



MD5M News



**2024-2025
Council Chair
Judy Zewers**



**Executive Secretary
Cindy Walters**



2024-2025 District Governors



2025-2026 District Governor Elects & Council Chair Elect

To the Lions in MD5M— as the MD5M Newsletter comes to an end I would like to take the time to thank Executive Secretary Cindy for her help whenever I had a question –you always had the answer! and to all of those that have shared or contributed over the years I have been the Editor. We in MD5M have some absolutely AMAZING Lions doing absolutely AMAZING things and making a HUGE difference in our communities and way beyond. I have enjoyed reading and sharing some of those AMAZING things with you. I hope in some small way you have enjoyed reading about them as well. However, until I see you the next time at a Lions event down the road.....keep doing those AMAZING things, as that is what Lions do. Thank You from the bottom of my heart for—"Making your Mark"

Yours in Lions,

Lion Lori Steinemann

MD5M Newsletter Editor



**The best and most beautiful
things in the world cannot
be seen or even touched.
They must be felt with the
heart.**

Helen Keller

Still looking for Host families still time to volunteer!

Consider Hosting a Youth Exchange Student this summer

What is Youth Exchange?	Students from around the world come to Minnesota for the month of July and live with host families. This is an amazing way to share our culture and learn about others.
Travel Dates	Jul 1, 2025 to Aug 3, 2025
Camp Spicer Dates	July 25, 2025 to August 2, 2025...all students come together for a week of activities. No hosting required during this week.
What's next?	Stay inspired, and participate in achieving World Peace one young person at a time!

For more information about this incredible opportunity please contact your District Youth Exchange chair or PDG Sue Muller/ES Cindy Walters at MD5MLionsyouthexchange@gmail.com.

Not able to host this summer? Perhaps you/your club would consider sponsoring a Camp Activity

<input type="checkbox"/> \$8,800	Bussing for the week	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200	Valleyfair	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	Camp Confidence Team Building
<input type="checkbox"/> \$3,500	Brainerd Housing (3 nights)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600	Zoo Event	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	T-shirts
<input type="checkbox"/> \$4,000	Metro Housing (3 nights)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	Banquet facility rental	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Evening Snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,700	Chanhassen Dinner Theater	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	A Meal for Camp	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	Any amount is helpful!!!
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500	Dorm Housing (2 nights)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	Mini-Golf		

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated by the students and staff of MD5M Youth Exchange. MD5M Youth Exchange Foundation is a 501(c)3 and can accept gambling funds. (EIN #46-4182698)

Checks can be mailed to: MD5M Youth Exchange Foundation; attn: Cindy Walters; 1915 Waterford Circle, Chaska MN USA 55318





Helen Keller's Speech to the Lions International Convention

in Cedar Point, Ohio, June 30, 1925

Dear Lions and Ladies:

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see"? That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind.

Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you.

Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation

D-Feet Hearing Loss

2025 ANNUAL WALK

JUNE 7, 2025

**Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Chaska, MN**

Registration: 9am - 10am

Walk Starts: 10:15am

Lunch Begins: 11:15am

**Diamond Point Park
Bemidji, M**

Registration: 8:30am - 9:30am

Walk Starts: 9:45am

Lunch Begins: 11:30am

- **Entry Fee: \$25 (no t-shirt) or \$35 (includes t-shirt)**
- **Fee includes entry to arboretum/park, lunch, plus lots of activities and games!**
- **Kids under 12 are free!**
- **Fun for families of all ages!**
- **A chance to change a person's life through your registration donation.**
- **Register at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/2025-d-feet-hearing-loss/>**



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM



*To learn more visit us at:
5mhf.org or at
facebook.com/5mhf.org*





TEAM Sheehan Charitable Foundation



Greetings and thank you MD5M Lions,

First, on behalf of the TEAM Sheehan Charitable Foundation, I'd like to thank all the MD5M Lions for their generous contributions to the TSCF. As you may know, "The mission of the TEAM Sheehan Charitable Foundation is to empower MD5M Lions clubs to provide greater service by boosting their ability to complete community projects with matching grants."

We're very proud of the first set of Grants we were able to award during our first year of matching Grants. They were:

\$1,876 to the Princeton Lions Club in District 5M8 for the purchase of a freezer benefiting a local foodshelf.

\$3,000 to the Sauk Rapids Lions Club in District 5M8 for a statue at the local Art Park.

\$1,700 to the Kimball Lions in District 5M8 for the purchase of a Hands-Free Iris Vision Live 2.0 for a local visually impaired student..

\$3,000 to the Lamberton Lions Club in District 5M3 for playground equipment in a local park.

\$1,800 to the Buffalo Lions Club in District 5M7 toward the purchase of an all-inclusive community splash pad in memory of a local student.

\$3,000 to the Dilworth Lions in District 5M11 to purchase food for the Dilworth food shelf.

\$1,500 to the Jackson Lions Club in District 5M3 to support the Snow Angels in shoveling snow for the elderly,

\$3,000 to the Pine Island Lions Club in District 5M1 to refurbish local bathrooms and parks in the trail system.

\$550 to the Albert Lea Noon Lions Club in District 5M2 to purchase food carts for the backpack food program at the middle school.

\$2,500 Canadian to the Shoal Lake Lions Club in 5M13 to purchase an electric piano and dolly for the Shoal Lake Community Hall.

\$3,000 to the Alexandria Lions Club in District 5M4 to place a publicly accessible Automated Electric Defibrillator cabinets throughout downtown Alexandria.

\$1,475 to the Shoreview/Arden Hills Lions in District 5M6 to purchase New Neighbor Basket gift items to welcome newcomers to the city.

Our Grants have been varied both in purpose and locations to ensure the good work Lions do throughout the Multiple. The TSCF is careful with its funds and investments, limiting the total of Grants awarded to 20% of its assets in any fiscal year. We are truly grateful for the generosity and faith the Lions of MD5M have been with your TSCF donations and hope you agree the TSCF is worthy of your continued support.

Thank you!

Lion Mike

TEAM Sheehan Charitable Foundation Chair
mmolenda50@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS OPENING EYES

Special Olympics Minnesota Summer Games is at the University of Minnesota from June 20-22nd.

The university of Minnesota will host the annual Special Olympics Minnesota Summer Games! Roughly 3,000 athletes will be competing in basketball, basketball, swimming, and gymnastics throughout the weekend. Outside of competition, there will be entertainment in the athlete Village, health screenings for athletes, Celebration Ceremonies, and many other activities for everyone! Summer Games is open to the public and family friendly!

The Lions have played a major part in this competition for many years, and will once again host the Opening Eyes screening. As part of the Healthy Athletes program offerings, Opening Eyes provides a complete eye exam, conducted by eye doctors and eye care professionals. During the Opening Eyes screening, Athletes have the opportunity to receive new eye glasses, sunglasses or sports goggles, free of charge! Opening Eyes is presented by Lions Club International.

Opening Eyes in Minnesota was first undertaken by Lions Clubs of 5M5, but we need you to make this screening happen! Opening Eyes volunteers directly impact the health of SOMN Athletes! Volunteers will also have the opportunity to meet and interact with Special Olympics Minnesota Athletes, and also meet Lions from other clubs and other districts. Volunteers will receive a Summer Games Volunteer t-shirt and Volunteers working over six hours will also receive a complimentary lunch.



Summer Games volunteer shifts available:

- Friday, June 20, 9:00 pm - 1:00 pm (set up only)
- Saturday, June 21, 8:15 am - 12:30 pm
- Saturday, June 21, 11:45 am - 4:00 pm

Lions Club volunteers are needed for a number of roles, including:

- Assisting doctors
- Conducting initial eye chart exam
- Directing and escorting athletes
- Athlete registration

TO REGISTER VISIT:

SOMN.ORG/LIONS

These volunteer shifts are reserved for Lions & Friends of the Lions registration. Lions Club members, Family and Friends are all welcome and encouraged to volunteer!

Questions? Please contact:

Lion Ray Moonen, 952.201.7031; moonen@myinmail.com

Lion Jim Cain, 763.232.0790; jhcain2@gmail.com.

Lion Laura Maki, 507.964.5796; relamaki@frontiernet.net

Special Olympics
Lions Clubs International
Opening Eyes®



It is that time of year to check your calendars and think about coming out and supporting KidSight. We will need our Lions to step up and volunteer some time and at the same time get a chance to attend the greatest State Fair around. Those that sign up will get a ticket for entrance to the fair. Each shift requires 2 screeners, 2 escorts, 2 greeters, and a lead. The last shift requires 1 of each.

Shifts are: 8:30 – 12 Noon

11:45 – 3:00

2:45 – 6:00

5:45 – 8:15

It is quite easy to sign up for this event online.

www.kidsightmd5m.org

Select "Scheduled Screening"

Select State Fair which takes you to sign up genius

Select a shift and it will take you to a field to put in your name and club.

Note: You do not need to sign in to Sign-up Genius

In addition to ticket to the State Fair you can request to be reimbursed for mileage at \$0.50 per mile and if traveling a long way can be reimbursed at the rate of \$75 for lodging.



Can Do Canines Connected to Legislative Efforts

Can Do Canines has been supporting a bill in the Minnesota legislature signed into law by Governor Walz on May 8. The new law will expand housing protections for volunteers of assistance dog organizations to be able to train service dogs in homes managed by Homeowners Associations (HOAs).

This spring, Can Do Canines Executive Director Jeff Johnson and Lead Trainer Emily Hedenland; along with Tucker, Bueller, Pearl, and Novah, assistance dogs in training; testified before four different House and Senate committees. SF1317, authored by Sen. Bonnie Westlin (DFL-Plymouth), and HF688, authored by Rep. Cedrick Frazier (DFL-New Hope), will prohibit HOAs from placing restrictions on volunteers of service dog organizations who are training service dogs. This will allow more volunteers to potentially host assistance dogs in their homes. The bill passed the House 114-15, and the Senate 60-2. The new law will take effect on August 1.

In a news release from the Minnesota House of Representatives, Rep. Frazier is quoted as saying, "Service dog training organizations like Can Do Canines depend on dedicated volunteers who open their homes to future assistance dogs. These volunteers play a crucial role in preparing these animals to transform the lives of people with disabilities. Unfortunately, many potential volunteers face housing restrictions that prevent them from participating in this vital work. I'm proud my legislation will build upon existing protections for service dogs by extending them to service dogs in training, enabling accredited organizations throughout Minnesota to expand their volunteer base and ultimately serve more individuals in need. By removing these barriers, we can ensure that more lives will be changed through the remarkable human-canine partnerships that assistance dogs make possible."



Can Do Canines
9440 Science Center Drive
New Hope, MN 55428
www.candocanines.org
763-200-6151
Photo courtesy of Gov. Walz office



MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation

Your MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation continues its work helping detect children who have vision issues that may impact their learning and quality of life.

During the 3rd quarter of 2025 (January 1 to March 31) 14,204 children were screened and 1,574 referred for professional care, an 11% referral rate. We will be screening over the summer at community events and the Minnesota State Fair.

We have several instruments reaching the end of their serviceable life and have applied for a matching grant from LCI to replace 20 instruments with an updated device. We are awaiting approval by LCI.

We will be having our annual meeting in Bemidji May 16-17 to discuss the future of our program, elect new officers and recognize those directors who will be leaving the board. There are retiring directors who have been unable to find a Lion from their district to serve on the board-if you receive an invitation to serve, please consider agreeing to serve.

Since KidSight is now an international program, our data recording site has now been changed to allow all Constitution Areas to enter screening results-not just the US Clubs, a major improvement.

Lion Dr Jim Molde
Chair, MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation



MD5M Hall Of Fame



5M1 Earl Orvik

Adams Lions Club



5M2 Joan Blank

Nicollet Lions Club



5M3 Larry Muenchow

Tracy Lions Club



5M4 Robert "Bob" Knutson

Spicer Sunrise Lions Club



5m5 Mikkal "Mike" Gust

Posthumously: Eden Prairie Lions Club



5M6 Joe Fox

St Paul East Park Lions Club

MD5M Hall Of Fame



5M7 Gary Wrobel
Andover Lions Club



5M8 Frank Voigt
Pierz Lions Club



5m9 Randy Beaver
Verndale Lions Club



5M10 Ronald Roscoe
Duluth Lions Club



5M11 D.K. "Bun" Baxter
Beausejour Lions Club



5M13 Carl Wlock
Brandon Lion Club

What does it mean to be a District Governor?

By DG Lisa Kaufmann, 5M-2

This is a question I have been asked a number of times. While it can be demanding, it is very rewarding leadership role within Lions Club International (LCI). Along with all of the fun, there are learning opportunities in order to preform the below tasks:

1. **Representation & Leadership:** As the official representative of LCI in your district, you lead clubs, inspire members, and engage the public.
2. **Communication & Connection:** You serve as the main communication link between clubs and the larger LCI organization, fostering effective communication and collaboration.
3. **Goal Setting & Vision:** You along with the DG Team play a crucial role in setting the district's vision and goals, ensuring clubs are aligned with LCI's mission.
4. **Mentorship & Development:** You mentor club leaders, helping them develop their leadership skills and manage their activities effectively.
5. **Training & Education:** You along with the GLT are responsible for organizing training programs and events to equip club leaders with the knowledge and skills they need.
6. **Planning & Organization:** You are involved in planning and executing district-level events, including the District Convention.
7. **Financial Oversight:** You have a responsibility for managing district finances and ensuring responsible use of funds.
8. **Community Engagement:** You actively engage with the community, promoting Rotary's service projects and public image.
9. **Team Building:** You assemble and lead a team of volunteers, including Assistant Governors and committee chairs, to support your efforts.
10. **Networking & Collaboration:** You build and maintain relationships with club members, multiple and district leaders, and LCI representatives, fostering a strong network of support.



The past three years have been a transformative and deeply rewarding journey as I trained for and served as District Governor for Lions International District 5M3. From the moment I met my group of District Governors in training, I was inspired by the passion, commitment, and unity that define our global Lions community. These years were filled with fun, laughter and even tears. But will never be forgotten. The experience prepared me not just to lead but to listen, to serve with humility, and to grow alongside dedicated volunteers who share a vision of service. Becoming District Governor was both an honor and a challenge — one that pushed me to new heights of leadership and service. I had the privilege of visiting clubs across the district, witnessing firsthand the impact of our collective efforts. From Help Tuck Them In, a Handicap Ramp program and food drives to vision screenings and youth programs, each project reaffirmed the power of what we can accomplish together. These three years were filled with unforgettable moments, meaningful connections, and personal growth. I'm grateful for the support of my fellow Lions, mentors, and community members who made this journey so impactful. All of the Lions I have met along the way have become family. They will always remain close to my heart. As I look ahead, I carry with me not only cherished memories but also a renewed commitment to service, leadership, and the enduring mission of Lions International. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this great organization.

5M3 District Governor

Deb Rasset



Celebrating Milestones and New Beginnings in District 5M4

Greetings Lions and Leos of District 5M4

It's been an exciting and bustling time for our district, filled with celebrations, new beginnings, and preparations for the vibrant seasons ahead.

Milestone Anniversaries

Several clubs in our district have reached remarkable milestones, celebrating years of dedicated service to their communities. These anniversaries are a testament to unwavering commitment and passion of our members. Congratulations to all the clubs marking these significant achievements!

Welcome to Our New Leos Club

We are thrilled to welcome a new Leos Club to our family of Lions. This addition brings fresh energy and enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing the incredible impact they will make in our community. Welcome, Leos!

Fun at the Multiple Convention

Our recent Multiple Convention was a resounding success, filled with camaraderie, learning, and recognition. Members enjoyed engaging sessions, shared ideas, and celebrated achievements with various awards. Thank you to everyone who participated and made the event memorable.

Spring and Summer Activities

As we transition into spring and summer, clubs are gearing up for a variety of activities, including participating in town celebrations. From community clean-ups to local festivals, our Lions are ready to serve and make a difference. These events provide wonderful opportunities to engage with our communities and showcase the spirit of Lionism. Let's embrace the warmer months with enthusiasm and continue our mission of service.

Installation of New Club Officers

We are also preparing for installation of new club officers. We extend our gratitude to outgoing offices for the leadership and welcome the new leaders who will guide us forward.

Thank you all for dedication and service. Together, we are making a difference in our communities. Remember, "Where there's a need there's a Lion."

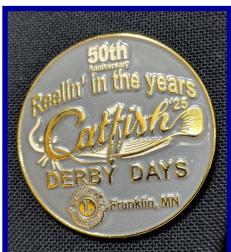
Ask One-Keep One

Plant the Seed and Make your Mark

5m4 DG Jacque Heinen

lionheinen@gmail.com

320.249.6536



The Lions of District 5M8 are proud to announce the Charter Night for our newest club — the Central Minnesota Citizens Police Academy Lions Club! This exciting event will take place on Sunday, June 22 at the Eastside VFW in St. Cloud. A social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by a meal and program.

We are honored to welcome International Director Bert Nelson as our special guest speaker for the evening. The club is sponsored by the Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions Club, and the Guiding Lions will be PDG Vince Thiel and Lion Terry Anderson. We invite all Lions to attend this celebration and show their support for our new club. Full event details can be found in this newsletter and on our Facebook page.

District Governor Mary Curtis of 5M7 and DG Deb Bialke of 5M8 also took a road trip to St. Louis, Missouri, where we surprised fellow governors from our training class at their State Convention. It was a memorable reunion full of laughter, hugs, and maybe a few shenanigans — check the photos!

Additionally, PDG Vince, Lion Trisha, and DG Deb, along with four members of our new club, traveled to District 5M9 to attend the Charter Night of the Crow Wing Cass County Veterans and Law Enforcement Lions Club. It was a wonderful opportunity to support fellow Lions and open the door for future networking and collaboration between these clubs.

Looking ahead, we are in the process of launching a new initiative: the Champion Lions Club, right here in District 5M8. This club will focus on inclusivity and will provide opportunities for individuals with special needs, including those involved in Special Olympics. Meeting updates will be shared in future newsletters and online. I want to THANK YOU Ms. Lori for all of your hard work and talent of creating a great Multiple Newsletter. Just sad that this is the last one!!

DG Deb Bialke 5M8



Taken at the Missouri Lions State Convention on May 3, 2024. We had the privilege of hosting MN DG's [Deb Bialke](#) and [Mary Lea Curtis](#)! Their spunkiness and fun personalities were a delightful addition to the weekend! The Missouri Lions love these two ladies! ❤️



We are so proud to officially welcome the Central Lakes Leo Club into the Lions family! These incredible young leaders have taken the Leo oath and committed themselves to a life of service, compassion, and community impact.

Leo President Teagan inspired us all with a fantastic update on their first service project, and District Governor [Deb Bialke](#) shared powerful words that clearly resonated with everyone in the room.

The energy, passion, and dedication of these young individuals prove that the future of Lionism is in great hands. They are not just the leaders of tomorrow—they are leaders today.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support this milestone. Together, we serve. Together, we grow.



5M9 The Year in Reflection of Meeting New People and Doing Cool Things

When I was asked to share a single highlight from my year as District Governor for 5M9, I thought it would be an easy task. But as I reflected on the past twelve months—filled with club visits, service projects, and countless conversations with passionate Lions—it quickly became one of the most difficult things I've had to do. How can you choose just one moment when every handshake, every shared meal, every act of service added something meaningful to the journey? The truth is, I can't pick just one. But I can share this photo—a snapshot taken at our district convention, where over 300 Lions came together to make the weekend one for the record books in fun, fellowship, and unforgettable memories.

What this picture reminds me of is not just one person—it reminds me of all the Lions across 5M9. Lions who serve with quiet strength, contagious energy, and a deep commitment to their communities. Lions who show up not just to help, but to connect, to lead, and to lift others up. From the early mornings flipping pancakes, to the laughter shared at club meetings, 5M9 is filled with people who bring both heart and humor to everything they do. They embody service with joy, leadership with humility, and community with courage.

At the beginning of this journey, I didn't know many of these Lions well. But over time, we shared stories, broke bread, and created memories that will last far beyond this year of service. Through them, I experienced the true gift of this role: building deep, lasting relationships with people I may never have met if not for Lions International. This connection, this community, this shared purpose... that's the real highlight of my year.

**Denise Marie
Laudenbach**

5M9 District Governor



Greetings fellow Lions!

It hardly seems possible that the last regular Council of Governors has already been held. The Lions year is rapidly coming to a close, but there is still much to do! Since the midwinter convention in Dryden Ontario I have been criss-crossing the district visiting Clubs from Red Lake and Ear Falls in NW Ontario to Atikokan and Thunder Bay in the easterly part of NW Ontario. I have also been across the Minnesota half of our district from Big Falls to Duluth. Everywhere I have gone I have had the joy of inducting new members into Lions, thereby increasing our ability to serve the needy in our communities.

I am particularly proud of the completion of all our district newsletters for my DG year. Lion Ann Marie did a fantastic job of gathering materials and getting each edition out in a timely fashion. I was interested and overjoyed to learn that 50% of recipients open the newsletter. In an informal poll I have conducted during club visits indicated more than half of attendees had seen the newsletter.

We are planning our first annual all district picnic for June 14 at Smokey Bear Park in International Falls, Minnesota. This event is open to all Lions. We will serve a lunch (typical picnic fare). We will be having a hatchet throw game, Ladder Ball, as well as a cornhole and frisbees for fun and entertainment. At the picnic the winner of the District Governor's Quilt Raffle will be drawn and if present will receive the quilt. If they are not present, I will make arrangements for them to receive it promptly. We will also make announcement of some Special Governor's Awards to noteworthy clubs. Among them will be Most Service Reported, Biggest Percentage of Growth, and a training award. I hope that many of our clubs will be represented at the event.

My last club visit will be on June 25 when I will induct new officers and new member into the Bemidji Lions Club as they celebrate their 85 years of existence.

I'm proud to be a Lion, dedicated to the service of others!

**District Governor
5M-10 Lion Bob**



5M13 District Governors Final Article

May 21, 2025

This has been an amazing year, and I am sad to see it end. I have grown so much as a person this year but more so as a leader. I have met so many new people who have quickly become family. As my friend DG Denise Laudenbach says, "Meet New People, Do Cool Things". The relationships I have made with my District Governor group are almost beyond family, these women and men are people that I know I can count on forever. Thank you MD5M DG's of 2024/2025.

The most memorable event this quarter happened just last night. My H.O.G. (Husband of Governor) Lion David and myself were honored to visit the Brandon Lions Club in Brandon Manitoba. This is a vibrant club with quite a few notable members. One such member is no other than PID Ben Ward. He is such an amazing guy that always has a smile on his face.

At IPDG Cheryl McKittrick's Mid-Winter Convention in February 2024, my Mom Lion Rosana Neufeld and I were honored to accept the Ben Ward Fellowship posthumously for my Dad PDG Helmut Neufeld. This came as a surprise to both of us and it was made even more special as PID Ben presented the fellowship to us personally along with ID Joanne Ogden.

So yesterday (May 20, 2025) I had a few presentations to make including the Hall of Fame for 5M13 to Lion Carl Wlock and of course Milestone Chevrons. The last Chevron I presented was 65 years to PID Ben Ward! What an honor!! It felt like a full circle moment for me! What a way to end my year as District Governor... amazing memories!

All the best to all the Lions of MD5M, see you around at a convention or a meeting down the road! Thank you for helping mould me into the Leader I am today!

Submitted by: **District Governor Shannon Dueck**
– 5M13 (Manitoba, Canada)





Morden Roaring Leos recognized internationally for fundraising work

5M13

"We were just blown away and also didn't know about it, so [we] were shocked."

This is what Yevgeniya Tatarenko, the supervisor of the Roaring Morden Leos youth club, says about a prestigious award that it recently received from Lions International.

What is the Roaring Leos club?

The unique award goes to a club that, according to Tatarenko, is rooted in giving back to the Pembina Valley. It's the youth version of [Morden's Roaring Lions](#). "[They] meet once a month to work on some of the projects or some of the fundraising events that bring together the community," she says, adding that the group fundraises for organizations like [South Central Cancer Resource](#) and [Genesis House](#). "They are always here to make a difference in the community."

Leo Service Project Award

Tatarenko says the honor received by the group is the Leo Service Project Award, which acknowledges a recent project that it executed — [a fundraising puzzle night in support of local organizations](#).

"This award is from our international president, Fabrício Olivieri, who is from Brazil," she says. "He was at our multiple district convention in Bloomington, Minnesota at the end of April, and out of the 38 Leos clubs in our multiple district, which encompasses Minnesota and Northwest Ontario and Manitoba, he awarded one award to one Leos clubs and our Leos club in Morden was chosen."

For the Roaring Morden Leos, it's a significant achievement.

"They were honored to get this award for what they did," says Tatarenko.

She says the group has become a shining example of what a Leos club can be.

The award presentation

When it comes to the award presentation, Angel Jain, the president of the Morden Roaring Leos, received it from Dueck on May 22nd.

The award was also accompanied by a video from Lions International. "The looks on their faces when I played the video of me being presented their award was absolutely priceless," says Dueck. "It was really cool."

They are such a 'robust' group of young people For Dueck, the group deserves the recognition. It's a special one.

"They are such a robust group of young people," she says. "They're all newcomers to Canada ... and all they want to do is give back to the area that has given them so much since their families have moved here."

In Dueck's view, the Morden Roaring Leos are making a name for themselves through their community work.

"Not just in our local community, but in our multiple district and in Lions International itself," she says. "Lions international is in over 200 countries and geographical areas, and every single convention [or meeting] that I go to, I just have to mention I'm from Morden and people know who our Leos are. They have made a name for themselves internationally for things that they're doing, which is amazing. I'm just so proud."

In the end, Dueck believes that recognizing young people like the Leos is important for the community.

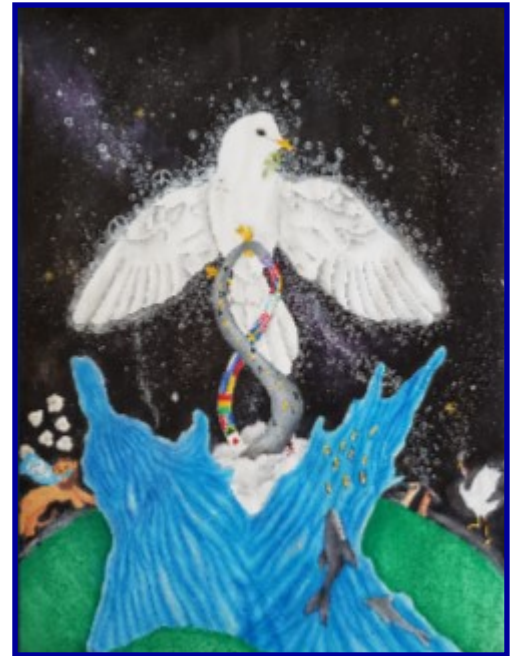
"Sometimes young people feel like they're forgotten or they're not worth anything, and these Leos and the other young people in our area — they're our future leaders. We need to recognize them," she says.



MD5M 2024-2025
Peace Poster Contest winner



**"Peace is universal,
there is no borders or
limits" by
Camila Munoz**
**St. Odilia School in
Shoreview Sponsored
by
Shoreview Arden Hills
Lions**



**Red CAP awards given to PDG Steve
Wassermann, PDG Linda Norby, & PDG Dennis
Kelly during the PDG Banquet at the Multiple
convention.**



**Presidential Certificate of Apprecia-
tion was presented to Lion
Mary Bolas by International President
Frabrico Olivera.**



Al Jensen awards went to PDG Steve Wassermann & PCC Dennis Heinen





MD5M 2024-2025
Peace Poster Essay Winner
Sponsored by the 5M2
Wells Lions Club

Peace Without Limits

By Nevaeh Carlock

We've all heard of peace, but do we really know what it means? Peace is the absence of conflict, the absence of worry, and the abundance of calm. Peace is an emotion we all share; it's what brings joy, strength, and love. But even if you have a good idea of what peace is, do you know how we can achieve it? When achieving peace there are three main elements: finding inner peace in yourself, spreading peace to others, and keeping peace.

Finding inner peace is about accepting yourself, others, and the obstacles around you. Inner peace is about navigating our lives, not Changing them. In order to find inner peace we have to find ways to forgive the bad things around us and appreciate the good that we have. For example, storms can be tragic but without them we would miss out on all the good things that come of them. During storms plants are being watered and after rainbows are formed.

To spread peace to others we need to show empathy and understanding. We need to learn to accept others for who they are. Lastly we need to help people accept themselves and their lives. This can sound complicated but it simply could mean giving someone a compliment, offering a helping hand, or just giving them a smile. Kindness is contagious, meaning even if you only do a small thing just once to bring someone peace, it will spread to others.

After people learn how to find peace we need to keep it. Keeping peace doesn't mean never arguing or not having fun. It doesn't mean only looking at the good things and ignoring the bad things that happen. It means navigating the good and bad of our lives and learning to accept what comes our way.

Finding peace is hard. Some people devote their lives to finding it, others don't know what it really means. To find peace we need to work together to understand and accept our lives. If we can achieve finding peace, spreading peace, and keeping peace, we will be the definition of peace without limits.





LIONS FOUNDATION
of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario

Lions Vison

Helping Hands

Lions Hearing

Serenity Suites

info@lionsfoundation.ca

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Winnipeg MB R3B2W6

204-784-1650



We Serve



Websites to know

Lions International:

www.lionsclubs.org

Multiple District 5M:

www.lionsmd5m.org

Lions Program Sites

Can Do Canines:

www.candocanines.org

KidsSight MD5M:

www.lionsmd5m.org/lions-kidsight.html

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF): www.lcif.org

Leader Dog for the Blind:

www.leaderdog.org

MN Lions Diabetes Foundation:

www.mnlionsdiabetes.org

MN Lions Hearing Foundation:

www.5mhf.org

MN Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

www.MNLERC.org

MN Lions Vision Foundation:

www.mnlionsvisionfoundation.org

Project New Hope:

www.projectnewhope.net

Lions Foundation of Manitoba & Northwest Ontario:

www.lionsfoundation.ca

Lions Foundation of Canada

Dog Guides :

www.dogguides.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

MD5M Multiple Convention

April 23-26, 2026 Sheraton Minnetonka MN

April 15-18, 2027 Kahler Hotel Rochester MN

Lions International Convention

July 13-17

Orlando FL

July 3-7, 2026

Hong Kong

July 2-6, 2027

Washington DC

June 23-27, 2028

Singapore

2029

Minneapolis MN

2030

San Antonio TX

2031

Helsinki Finland

USA/CANADA Forum

September 18-20 2025

Atlantic City, New Jersey

September 3-5 2026

Memphis Tennessee

September 16-18 2027

Huntsville Alabama

MD5M contact information



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