

# 5SW LIONS' PRIDE

Volume 6 Issue 5 - September 2019



## Club Activities



Newell Lions work Motorcycle Rally. For the second year, the Newell Lions parked motorcycles for JP Cycles in Sturgis. 22 Lions Club Members and 9 Newell Leo Club Members worked a total of 535 hours during this year's 10 day event. Shown in the picture is Saturday's crew, from the left, Max Wetz, Ken Wetz, Alan Youngberg, Kevin Bossman and Craig Douthit. Money raised will help fund more worthwhile projects in and around Newell.

*Photo by Lion Neil*



This is DG Linda's first official Club visit for her year as District Governor and it was to the Buffalo Lions Club in July.



On July 3rd the Custer Lions Club and the Custer Wild LEOS Club spent the afternoon monitoring the Custer Chamber of Commerce annual Way Park game booths. In no particular order were Lions Dusty and Edie Dustman, Doug and Lona Faaborg, Fred and Carey Mills, Pat Lickieg, Bruce Doughty, and Custer Wild LEOS Club members Reece and Ava Smith, and Malachi Kelly and a visiting high school girl from Spearfish Kathy Merrill.



### 2019 Central States Fair features Kidsight Van

The 4 Lions Clubs in Rapid City sponsor the screening each year during the Central States Fair in Rapid City. Each Club has members to work the screening. It was estimated the Lions worked an approximate 148 man hours, with 21 people helping with the project. Along with the Rapid City Lions, they were joined by Sturgis Lion Tim Brown.

Together, they screened 334 kids, and 34 of those were referred on to their personal optometrist.

Be sure to visit our District 5-SW Website at  
<http://e-district.org/sites/5sw/>





## Club Activities

**Motel Telephone Number was WRONG on the Registration Form in the last Newsletter!!!!**

Wrangler Inn Phone Number is 1-888-884-3641. Please let your Club Members know of this correction.

Our Apology for the inconvenience that this may have caused. One Lion just called me with the problem. He said that he had called the listed number and that a woman in Canada answered the phone. And, she was not a very happy lady, said that she had received several other calls.

SO, spread the word on the above phone number.

**Lion Neil Vollmer  
Cabinet Secretary**

## Fall Rally Speakers



Lions Carolyn Faris Lyon & Mark S. Lyon, International Director

Mark S. Lyon, from Brookfield, Connecticut, USA, was elected to serve as international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 101st International Convention in 2018.

Director Lyon has worked in corporate legal administration and financial services for 36 years. He is currently board administration manager with Synchrony Financial.

He has been a member of the Brookfield Lions Club since 1996 and has held a number of offices within the association, including district governor, GLT district coordinator, cabinet secretary, multiple district council chairperson and multiple district GLT coordinator.

Director Lyon is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. His wife Carolyn Faris Lyon is also a longtime Lion and Melvin Jones Fellow.

International Director Mark S. Lyon will speak at the Fall Rally in Mobridge on Saturday, October 5th.

## Basket Auction



There will be a fundraiser and FUN Raiser during the Fall Rally. Clubs are asked to bring a themed Basket for the Auction. Funds will be donated to a Lions Project. Auction will include Pies, also. Pies will be donated by the Mobridge Lions Club Members and the proceeds will be as a Club Fund Raiser.



BJ Blahnik is originally from Seymour, Wisconsin. He is the youngest of five children and was raised around farming. BJ was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) around the age of 10.

While attempting many different career opportunities, in different corporations, he discovered the challenge of his vision was not allowing him to reach his potential. BJ now owns his own company, Reach Forward, which works with special needs individuals through day services and a residential program. In 2006 BJ's life was changed forever when he received his first Leader Dog. In January of 2014 BJ returned for his current Leader Dog, Goober, a male Black Lab. Goober was raised at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility in Iowa.

BJ married Victoria in May of 2010 and they live in Sheboygan, WI. They have three sons Emmitt, Trevor and Harvey. BJ has been a Lion member since 1998 and chartered his current Lions Club, the Sheboygan Community Lions Club, in 2017. He is also the Executive Director of a non-profit organization, VISION (Visually Impaired Sailing Institute & Organization of North America).



BJ Blahnik, and his leader dog Goober will be speaking at the Fall Rally in Mobridge





Custer Lions Club made a donation to the Custer Bark Park for a "necessaries" waste disposal station.

## BITS AND PIECES

Eureka Lions donated \$1300 to the High School FCCLA

Program to help 13 students attend the National Convention and compete in the National Contests.

Newell Lions Club replanted 25 cedar trees at the Newell Cemetery to fill in for those that "didn't" make it thru the recent winters. Club originally planted 130 trees in 2015.

Ipswich Lions Club hosted a concession stand during the Ipswich Trail Days Car Show.

Rushmore Lions Club had their annual Summer Picnic in June. 17 Members attended along with ID Pat Vannett and Spouse PDG Kevin, PID Bob Drabek and Spouse Lion Bev, DG Bea Gifford and Spouse PDG Ken. A total of 52 Lions and quests had a great evening.

Onida Lions Club conducted their Highway cleanup of 2 miles of Hwy 83 south of Onida.

Spearfish Lions Club reported over \$15,000 in donations this past year for such great causes as Leader Dog, local Baseball/Softball organization, a Veterans Memorial, We The People program, High School Welding Class, a young child's travel backpack, Melvin Jones Fellowships, requests for glasses assistance and a College Scholarship. Way to go Spearfish Lions.



### 2019-2020 5SW Leadership Team

1st Vice District Governor Richard Waits (member of the Rapid City Rushmore Lions Club), District Governor Linda Vollmer (Newell Lions Club) and 2nd Vice District Governor Geraldine Ray (Pierre-Ft Pierre Lions Club). The District Leaders meet in Rapid City recently for the 1st District Cabinet Meeting.

*Photo provided by Lion Ted Pukas, Piedmont Valley Lions*

## News from the District Governor

Hello to all Lions

Summer is almost over and with a different spring I hope frost is not in the forecast for awhile. My garden is now starting to produce.

The Lions International Convention was held in Milan, Italy July 5th through the 9th. The international parade was held on the 6th with many beautiful and original costumes from the Lions around the world. Tony Blair, former Prime

Minister of England was the featured speaker. Dr. Jung-Yul Choi of Busan, Republic of Korea was installed on Tuesday as the new Lions International President with a fantastic program from his country featuring dancers, singers, drummers, acrobats all in their native attire. And after that I became the official District Governor of 5SW.

You are wearing a badge with a blue ribbon and at the same time all 775 district governors have the spouse pull the ribbon from the badge. And voilà, you are District Governor.

We then spent two more weeks in Northern Italy touring the Tuscany vineyards, the Leaning Tower of Pisa (it really does lean a long way), the Coliseum, the Doge (which is equivalent to our White House), the Vatican and many churches and of course we had a gondola ride in Venice. It was a great trip, but three weeks is a long time.

The Fall Rally, which is October 4th and 5th will be held in Mobridge at the Wrangler Inn. We have a busy weekend. the Foundation will meet Friday afternoon. Followed by Dining in the Dark with proceeds to be sent to Leader Dog. There will only be one cabinet/business meeting on Saturday morning Our motivational speaker is BJ Blahnik, and his leader dog Goober, from Wisconsin. Programs are also on orientation by Donna Wetz, and there will be a history of Mobridge.

After lunch we will be assembling about 25 backpacks with Ashley Burkhead as chief in charge. We are still in need of some items. A letter has been sent out and I will send out a new one showing the current needs. I believe we still need backpacks and small blankets. If you can help please let Ashley or myself know, by calling 605-877-1937.

The International Director will be Mark Lyon and his wife Carolyn from Brookfield, CT. We look forward to meeting and hosting the Q & A for him.

If you have not registered yet please do so. Registration form is back of newsletter. The telephone number for the Wrangler Inn was incorrect on the last newsletter. It should be 888-884-3641.

I am planning my District Governor visits so please call me, at 605-456-1055, 605-515-9262, or 605-490-0386. With our shortage of members, I would like you to come up with a list of prospective members you would like to see join your club.

I would like to thank the Zone Chairs for volunteering, Robert Seyer, Ben Mahoney, Ron Bunnell, Arlene Moll, Jan Endes and Colin Keeler. I still need a Zone Chair for Zones 2 (Lemmon, McLaughlin and Mobridge) and 3 (Belle Fourche, Buffalo Newell and Nisland). Please let me know if you can help out in this position.

The Environmental tour will be in Hot Springs at the Mammoth Cite on October 11th. Please contact Ken Miller at 307-660-0440.

The State Convention will be in Watertown Jan 17, 18 and 19th. Put these dates on your calendar.

See you in Mobridge

**Lion Linda Vollmer, District Governor  
District 5SW**

