

Lions International

Multiple District 5

North Dakota – South Dakota

Saskatchewan

District Governors' Reports

2019 - 2020



Annual Report of District Governor Kathy Clemens, District Governor 5NE 2019-2020



This year as District Governor for 5NE has been so much more than I ever could have imagined. I am honored that I was given the opportunity to have this experience and I hope that all of the clubs in my District were able to experience the “Sunshine”.

As far as membership, District 5NE started the year with 1,207 members. As of the writing of this report, we are still at 1,207. We have had 117 added members and 117 dropped members. The most exciting news that I have to share regarding membership is that we chartered a new club in Mapleton on February 20th. 23 new members were inducted at that event. There were 10 clubs from the district who attended the charter night to show their support for the new club, which was amazing as well. Also, on a membership note, Zeeland, ND had two Lions clubs, the Zeeland Lions Club and the Zeeland Dakota Lions Club. They merged into one club, the Zeeland Lions Club, at the end of December. There are a few opportunities for new clubs in our district. If we are not able to make them happen this year, I am going to help District Governor Elect, Grant Kahlbaugh, in making them happen. Visiting the clubs across the district has really been one of the highlights of my year as District Governor, especially when I am asked to induct new members, which I have had the opportunity to do quite a few times! Over the last month, I haven't been able to make those visits, but have been able to keep in contact via telephone and e-mail, so I am very thankful that we have the technology that we do.

We have excellent leadership in District 5NE. I believe that District Governor Elect Grant Kahlbaugh and 1st Vice District Governor Elect Joe Sowokinos are going to be great leaders for our district. We are having a struggle in our succession planning for upcoming District Governors as we do not currently have a 2nd Vice District Governor Elect. We need to encourage a Lion to step up now instead of wanting to wait a few years. One of my goals was to get the Zone chairs more involved. I feel that the zone chairs have done an excellent job of stepping up and being the District Governor's eyes and ears when needed. We were scheduled to conduct officer training in April, but we had to postpone that event. We have a plan to reschedule an event in May or June, but we still have to work out some of the specifics.

The Peace Poster contest was new to our District this year. I think it was well received and that it was a great way to promote the Peace Poster contest and donations to LCIF. I think that this project will be an even greater success next year now that the word is out. We had scheduled to do a district wide raffle in the next few months with the proceeds being donated to LCIF, but that was put on hold. It is the plan to hold the raffle in the fall of next year.

The Lions of District 5NE are doing amazing service. I love visiting clubs and hearing about the amazing service that they are all doing. The one challenge that we have is that there are a lot of clubs that are still trying to learn how to use My Lion to report their service. District Governor Elect, Grant Kahlbaugh, and I have been reaching out to clubs and helping them learn how to navigate the system. I hope over the next year, we get all clubs reporting as I know they are doing the service, they just need to report it.

The highlight of my year as District Governor so far was the Mission Trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The Fargo Lions put this trip together and Lions from clubs across the state of North Dakota were able to serve. We brought 3,500 pairs of recycled eyeglasses for distribution to those in need. There were also approximately 1,000 pairs of readers and 750 pairs of sunglasses available to those who attended. While we were there, we saw over 500 people who had vision issues and needed assistance. It was an experience that I will never forget and it reminded me that that is why I became a Lion - to serve those in need (with a little bit of sunshine added in). I also gained another Lions family in the Lions of Puerto Vallarta

There have been opportunities and challenges throughout this year, but I wouldn't trade the experiences and all of my new Lions family for anything in the world

DG Kathy Clemens

District Governor's Annual Report - District 5SE

John Emmett 2019 - 2020



Membership

Membership continues to be a concern for our district. With a goal of increasing membership by 70 members, we are falling far short of that goal. Currently District 5SE is -41 member for this year. We have had 39 additions and 80 drops. We are currently at 1161 members.

We continue to work on this issues. District GMT and the District Governor team are trying to find solutions to this decline.

Leadership

With a goal of 100% of the incoming Club Officers completing training we have made great strides of previous years. Zones 5, 6 7, and 8 have had officer trainings. The District will be having a District wide training opportunity in May of 2020 in conjunction with the final Cabinet meeting of the year. This training opportunity will be the first of it kind in several years in our District and it is the hope that it will again become an annual occurrence.

Region and Zone Training

Each of the 8 Zone Chairs for District 5SE have been provided with the training materials and documents to better understand their responsibilities and duties. Successful Zone meetings have been conducted in Zones 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Zones 2 and 4 are being encouraged to conduct meaningful meetings in their Zones as the club year winds down.

Learning for Every Lion

Information for local and LCI sponsored training has been disseminated to each Lions club in the District. Lions from District 5SE have participated in local leadership activities on the local level such has the Fall Forum, State Convention, and Zone meetings. Lions from District 5SE have participated in LCI and other national leadership seminars and activates such as USA/Canada Leadership Forum, ALLI and District 5M Leadership seminar. Also, VDGE participated in LCI sponsored DG training in February. The District has provided some funding for Lions to participate.

New Club Development

District 5SE leadership met with the recently canceled club in Rosholt SD to determine interest in restarting. These meetings were both via telephone and in person. It was determined that the community was willing to commit to restarting the club. The local businesscommunity organization did decide to bring the Rosholt Lions Club's financial status up to date with LCI writing a check for \$107.00.

District 5SE leadership is also working hard with the Aberdeen Lioness club to convert them to a Lions Club. That effort looks very promising for later this spring.

District 5SE leadership is also work with the Debate and Forensics coaches in the state to start specialty club and District GMT coordinator is working with the University of SD to start a branch club at the school.

A charter application had been submitted by the Groton Lions club for a new LEO club in their community. The District leadership, the club and the school are very excited about this new addition.

Service Activity Reporting

This area had been a continuing concern for the leadership of Distract 5SE. Club reporting is falling far below what is reasonably expected. Currently only 38% of the clubs in our District are reporting service. All club have been contacted about their non-reporting and DGE Krisha Stroschine has taken the lead in developing resources for club secretaries to use. We will continue to work on clubs to report service.

The goal for this year was for the District to serve 100,000 people. That goal could be reached if clubs would report. Currently we have reported service of 23,100 people. Also, a goal was set to complete 300 reported service projects/. We are currently at 159. This goal, I am confident, will be reached before the end of this club year.

Other items

This year it was decided that the "District Governor Team" approach would be used as a way to make sure that all areas of the District had ready access to District leadership. The club visits were conducted by all three members of the District Governor Team. Training sessions were conducted by all. Committees were chaired by each member. And most importantly, each member of the team participated in training session to improve their leadership abilities. All members of the District Governor Team were very visible throughout the district.

Lastly, the District financial accounting has been enhanced and improved. The District purchased QuickBooks accounting software and District treasurer Jody Bymers transitioned the books from a simple excel spread sheet to the new software. This transition has made it so very much easier to access information, account for funds, identify trends, and to make informed decisions on all financial matters for the District.

DG John Emmett

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
DISTRICT 5NW 2019 - 2020
LION SHERRY FETCH
MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA**



"We Serve"



International Lions President, Dr. Jung-Yul Choi's theme this year includes the Lions motto, "We Serve through Diversity". District 5NW reflects diversity through our membership with women being a strong presence. Our District leads the Multiple District in Women as Lions.

The 2019-2020 District Governors started their leadership training by LCI in a new way, by attending training in Chicago, Illinois at the Q Center the February before our DG year. This training was inspiring and helped my year to get started in a truly awesome way!

My theme is "On Fire to Inspire!" My goal is to inspire Leadership and Service in our Lions Clubs during my Governor Year and going forward.

GAT: Leadership: GLT

The year began with Zone Training before our first District Meeting on August 3rd, 2019. Five out of the six Zone chairs participated in the excellent training provided by our GLT Leader, IPDG Ginney Jones. The sixth Zone Chair completed the training at home. This was the first goal completed for District 5NW.

Another goal was to have at least 10 people attend leadership training throughout the year. DGE Kevin Bean and 2nd VDGE elect Jeanette Bean attended the USA Canada Leadership Forum and 1st VDGE Scott Ressler attended the Advanced Lions Leadership Forum, while IPDG Ginney Jones had applied for and was accepted into the Faculty Development Institute. I am hoping that other Zone Chairs and leadership of the future will attend the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institutes of District MD5M and District 5NW or the Summit at the MD5 Convention.

The Leadership Team and GAT Team have met monthly by Go-to-Meeting with the Zone Chairs and LCIF Chair to keep track of what is happening in the District.

We also added a Leo Representative to the Cabinet. Leo Liberty Hurley, President of the Mandan Leo Club stepped up to this leadership role. Leo Liberty and other Mandan Leos were in charge of a breakout session at the ND State Lions Convention. I hope this leadership role is continued in our future cabinets.

GAT: Membership: GMT

At the ND State Convention District 5NW put out a membership challenge to District 5NE and we won that challenge by 3 Lions. One of the primary reasons we won that challenge was because we achieved another goal; we gained a fourth Leo Club. The Beulah Lions Club had the Charter Night for the Beulah Miners Leo Club on October 20th and over 60 of the 85 Leos were present. What a wonderful celebration. By starting this Leo club the Beulah Lions Club gained 11 new Lions, who assist with the several projects of the Leo Club.

With the assistance of our GMT Leader, PCC Arlen Fetch, we had positive membership in the first quarter. As the second quarter was winding down we had positive numbers until the end when we lost a Lions Club. Try as we may the Glen Ullin Lions didn't want to add women or try any other ideas we had to regenerate their club. This pushed the District into negative numbers.

On a brighter note, we are in the process of saving the Beach Lions Club. They are in Priority Designation with a Guiding Lion and we had our first membership drive. We will have another membership drive in the spring.

At the middle of March we are finally getting back into positive membership. District 5NW has another Club Membership Challenge in the works. The Lions Club that gains the most new Lions before the Spring Rally will earn 3 registrations for the State Convention next October and the club who takes second in the challenge will earn 2 registrations. We have had this type of challenge the past 2 years and it has been pretty successful.

We were hoping to have a couple more membership challenges yet this year, but we are very unsure of what will happen after the advent of the Coronavirus breakout in the US.

GAT: Service: GST

District 5NW does so much Service! I'm so proud of all the Lions Clubs that are actively doing service in their communities and slowly we are beginning to document it more in MyLion. This continues to be a struggle. I commend GST Gary Morel for stepping up to the plate, attending Zone Meetings and Lions Clubs, presenting service ideas and the importance of documenting the service in MyLion. He has placed articles in the North Dakota Lion. The service we do encompasses all the 5 LCI Service Areas. Sight 4 Kidz program, eye glass collection and cleaning ditches, park improvements, Strides Walks for Diabetes Awareness, sending Diabetic Children to Camp Sioux Diabetic Camp, Benefits to help Children with Cancer, and also food drives for the Local Shelters and homeless. This is just a sample of the amazing service that District 5NW does.

GAT: Leadership, Membership, Service:

It takes all three of these Lions qualities to put together a ND Lions State Convention. The Convention Committee, which consisted of Lions from several Clubs in Zone 3A did an exceptional job of putting together a very wonderful, memorable convention.

Another goal for District 5NW was to have a Women's Symposium. There hasn't been a Women's Conference or Symposium since 2006 and this has been not only a goal but also a dream to be a part of planning this symposium. Seven Lion Women are on the committee to plan this event. We are hoping the Coronavirus won't destroy our efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Lions in District 5NW for their support, friendship, and hospitality during this past year. It has been very enjoyable visiting clubs throughout the District individually, at Zone meetings and other functions. Each club whether small or large has their own unique way of serving their communities and every one of these communities' benefit by having an active Lions club.

I would also like to thank my District Governor Team, DGE Kevin Bean and 1st VDGE Scott Ressler, who have worked diligently visiting clubs and attending Zone meetings allowing us all to have a successful year. I commend all of my cabinet members who have worked so hard in their respective positions. District 5NW would not be as strong as we are without this great team of Lions.

I need to thank PDG Mark Koller for being the LCIF beacon of our District. We have a very generous district to our Lions Organization. I am very proud to be a part of the leading district in Multiple District 5 for contributions to LCIF.

Last but not least, I thank my Lion partner, PCC Arlen for being my support through all things and for his contribution along this wonderful journey. I am so proud to have you by my side. Through you I have learned that, "Amazing Things Can Happen!"

As my year comes to a close, I would like to introduce the District Governor Team for next year; District Governor Elect Kevin Bean from the Mandan Lions Club, 1st Vice District Governor Elect Scott Ressler from the Bismarck North Star Lions Club and 2nd Vice District Governor Jeanette Bean from the Mandan Lions Club. A great District Governor Team, all very qualified and devoted Lions who will serve our District well. I offer them my full support and wish them all very successful terms as the Leaders of District 5NW. For we are ALL "Lions On Fire To Inspire!"

Lion Sherry M. Fetch
Dacotah Mandan Lions Club
District Governor
District 5NW



"We Serve"

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 5 SKN DISTRICT GOVERNOR BERNIE RUTKO



From the beginning being a District Governor, the months went by quickly. It was a busy term for me visiting the Lions Clubs and attending special Lion's events. I was invited back to attend their club meetings. I enjoyed being with the Lions members and meeting new people. I enjoyed hearing about their community involvement. I have learned so much more about their Lions Club in my own District 5SKN. The Lions would explain about their Community projects and how they were formed as a Charter Club. Some of the Lions Club dated back to 1940s.

MaryAnn and I traveled across the District. We both enjoyed the District Governor's visits and enjoyed being with the Lion members.

The Covid-19 took hold of the world hostage. It was only a few weeks ago, the world was normal and we could move around freely and safely. We need to keep our social distance and worry for our loved ones and the welfare of all others. The lions Clubs visits had to be postponed and the community events all had to be cancelled to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

For the time of the visits, Inducted 15 new members into the Lions Club. PDG Lion Dan Babyak and myself were invited to attend the Canora Wheatland Lioness Club meeting on March 10/20. Lion Dan and myself presented the Lioness with information from LCI about the New Program- The Lioness Bridge Program. and the benefits to become a Lions Club. The Lioness showed a positive interest in the new program. They will contact me by email.

Lion Marvis and myself were asked to induct a member into the Saskatoon Downtown Lions Club. The family of the deceased and their Son Ryan requested if we can induct Ryan's father officially induct into the Lions Club. Ryan is visual impaired and has no hearing. This would need to be done before the funeral service began. After the inductions, Ryan placed his LION'S PIN ON HIS FATHER'S LAPEL in the casket. This was an emotional time for Lion Marvis and myself.

The 5SKN Lions Clubs are very active with their projects and being visible in the community. The Zones did a fine job which they performed their duties and kept me informed about the club's events.

The Vice District Governors attended their training sessions at Minot and Chicago. The Vice District Governors are ready for the Journey being a District Governors.

The Campaign 100 is off to a good start. Lion Beryl spending countless of hours visiting the clubs and on the phone promoting the benefits of Campaign 100. Lion Beryl mentioned the funds for our District 5SKN are coming along. We have several Lions club signed for the Maple Leaf commitment form pledging to donate the equivalent of CAD \$360.00 PER MEMBER. Several clubs may attain the Model Club status which means they commit to US\$500.00 PER MEMBER. We have 10 Lions Club committed already have donated US \$1000.00.

Lion Doug Reid attended the meeting and workshops about Lion's Quest programs for the teachers, but it will be a uphill struggle. We are competing with other similar programs to Lion's Quest. Peace Posters went well and we have more Lion club are interested in the Peace Poster Program. The speech competition went well. I wish more clubs would be involved.

I promoted the Dog Guides to my District 5SKN and they were generous the amounts I received from Lions Club. I explain the impact of different areas where Service Dogs were needed and some members shed some tears of how much of services needed for the challenged mind people. The Dog Guides are one my charities.

Lion Marie Milnthorpe and Lion Jack did an awesome job by placing the international; youths into the hosts families home. Lion Marie has devoted countless of hours and setting the agenda for the youths and host families. Lion Marie challenge the MD5 COG'S about the covid-19 virus . Marie is not in favor of hosting any youth from other countries coming to Saskatchewan. We need protect our families first from the covid-19 virus. I hope Members of MD5 will bring this for discussion? This is an important Matter, It is our Health need to be addressed. Lion Marie has chaired this position and the youth are our future Lion Leaders.

Lion John Boersma and the Convention Committee worked hard to pilot the first Saskatchewan Lions Joint Convention, October 25-26-27/2019 in Saskatoon. The convention ran without a hitch and kept all the events together in favorable fashion. The Saskatchewan Lions Hall of Fame was well attended. The whole weekend was filled with lots of excitement and fellowship with Lions from 5SKS AND MD5 Members. The best event or high light, We had Third Vice International Dr, Patti Hill attending the First Saskatchewan Lions Joint Convention. Oh yes we cannot forget the special speakers dealing on topics of their motivation to give us how to stay on focus. Thank you Lion John Boersma and the 2019 convention committee for an awesome weekend.

Thank you to all MD5 Lions Members and the instructors giving your time for us, Thank you for your trust in me and guiding me through the directions and given me the opportunity being THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF 2019=2020.

Thank you to all 5SKN Lions Club working together, making a huge impact in the communities during the crises of Covid-19. And to the Vice District Governors FVDGE Marvis W. , FVDG Marianne K. , 2NDVDG Kyle W. Thank you for your trust and keeping me POSITIVE.

I wish MD5 DG Sherrie, DG Kathy, DG Linda, DG Jim, and DG John[PRINCE JOHN].FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL TIMES TOGETHER.

WHEN THIS IS OVER- AND IT WILL BE OVER- WE WILL ALL BE STRONGER THAN EVER.

DG Bernie Rutko



District Governor Jim Vermeersch Annual Report 2019–20 District 5 SKS

Membership

At my initial cabinet meeting in August, I stated that my primary goal throughout the year would be to have a net increase in membership. This has been my primary focus as I have presided over cabinet meetings or visited clubs throughout the year. About mid March, we all realized that there were far more important goals than recruiting new members but rather making sure that everyone stayed safe. Unfortunately, this fear over the pandemic resulted in having to cancel a membership drive in Kindersley and several meetings we had planned with Lioness clubs. This has had a negative impact on membership. As of right now, we are down a couple of members throughout the district but I am still committed to achieving the goal.

Leadership

A very successful zone training day happened near the beginning of the year due largely to the work of our GLT leader, PDG Terry McAleese. 9 of the 10 zone chairs were in attendance and all of them expressed the view that it was a very positive experience. Our region chairperson also implemented a monthly Go-to-Meeting with all zone chairs which enabled everyone to stay in touch and helped with communication throughout the district. Unfortunately, club officer training that had been planned in two different locations in March had to be cancelled. The District Governor team started holding weekly zoom meetings in mid-March and continue to do so.

Service

Like many districts, many of our club secretaries struggled with My Lion reporting and this was reflected in our service reporting numbers. This was often expressed to the District Governor team as we made our visits. We ended up with 48 of our 73 clubs reporting service. This represents about 66%. In every instance, we have offered support through our zone chairs to the secretaries and many of them has taken us up on the offer. I'm sure that these numbers will improve as more secretaries become more familiar with the new technology.

Other Issues

Along with the district secretary, I have worked hard to increase communication between the District Governor team, the cabinet and the general membership. This has been a problem in the past and everyone continues to reiterate the need to continue to work on communication.

During the year we also developed and implemented new guidelines for our Lions Pride newsletter. With the help of the district Treasurer I worked to improve the reliability of the financial statements and to make the district finances more transparent to cabinet in an effort to become more financially accountable. LCI grants for Lions Quest, Canada Centennial 100 and story sharing were all applied for and received by the district. The Canada Centennial 100 grant was distributed amongst 14 clubs within the district who all pledged their money towards environmental projects in their communities.

Much appreciation goes out to my District Governor team who were visible throughout the district during the year and helped me greatly with visits, district meetings and good sound advice the entire year.

I also wish to thank my cabinet who did valuable work.

Submitted by
DG Jim Vermeersch, 5 SKS

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT – 5 SW
DISTRICT GOVERNOR LINDA VOLLMER**



This year has been an honor to server the Lions of District 5SW. It was a busy year with visiting clubs. The things I enjoyed most were meeting new people, and hearing about the projects and history of the clubs. Only 3 visits had to be postponed because of the weather and those were in October. 1st VDG Richard Waits visited 2 clubs for me and Geraldine Ray, 2nd VDG visited 1.

The travel to Italy was a beautiful experience with all the old buildings and wonderful paintings, sculptures and frescos. I really enjoyed seeing the coliseum and hearing the stories. They are still excavating some of the ruins. The worst thing I encountered was ordering a wurst and receiving a hot dog.

Our club officer training was scheduled for April 18th and has been postponed. May will not work because of graduations, Mother's Day and the MD 5 convention. We are looking at June and because of the conflicts we have with the presenters, we are probably looking at July.

Zone training was held at the first cabinet meeting on July 29th with 3 Zone Chairpersons attending along with the Region Chairman. Packets were sent to the others explaining what was expected and the dates to have meetings in their Zones. I did personal meetings with 2 of the Zone Chairs. The function of Zone Chairs is so important to the District. Lion Jim Treloar has done a great job contacting all the Zone Chairs and receiving reports from them. The first Cabinet Meeting had 100% of Zones holding meetings.

5SW has had ups and downs. We ended February with drops and new members. Hopefully by year end we will have a new club to report.

We have possibilities of new clubs at Faith and Wanblee. We have held a canvassing at Faith and have 12 members ready to join. Corona virus now has us on hold. I am confident we will have a new club there by June 30th. Wanblee has 3 members ready to join, but are also on hold there.

People served in our district approaches 73000 with 10,999 volunteer hours with only half of the clubs reporting. Our speak-off contest is on hold until further notice. Most of these people were by eye screening. We have approached Belle Fourche and Sturgis with starting new Leo Clubs.

Some of our Club Secretaries in 5SW still continue to have trouble with reporting service activities to Lions International and the District Officers. And on the other hand, some have mastered the newest revision completely. Training was planned for at the Spring Fling and will be held later, even if on a one on one basis.

Clubs have done a good job of reporting next years Club Officers. And I wish to thank them for that effort.

Education still continues on support of LCIF. LCIF Chairs Doug Scheller and Tim Brown have visited clubs and have received \$27,727 in donations again with only half of the clubs reporting.

Linda

