



Branch out Lions Spirit 2-26-24



FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

An early spring

In my January newsletter article, I was suffering from the doldrums of winter — the cold and gray had taken hold of my psyche. Today, just 30 days later, I can barely contain my desire to forget about my "to do" list and just go outside into the warmth and sun for the entire day.

Our district is on fire with new ideas and new members, and it is all due to each of you and your service with Lions.

Lions Branch Out

In January, Lions from the Brandon Lions Club met with prospective members of Lions in the Garretson region. Through continual communication, hard work, and personal Lions stories, 5 individuals from Garretson agreed to start a branch club with Brandon Lions Club as their sponsor.

The Garretson Lions Club Branch application has been submitted to LCI for approval. It has been several years since District 5SE celebrated the start of a new club of any kind, so this is truly momentous.

The partnership between the Brandon Lions Club and the Garretson Lions Club Branch will prove invaluable as they work on projects together and grow in membership together. How did all of this even start?

It was through a conversation about what Lions do and then a simple ask — asking people if they wanted to join or start a Lions club. Are you sharing your Lions story?

Are you asking people to join in helping with one of your club's service projects? Are you then asking them to join your club?

I challenge each of you to ask one person to a service project or meeting. Then I challenge each of you to ask that person to join your club.

A special thank you to Zone Chair Jackie for her tireless efforts throughout this process.



Members of the Brandon Lions Club, prospective members of the Garretson Lions Club Branch, and Zone Chair Jackie Cerkowniak

The story of growth in new clubs does not stop there. The District Global Extension Chair, PDG Robyn Tyler, is in talks with a group from Sioux Falls who has shown interest in starting their own club.

Things are in the early stages, but with work and dedication, we are hoping to have a new club in Sioux Falls by early summer. Again, it all started with an ask — this time the ask came from a Lion not even in South Dakota.

If you want to know more about starting a club branch in a neighboring community or with a group of people near you, please notify Robyn Tyler or me. We will gladly get you all the information you need and help you along the way.

LCIF Contributions can help District 5SE

In August, District 5SE was notified that through generous district club and personal contributions to LCIF last year, the district could apply for up to \$18,000 in District Impact Grant money. It was determined by the District 5SE officers/cabinet that new vision screeners for our Lions Kidsight Program were an immediate need as many of our current screeners are "on their last leg."

The screeners are very expensive, so the grant money may only purchase 2-3. However, even 2-3 new screeners will allow Lions to continue the yearly screening of 37,000+ children through the South Dakota Lions Kidsight Program. I will let you know if we have been approved for the grant as soon as I hear!

Spring Happenings:

Remember to elect your new club officers in March. Is your club thinking about adding a membership chairperson? How about a social media chairperson?

Maybe your club needs a service project chairperson. Your club, your way — be creative.

Attend the Spring Forum in Freeman on April 6. Your newly elected club officers will have a training session.

You will learn about the importance of recognizing New Voices in your clubs; the need to do and report service projects; the reasons why young people join Lions; the growing importance of social media in the Lions organization.

We also have two dynamic speakers who will talk about the impact your Lions club has on your community and on why service organizations are struggling or dying in today's fast-paced world.

This spring forum is for you — to grow, to learn, to reconnect, to be inspired. Please join us - our goal is to have 100+ participants.

Lion LeeAnn Hairch

5SE District Governor

SPRING FORUM

Register today!



2024 Spring Forum - Agenda

8 a.m.

- Registration; Viewing of display tables; Silent auction bidding (Proceeds for SD Lions Foundation)

9-9:25 a.m.

- Opening Session
- MC
- Invocation
- Recognition of Guests
- Welcome

9:25-9:50 a.m.

- State of District

9:50-10:30 a.m.

- Celebrate Community

10:30-11 a.m.

- Membership Approach in Lions & SWAT

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Noon Luncheon
- Invocation
- Video

12:30-1:30 p.m.

- PDG Meeting (basement South East Corner)
- New Voices in Lions
- Service for Millennials
- Young Lions

1:30-1:50 p.m.

- Q & A

1:50-2:10 p.m.

- Break

2:10-2:50 p.m.

- Training for New Officers... and Needy Lions
- Presidents/Vice Presidents/BoD - Basement South West Corner
- Secretaries - Basement South East Corner
- Treasurers - Basement North East Corner
- Zone Chair - Basement Middle Section
- Mentoring a New Lion - Basement NorthWest Corner

2:50-3:05 p.m.

- Coffee Break with Snacks

3:05-3:25 p.m.

- Social Media ... the New "Party Line" for Clubs -

3:25-3:45 p.m.

- Creative Service Projects - BeeHive -

3:45-4 p.m.

- Announcements/Misc.

4-5:30 p.m.

- Break

- Free visit to Heritage Hall Museum and or walk the Prairie Arboretum

5:30-6:50 p.m.

- Banquet
- Invocation
- Address
- Results of the silent auction (Proceeds for SD Lions Foundation) & Game
- Closing remarks

Lions 5SE Spring Forum 2024

Friday April 5, Cabinet Meeting at Freeman Citizens Center, 202 E. 4th St. Freeman, SD
 Saturday April 6, Forum, and Meals at Pioneer Hall, 428 S. Juniper St. Freeman, SD
 Registration starts at 8 am with Forum program at 9 am.
 Spring Forum Theme: LIONS ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

Registration Form

Name _____ Lions Position (or spouse) _____

Name _____ Lions Position (or spouse) _____

Address _____

Home Club _____ Club City, State _____

Best Phone Contact _____ Email _____

Is this your first Lions Forum? ____ Your highest Lions Office held _____

Registration Fees:

	Before March 5	After March 5
Full (Breaks, Lunch, Banquet)	\$50/person	\$70/person
Banquet & Keynote Only	\$30/person	\$40/person

Mail Registrations to:

Lion Sam Sorensen PO Box 234 Freeman, SD 57029

Include check for payment in full made out to: "Lions Spring Forum 2024"

Venmo Payments: Please contact Sam Sorensen to arrange payment.

Any dietary restrictions: _____

Lodging Available for April 5 and April 6, 2024, at (block name is Lions District 5SE Forum):

Freeman Country Inn, \$90.00 +tax/night for 2 people 1 bed, & \$95+tax/night for 2 people & 2 beds (20 rooms available)
 1019 S. US Hwy 81 Freeman, SD 57029
 Phone: 605-925-4888

Fensel's Motel, \$68.12 +tax/night for 2 people 1 bed, & \$71.90 + tax/night for 2 people & 2 beds (9 rooms available)
 520 N. US Hwy 81 Freeman, SD 57029
 Phone: 605-925-4204

These blocks of rooms will be released on March 5, 2024/ Must call for reservation because of block of rooms reserved.



40 UNDER 40

Time to target millennial Lions

Lion Paul Fugate is a second generation lion and has been a Lion since 2009 and a Leo before that in 2007. Lion Paul is a member of the Mt. Vernon Iowa Lions Club and is a Past District Governor.

One of PDG Paul's goals his District Governor year was to bring in 40 new Members under 40. PDG Paul was successful in his endeavor!

To date we have started three clubs in Area "C" with 2 clubs pending. Our goal for this year is 33 new clubs, we have five months to try and at least accomplish half of our goal.

To date our membership goals are on track and we should as an area meet those numbers. Our retention is not as successful as our new member goals as is our goal for positive growth in our area.

We cannot dwell on what has happened, we need to look forward to what we can accomplish before the end of the year. Together we can, together we will.

At the end of the first six months of the Lions year we inducted over 80,000 new members into Lions, the bad news is we lost over 100,000 members. However, at the end of the first six months we had a positive growth worldwide.

This was accomplished by the fact that we started enough new clubs in the first six months to have a positive growth. It is very evident that starting new clubs and working on retention will turn our membership issue around.

Member Age Distribution by District for GAT Area C

District	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76+	Total Members	Average Age
District 27 A1	34	72	158	271	537	505	366	1943	63
District 27 A2	8	31	113	190	310	310	340	1302	66
District 27 B1	19	73	150	212	400	539	445	1838	65
District 27 B2	7	77	208	305	461	578	497	2133	64
District 27 C1	15	48	137	220	284	347	323	1374	63
District 27 C2	15	52	93	153	345	403	377	1438	66
District 27 D1	22	99	206	304	526	509	430	2096	62
District 27 D2	41	93	162	234	346	375	357	1608	63
District 27 E1	7	38	89	171	325	403	381	1414	67
District 27 E2	21	86	210	244	353	391	310	1615	62
District 5 NE	33	76	133	159	235	280	296	1212	64
District 5 NW	15	94	145	162	203	299	269	1187	63
District 5 SE	15	64	111	127	193	283	254	1047	64
District 5 SW	5	27	48	68	104	166	180	598	68
District 5M 1	17	96	177	213	363	436	454	1756	65
District 5M 10	7	20	57	91	113	194	157	639	65
District 5M 11	10	70	143	167	242	277	346	1255	67
District 5M 2	21	76	270	386	532	516	453	2254	63
District 5M 3	7	51	87	122	208	269	271	1015	66
District 5M 4	13	68	122	179	313	373	360	1428	66
District 5M 5	17	60	133	216	326	307	269	1328	62
District 5M 6	9	28	107	182	301	288	299	1214	65
District 5M 7	20	74	184	309	429	359	328	1703	62
District 5M 8	31	147	313	434	641	661	591	2818	63
District 5M 9	20	64	170	229	415	500	530	1928	65
District 9 EC	19	50	78	114	230	284	346	1121	67
District 9 MC	8	20	57	90	148	230	271	824	68
District 9 NC	11	50	69	87	154	226	255	852	67
District 9 NE	12	66	115	101	212	286	320	1112	67
District 9 NW	4	26	65	61	94	150	202	602	70
District 9 SE	4	52	82	96	125	189	250	798	67
District 9 SW	24	69	136	166	204	282	298	1179	64
GAT Area Totals	511	2017	4328	6063	9672	11215	10825	44631	64
	1%	4%	10%	14%	22%	25%	24%		63

As you can see, 49% of our membership is over the age of 66. 5% of our membership is under the age of 35. If we don't work on recruiting younger members in the 35 to 65 age group, we are going to lose our ability to do service projects for our community.

Take a look at your dropped membership report and track the ages of those leaving. Many times those that are leaving in the over 66 categories are leaving because of illness, moving to warmer climates or are now living in a nursing home or assisted living and are unable to help or function as a Lion.

We don't want to abandon them but we need to find new and creative ways they can serve.

Lion Jay Norby

Multi-District 5

DELL RAPIDS LIONS

Honored for membership milestones



Nine members of the Dell Rapids Lions Club were honored recently with Chevron Awards from Lions Clubs International. The chevron is a symbol of a badge or insignia indicating rank or length of service. Lions International President Dr. Patti Hill wrote: "Your service and kindness are not only changing the world, you're inspiring others to change it, too."

Those who received chevrons and their years of service are: Ray Pederson, 55 years; Marlowe Hovey, 25 years; Connie Earley, 25 years; Blaine and JoAnn Beck, 20 years; Darrold Williams, 20 years; Jody Morrow, 15 years; and Ruth and Wayne Coffaa, 15 years.



Pictured are some of the Dell Rapids Lions who recently received recognition for their years of membership in Lions Clubs International, from left: Connie Earley, Marlowe Hovey, Jody Morrow, Darrold Williams, and Ruth Coffaa.

Lion Sue Hovey

Dell Rapids Lions Club



ALCESTER LIONS CLUB

Host Beresford Lions



Alcester Lions Club hosted four members of the Beresford Lions Club at our February Alcester Lions Club meeting on Feb. 19. Lions Jackson Anderson, Jim Feddersen, Terry DeLay and Ed Westerberg presented a check to the Vice President Tiffany Miller and Secretary Rebekah Cotton of the Alcester Lions for our joint serving of concessions at the Alcester vs. Beresford double-header basketball game on Feb. 3.

Thank you to all the Lions that served and contributed to the soup supper and thank you for a great night of fun while serving our communities!

Photo taken by Lion John Wegh.

Lion Rebekah Cotton
Alcester Lions Club

DELL RAPIDS LIONS

Celebrate 80 years



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Dell Rapids Lions Club

80th Anniversary Banquet

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND ~ DETAILS TO COME

Special Guest Speaker:

Former Governor Dennis Daugaard

TO CELEBRATE!

On September 17, 1944, the Dell Rapids Lions Club was chartered with 44 original members. Now a committee of current members has begun planning for the club's 80th anniversary celebration. The event will be held the evening of Saturday, Oct. 5, in the social hall of the Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids.

The Honorable Dennis Daugaard, former Governor of South Dakota, will be the featured speaker. The event, including a catered banquet, will be open to the public, with reserved seats for purchase at a future date.

"We'd love to share this special occasion with as many people as possible," said Club President Robert Wiarda. "For 80 years, we've served our community. That's really something worth celebrating."

Lion Sue Hovey

Dell Rapids Lions Club



ALCESTER LIONS CLUB

Present a 'Life Vac'

Alcester Lions Club hosted several members of the Alcester Community for a presentation of a "Life Vac" at the regular Alcester Lions Club meeting on Feb. 19. Lion John Wegh organized the purchase and presentation of the "Life Vac" to our Alcester Community Institutions.

The "Life Vac" is a lifesaving device that aids in removing an object that is causing choking in either adults or children. Easy to use, it simply requires depressing the plunger to create a vacuum, then pull the plunger back up to suck the object out.

This life-saving device was invented and produced by Arthur Lih in Nesconset, New York. The "Life Vac" is suitable for home and commercial use and can be purchased as a travel kit for vehicles.

Once the device is used to remove an item that is causing choking, "Life Vac" guarantees that they will send a replacement device at no cost. More information and training videos about "Life Vac" can be found on their website at www.lifevac.net.

The following Community representatives received a "Life Vac" kit: Carmen Cast of Alcester Ambulance Crew, Tim Rhead of Alcester-Hudson Highschool, Pastor Steve Connor of Alcester Baptist Church, Landon Nygaard of Alcester Clubhouse and Grille, Sam and Rebekah Cotton of Big Springs Baptist Church, Mary Wilkens of Nathaniel Lutheran Church, Bud Pederson of Your Daily Dose, Heather Hongslo of Hongslo Daycare, Barry, and Pam Hughes of UCC Church, Pastor Don Erickson of Peace Lutheran Church, Deb Braaten of The Village and Wendy Ballantyne of Alcester Care and Rehab Center. Photo taken by Lion John Wegh.



Lion Rebekah Cotton
Alcester Lions Club

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.

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

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.](#)



SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Send your club
news to:

5seenews@gmail.com