and additions that will enhance your club traditions.

Have a blessed holiday season. May it be packed full of tradition - tried, true and a little bit new. See you in 2024.

1VDG Lion Mary Curtis



Dear Lions and Leos,

By 2VDG Lion Deb Weston



I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I had one of the best Thanksgivings ever. I spent Thanksgiving week in Branson with some of my family and as my 11-year-old grandson said, "They sure know how to celebrate Christmas in Branson and I'm full of 'Christmas Spirit'!!! We've never seen so many Christmas lights and displays. It was magical. It was truly the best way to kickoff the holiday season!

On December 3rd my Lion's Club will be kicking off Christmas with our "Breakfast with Santa" and Kidsight is providing free eye screening for the children. I'm sure a number of clubs are doing the same which is a wonderful way to serve our communities. This is a fabulous way to provide a valuable service project and an excellent way to recruit Lions.

Speaking of service projects, has your club reported all its service projects for the year? It is so important that you do so. I received this information from Lions International and want to pass it on to you: "One of the many ways you provide value is by ensuring club service is reported. Lions and Leos served over 539 million people in the 2022-23 Lion year. We can take pride in that achievement thanks to those who reported over 1.5 million service activities around the world. For every club, service reporting provides even more value, including:

- Enabling stronger club communications
- Showing your club's effectiveness
- Providing insight to current and future Lion leaders

In addition, clubs that report service become eligible for awards and recognition, including the Kindness Matters Service Award and the Club Excellence Award.

Reporting service is easy and you can learn more about service reporting and the benefits for your club by going to Lions International service reporting website. Scroll down to Vimeo which will take you to the video and show you how to report service. If you have questions or need help, contact me at dweston2217@gmail.com.

I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Lion Deb Weston, 2 VDG



Hello Lions and Leos,

By Lion Judy Herrala

Our club and individual donations to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) have helped so many around the world. Our donations help with vision, diabetes, disasters, childhood cancer, the environment and much more. With our donations, we are making this world a better place. There is a section of the Lions website dedicated to stories from all over the world about how LCIF is helping people. It is worth the read.

For every \$1,000.00 that your club gives to LCIF, your club is eligible to give a Melvin Jones Fellowship/ Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship to a deserving member or a deserving community member. Let us know if you would like to know how many Melvin Jones credits your club has for the fellowships. We can look this up for you. I have news recently that there has been 6-8 weeks lead time needed to receive a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Begin thinking now about who your club would like to honor with a Melvin Jones Fellowship and get the application in early so your club will not be disappointed if it doesn't come in time for your presentation date.

Save the Date !!

GREEN

Paint the Town RED

LCIF Gala

Sat, April 13, 2024

Prairie Event Center
Parkers Prairie, MN

*A fun filled day of fundraising,
dining, presentations, and laughter.*



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

If you have questions you may contact myself or IPDG Mark. You may also email Donorassistance@lionsclubs.org and they will assist you.

Your LCIF Coordinators
IPDG Mark Landwehr
mrlandwehr55@gmail.com
612-366-1331

IPDG Judy Herrala
JLHBELLS@earthlink.net
763-753-6962

'WE CARE, WE SERVE, WE ACCOMPLISH'



MISSION 1.5

By Lion Judy Herrala

Dear Lions and Leos,

Consider attending the seminar sessions at the Mid-Winter Convention January 12-14, 2024. Actually I think you will want to attend the entire convention. The first seminar of the day on Saturday will have Jay Norby speaking about Membership and the Global Membership Approach (GMA). Jay Norby is the CA1 GAT Area "C" Leader. His area includes ND/SD/MN/IA and Wisconsin. The Global Membership Approach Process is designed to re-motivate and re-invigorate existing clubs.

It has been proven over and over that clubs who take the time to do the GMA process come out healthier, with new members, new service and a renewed sense of purpose.

Mission 1.5 webpage: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/mission-to-grow>

Global Membership Approach (GMA) webpage: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/global-membership-approach>

While you attend the convention for the membership aspect of things, why not come for the three day event, stay at the hotel, meet new friends who will become life-long friends, and have a very good time. Registration will be easy with online registration this year! We will be holding a silent auction this year with the proceeds going to childhood cancer. We will be having a birthday party for Lion Melvin Jones as January 13th is his birthday! There will be two live bands and hospitality rooms! Come one, come all and have some fun in the middle of January. We can't wait to see you there!

Lion Judy Herrala, GMT

GAMBLING UPDATE

Submitted by: Lion Amanda Jackson



**5M7 MidWinter
Gambling Seminar**
January 12th, 2023 @ 1PM

Bestwestern Kelly Inn
100 4th Ave S - St. Cloud

**Seminar does qualify as continuing education for
gambling managers.**

Questions? Email or Call Lion Amanda Jackson
763-286-5039 amandakins@comcast.net

CONVENTIONS/FORUMS

Lions and Leos,

District Governor Peter and the convention committee invite you to our Forty-sixth **Annual Mid-Winter Convention at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud on January 12-14, 2024**. The address for this hotel is: 1000 4th Ave S., St. Cloud, MN 56301.

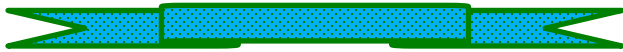
New this year is online registration. There are two parts to registration. Your convention meal package, and the hotel. This year we have the ability to register online for the convention meal package, for the first time ever for this convention. The link to that website to register online will be sent to your club officers very soon.

On the registration website, you will also find the link to the hotel to register for a room online, or you can call the telephone number at the hotel to reserve your room. You will also find our schedule, speaker biographies, and much more.

LOOK FOR THE 5M7 CONVENTION REGISTRATION PACKET EMAILED WITH THIS COPY OF THE GRAM AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT.

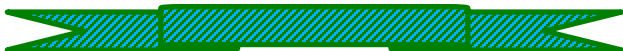
You will also find all convention documents on our 5m7 website: <http://www.5m7.org> by clicking on the Convention/Forums tab. Please let us know if you have questions or need more information.

PDG Judy Herrala and IPDG Mark Landwehr
Conventions and Forums Co-chairs



Consider attending the **104th Multiple District 5M Convention** in Winnipeg, , MB, Canada April 19-21, 2024. You will find the registration form on our 5m7 website and it is also on the MD5M website. Full registration for this is \$165 US dollars OR \$220.00 CDN. Conventions are a wonderful time to meet up with friends and make some new friends. There are many opportunities to think outside of our own clubs and districts and meet even more new friends from around the world.

<https://lionsmd5m.org/2023-md5m-convention>



The **USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum** to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, September 5-7, 2024. The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Louisville, Kentucky, offers an unparalleled blend of enriching learning opportunities and delightful recreational activities.



5M7 Mid-Winter Convention

Discover Your Passion

District Governor Peter would like us to "Discover our Passion" this year at convention. Do you know what happens to people when they become passionate about something?

- We lose track of time
- Our batteries get charged
- We want to know more
- We can't stop thinking about it
- It is easy to meet people interested in it

It is time to lose ourselves in a weekend of fun and celebration with our fellow Lions.



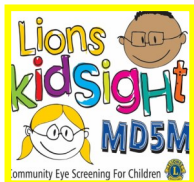
District Governor Peter Lendway and the convention committee invite you to:

Come one, come all...to our **5m7 46th Annual Mid-Winter Convention at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St Cloud. January 12-14, 2023**

More information is to come soon to your club, facebook, website and the Gram.

Stay tuned!

Lion Judy , Convention Co-Chair



Lions and Leo

By Lion Mary Lea Curtis

KidSight had a wonderful fall. Vision screenings kept us busy. We Love it! So much so, we wish we were doing more. It is so satisfying knowing we are part of an important step in the process of our Children Seeing Clearly.

Don't you want to be part of the action? Are you wondering what the excitement is all about or how to get started? You are in luck! We will be doing a KidSight Training session at the Midwinter Convention next month. We are on the schedule Saturday afternoon. Please join us. We'll teach you how the machines work along with what you need to know to get started. Make KidSight Screening part of your service as a Lion. You can do KidSight screening as a club or individual. We can always use a free Lion to help with vision screenings around the district. We hope to see you at Midwinter. Let's fill the room!

Please consider donating to our KidSight Foundation on the **Parade Of Green**. We are still considered a relatively new foundation. Donations are greatly appreciated and needed to help us grow to our full potential. Club and individual contributions totaling \$1,000 are eligible for a Sight Saver Award. You may present it to deserving individuals or partners dedicated to Children Seeing Clearly. We'd love your help in keeping our award maker busy!

Lions Mary Lea Curtis and Debra Johnson, 5M7 Directors,
MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation
5m7lionskidsight@gmail.com

Vision screening is not the goal, it is the method we use to reach our goal of every child seeing clearly!



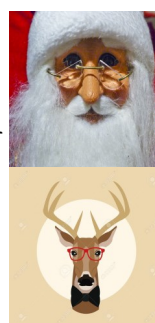
LIONS AND LEOS

By Lion Steve Linder

Got Glasses? Remember the Greatest Mid Winter Convention is coming up January's 12-14 2024. The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation will have a table set up with tons of information for FREE. Glasses wipes, pencils, and lots of other great things.

We will also be collecting used eyeglasses, so please bring them in. **Please no glass cases!** If you need to get rid of boxes used eyeglasses before mid-winter call PDG Terry Wold or me and we'll make arrangements to pick them up. Come on over to St. Cloud for the 5M7 Mid-Winter Convention and join us for the fun! Thank you for all you do.

PDG Steve Linder 612-382-2236 Slinder71@usfamily
PDG Terry Wold 612-759-5433 terry_wold@hotmail.com
MLVF 5m7 Directors



Santa and Rudolph are donating their glasses.....



Camps

By Lion Theresa Goff

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:

2023-24 MINNESOTA RETREATS

2023 JUNE 9-11
Osprey Wilds near Sandstone, MN

2023 SEPT. 29 - OCT. 1
Good Earth Village - Spring Valley, MN

2023 DECEMBER 1-3
Inspiration Point near Vining, MN

It is our goal to provide combat veterans and their families with the education, training, and skills necessary to manage their lives after wartime service; repair of relationships is a primary goal. And of course, have fun in the process!

12/1/23 to
12/3/23 Inspiration Point, Vining M



Let's help True Friends restock their Craft Supplies!!

Looking for NEW, UNUSED:

- Construction Paper
- Paints
- Markers
- Sidewalk Chalk

Please help True Friends!



Simply purchase any of these items. You can bring them to the Mid-Winter Convention or contact me to make arrangements.

Thank you!

Lion Theresa Goff, 5M-7 Camps Chair (t-m-goff@hotmail.com/612.799.2770)



Greetings 5m7 Lions and Leos

By Lion Judy Herrala

THANK YOU to all of our 5m7 clubs and individuals who generously support the MN Lions Diabetes Foundation! Every dollar counts to further our mission as Lions for our foundation. Our mission states, *"The Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with diabetes by funding research to cure diabetes, providing education and sponsoring preventive health activities."*

This month I would like to share some **SERVICE PROJECTS** for diabetes that your club could very easily do. DG Peter is asking clubs to find a NEW project this year and this would be a great way to tell him, "We did it!" Here are some diabetes projects that could be easily executed by your club:

- Donate a diabetes magazine subscription or diabetes-related books to your local library.
- Sponsor a child to attend a diabetes camp and/or supply a camp with needed supplies.
- Post monthly notices on your club website and social media, sharing available community resources for people with or at risk of diabetes.
- Organize a Strides: Lions for Diabetes Awareness event in your community.
- Develop a list of patient resources and services and distribute them to Lions and the public.
- Find a Diabetes educator to visit your local senior citizens group.
- Hand out the Diabetes Risk Assessment to the public at your club events.
- Ask all of your club members to take the Diabetes Risk Assessment.

The above are very easy projects for diabetes to execute with your club in your community. Most people who have Type 2 diabetes do not know it and we can increase the Awareness!

Remember the Diabetes Pigs? Many years ago, each club had the opportunity to "get a piggy bank" from our diabetes chair. I know that some clubs still have those banks. Recently I brought a large piggy bank to a cabinet meeting and asked for donations of pocket change from our cabinet members. Our cabinet leaders put approximately \$20.00 worth of coins in the piggy bank that evening. We raised these funds for the MN Lions Diabetes Foundation in just a few minutes by passing the pig. Your club can do this! Let's dig out those piggy banks and bring them to each of our meetings asking for pocket change. It all adds up!

Thank you to every one of our 5m7 clubs for considering a diabetes project this year! Please remember the MN Lions Diabetes Foundation when you are discussing your donations for the **Parade of Green** in your clubs. The MN Lions Diabetes Foundation is funded by donations like ours in partnership with other entities.

Lion Judy Herrala, 5m7 MLDF co-trustee

JLHBELLS@earthlink.net

Lion Mike Edwards, 5m7 co-trustee; co-treasurer

mnedwards1@bellsouth.net

Lions Diabetes Foundation

GREETINGS FELLOW LIONS AND LEOS

By Lion Mike Benedetto

MD5M Hearing Trustee



The goal of the **Affordable Hearing Aid Program** is to help individuals who have a hearing loss and limited financial resources. The hearing foundation helps them find hearing aids at prices that are affordable to them, no matter how limited their financial resources may be.

The Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation accomplishes this by collecting used hearing aids. These used hearing aids are then sold to hearing manufacturers who use them for their repair services. The funds generated, along with negotiated rates from manufacturers, audiologists, and hearing aid dispensers, are used to purchase hearing aids at greatly reduced prices. Your contribution of used hearing aids makes a significant difference in the lives of those who would simply slip through the cracks. If you have someone in need who is interested in this program, you can contact your District Trustee Lion Mike Benedetto

SOME BRIEF UPDATES.....

* Club contributions and Memorial contributions to the Lions Hearing Foundation can be sent to:

Minnesota Hearing Foundation, Treasurer Rose Thies
21515 371st Ave. Green Isle, MN 55358

* If you would like to have a short Lions Hearing Foundation talk at one of your meetings, please contact Mike Benedetto mnededet@smumn.edu

* 5M7 is still in need of another Lions member from our district to serve as a Hearing Foundation Trustee. See our ad on the Classified page. Contact Mike Benedetto 612-735-5423.

* Please stop by the Hearing Foundation booth at our Mid-winter Convention in January. We'll have some hearing foundations take homes!

LITPC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



The Lions International Trading Pin Club (LITPC) has announced for the 2023 – 2024 school year that there will be 4 US \$2,500 scholarships awarded. Graduating Leos OR graduating sons/daughters, grandsons/granddaughters of Lions are eligible to apply for the LITPC Youth Scholarship. The LITPC goal is to help our future leaders and give students a financial helping hand. This program started in 2012. Recipients have been from Connecticut (2), Delaware (2), Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota (4), New York (3), Ohio (4), Oklahoma (2), Pennsylvania (2) and Virginia (6). The 2024 recipients will be announced at the LITPC Annual Meeting in 2024.

To obtain the current LITPC Youth Scholarship information:

1. Go to the LITPC website: www.litpc.org
2. In the left column, click on LITPC Scholarship Forms.
3. Then click on LITPC Scholarship Information.
4. When that page comes up, click on Scholarship Application Form. Read and follow ALL directions. Be sure to fill out ALL the forms neatly and correctly which includes the 4 essay questions (in 350 words or less) and the question about scholarships that you have been offered along with submitting a certified copy of your high school transcript including activities. Plus you also need to attach recommendations from 2 persons (i.e. teacher, coach, clergy, employer, etc.) AND attach a recommendation letter from a Lions Club member indicating the name of the Club and state/province and country in which the Club is located. **ALL forms and letters are to be submitted by MARCH 1, 2024 to:** Lions Bill & Marcia Guthrie, Scholarship Chairman at 9 101st Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 (763-786-8072) email: bmguthrie9@q.com. You can either mail us your application OR email it to us. THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!! *The LITPC fulfills the motto of Lions Clubs International – "WE SERVE"*



MN LIONS CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION

By IPDG Lion Mark Landwehr

Hello fellow Lions and Leos of the great 5M7

I had a wonderful Thanksgiving with my family, I hope you all enjoyed yours as well. It's amazing how fast this year has gone by. They say the older you get the faster time flies. If that's true I'll probably still be eating Thanksgiving turkey leftovers on July 4th and loving it when I am 90.

I started playing senior softball twice a week. I still have the attitude of an eighteen year old which gets my 68 year old body in some tough spots. I usually hurt for two days after a game; lucky for me we only play two games a week. I don't dare complain to my wife, you know what she would tell me. "Quit playing so hard you old coot." I haven't always listened to good advice from her for 45 years, probably won't about playing ball either. Time to get serious.

I'm the chairperson for the **Mn Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation in the 5M7**. I suspect many of you have heard about this foundation but I'd like to share a few facts with you. First, the Mn Childhood Cancer Foundation is relatively new. Incorporated on August 12, 2019. We are a 501(c)3 charitable organization so we can accept donations from your charitable gambling contributions.

Our goal was to raise \$100,000 in the 2019-2020 Lions year to help fund programs and research for children with cancer at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital. That year we raised \$300,000. We are still contributing to them. Why is this important? Have you seen the commercials put out by St. Jude's? They do a wonderful job explaining why it's important to support cancer research hospitals. It makes me cry when I watch these commercials. What they don't let people know is that the majority of money they raise is not spent in Minnesota for childhood cancer. They don't treat any children that have cancer in Minnesota. One hundred percent of the money raised by the Lions Mn Childhood Cancer Foundation stays in Minnesota. In addition to the research we support we also give to Kamp K.A.C.E. (Kids Against Cancer Everywhere) which helps provide a camp experience for kids who have cancer and their siblings. We also fund a matching grant program that enables a family who has a child with cancer and gets \$500 from a Lions Club to receive an additional \$500 from our foundation, no questions asked.

Please support our Mn Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation at the **Parade of Green** at our upcoming Lions Mid-Winter Convention. We have a Believe Award that has been established to recognize Clubs and individuals who have donated \$1000 to this worthy cause.

Please come to the 5M7 Lions Midwinter Convention at the Kelly Inn in Saint Cloud January 12-14. Enjoy yourself and give generously to the Parade of Green. See who jumps in the pool this year

IPDG Mark Landwehr

Some people live an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world; Lions don't have that problem.



Quartz Becomes Rock Star for Zack

Zack, who is in his late 20s, has always wanted a dog. His parents playfully tease him that he “took it a little too far by getting sick,” though.

In late 2020, Zack developed drug-resistant epilepsy as a result of an infection. He was in a medically induced coma for five weeks and continues having outpatient treatment at Mayo Clinic. It was one of his occupational therapists there who suggested Zack apply for a Can Do Canine.

Trained as a Seizure Assist Dog, Quartz is providing more independence and freedom for Zack. On their very first day together, Zack took her for a walk, leaving his house by himself for the first time in years. “Yes! I get to take the dog for a walk,” says Zack, excitedly, of the now frequent activity.

With Quartz by his side, Zack feels confident and secure. Prior to having her, he felt hampered by “not being able to do anything by myself without having fear of having a seizure out of nowhere.” These days, if one occurs, Quartz can get a phone for him, help him recover faster by licking him, provide deep-pressure therapy, and find a person in the home who can offer assistance. “Just having her next to me to comfort me in a scary situation is really nice,” admits Zack.

Quartz has a keen awareness of Zack’s symptoms. When Zack feels an episode coming on, he might sit down, and Quartz seems to know instinctively that her service is needed. Even if she’s keeping an eye on Zack from another room, she’ll rush to his side and put her skills into action.

Learning all of the commands for Quartz was no small feat for Zack. His mom, Lu, explains, “As someone who has memory issues, he was particularly challenged by that.” Quartz was patient with Zack through the training process, though, and reserved deploying one of her signature sighs. “She’s very much a drama queen,” Zack says of the dog whose small ears remind him of Dorito chips.

Though Zack won’t be able to return to his career as a restaurant cook, his world is gradually expanding thanks to Quartz, and he hopes to have a job again in the future.

The volunteer job of raising assistance dogs like Quartz is something this family deeply commends. Lu shares, “The fact that people raise a puppy and then say, ‘Okay, here you go’ and are willing to give their time, love, and their energy ... it’s just amazing to me.”

So Zack, who always wanted a dog, now has not just any dog, but his own world-expanding dog, Quartz.



PRISON PROGRAM

Prior to the holidays each year, we send the inmates who participate in our Prison Program thank-you cards and new toys and treats for their dogs. If you can help fetch us some more supplies, please see our Prison Program Toy Drive Amazon Wish List of approved toys. If you do shop on Amazon, you can have the items shipped directly to our office. You are also welcome to buy approved items at your preferred pet supply store.

You can bring your donations to our reception desk between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. any weekday or on Saturday, November 11, between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (while we are setting up and hosting our open house). **The deadline to turn in items is Thursday, December 1.** Thanks for your help with this!





5m7 Leo Clubs

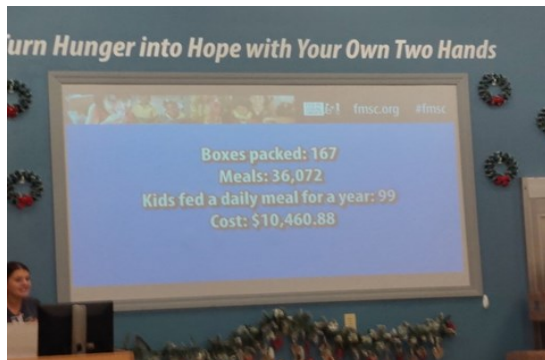
*Anoka, Andover, Blaine, Coon Rapids,
Rush City, and Spring Lake Park*

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS.....

Rush City Leos have helped the RC Lions do KidSight Vision Screening at Jacobson Elementary School, they served refreshments at the Veterans Day event in Rush City, and they tied blankets to be distributed by the local Food Shelf.



On November 2nd the **Leos and Lions of 5m7** joined together to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapid. It was a great time to gather and give back together. We have some Leos that had never packed before.



If you are interested in getting more involved with a Leo club, or would be interested in starting a Leo Club, please contact: Lion Stefanie Nelson 612-298-1523 or stefanieenelson@gmail.com

Season's Greetings to all from the 5m7 Leo's!



5M7 YOUTH EXCHANGE REPORT

Submitted by: Lion Stefanie Nelson 5M7 Youth Exchange Chair 23-24

Lions and Leos,

January 2024 is coming up quickly- still time to think about hosting. Please consider this amazing opportunity to serve the youth coming to experience Minnesota. Registrations are starting to come in and holding space.



Lion Stefanie Nelson 612-298-1523
stefanieenelson@gmail.com



LEOS MIDWINTER SERVICE PROJECT



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

BEST WESTERN KELLY INN
ST. CLOUD

2PM-4PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

COME AND HELP SERVE THE COMMUNITY

AT THE MID-WINTER CONVENTION

BENEFITING BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS

AND 180 DEGREES YOUTH SHELTER



Lions and Leos

By Lion Judie Zaske



Apparently my request for clubs to send me pictures and info on their environmental project paid off! Coon Rapids Lions Club sent me an article along with pictures of their

Memorial Garden. I know there are others out there and I want to highlight them all! So don't be shy and send me what your club is doing for the environment in your park or your city. So which club will be the next one to be highlighted?

MEMORIAL GARDEN IN LIONS COON CREEK PARK

COON RAPIDS by Lion Marcia Guthrie, Coord of Memorial Garden

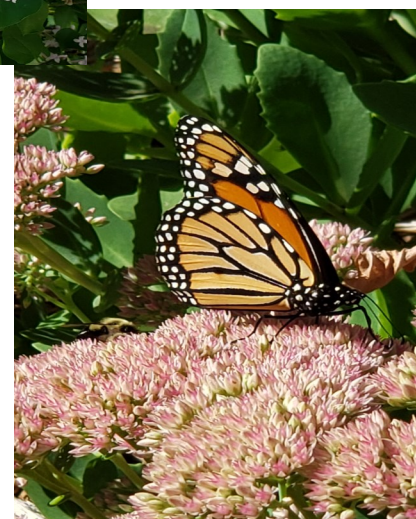
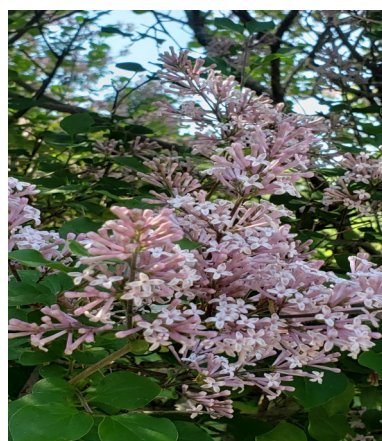
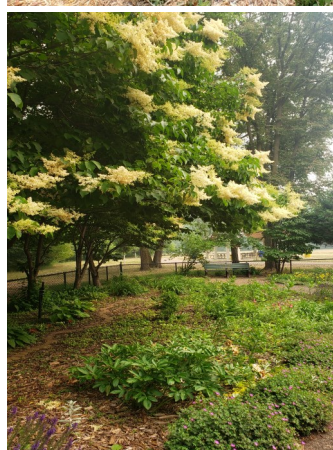
Lions Coon Creek Park, 1664 119th Avenue NW, Coon Rapids, MN, was started with a short ceremony to commemorate the beginning of the park on November 1, 1986 and construction of the park began in 1987. It was done in 3 phases. The park opened in 1990.

In 1999, the Lions Memorial Garden was constructed. The garden is 40 feet by 80 feet. It is watered by an automatic sprinkling system. In the beginning, a landscaping company did all the planting in the garden of both perennials and annuals and trees and maintained it for several years. Starting in 2008, several members of both the Coon Rapids Lions Club and Coon Rapids Lioness Club volunteered in the Memorial Garden for Spring clean-up and planting and mulching and then Fall clean-up.

Starting in 2012 and to the present, the City of Coon Rapids donates annuals for us to plant and also donates the mulch for us to use in the garden. In 2016, one of the sections of the garden was entirely run over with weeds. Two Coon Rapids Lions Club members hired and paid for a landscaping company to come in and dig up the whole area. The landscapers placed 3 boulders in that section and NEW perennial plants and grasses were planted (approximately 60)!!

In 2022, Coon Rapids Lions Club volunteers in 5 visits to the Memorial Garden volunteered a TOTAL of 60 ½ hours!! In 2023, Coon Rapids Lions Club volunteers in 4 visits to the Memorial Garden volunteered a TOTAL of 51 hours!! These times included time spent with Spring Cleanup, the planting of flowers, spreading of mulch and Fall cleanup!! Every time we work in the Memorial Garden, the volunteer form is filled out by me indicating that it is an Environment Cause and Service as the Project Type.

EVERYONE who comes to the Memorial Garden LOVES what we have done!! In fact, many families will spend time in the Garden sitting on the benches relaxing and enjoying the beauty of NATURE!! ENJOY the pictures that show just some of what is in our Lions Memorial Garden!!



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS

The **LC of Big Lake Lioness** will be holding their annual Shopping with Santa for kids on Saturday December 9th from 9am - 11am at the Lions Park on CR 5. We know you'll find that special gift for friends and family! Kidsight will be there too!



Howard Lake Lions will be holding a Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 3rd serving from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at our Howard Lake Lions Hall.

Forest Lake Lions are sharing a Waffle Breakfast, Saturday December 2, 2023 8 am ~ 12:00 pm All you can eat, waffles, sausage, juice and coffee! Enjoy a wonderful breakfast, visit with your neighbors, make some new friends and bring your camera for a picture with Santa!



The **Forest Lake Lions** once again offered the Peace Poster Contest to our local elementary school. The students worked really hard and here are the top 3 winners shown here with our own Lion Lou!!!



1st place (middle) Frankie Sherman, 2nd place (left) Kate Pearson, 3rd place (Right) Suri Waddle

Toys for Tots, Forest Lake Lions are collecting for our yearly Toys for Tots donations! These toys will be going to our local children and teens. We will be collecting until December 8, 2023 and our goal is to get a gift to every child this holiday!!



Forest Lake Lions Carol and Dale were proud to attend the 2023 Thanksgiving for Vision event to celebrate the gift of sight. Lions Carol and Dale were excited to learn about the updates on the work of Minnesota Lions in supporting the U of M Department of

Ophthalmology and Visual Neuroscience eye program, They are working on preserving and restoring the gift of sight ~ how incredible is that!!!

Forest Lake Lions filled a request from Lion Steve Brunner for funding of a local Turkey Bingo event at a local church. After an evening of fun, and fellowship the group was proud to have raised over \$1200. for the local food shelf!! Right before Thanksgiving ~ perfect timing!!!



From Andover Lions

1ST ANNUAL LIONS BAG FUNDRAISER
PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE ANDOVER LIONS

\$199 1ST PLACE TEAM WINNER
\$99 2ND PLACE TEAM WINNER

SATURDAY, JAN. 20TH
12:00PM | REGISTRATION STARTS AT 11:15AM

COURTYARDS OF ANDOVER:
13545 MARTIN ST.
NW ANDOVER

FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

\$40 PER TEAM

PRE-REGISTER BY
EMAILING KATHY KOLB
AT KOLBKATHY@YAHOO.COM

PLEASE PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS NAMES, TEAM NAME, AND CONTACT NUMBER.



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS

Save
the
Date!

The **Andover Lions** will be hosting a Bags/Cornhole Tournament January 20th 2024 10am – 6pm at Court-yards of Andover. I'd like to ask that each club attend or donate to this tournament as we are trying to raise funds for our community and beyond. We hope this is a success and are really looking forward to it. It should be a great time.

Big Lake Lions 50th Anniversary on Saturday, December 2nd at Lions Park on CR 5 in Big Lake from 12n-2pm. Share in the potluck with a dish to share!. All are welcomed to attend!



The **Montrose Lions Club** have completed our 6th year of Kidsight Screening at the Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose elementary schools. This year we screened 764 children with 64 referrals.



Lion Steve Nelson received the Dream Catcher award at our November **Cokato Dassel Lions** meeting for the incredible job that he did to ensure that the state baseball association state tournament was a success. Pictured are Lion Steve, VP Lion Dorene Erickson and President Lion Beth Janish.

Otsego Lions had a successful road clean up in October. We have adopted the area around Target and the local businesses. Each year it gets easier with less clean up, but still a good service event for the community. We are having a pot luck and white elephant exchange at our next meeting in December. We look forward to that. it's always a lot of food and laughs. Usually a bit competitive trying not to get stuck with the "biggest white elephant gift of the year". Otsego Lions welcomed three new mem-

bers at our last meeting. Welcome Jane and Kean Corkery as well as Perry Pearson. We look forward to getting to know you better. The new year will bring lots of new and exciting projects for our club. I can't wait to see what all we have in store. Happy Holidays everyone!!!

Monticello Lions Host Purse Bingo On Saturday November 11th the Monticello Lions hosted their 6th Purse Bingo at the local American Legion Club from noon until 3pm The event drew 250 Bingo players and netted the club \$9,000 during the event between 18 bingo games and 3 50/50 raffles! We filled the house with nearly 250 people →



The **Zimmerman Area Lions Club** is proud to share our Flags for Heroes project in which we honor Military Veterans and First Responders with flags on display in our community. Our first display ever was on September 11th and we most recently had another display on Veterans Day. Displays will occur five times throughout the year. Community members can sponsor a hero in their life and each flag has a card attached to it stating the name of the hero and why they were selected. It's neat to see the flags on display and we hope to continue adding many more flags as the project grows and spreads throughout our community.



Rush City Lions continue to serve their community. On October 8 Rush City Lions served several hundred pancake breakfasts for the Rush City Firemen. Lion Dave Schroeder was presented the Senior Building Key at the October 12 meeting. On October 24 and 25 Lions conducted more than 90 eye tests through the Lions KidsSight program.



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS

The Elk River Lions Club will be hosting Breakfast with Santa, Sunday December 3rd, 8:00- noon, at the Boys and Girls Club of Elk River. 905 6th St NW, Elk River, MN 55330.

The following Sunday, December 10th will be Santa Day at the Getaway (formerly KJ's Refuge) in beautiful downtown Orrock, MN. This is a free event with crafts, pictures with Santa, and gifts for all kids, plus prize drawings



**HOSTED BY ELK RIVER LIONS CLUB
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ELK RIVER**
905 6th Street NW, Elk River

SUNDAY DEC. 3rd, 2023
8:00 am -Noon

COST: FREE-WILL OFFERING
(ALL DONATIONS WILL BE DONATED LOCALLY)
**PANCAKES and WAFFLES W/ ALL THE TOPPINGS,
SAUSAGE**
MILK, COFFEE, AND JUICE WILL BE SERVED



VISIT AND TAKE PHOTOS WITH SANTA
KIDS CRAFTS AND COLORING AREA
EYE SCREENING FOR CHILDREN



ELK RIVER LIONS HAVE BEEN "SERVING" IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 52 YEARS AND HELP SUPPORT MANY DIFFERENT EVENTS, CAUSES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN NEED.

5M7 CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: *Seeking an interested individual who enjoys working with people in various situations. This position is open to any 5m7 Lion member.*

Qualifications:

- ⇒ Maintains a positive attitude with all issues/concerns. Maintain open communication at all times.
- ⇒ Communicates efficiently with coordinators and workers
- ⇒ Treat all individuals with courtesy and respect.
- ⇒ Be constant and regular. Compliment people or groups publicly.
- ⇒ Thank people even when they notify you they can't work
- ⇒ Basic knowledge of computer usage (email and excel a plus)
- ⇒ If interested and would like further information regarding State Fair Ticket Coordinator contact Lion Larry Kounkel @ larryandmk@gmail.com

WANTED: *Seeking an interested individual in learning about and promoting programs concerned with hearing health and communication disorders. This position is open to any 5m7 Lion member.*

Qualifications:

- ◆ The individual would serve a minimum of 2 years with a maximum of 6 on the Board.
- ◆ Attend three in person meetings a year, plus one zoom.
- ◆ Attendance and participation at the mid-winter conference.
- ◆ Serve on the District Governor's Cabinet.
- ◆ Visit Lions clubs upon request and speak to hearing issues/ concerns and resources.
- ◆ Monitor and record contributions within the 5M7 clubs
- ◆ If interested and would like further information regarding becoming a Lions Hearing Foundation Trustee contact Lion Mike Benedetto @ mbenedet@smumn.edu



Wishing all in 5m7 a safe and enjoyable holiday season.
Your Gram Editor

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS



2023-2024
SEASON

Live on 65 Performance Series brings world-class entertainment to the North Metro. Premier artists will perform local and live at the Spring Lake Park High School Fine Arts Center. A big thanks to the SLP Lion's Club for their generous sponsorship to make this affordable performance series possible.



BUY TICKETS

Scan QR code, visit website or call 763-600-5050

SpringLakeParkSchools.org/Liveon65



7,000 MILLION... Saturday, October 7, 2023 - 7 p.m.

You'll... yellow station... Broadway hits... paved his way to... country twang... and the pop favorites of Frankie... radio and Broadway hits!



AFTER HOURS BIG BAND Thursday, December 7, 2023 - 7 p.m.

Holiday Show Created in 2008, the band features some of the best musicians the Twin Cities has to offer, coming together to leave audiences moving their feet, clapping their hands, and always wanting more. Their holiday performance, "Dear Santa...Define Good" features music by Michael Buble, Gordon Goodwin, Disney's Frozen and Frozen II and more! Naughty or nice, get yourself into the Holiday Spirit with this show.



C. WILLI MYLES COMEDY Thursday, February 8, 2024 - 7 p.m.

Stand-Up Comic Veteran performer and funny guy C. Willi Myles has the gift of connecting people with each other through humor and storytelling that everyone can relate to. After surviving his childhood growing up with nine sisters and one brother in Alabama, Willi moved to Minnesota to attend college and play football. With his stories about growing up in the south and acclimating to the cold of MN, Willi tells extremely funny non-offensive stories and jokes and gives a unique spin to life's everyday challenges with humor. Referred to as "America's Everyday Comedian," his hilarious down-to-earth performance will convince you that Willi is truly comedy at its best!



B2WINS DUO CONCERT Monday, May 13, 2024 - 7 p.m.

American Music Classics Charismatic twin brothers from Brazil combine a plethora of genres into a feel good performance. The brothers aim to use music as a movement for positive change in the world. They bring their high energy and entertaining "Top 40 From the Last 40" - four decades of the music you know and love with a unique twist. This unforgettable, engaging show is for all ages and features one of a kind renditions of everything from Sinatra to Ed Sheeran, Louis Armstrong to Dua Lipa, Michael Jackson to Daft Punk, and Leonard Cohen to Nirvana. Get ready to sing, dance, laugh, and take your soul on a fun ride through the chart topping hits of American Music.

Bert Nelson for International Director

Pam and I are hopeful that everyone is considering going to the MD5M Convention in Winnipeg, Canada April 19-21, 2024. It is a beautiful city with wonderful attractions. We especially enjoyed visiting the Assiniboine Zoo the last time we were there. The convention is a good place to visit with other Lions outside our own districts and learn what other clubs are doing. It is also the place to be when voting to endorse our next International Director from our great multiple.

I want to be an International Director for Lions Clubs as I want to be involved in keeping our association moving forward to help each other become better stewards of our motto "We serve". There is such a need in our world for Lions to step forward and help wherever we can.

I feel I have the right qualifications to run for International Director which include: *Zone 6 Chairman, District 5M9 Public Relations Chairman, District 5M9 Newsletter Editor, Chairman of three 5M9 Mid-Winter Conventions, District Governor 2005-06, Council Chairman 2006-07, MD5M Long Range Planning Committee Chairman, MD5M Public Relations Chairman, MD5M Newsletter Editor, MD5M LCIF Chairman for past 11 years, Certified Guiding Lion, Global Extension Team, Global Leadership Team, Global Service Team, Training Instructor for six groups of incoming governors, Facilitator for 8 MD5M Regional Lions Leadership Institutes, Facilitator for 1 MD5M Emerging Lions Leadership Institute, Assisted on 5 International Director Campaigns for candidates from MD5M, Campaign Chairman for IP Brian Sheehan, Planning Committee member of 2 USA/Canada Forums, Presenter at 5 USA/Canada Forums*

Pam and I want to thank you for your consideration and continued support with my campaign for International Director. We plan to visit your Mid-Winter Conventions and we hope to see you in Winnipeg.

PCC Bert Nelson 218-298-0932

lionbert.a.nelson@gmail.com

LCIF Chairman Bert Nelson greeting volunteers during 5M9's district service project which was possible in part by a grant from LCIF. →

