

Lions Spirit 01/2024



FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

A new year and a
new beginning

With coffee in hand and an outside temp of -14, I sit down to write this newsletter article hoping for inspiration from this frozen world. The sun is bright and I would love to go out and absorb its rays, but the wind chill makes it too cold to remain outside for any length of time.

The gravel road beckons me to take my daily walk, but the snow has crusted over to an icy layer too slippery to traverse. It all seems so dreary.

Then it hits — that is my inspiration! There is beauty in this landscape and this isolation. It is a time to dream and plan and renew commitments made at the turn of the calendar year.

What do I really want to accomplish this calendar year? What steps can I take to make the world a better place for others? Who can I help through even the smallest of gestures — a phone call, a card, a coffee together at the local coffee house? And how am I taking care of myself? Suddenly, the dreariness washes away and I can see the possibilities, even through the frost of the windows. What do you see for possibilities?

I have a few suggestions from a Lions perspective:

1. Increase your knowledge of Lions by taking a course through the Lions Learning Center on www.lionsclubs.org. If you are a club officer or would like to be, there are short courses on what you should know to best serve. If you are just curious about Lions and want to know more, there is a course for you.

2. Plan a new service project for your club. Dare to dream and make a plan. Don't be paralyzed by what has always been or fear of the unknown. As I have said in earlier newsletters, BE BOLD.
3. Recognize the contributions of club members through your own club awards — make them fun. We have formal awards through the district and LCI, and you are encouraged to award them, but we also need to be a little spontaneous and goofy.
4. Encourage members of your club to attend our district convention in Freeman on April 6. Get a car load and come to the event. It is guaranteed to be fun and you will get to meet wonderful Lions from across the district.
5. Challenge yourself to invite at least one person to join your Lions Club. We have added 55 new members to our district so far this year, but we have dropped 31 members. Who are your newly retired or empty nest friends — invite them. What about your sons and daughters — have you asked them to continue your Lions legacy? How will you speak to young people about the service of Lions?
6. Call Lions clubs in your zone to see if you can work on a project together. Learn from each other.
7. Be adventurous — attend the International Lions Convention in Melbourne Australia this June. If that seems a bit too far, plan to attend the Multi District 5 Convention in Minot, N.D., May 16-18. The registrations are included in this newsletter.
8. Volunteer to take a role on the District 5SE cabinet for 2024-2025. Dedicated individuals with a love for Lions are always needed.
9. Dedicate yourself to earning the Club Excellence Award for your club.
10. Help a neighboring community start a Branch Lions Club so Lions service can spread.
11. Donate individually to SD Lions Foundation and Lion Club International Foundation.

Let's make 2024 a year of renewal of purpose through bold ideas and dedication to Lions Service.

Leon LeeAnn Haisch
5SE District Governor

LEADERDOG

From pup to guide:
Training puppies to
become Leader
Dogs



Training puppies to become Leader Dogs for the Blind is a meticulous and transformative process that begins with a purposeful breeding program. Professional breeders selectively pair dogs based on temperament, health, and suitability for guide work.

The carefully chosen puppies are entrusted to volunteer puppy raisers at around 7 to 8 weeks of age, who provide a loving home environment and crucial early socialization.

Puppy raisers play a fundamental role in instilling basic obedience and good manners in the young canines. They expose the puppies to various environments, sounds, and experiences, fostering adaptability and confidence.

The pups learn essential commands such as sit, stay, and come, laying the groundwork for the more advanced skills they will acquire later on. Around the age of one year, the puppies return to the Leader Dogs for the Blind training center in Rochester Hills, Michigan for formal guide dog training.

Professional trainers work intensively with the dogs, teaching advanced skills such as navigating obstacles, stopping at curbs, and responding to specific commands. Positive reinforcement and a focus on building a strong bond between trainers and dogs characterize this phase.

Once trained, the dogs are carefully matched with individuals who are blind or visually impaired, considering factors like personality and lifestyle. The matched pairs undergo intensive training together, emphasizing not just technical skills but also fostering a deep bond of trust.

Ongoing support ensures the continued success of these guide dog partnerships, ultimately empowering individuals to navigate the world with newfound independence and confidence. Since 1939, Lions Clubs around the nation have played a crucial role in providing financial support to this vital program through a myriad of fund-raising activities.

As they say, "In Every Leader Dog Lies the Heart of a Lion." The journey from a playful puppy to a reliable guide dog is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and collaborative efforts of everyone involved. For additional information on becoming a puppy raiser see <https://www.leaderdog.org/>.

Lion Terry DeLay

5SE Leader Dog Chairman



BRITTON LIONS CLUB

*Celebrate the
holidays with
service*







Britton holds Christmas on Parade each year. Picture one shows the Britton Lions Club served a soup and chili supper, also serving nachos and cheese and hot dogs on Saturday evening following the Missoula Children's Theater and Parade.

The theme for the Parade was "Fairytale" so our entry was entitled "Lion's King," with Lion Tom Farber as our Lion, as shown in picture two.

We held our Christmas party with a turkey supper and a fun dice game to exchange gifts. and collected items for the Marshall County Food Pantry. This group photo in picture four is from that event.

Lions Larry & Lori Burock
Britton Lions Club

DELL RAPIDS LIONS

Club holds awards banquet, Lion Allen Brown honored for 59 years of membership



Dell Rapids Lions, spouses and friends gathered the evening of Dec. 7 to honor new and old Lions. A banquet was served by Cricket's Catering at the Dells Senior Citizen Center.

Special guest Lions District Governor LeeAnn Haisch of Alcester presented awards, including the Excellence Award for the club's 2022-23 accomplishments.

The focus of the evening, however, was on Lion Allen Brown who received the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship. Named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, it is the highest honor that club members can bestow on a fellow Lion.

Brown holds the longest membership in the Dells club, having joined Dec. 1, 1964, 59 years and counting. During that time, Brown served as club president and director, and has been a mainstay in every club project, activity and fundraising effort. "Like Melvin Jones, Allen Brown has put his intelligence, ambition and talents to work improving and serving his community," said Haisch in presenting the plaque to Brown.

Lion Carmen Rogen received the District's Proud Lion Award for meeting a list of requirements during her first year of membership. Rogen actually accomplished the work in less than six months after joining the club this past June.

The evening's agenda also included the induction of two new members by Membership Chair Lion Christine Snyder: Carolyn Drew, sponsored by Lion Marlowe Hovey, and Zach Rogen, sponsored by his wife, Lion Carmen Rogen.

Haisch concluded her remarks to the gathering with a reminder of how important Lions Clubs are to communities around the world. "How often are we asked: What do Lions do?" said Haisch. "The answer is simple: We do good for people."



Lions District Governor LeeAnn Haisch (left) presented the Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Allen Brown. Brown's wife, Gloria, is pictured at right.



Club President Robert Wiarda accepted the Club Excellence Award from District Governor Haisch.



New Dell Rapids Lions inducted December 7th are Carolyn Drew and Zach Rogen.



Lion Carmen Rogen received the Proud Lion Award.

Lion Sue Hovey

Dell Rapids Lions



PLAY BALL

Lions Club night at
the Sioux Falls
Canaries

Lions Club night at the Ball Park.



Come to Canaries Stadium on June 1st at
5:35pm in Sioux Falls, SD.



We are trying to get as many Lions from East River to attend.

Would love to see you there! Tickets are \$16.

Link will be coming soon to have you order your tickets. Will be sending the link to club Presidents.

Hope to see you there!

Lion Ellie Beckman
Sioux Rise Lions

ALL LIONS

On a mission to
grow to serve more
people



MISSION 1.5 Sponsor Pin

In addition to the traditional sponsor pin, Lions who sponsor a new member during MISSION 1.5 will also receive a special MISSION 1.5 Sponsor Pin designed to celebrate the achievement of welcoming a new member to your Lions club.

Qualifying criteria

- Sponsor a new member during MISSION 1.5
- All new members and charter members who become Lions during MISSION 1.5 will receive a special member pin in addition to the traditional new member or charter member pin.

All Clubs

- Member Retention Awards: MISSION 1.5 is your opportunity to emerge as a Lion leader, put your club on the map and show that serving side by side means growing stronger together.
- Premier Club Award: MISSION 1.5's Premier Club is a four-tiered, progressive award system with Premier, Silver, Gold and Diamond levels. There is an opportunity to advance one tier every Lion Year, but to reach Diamond status by 2027, Premier Club status must be achieved in the first year.
- Qualifying criteria: Gain a new MISSION 1.5 Premier Club award tier each year by achieving 100% retention, 10% growth, with a minimum of 5 new members Premier Club Award winners at and above the Silver Tier will also be recognized in LION magazine and at international convention.
- Platinum Club Award: There is a special place reserved at the top of the MISSION 1.5 mountain. It's an elite level only the most dedicated Lions clubs can attain. Lions always rise to the occasion. This is the occasion.
- Qualifying criteria: Retain 100% of existing membership and double club size by adding at least 20 new members Platinum Club Award winners will also be recognized in LION Magazine and at international convention.

Lion Lois Reiersen

MD5 Council Secretary



SIouxRISE LIONS

Spread holiday
cheer









Siouxrise Lions were busy in December serving others and sharing fellowship. Members hosted the Salvation Army's Angel Tree at the Empire Mall. They also joined other Sioux Falls Lions in staffing the "Food to You" mobile food pantry, where 144 families were served. Lions supported their pride via fun and spirit at the annual Christmas Party! Looking forward to helping more people in 2024!

Lion Robyn Tyler
Past District Governor

EMERGING LIONS

Leadership
Institute set for
March



EMERGING LIONS
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
ELLI

This institute is for Lions who wish to pursue leadership roles within their club. You will learn the history and goals of LCI and LCIF, develop strategies for being an effective leader, creative thinking, change management and collaborate with a diverse group of fellow Lions.



March 15-17, 2024
Shooting Star Casino
777 Casino Dr, Mahnomon, MN



The cost of the institute is \$100 USD which includes all training materials and meals. Lodging is available at the casino hotel for \$85 USD per night.

Additional details and the application can be found on the MD5M website: lionsmd5m.org under resources.

Contact Lion Dennis W. Kelly III, MD5M GLT Coordinator at dkellylion@gmail.com with questions.

Lion Lois Reiersen

MD5 Council Secretary



DELL RAPIDS LIONS

Gain three new members

The Dell Rapids Lions Club was proud to accept three new members during its regular meeting Nov. 2. Kathy Rindels and Nate and Amanda Hein affirmed their willingness to volunteer with the local club and Lions Clubs International.

Founded in Chicago in 1917, LCI is the world's largest service club organization, with 1.4 million members in 48,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographic areas. The Dell Rapids club currently has 31 members who are dedicated to the Lions motto: WE SERVE. The club will celebrate its 80th anniversary in September.

Dell Rapids Lions meet at 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Pizza Ranch. For information about Lions or about joining the Dell Rapids club, visit the club's website at dellrapidslionsclub.org. "Contacts" has names, phone numbers and email addresses of members ready to answer your questions.



From left to, Kathy Rindels and Nick and Amanda Hein joined the Dell Rapids Lions Club Nov. 2. The club's Membership Chairwoman, Lion Christine Snyder, far right, performed the induction ceremony. She also sponsored all three new members.

Lion Sue Hovey

Dell Rapids Lions

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Fargo Lions plan celebration



March is Women's History month.

Did you know that women have been serving as Lions members since 1987? That is something to celebrate!

If your Lions club has female members, here are a few suggestions to show appreciation for their hours of service in your community:

- Your club could pay for their meal during the March meeting
- Your club could give each lady a flower at the meeting
- Host a female-oriented luncheon on International Women's Day.

For example, New Voices is sponsoring a women's symposium on March 9, in Fargo, N.D. Because it is a Saturday, most businesswomen and teachers are more likely to attend from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

They will hear about Leadership in Lionism, The Haiti Eye Mission, and look at an eye display from Gateway to Science exhibit from Bismarck.

A women-themed service project will start at 2 p.m.

Questions can be directed to Lion Crystal Dueker, MD5 New Voices coordinator, 701-388-9676.

Lion Crystal Dueker

MD5 New Voices coordinator



DISTRICT 5SE

Meet the leadership team

Wonder who's on the 2023-24 District Leadership Team? Click the links to find out:

- [Officers](#)
- [Zone Chairs](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Past District Governors](#)
- [Meeting minutes](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Important meetings and events



2024 District 5SE Spring Forum; April 5, Freeman.

- [More information coming soon!](#)

2024 MD5 Convention: May 16-18, Minot, N.D.

- [Find the registration forms here.](#)

2024 Lions International Convention; June 21-25, Melbourne.

- [Find the registration forms here.](#)
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SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Send your club
news to:

5seenews@gmail.com

