



# 5SW LIONS Pride

July & August, 2021



Hel-l-o-o-o-o 5 SW Lions! It's a new year and new days for Lions. Memories of 2020-2021 are just that, a memory. We look forward to 2021-2022 with anticipation, and a knowledge we have our work cut out for us to make this the best year for 5 SW ever.

My motto is 'Visions Lead to Success', and that vision for 5 SW is defined by the District Goals.

As PDG Tim Brown told us at officers training, this is the year of 're'. The Global Action Team (GAT) met and shared existing ideas in several areas to ensure success.

Global Membership Team (GMT): rejuvenate clubs, ignite our present members and introduce new members to Lionism. PDG Neil and PDG Linda Vollmer are co-chairs and they will be sharing new ideas.

Global Leadership Team (GLT) led by PDG Tim Brown has plans for training sessions. The training will be open to all membership, some in person and others virtual. Training will produce better leaders for tomorrow.

Global Service Team (GST) led by PDG Frances Wait. Keeping all members involved in service projects is the best way to gain and keep members. An active club is a happy club, and PDG Fran will provide guidance for new services and reporting.

If your club does not have a vision or goals, dedicate one meeting to establish that 'road map' Next newsletter, I have a challenge for every club. Look for the details!

*Where there is no vision, there is no hope. —George Washington Carver*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

District Governor .....	1
International President .....	2
Ipswich Lions Donate! .....	2
Newell Lions & Leos .....	3
Club Photos .....	4-5
About the Editor .....	6
Notes & Help Wanted .....	6-7
Convention News .....	7
Convention .....	8

Help get the word out!!  
Send in the details of your Club's upcoming events, and they will be featured in upcoming issues!

Share your great ideas and learn from other clubs!

**Don't forget to submit photos and write ups to the editor at [katekosior@gmail.com](mailto:katekosior@gmail.com) with "Lions Newsletter Articles" in the subject line.**

**WANTED: Pictures of your club officers in particular!**



*Int'l President Alexander*

## MEET THE NEW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Our New International President, Lion Douglas X. Alexander's motto is, "Service from the Heart." He said in his message, "We

serve with love and compassion in communities around the world. The selfless giving of our time and effort is precisely what makes Lions so special. When we give, we expect nothing in return. Yet we gain so much. Our service offers hope and connection in the face of

great need and also extends an invitation to the world to join us. We embrace the joy that comes with "Service From The Heart".

"This year let's remember the most important element of our success: you. You, and each individual Lion, are absolutely critical to our collective success. You are the heartbeat of service. This year's message, "Service from the Heart", is a call to all districts, clubs and Lions to be sure we are always leading with what brought us to Lions International to begin with – our hearts. If we let our passion for service shine through, there is absolutely nothing we can't accomplish together.

*"We serve with love and compassion in communities around the world."  
—International President Douglas X. Alexander*

## IPSWICH LIONS DONATE TO AMBULANCE FUND

The Ipswich Lion's Club recently made a \$5,000 donation to our Ipswich Ambulance Service to help with the purchase of a power cot for the new ambulance on order for the Ambulance Service.



*Jerry Brooks, President of Ipswich Lions, and Kelsey Holien, director of Ipswich Ambulance Service*



## NEWELL LIONS & LEO CLUBS CLEAN UP

The Newell Leo Club and Lions Club got together recently to help plant trees and clean up the road ditch south of Newell. The Newell Lions and Leo Clubs originally planted about 250 Spruce trees on the perimeter of the Newell Cemetery in 2015. 25 trees didn't make it and were replaced. The Leo Club Members joined Lions Vernon McCarthy and Neil Vollmer in replanting them. An anonymous donor paid for the seedlings. The Lions and Leos give a big Thank You to the anonymous tree donor(s).



Photo: The Newell Leo Club picked up the trash in the road ditch south of Newell. Those doing the work were Kai Banks, Lion Donna Wetz, Leos Sara Kirbey, Haily McCann, Sidney Kjellson, Racheal Banks, Stacy Mahaffey, Lions Elaine Hewson and Ken Wetz, Leo David Morell. The Clubs have 3 miles to clean up.



Leo Members helping were (from left) Rachel Banks, Sarah Kirby, David Morell, Stacy Mahaffey and Sidney Kjellson.

**Newell**



Newell Lions Club 2021-22 Club Officers. IPDG Richard Waits did the honors.  
Left to right: Neil Vollmer, Secretary, Linda Vollmer, Tail Twister,  
Marjorie Adams, Treasure, Alan Youngberg, 2nd VP, Sheila Smith, 1st VP,  
Troy Hewson, President and IPDG Richard Waits.

### ***LCIF CAMPAIGN 100 & YoU***

As Lions, we know there's a special joy that comes from serving others, from being able to see and talk with the people we help. But much of the impact we have as Lions also comes from countless acts of kindness on behalf of people we will never meet!

Natural disasters, childhood cancer and preventable blindness are just a few of the causes Lions address through LCIF our charitable arm. This is the final year of Campaign 100, our capital campaign to raise \$300 million. In order to sustain LCIF's ability to serve others, we need EVERY LION and EVERY CLUB'S help to reach this goal.

Here's what we all know: when we are generous, we find joy. In the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." PLEASE—HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

PDG Doug Scheller 5-SW LCIF Coordinator



## Pierre/ Ft. Pierre



**Pierre/Ft. Pierre Lions Club awarded Lion of the Year to Gary Wetzel (left) pictured here accepting the award with President Lion Kevin Mersheim**



The Pierre-Ft. Pierre Lions installed its 2021-2022 club officers. Pictured from left to right are Lion Tamer/Tail Twister Lion Larry Cass, Board Member Lion Mary Giddings, Membership Chair Lion Geraldine Ray, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Lion Jon Egge, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lion Corey Baker, Treasurer Lion Gary Watzel, Secretary Lion Gayle Mersheim, President Lion Kevin Mersheim and Installer Lion Gary Grittner.



Pierre/Fort Pierre Lions presented Lions Kevin & Gayle Mersheim with the honor of a Melvin Jones Fellow. The Plaques & Pins were presented by Lion Corey Baker who is also a Melvin Jones Fellow.

Lion Kevin Mersheim has been very active in Lions for 29 years. He has served in several offices including four terms as President of the Pierre/Fort Pierre Lions Club. Lion Gayle Mersheim has also been very active in Lions for 25 years. She is currently the Secretary of the Pierre/Fort Pierre Lions Club and has held that position for the past 14 years.



**Meet  
the  
Editor**

Hello! My name is Kate Kosior, and DG Geraldine asked me if I would be interested in taking over the newsletter. I'm excited to serve the Lions of our district in this way.

My family and I moved to Pierre, SD from Star Lake, NY in May so that I could accept a job as the state director of the Braille and Talking Book Library. I have worked in the fields of blindness and librarianship for nearly 15 years in one capacity or another, and this job happily combines my passion for both.

Back in New York, I joined my local Lions as a way to spend time with my dad, who has been a Lion since the 1970's. When I got engaged, I encouraged my fiancé, Greg, to join Lions as well. You might say it's a family thing! I have been a Lion for four years now, and Greg for two. We served as the vice president (him) and secretary (me) of our local club in New York. When we moved to Pierre, one of the first things we did was look up the local club so we could get involved.

We have a 12 year old daughter, four cats, and are hosting an exchange student from Germany. We love gardening, baking, geocaching, traveling, and board gaming. We absolutely love South Dakota.

If you have articles to submit to the newsletter, please email them to me at [katekosior@gmail.com](mailto:katekosior@gmail.com) any time.

I look forward to meeting lots of 5SW Lions in the time to come!

—Yours in Lions, Lion Kate Kosior

# NOTES & HELP WANTED

## PEACE POSTER – PDG Linda Vollmer

Remember the PEACE POSTER CONTEST. It is a neat way to show your community one of the things your Lions club does. The Peace Poster Kit can be ordered until October 1st and costs \$7 plus postage. The kit can be ordered on line by the club secretary. The contest is open to students who will be 11,12, or 13 years of age by November 15th. The Newell Lions club uses the art teacher at the school. The teacher uses this as one of their lesson plans. Or any youth organization can be used: ie, 4-H, Church, scouts, etc. **PLEASE ORDER TODAY!**

## MEMBERSHIP – PDG Neil & PDG Linda Vollmer

PDG Lion Linda and I (PDG Neil) have been asked to serve as the District's Membership Chairs. We plan to use the newsletter, as well as email letters to Club Officers, to encourage *all* Club Members to grow their club membership, which will also grow our District Membership. Just two thoughts for this newsletter. First: our current Members are aging out on us. Lion Linda and I are, shall we say, in our mid to upper 70's. If this resembles you or your Club, then it is time to look for some younger members, say, someone in their 50's. Secondly, all you have to do is 'Just Ask'. That was LIs theme a few years back. And, it is still appropriate this year. It will never get worn out.

That's it for this month! Lions Linda and Neil

## DAKOTA LIONS SIGHT AND HEALTH – Marcy Dimond, Chief Executive Officer

Greetings Lions! Dakota Lions Sight and Health is seeking motivated and engaged individuals to join the nonprofit organization's Board of Directors. Seats from Districts 5SE, 5SW, 5NE, and 5NW are open. Ideal candidates will have experience in finance, philanthropy, strategic planning, or simply a willingness to serve for an organization that helps to restore sight and health to thousands every year. Director terms are 3 years in length and run from July 1 to June 30. Elections are held in October at the state Lions Conventions in both North and South Dakota. If you are interested in running for an open seat, please submit a letter of interest along with a letter of support from your Club president to the Board President (Lion Mel Olson - [melolson60@gmail.com](mailto:melolson60@gmail.com)) or the Chief Executive Officer (Marcy Dimond - [mdimond@dakotasight.org](mailto:mdimond@dakotasight.org)). More information about the organization can be found at [www.dakotasight.org](http://www.dakotasight.org)



## **SOUTH DAKOTA LIONS -Jennifer Sigette, Executive Director**

It's been a GREAT summer at the SD Lions Foundation! After a tough year for everyone, things seem to be getting "back to normal". We've loved the daily visits from club members from all over the state dropping off eyeglasses. Donations have been up considerably! In addition, we are hearing from daycare centers, schools, and clubs to reserve the vision vans and equipment for vision screening events. We have a feeling it will be a record breaking year for vision screenings. Our work as Lions will continue, striving to ensure every child in South Dakota has the opportunity for a vision screening and appropriate follow-up.

We hope that you are planning to attend the upcoming state convention in Sioux Falls. We will be hosting a breakfast on Saturday, October 2nd and look forward to sharing the exciting plans we have for the coming year.

As a reminder, this is YOUR Lion's Foundation! Each year we have two open seats from district 5SW, to be elected at the state convention. If you are interested please let us know! We would love to visit with you about this year's election, future years, and other opportunities to be involved with our important work in South Dakota.

### **LEADERSHIP – PDG Tim Brown**

Guiding Lion training is being planned. Dates and locations to be announced.

What is a Guiding Lion? A Guiding Lion is a Lion with the desire to assist existing clubs rebuild or be a guide through the steps of organizing new club and ensuring they become successful. Attend a class and become certified in one day. Guiding Lions are assigned for a two-year term by the district governor in consultation with the sponsoring or established club president.

Guiding Lions assist a club to:

- Be successful in its first two years of operation
- Orient and train club officers and members
- Motivate and support club growth and development
- Locate resources available to assist the club

Let's set our sights on having at least one, more would be stupendous, Guiding Lion in each Zone.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**September 18 - Cabinet Meeting in Rapid City**

**October 1,2 – State Convention Sioux Falls**

**TBA – Guiding Lions Training**

**TBA – Zone Chair Training**



BR: PDG Doug Scheller, LCIF; James Treloar, Region Chairperson;  
1 VDG Ron Bunnell; IPDG Dick Waits; PDG Lion Vollmer, GMT;  
FR: DG Geraldine Ray; Lion Frances Waits, GST; PDG Tim Brown, GLT;  
PDG Linda Vollmer, GMT.

## 2021 STATE CONVENTION: SIOUX FALLS

The South Dakota Lions 2021 State Convention will be held October 1-2 in Sioux Falls at the Ramkota Inn and Convention Center.

This year's convention will take you around the world, with inspirational speakers, ethnic food and entertainment, and a reminder that we are all one world!

For more information, visit <https://sdlions.org/get-involved/state-convention/> and <https://www.ramkotasioxfordfalls.com/>

A variety of activities will be available at this year's state convention. Here's a sneak peek:

### **Excursions**

- Great Shots Golf Outing (\$50)
  - Bus Tour of Sioux Falls
- Around the World Reception

### **Breakout Sessions**

- Lions 101
- Human Trafficking
- Dakota News Now Team
- Cupcake Decorating
- New Americans program
  - Donor Stories
  - Social Media 101
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
  - Club Fundraising
  - Club Service Work
- Tail Twisting and Club Fun
  - ORCAM
  - Kidsight





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SD LIONS CLUBS STATE CONVENTION  
OCTOBER 1-2, 2021



## 

Lion _____	Lioness _____	Guest _____	Title _____
Name _____	Club _____		
Email _____	Phone # _____		
Special Diet/Accommodation Needs: _____			

Lion _____	Lioness _____	Guest _____	Title _____
Name _____	Club _____		
Email _____	Phone # _____		
Special Diet/Accommodation Needs: _____			

*Please check all those you would like to purchase or attend:*

	Before Sept. 15	On/After Sept. 15			
_____ Registration Fee	\$80	\$100	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Friday Luncheon/Opening Session	<i>included</i>	<i>included</i>	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Friday Evening Reception	<i>included</i>	<i>included</i>	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Saturday Morning Breakfast	<i>included</i>	<i>included</i>	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Saturday Luncheon	<i>included</i>	<i>included</i>	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Saturday Excursion to Great Shots (or)	\$50	\$50	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Saturday Bus Tour of Sioux Falls (or)	\$10	\$10	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Saturday Service Project at Hotel	<i>included</i>	<i>included</i>	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Saturday Evening Banquet	<i>included</i>	<i>included</i>	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Additional Saturday Evening Banquet	\$35	\$35	x # _____	=	\$ _____
_____ Convention T-Shirt S M L XL	\$20	\$25	x # _____	=	\$ _____

Send completed registration form & checks payable to SD Lions Convention: 3920 S.  
Western Avenue, Suite 2, Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
Electronic registration/credit card payment available online at  
[www.sdlions.org/convention](http://www.sdlions.org/convention)

Total

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Reservations:** A block of rooms is being held under the Lions Convention.

Room rate is guaranteed \$106/night for King or Double Queen if booked by August 30, 2021.

For reservations, call the Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel: 605-336-0650.