



# 5M2 LIONS' NEWS



August 2020

www.5m2lions.org



## Get Your Lion On!!

Lion Anna Wickenhauser  
District Governor

### Woo Hoo-Get your July On!

I had my first club visit with the LeSuer Lions. I installed 2 new members, inducted officers and presented Chevrons. We had it in a park and they even fed me and my husband. But what really got me excited was that they didn't let COVID stop them from serving their

community. Sure some things had to be modified-some things are on hold-but they were thinking outside of the box for ways to have fun and still serve safely. They are even trying something new.

They are putting on their first ever Soaker-Walk-Ride Event. Basically people will sit and spray participants with garden hoses, soaker guns etc. There will be goody bags for the kids. Hmm...kids+water=FUN! This is in conjunction with their town summer celebration. A modified version, of course.

I know most of our fundraisers, town celebrations, places where our meetings are held have been canceled or delayed with no light at the end of the tunnel. As Lions we are daunted by everything going on in our world. Many factors play into this – I am not going to get into that. Some of our Lions Clubs are **struggling**, they have senior members, health compromised members, they are struggling. Reach out to those clubs-help them with service projects, maybe do a joint fundraiser with them or contact your zone chairs to find out some ways that you can help. Zone chairs are part of the North American Membership Initiative Team.

Speaking of NAMI, we are making some strides-baby steps. We meet monthly to discuss ways that we can help our clubs be stronger. We are making some changes to the website, adapting to the ways technology can help us. Be patient-this all takes time and there will be some



stumbling blocks along the way. Change doesn't always happen overnight and it seldom is easy...lol

I will be sending out a form to the Presidents/Secretaries of your clubs. Please fill it out and click submit to schedule your club visits. I can do a Zoom meeting, Park meeting or anything else you can think of. I am very flexible. I just want to hear how you're doing.

I truly get inspiration from club visits. We are all in this together.

Stay  
Healthy,  
Stay Safe



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### Did You Know?



Lion Glenn Kaufmann  
1st Vice District Governor

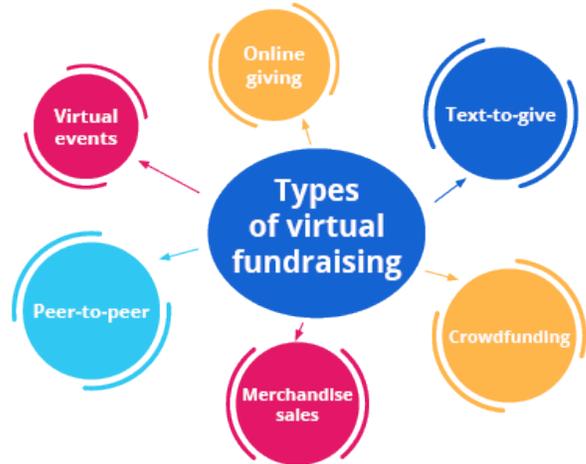
Do you have a hobby or subject you enjoy learning everything you can about? You could say I have a thing for presidential history; from reading biographies to watching documentaries and visiting libraries - you could say it trips my trigger. Lion Lisa usually naps during documentaries, enjoys telling

family and friends she married a nerd but she is a good sport about visiting libraries when we travel. So impeach me! President Woodrow Wilson was POTUS the last time an illness of this nature affected much of the country and world.

Spanish Flu hit the world from 1918-1920, and probably should have been called the American Flu. It reportedly started in Missouri and was carried overseas by US Servicemen. While 5M2's first two Lions clubs in Northfield and Faribault were still a year away, how do you think the few active clubs in Minnesota reacted? Were the Lions clubs able to continue serving their members and communities?



From Chicken Littles to Conspiracy Theorists and everything in between, we can all agree this is a time for Lions clubs to look outward. As the pandemic continues, do not shy away from your club members and communities you serve. It is now more important than ever to continue our Lions motto "We Serve".



Has your club thought about completing a fundraiser virtually? Below are ideas from Lions clubs around the country:

- Virtual Garage Sales on eBay
- On-line Food Sales
- Virtual 5K Races
- Virtual Golf Tournament
- Go Fund Me for a Special Project

Talk with your district leaders, what are your fellow clubs doing? Have a virtual brainstorming session to generate ideas which best fit your community. If we put our minds to it, there is something out there for every Lions club. We need to be creative and go a little further than normal to make it happen.

Have a great idea? Did you know you can share those with other clubs in your zone? It might spark an opportunity to complete a joint-fundraiser with another club.

Thank you all for participating & learning about online fundraising with Lions from around the world.

**LIONS VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING CLASSROOM**  
Recording Links & Materials

- Resource Links
- Recording: Online Fundraising w/ Sponsors
- Recording: Online Fundraising w/ PayPal & e-Clubhouse
- Recording: Online Fundraising - Flags 4 Heroes / Virtual 5K / Day of Giving / Virtual Yard Sale
- Recording: Online Fundraising - Leo Lion Salute to Heroes Concert

**YouTube**  
SUBSCRIBE TO THE LIONS VIRTUAL UNIVERSE  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR FREE  
Be notified of every live event.  
Participate in the discussion during live events  
View & share past events.

QUESTIONS?  
lionsvirtualuniverse@gmail.com



## From My Garden...



Lion Kathleen Bleckeberg  
2nd Vice District Governor

Out in my garden today as I was weeding trying to find my carrots and beets under all those weeds. I find I do some of my best thinking. My goal today was to come up with what to write about for this article. The following is what I came up with:

NAMI ~ North American Membership Initiative, DG Anna will get into this in more detail, but I wanted to share what it means to me.

As Lions we are always looking for ways to "Serve" our local, districts, state, national and international communities.

NAMI in my opinion is to help Lions "Serve" Lions. For our District Leaders to find ways to help our club leaders to find the tools to build stronger clubs and Lions.

So with that in mind, as the 2nd VDG it is my responsibility this year as District Admin to help the club Secretaries and members with My Lion and LCI.

Being a club Secretary can be a little overwhelming, reporting your clubs activities every, entering club officers the start of every year and reporting your clubs membership every month.

My LCI and My Lion is a wealth of information as well. You can find all sorts of thing. Like e-books on what is the responsibility of a club President, Secretary and Treasurer.

If you find yourself having trouble or just need to be pointed in the right direction. Please do not hesitate to contact me for help. If I don't know the answer I will find someone or a way to find the answer.

The most important thing is have FUN! I so enjoy being the Secretary of my club.

I found most of my carrots and beets, I still have a million weeds to pull before I find them all, but it gives me such satisfaction of a job well done when I can look back on the row and see what I have accomplished. To me that is what Lions is all about. The accomplishment of a job well done.

Let me help you do it!

Lion Kathleen Bleckeberg  
2nd VDG 5M-2  
507-402-71516  
Krpbleckeberg2525@gmail.com



## USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Louisville, Kentucky has been cancelled

It is with great sadness that the Forum Executive Committee has decided to cancel the 2020 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Louisville, Kentucky. As we said earlier in the year, the safety of our attendees is our number one concern. We had hoped for a significant flattening of the curve on cases of COVID-19 throughout our geographical area but that has not been the trend. Travel between the United States and Canada has also been a concern.

Although the planned Forum is still three months away and conditions could improve over the summer, there is enough uncertainty that we feel it best to make the decision to cancel now.

The Forum will offer a choice of a full refund or a rollover of your registration fees to the 2021 Forum. You can make that choice in writing by e-mailing our Registrar at registrar@lionsforum.org or by mailing your choice request to PO Box 723, Rapid City, SD 57709-0723. Please do not call the Forum office to request a refund or transfer of funds to 2021.

Our goal for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum has always been to provide a rich learning experience and

a social environment where we see our old friends and make new ones. This 44th Annual Forum promised to be one of the best as the City of Louisville has so much to share with us.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the City of Louisville and to the Kentucky Lions for inviting us. We hope to be back soon.

Lion Harvey Whitley, PID  
2020 Forum General Chairperson





**Lions Clubs International**  
**FOUNDATION**



Lion Debra Wasserman, 5M2 LCIF Coordinator

Fellow 5M2 Lions

In the midst of summer and the uncertainty around us, you may be looking for a thing or two to help your club move forward. If you are a club secretary, here's something you might consider. If you aren't a club secretary, you might think about asking your secretary to check this out.

As 5M2 LCIF Coordinator, I can tell you about LCIF donations credited to your club and your individual members. Checking these balances is a good thing to do in terms of awareness of donations qualifying toward Melvin Jones Fellowships. It is also helpful in order to let members know the amount of donations credited to them. This can provide them knowledge as to where they stand regarding their donations toward the \$1,000 needed to access an MJF. Campaign 100 has been extended to 2022 and we are still stressing personal donations. Knowing the amount credited individually may spur additional personal donations from your Lions members.

You may also find that you have members that would rather donations credited to them be transferred to their Lions Club. You can find the form to do this on the District website under "Forms and Award Applications", or by clicking this link

[http://e-district.org/userfiles/174/file/Forms/LCIF400\\_EN%5B9696%5D.pdf](http://e-district.org/userfiles/174/file/Forms/LCIF400_EN%5B9696%5D.pdf)

If you have any questions or need help, please feel free to contact me.

liondebra@charter.net

507-332-2792 Home

612-718-8330 Cell



The newest addition of hockey pucks for the 1st Vice President Sheehan's campaign are now on sale! These were to be sold at spring zone meetings before the Covid-19 canceled all meetings. But the good news is that I have a limited supply and will be glad to send the pucks once purchased. The cost is \$10 per puck. Proceeds will go to LCIF this year instead of Lion Sheehan's campaign due to the International Convention also being canceled. If interested in purchasing these collector pucks, please contact me at lionjoanblank@gmail.com or text/call 507-304-5265. Thanks!

PDG Joan Blank, Team Sheehan Captain.



# LIONS DAY

AT

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**



**NEW DATE - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020**

Districts 5M2, 5M5, 5M6 and 5M7 will join together at the 3 FMSC facilities in the Twin Cities Metro area. Our Mission is to pack food for the malnourished children of the World!

Our goal is to have EVERY club in the 4 Districts participate in one or more shifts on that day. Collaboration among LIONS, LEOS, LIONESS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY will make this an achievable goal! IF YOU HAD ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR THE APRIL 20, 2020, EVENT, ALL OF YOUR NAMES HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE LOCATIONS AND TIMES THAT YOU HAD SIGNED UP FOR – SO YOU ARE GOOD NOW FOR OCTOBER 20!!

Donations of any amount would be VERY much appreciated!! You can bring your personal donation AND/OR your Club donation to one of the sites on the day of the event OR you can mail it ahead of time to the Feed My Starving Children Coon Rapids location. Be sure to indicate in the MEMO area – LIONS DAY 2020.

Promote this in your community as part of the Lions Clubs International Global Service Framework.

Co-Chairman of the Event and District 5M7 Chairs: Lions Bill & Marcia Guthrie, email us at: [bmguthrie9@q.com](mailto:bmguthrie9@q.com) or call us at: 763-786-8072

**THANK YOU!! WE SERVE!!**

## District 5M2 Global Leadership News

PDG Lion Nancy Mathwig, GLT Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who attended our first ever Spring Officer Training in May via Zoom and to those who completed the follow up survey. This was the first of many Zoom meetings that I have attended and was quite pleased with the outcome. Overall the emailed survey after the meeting was positive. A few of the take-aways were:

- It was felt the word “training” in the title was misleading since the true meaning of training was not done in all sessions. However, the responses felt there was good sharing of information and ideas.
- Many felt the virtual method was a good way of holding the session as it saved the drive time to attend in Mankato and should be considered for additional meetings. However, the responses also indicated that person to person contact at times was important.
- Felt that more specific training regarding the specific “job”/position to be held was needed with different positions having training on separate days due to several, same household members holding different offices.

### Additional New Secretary Training

Based on post Spring Officer Training survey comments, a separate training session has been scheduled, via Zoom, for all new Secretaries, on Wednesday, September 30th, beginning at 6:30 pm. New club secretaries will be sent individual email invites with additional details.





our Lion's and the children we encounter during the Kidsight screening process.

Kidsight is still on hiatus due to Covid 19. The date of our return is unknown. We will be monitoring the Virus and what our State leaders tell us we can and cannot do. Our Foundation will look for guidance from the Council of Governors. I have already been contacted by a club wanting to set up a date to do a Kidsight screening and I told them we will notify everybody when we are able to safely start up again. When we do start up again, we will have to check with local leaders as to the guidelines we will have to follow. Some locals will require masks and gloves. I personally would recommend the Lions to wear masks and follow the socially distancing guidelines. The National Kidsight Foundation has sent us some procedures we may want to follow. We will try to help everybody get back up to speed when we do resume. I know I will have to look at all the procedures when we do resume so I can refresh myself. Many of our Lion's are older and are at a greater risk for Covid 19, and we want to protect

Sadly, we did not get a chance to do the State Fair this year. Everybody appreciated us doing the screenings at the State Fair. It is a real worthwhile project. Thanks to everybody who assisted with the program this past year.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact your District Chair for Kidsight: Lion Harry Klenke 952-445-0289 or email [lm.klenke@outlook.com](mailto:lm.klenke@outlook.com).



Leader Dog for the Blind is in Rochester Hills, Michigan and has followed state guidelines on reopening orders per the governor of Michigan.

As with our Lion Clubs we have had to change and adjust in how we operate during this time. It will take some planning and new ideas in how we can provide service to our communities. We as Lions will acclimate to our changing times and go onward.

As of May 28, Leader Dog has been cleared to resume full operations. With safety in mind, we are implementing a phased Return to Work plan to bring people back to our campus. We will provide more updates on our plans as information becomes available. Please know that the health and well-being of every foot (and paw!) on campus remains our top priority.

According to the CDC, there is no evidence at present that companion animals/pets such as dogs or cats are a significant factor in spreading the new coronavirus.

**All on-campus group events and public tours are cancelled/postponed until further notice.** The campus gift shop is also closed until further notice (the online store is still available).

**All non-essential personnel are working from home.** Communications and fulfillment of donor recognition items may be delayed. Team members continue to come to campus to care for all dogs while maintaining social distancing guidelines and increased cleaning/sanitizing requirements.

**The veterinary clinic is open and operating curbside service with distancing measures.**

**Classes will resume in July.** Our 2020 Summer Experience Camp, presented by AAA – The Auto Club Group, is going virtual.

Because the state of the coronavirus is changing every day, Leader Dog will be monitoring the situation and, if needed, will update our approach as information becomes available from the WHO, CDC and local authorities. We will be communicating with constituents and the public to keep everyone informed about what we are doing to try to keep the Leader Dog community and the community at large safe.

To this day, the mission of the Lions, "We serve," perfectly complements the Leader Dog mission of empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

Club visits are not safe to provide currently. I will attempt to educate and provide information from Leader Dog through our District newsletter. If anyone has questions or need information about Leader Dog, I will provide sources or attempt to answer any questions you may have. Lion Loretta Klenke District Leader Dog chair contact me at [lm.klenke@outlook.com](mailto:lm.klenke@outlook.com) or phone 952-445-0289. You can always google Leader Dog for their Newsletter and additional information. Thank You and stay safe and healthy through this time.



## Childhood Cancer

Looking to make a donation to Mn Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation, GOOD NEWS!! We now have 501(3) (c) status, YES, any lions club with charitable gambling can now make a donation direct to Childhood Cancer. Special thanks to Lion Tom McCarthy for all his help making this possible. On a sad but special note, since childhood cancer was added to the Lions Cabinet, Lion Tom McCarthy and Lion Sandy Schneider joined to help the cause, they have both decided to step down from the committee, Lion Tom plans to stay on the Board of Directors for one more year, thank you both for helping 5M2 see just how important the Mn Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation is. I, Lion Gerald Ziskovsky of Prior Lake and Lion Chuck Toltzman of Winthrop have accepted DG Annas request to represent Childhood Cancer on the 5M2 Cabinet.

Lion Chuck and Lion Gerald were able to attend the Go to Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Childhood Cancer Foundation recently, many topics were discussed including the head shaving that raised over \$18,000, so discussions were made to donate half to Kamp Kace ( Kids against Cancer Everywhere) and half to Crescent Cove Children's Hospice Program for an accessible picnic area.

If your club would like either Lion Chuck or Lion Gerald to speak at your club, either in person or by zoom or go to meeting, let us know and we can arrange a visit.

Lion Gerald Ziskovsky, gzturtle@gmail.com  
Lion Chuck Toltzman, circlehay@gmail.com  
Stay safe and hope to see you soon.

*From Lion Tom McCarthy, MNLCCF Treasurer*

MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation is pleased to announce an extremely successful Shave for the Brave! Fundraiser. In the middle of a pandemic with all our gatherings of conventions and meetings postponed or held online, we persevered and raised over \$18,000! We thank all of you for your supportive contributions and spreading our fundraising information.

MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation has also raised over \$100,000.00, during the last Lions year, which after matches, became \$300,000 for the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital Childhood Cancer Survivor Program.

We are looking forward to a check presentation ceremony when safe to do so.

**Believe award:** Clubs donating \$1,000.00 have earned our beautiful, Believe Award. We are so proud of the design and hope your club can display your successful contributions to assisting children with cancer. Currently our foundation is keeping records of all the club donations. Your club does not have to contribute all the funds at once to earn the Believe Award. Donations to the U of M Hospital will be designated for the Childhood Cancer Survivor Program. And the MNLCCF is the leading contributor for this new program!



And we have pins!!!! Please request pins from your district representative, they are \$5.00/each.

Two Recent donations: Kamp Kace (Kids Against Cancer Everywhere) <http://www.kampkace.org> in central

Minnesota will use \$9,000 to pay for winter camps in the 2019 season by teens enjoying winter camp experiences, and to assist in their needs for the future. Unfortunately, the summer camp for 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic.

Crescent Cove <http://crescentcove.org>: Crescent Cove wants to install a picnic area that will accommodate hand-capped children and their families. Because of the unique design and safety features, this will cost about \$15,000. We would propose that the Lions of Minnesota fund this necessary project. The MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation will match any contributions by clubs or individuals at the rate of 1.5 to 1. That is, if a gift of \$100 is made, the Foundation will match it with another \$150. If we can raise \$6,000 from clubs and individuals, the Foundation match of \$9,000 will reach our goal. (Note Crescent Cove on the memo line of checks.)

Clubs can now write their checks to the MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation!!!!!! (we just got our 501c3 status) and send the checks to Lions Tom McCarthy, (Treasurer of the MNLCCF). Tom's address is 23535 735th Ave, Dassel MN 55325. Lion Tom will keep careful records of all club donations. Again, once a club reaches the \$1,000.00 donation level, they are eligible to receive a Believe Award.

# Essay

2020-2021

## "Peace Through Service"

Lion Debra Wasserman  
Lions Clubs International Essay Contest,  
MD5M Chair

The LCI Essay Contest began in 2010 as a companion to the Peace Poster contest. It is directed to students who are blind or visually impaired giving them the opportunity to write on the same theme as students participating in the artistic Peace Poster contest.

The Peace Poster contest and the Essay contest give

students the chance to share their ideas and perspectives, and we adults the opportunity to learn about their view of the world and its future. The more students who are able to participate in the contests, the better for us locally and the world in general.

Teachers of the Blind/Visually Impaired receive information about the contest but reaching others who may know students is the goal of this article. If you know a student or a school district person, please share this information. Peace Poster kits contain information you can use and share with those who might know a student who would be interested in participating in the contest.

I am also available to answer any questions and share information that would help you, your club, or those working with students.

liondebra@charter.net  
507-332-2792 (Home)  
612-718-8330 (Cell)

## Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation News



Covid-19 Virus, 6 months and still going. When will life get back to near normal? At the trustees meeting on July 25, 2020, a lot of discussion was held on the D Feet Walk. We do plan to have a walk in 2021. We have a

plan A and plan B. Plan A would be a normal walk at the MN Landscape Arboretum with the possibility of a Northern walk for the northern MN Districts. The Arboretum would have to be open and things would have to be near normal. Plan B would be a virtual walk where each District, Club or individual would do a walk with a donation to the Hearing Foundation. More discussion and planning is needed for this to happen. Right now we would like for you to "Save the Date" of June 5, 2021.

An update on where your donated dollars are going. The one million dollar pledge to the U of M Professorships will be paid off in March of 2021. That was \$100,000 a year for 10 years. The Sound Booth at the Lions Children's Hearing Clinic will be paid off in December of 2020. The ribbon cutting for the new booth was held in May 2020. The research budget will be presented at the October meeting but will be greatly reduced. The next possible project in cooperation with the U of M is updating the Bone Lab. More on this later. At this point our budget will be reduced by \$100,000 and will be approved at our next meeting.

We would like to remind Clubs to budget for both the parade of Green and the D Feet Walk. These are the major fundraisers for the MN Hearing Foundation.

Thank you to the clubs of 5M2 that donated to the 2020 D Feet Walk. 13 clubs donated \$8675. Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to the clubs that donated to Journey for Service. The MN Lions Hearing Foundation received some of those funds.

The Covid-19 Virus recovery has proven to be a long and slow process. Virtual training meetings are being held and we hope to get back to have more normal social meetings. Your trustees are always available for club visits. We do want to come and talk to your clubs. Please contact either of us and set up a time for a visit.

### Trustees:

Lion Marvin Grimm 1-952-448-9465  
Lion Vern Breamer 1-507-525-3850



# MD5M PHOTO CONTEST 2019—2020



**1st PLACE**

**LION SHERI GREENWALDT**

**Hewitt Lions**

**“Old Mill State Park”**



**2nd PLACE**

**LION NORM CIFFRA**

**Nevis Lions**

**“Island Lake”**



**3rd PLACE**

**LION MATT SCOTT**

**Avon Lions**

**“A Path Less Traveled”**



Thank you to all for your support and wonderful pictures. I will be posting all entries on [lionsof5M9.org](http://lionsof5M9.org) and on the 5MD5 Facebook page.

**Lion Rose Puckett, MD5M Environment Chair**

# MD5M PHOTO CONTEST

July 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

*"PETS AND CRITTERS"*

## RULES:

- Original work of a Lion or Leo Member
- Submit name, phone number, district, name of the subject, and area where photo was taken
- Only one entry per member
- Photos must not include people
- Submit photo by email in digital format and resolution of 300dpi
- Send photo to: [rosepuckett313@gmail.com](mailto:rosepuckett313@gmail.com)
- Entry will imply consent to use for promotional activities
- Winners determined by committee
  - First Place \$100.00
  - Second Place \$75.00
  - Third Place \$50.00



**LET'S GET CLICKIN!**

## ***Lafayette Lion Inducted into Lions Hall of Fame***

Ruth Klossner, a Lafayette Area Lions member for 21 years, was unanimously voted into the prestigious Lions Hall of Fame for District 5M2 at the Lions Mid-Winter Convention back on February 15, 2020 at the City Center Hotel in Mankato.

The purpose of the Lions Hall of Fame is to honor those Lion members of character and substance who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment and dedication to the efforts of their club, district or multiple district and the motto of our association, "We Serve."

Klossner was recognized for her years of involvement in Lions and the impact she has had on all those who have been recipients of her volunteer services. Her list of achievements and awards received are extensive. In her Lions Club, Ruth was the first female president along with being secretary, publicity coordinator, editor of "The Local Lion" newsletter and club photojournalist. Ruth has volunteered hundred of hours for the Lafayette Area Lions projects such as Santa Day, Easter Egg Hunt and Liberty Day, just to name a few. Her more noteworthy accomplishment is the fact that she has recruited a total of 20 new Lions.

Not only is Ruth a very active member of the Lafayette Area Lions, but she finds time to volunteer to be the present Communication Coordinator for Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish and Bernadotte Lutheran Church, President of Bernadotte Lutheran congregation, President of Nicollet American Legion Auxiliary, photographer for 4H

livestock shows at Minnesota State Fair, and photographer for area school events. The residents of Nicollet are extremely lucky and grateful to have Ruth share her photography acumen to document countless community and school events, especially in the sports area. She stays up late at night to ensure pictures are posted on Facebook first thing the next morning. The cities of Lafayette and Nicollet and the Township of Bernadotte are indebted to Klossner for each city/township's history documentation published in History of Lafayette, History of Nicollet, and History of Bernadotte Twp. These projects were huge undertakings and Klossner gave unselfishly of her time and talent to have these published. Klossner has voluntarily served the surrounding communities all her life.

Klossner has received numerous awards for her volunteer service in Lions which include the Melvin Jones Fellowship, Melvin Jones Progressive Award, Helen Keller Sight Award, Can Do Canines Top Dog Award and was named "Zone Lion of the Year".

The Lions Hall of Fame induction was originally to take place at the Lions Multiple Convention in Rochester in April but was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was then decided to do the induction on a smaller scale at the club level. Past District Governor Brian Thies did the honors and presented Ruth with a plaque and pin at the club's Scholarship Night meeting on Tuesday, July 14, held at the Lafayette Charter School. Ruth was highly praised for being the exemplary role model of giving and service.



# NAMI Newsworthy



Courtland Lions are the 1st Lions Club to opt in to take the North American Membership Initiative (NAMI), which is a challenge to all Lions Clubs in 5M2 to finish the Lions year in 2021 with a positive 1 membership. Way to go President Lowell Abbas of the Courtland Lions!! (Shown left)

Second to jump on the bandwagon is the Norwood Young America Lions Club! Not only did they opt in, but they had an awesome brainstorming session with post it notes on how to recruit new members and provide new services. Way to be proactive. Pictured below are President Charles Venske, Lions Tina Nemitz and Dave Williams.



And to round off the top 5, Nicollet Lions Club, Hamburg Lions Club and Prior Lake Lions Club have joined the initiative. Kudos to all five clubs. 5M2 is off to a good start on trying to find ways to increase membership and retain current members!

Join the initiative to ask new members to join. Please see letter and form at end of newsletter. I will be happy to come speak to your club. **PDG Joan Blank,**

## Lions', Leos' Clubs News and Activities

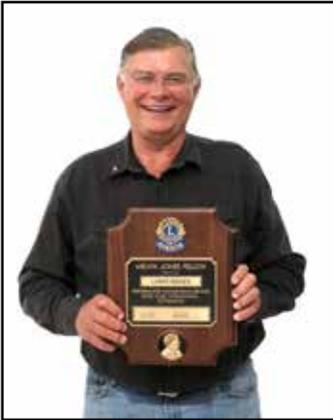
### West Carver Lions

West Carver NYA met on June 23rd to give out awards. Pictured to the right are Bill Hart, Mary Nicholson and Mary Spille. Missing are Lisa Klaers and LaVonne Kroells.

Below: Our Board meeting held 7/14. We are still meeting but sometimes you have to be creative on where you meet.



## Lafayette Area Lions... Mages receives Melvin Jones Fellowship



Larry Mages was named a Melvin Jones Fellow and was recognized at the annual awards program of the Lafayette Area Lions Tuesday, July 14. Although scheduled to be held outdoors, the event was moved to the Lafayette Charter School gym due to unsettled weather and the threat of mosquitoes.

Past District Governor Joan Blank and Lafayette Lions president Mark LeGare presented the Melvin Jones plaque and pin—the Lions highest honor—to Mages, a 30-year member of the club. The award is presented to someone that shares humanitarian traits and achievements in what they do and have done.

Lafayette Lion Joe Maidl shared highlights of Larry's life and noted that Larry has done tremendous good for the community, his church, Lions, and the environment.

"Larry's kindness and caring for others is contagious," Maidl stated.

Mages has enjoyed a variety of careers since coming to the Lafayette area from Sleepy Eye where he grew up. For nearly three decades, he had a very successful hog breeding business, selling breeding stock all over the country. Hog disease ended that. Larry and his late wife, Maggie, also operated Décor Animals, making cutouts of animals from plywood.

A song writer, guitar player, and lead singer, Mages has been involved in various bands over the years, including Country Sunset through the 1970s and now the Mages Family Band

Larry's greatest business accomplishment was to start



Mages Land Company & Auction Service from scratch 30 years ago.

"Larry sets his own goal on something and does it," Maidl said. "The Three C's are a tribute to his business—confidential, courteous and committed. His caring for others is contagious. I've learned a lot from him."

Mages has served many organizations in his community—Lafayette Business Club Lafayette Jaycees, Winthrop Town and Country Days, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, and the Minnesota State Auctioneers Association—along with the Lafayette Lions as president.

As an auctioneer, he has done free benefit auctions, totaling over seven million dollars, and has—and still does—play music hundreds of times for free for benefits and town celebrations. He and Maggie hosted many neighborhood parties and even the GFW prom in the party barn on their farm.

Next to take the microphone was Larry's younger brother, Rick, who told some family tales.

"I'm here to 'Melvanize' Larry," Rick began. "He's number four and I'm number six of 16 kids. We did fun things together. He's kind of a superman."

That is, until Larry decided to try to fly off the brooder house when they were kids.

"Larry was a mentor, an athlete, a giver. He was a teacher to a lot of the members of our family. He has written numerous songs that are near and dear to our family," Rick said.

After receiving the Melvin Jones plaque from Blank and LeGare, Mages responded, noting that he had thought of several things that day that he wanted to mention—attitude and gratitude.

"I've gone through some tough times," he said. "Without Maggie, I wouldn't have accomplished any of the things we did."

He stated, "I'm grateful, too, for all the people here and in the surrounding communities. What a community—I'm grateful for all the help I received."

Mages is the 27th Melvin Jones Fellow to be recognized by the club. He joined Dick VanDeest, Harland Walter, Clarence Maidl, Earl Wise, Arnie Berdan, Mark Dick, Doug Webster, Amos Hayes, Arden DeBoer, Bob Wise, Steve LeBrun, Steve Langhoff, Ernie Sands, Ruth Klossner, Brad DeBoer, Joe Maidl, Tom Hayes, Sally Webster, Neal Hoffmann, Stanley Youngblom, Tom Hoffmann, Harold Olson, Deb Sjostrom, Jim Langhoff, Lori Dick, and Greg Bieraugel. Honorees are selected by past recipients.

*In making the presentation of the Melvin Jones Fellowship, Past District Governor Joan Blank pinned the Melvin Jones pin on Larry Mages' lapel.*

## Lafayette Area Lions Continued...

Right: Melvin Jones Fellowship recipient Larry Mages was joined by more than a dozen members of his family, including his 91-year-old mother Barb.

Below: Lion Joe Maidl introduced Melvin Jones recipient Larry Mages and told of his many accomplishments.



Representing the scholarship committee, Lion Deb Sjostrom recognized eight incoming college freshmen that received Lafayette Area Lions scholarships. They are Kaylyn Broste, daughter of Jeremy and Carmen Broste; Trent Fluegge, son of Kevin Fluegge and Renee Kettner; Ben Radke, son of Steve Radke and Judy Radke; Katelyn Ulrich, daughter of Bradley and Holly Ulrich; Abbigail Voges, daughter of Mark and Angie Voges; Abby Beranek, daughter of Glenn and Darcy Beranek; Megan Davey, daughter of John and Tammy Davey; and Sierra Wilson, daughter of Craig and Joleen Wilson.

The local Lions club has made significant contributions toward higher education, having awarded 250 scholarships, totaling \$127,800, over the past 25 years.

Immediate Past District Governor Brian Thies presented several special membership awards, among them a 100th anniversary membership retention pin. Andrew Maidl received a diamond pin for recruiting a new member who has continued in the club for at least three years.

Club members recognized with Years of Service chevrons for milestone marks were Dave Burger and Ruth Klossner, 20 years; Larry Mages, 30 years; and David

Martin and Wallace Guggisberg, 40 years.

At the close of the program, PDG Blank installed the club's 2020-2021 officers. They are, Tom Hayes president; Andrew Maidl and Mark Haler, vice presidents; Ruth Klossner, secretary; Dave Reed, treasurer; Scott Portner, Lion tamer; Arden DeBoer and Mark Dick, tail twisters; and Bob Wise, Elmari Kamm, Joe Maidl, Brad DeBoer, and Mark LeGare, directors.



Five Lions scholarship recipients attended the program. From left: Trent Fluegge, Kaylyn Broste, Abbigail Voges, Katelyn Ulrich, and Ben Radke. Unable to attend were Abby Beranek, Megan Davey, and Sierra Wilson.

### Eagle Lake Lions

Recently the Eagle Lake Area Lions Club donated items to a local non-profit called, Feed Every Baby. The charity provides a variety of items for infant care and feeding. Demand has substantially increased for these items as we navigate through the Coronavirus pandemic. Our club was pleased to donate items during this challenging time.



Front row/seated L to R: Sue Nasinec, Terry Kvitek. Back L to R: Sara Venem, Angela Putnam, John Putnam, Mark Venem, Paul Kvitek, Adam Sinn.

The Eagle Lake Area Lions were pleased to present a donation to the 2020 Parks Project. Funding will go toward upgrading play equipment at a current park and providing new play equipment at a new park in Eagle Lake.



Pictured above L to R: Beth Rohrich (Park Board Member), John Putnam (EL Lions Club President) and Bridget Larson (Park Board President)



The Eagle Lake Area Lions Club was able to participate in the Tater Days Parade. We enjoyed getting out and waving at onlookers despite the COVID-19 rules requiring us to stay in the towing vehicle and not hand out or throw out anything!

Pictured above L to R: Lions Terry Kvitek (back), Angela Putnam (back), John Putnam (front) and Paul Kvitek (front).

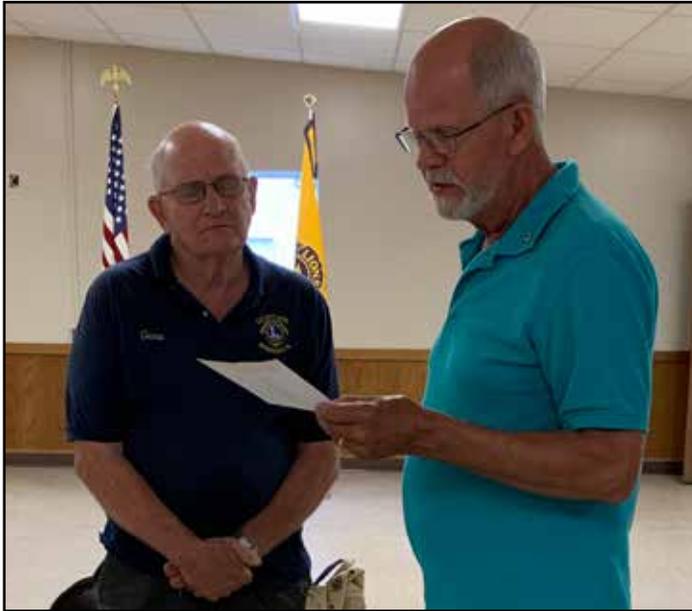
**5M2 Lions' News Newsletter Deadline: 15th of each month...**

Submit your club events and Lions program articles to: [5m2newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:5m2newslettereditor@gmail.com)

**What are your clubs doing for Service? Get Me the NEWS!!**

### Courtland Lions

Lion Gene Retka was awarded a chevron for 35 years of service to the Courtland Lions and the Courtland community. President Lion Lowell did the honors. Absent was Lion Bruce Hendrycks who will receive a chevron for 25 years of service.



### Waconia Lions



Waconia Lions have been busy frying up some fish for the nursing home senior citizens shut-ins. Seniors from Auburn Home, Nigel Assisted Living, Good Samaritan, and New Prospective living enjoyed a COVID approved fish fry and a very welcomed treat.

From left to right: Lions Chuck Schmitt, Dave Hucky, Richard Beckett, Ron Mactemes, Tony Eshelman, Dan Goetze, Rick Wagener Not pictured: Lion Bob Geisinger.

### Minnesota Lake Lions



District 5M2 2nd VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg installed the Minnesota Lake Lion officers.

Pictured from l to r – Darlene Breamer - Secretary; Vern Breamer - President; Debra Ramsley - Treasurer; Maxine Daly - 1st Vice; George Sonnek - 2nd Vice; Kathleen Bleckeberg; Matt Daly - Tail Twister, Lion Tamer.

## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 26th, 2020

THE WACONIA LIONS CLUB IS  
CELEBRATING THEIR



# 75th



### Waconia Lions Anniversary

75 years of supporting  
the Waconia Community

**SOCIAL HOUR, DINNER AND PROGRAM**  
SOVEREIGN WINERY - WACONIA

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW

Contacts:  
Ricky Wagener  
612-701-0346 • rrwags@embarqmail.com

# 18 Hole – 4 Person Scramble

August 10<sup>th</sup> Noon Registration; 1 p.m. Start

## Glencoe Country Club



We Serve

If you are not able to golf, please consider becoming a hole sponsor at \$25 or more.

ALL PROCEEDS will be used for local projects. *Thank you from the Plato Lions Club*

Prizes will be given

Contact Lions at 320-310-5056 for Registration Form



# Hamburg Lions



Drive-up style

Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>

4 pm to 7 pm

(or until we run out)

Hamburg Bi-Centennial Park

614 Park Ave

Menu: ½ Rotisserie Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Dinner roll, Cake, Milk or Water

\$10.00

All meals will be served in a to-go container

Socially distanced tables will be available if you choose to eat at park

# Plato Lions 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament



## Waterville Lions Pancake and Sausage

### Breakfast



(Serving the Third Sunday of each Month)



2020 dates

May 17th

June 21st

July 19th

August 16th

September 20th



Serving  
8:00 am til 12:00 noon

The Village in Waterville  
205 N 1st St  
Waterville MN 56096



Goodwill donation appreciated



## 2020 Mayer Car & Cycle Night



August

5th

19th

September

2nd

16th

30th



Come support the  
Mayer Area Lions Club  
at the Mayer car show!

Food sale profits will support  
future community needs!



## *“Get Your Lion On”*

Clubs of 5M2,

We are excited to introduce to you a new program called **NAMI (North American Membership Initiative)** being rolled out for 2020-21 year. The 5M2 Leadership Team has already started and when July 1<sup>st</sup> rolls around, we will be ready to hit the ground running. Basically, NAMI is a coordinated effort between the Global Membership team, Global Service Team, Global Leadership Team and the 5M2 Leadership Team (District Governor, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor, Zone Chairs and club Lions).

There are four areas that we will be concentrating on:

- 1. Rejuvenate District 5M2 with New Clubs**
- 2. Revitalize Clubs with New Members**
- 3. Re-motivate Members with New Fellowships and Exciting Service**
- 4. Support District and Club Leaders**

We are adding a new position to the district, the NAMI champion, who is PDG Joan Blank who will coordinate the efforts of all the district teams. It has been almost 40 years since we have seen a positive growth in North America. It is time to turn this around and show the world that Lions are still as important to our communities in North America as it has ever been.

Here is what we are asking you as a club to do. We would like your Leadership Team to “opt in” by signing the attached form stating you will incorporate the NAMI Initiative into your club. District goals are:

1. Each club to end the 2020-21 year with a plus membership. In July we will send you a report stating where you ended the 2019-2020 year in membership, and we want to see at least a growth of plus one member.
2. Encourage your members to step up into a leadership role in your club or district. Remember that each of us has our own personality and that Lions need to be able to do it their way. Getting new members involved as soon as possible makes them feel like they are part of the club. (Contact your GLT Coordinator or Zone Chair for Help)

As we get into the new Lions year, we will have more information for you to work with. We look forward to sharing your success stories with the District.

DG Anna Wickenhauser  
*“Get Your Lion On”*

PDG Joan Blank  
*NAMI Champion*





**District 5M2**

***Get Your Lion On***

**NAMI (North American Membership Initiative)**

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The North American Membership Initiative has been discussed with our Lions club and we agree to participate in the 5M2 NAMI Program.**

President \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

Mail/Email Completed forms to:  
PDG Joan Blank – 5M2 NAMI Champion  
44995 490<sup>th</sup> Street  
Nicollet, MN 56074  
lionjoanblank@gmail.com