

District Spotlight

Lions District 5SW Newsletter 1/26



District Highlights

District 5SW is facing significant challenges related to club sustainability, financial stability, and membership retention. Several clubs are suspended or at risk of disbandment due to unpaid international dues, low activity levels, aging membership, and struggles to maintain required officers and a minimum number of active members. Concerns include discrepancies in reported membership numbers, difficulties in following formal reinstatement or disbandment procedures, and delays in resolving arrears. Over the last several years, the district has experienced a net membership loss, with the current total standing at 504 members. This low membership is contributing to broader issues with engagement and long-term viability.

To tackle these, a district leadership board is implementing hands-on strategies centered on direct support and revitalization. Leadership is conducting in-person visits to at-risk clubs to evaluate status, assist with paperwork for reinstatement or disbandment, recruit new members, and address dues issues promptly. Initiatives include providing specific club officer training, supplying membership materials, and plans to assign guiding lions to help struggling clubs. Marketing plans are progressing through grant-funded projects for banners, posters, and display boards to enhance visibility, along with establishing a dedicated marketing committee. Other efforts focus on finalizing the district directory, publishing a quarterly newsletter, updating the District Website, and promoting leadership training.

Many Clubs within the District continue to provide valuable community service as evident in this Newsletter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the District Leadership with ideas, activities and concerns as the District rebuilds to SERVE.

DG Darryl Moll

District Leadership

District Governor:
Lion Darryl Moll
dimoll5416@aol.com

1st VDG:
Vacant

2nd VDG:
Lion Stan Holn
blackcat49@live.com

Cabinet Secretary:
PDG Geraldine Ray
gfray@pie.midco.net

Cabinet Treasurer:
PCC Ken Wetz
kenw@sdplains.com

Web/Newsletter/GMT
PCC Stan Smith
ssmith@midco.net

Advising
PDG Tim Brown
etbrown@rushmore.com

Webpage:

www.e-district.org/sites/5sw/

Lions Clubs International PEACE POSTER Contest

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity.

For 2024-2025, District 5SW had three entries. First place was Ella Hill representing the Wheatland Lions Club. Ella received \$100 from the District and represented the District in the MD5 competition. White River Lions Club entry to the District contest, Kayzlei Knecht, placed 2nd in the District and received \$75. The third place entry was Madison Hollow representing the McLaughlin Lions Club. Madison received a \$50 recognition.



First Place. Ella's work represented the District in the Multiple-District 5 Contest.

Multiple District 5 consists of 6 Districts, two each in Saskatchewan CA, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Third Place



Second Place



It's that time again! Have you invited your local school(s) to participate in the 2026-2027 Peace Poster Contest? If not, now is the time. Start planning NOW for next year; new kits will be available January 15th, 2026. Save your club money and receive kits immediately by ordering the kits on-line. Lionsclubs.org and search Peace Posters.

Pierre-Ft. Pierre. The Pierre-Ft. Pierre Lions have been busy this past year. The club is very active with vision screenings, 2,595 for fiscal year, and multiple fundraising activities. We meet the 2nd Tuesday, 5:30 of each month at the Holiday Inn Express in Ft. Pierre. If you're in the area on our meeting night, stop in, have supper and enjoy fellowship with us.



Parade of Lights



Roadway Cleanup



New member Kyle, Lion Kevin and sponsor Lion Dawn



Caroling at Edgewood Senior Living Center

The Sturgis Lions Club has been very visible with service projects the past few weeks. Annually the club partners with Salvation Army Red Kettle fund raising. Sturgis Lions is responsible for the kettle ringing the four Saturdays in December at the Lynn's Dakota Mart location. November was vision screening month at the 4 preschools in town. Approximately 120 preschool students had their vision checked. December 5 had Sturgis Lions joining in the Sturgis Chamber Christmas Parade by lighting up the SD Lions Foundation Vision van. Sturgis Lions believe WE SERVE



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

For Club Officers and interested members!

The District will be providing some help, training, and guidance for officers and working with the LCI online portal. Watch for information from Cabinet Secretary PDG Ray. This training will be particularly important for Club Secretaries and Treasurers.

As Spring rolls around, now is the time for Clubs to be looking at new Officer elections for the 2026-2027 Lion year.

Consider an LCIF donation

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) transforms lives through the power of giving, with more than \$1.3 billion in grants impacting 200 countries and regions. Your Club and member support sustains the mission, creating lasting impact – one life at a time.

Got NEWS?

Does your Club have news to share with the District? Email the story and pictures to PCC Stan Smith (ssmith@midco.net) and we will get it published!