

NORTH DAKOTA LION



Monthly focus: District Leadership

Volume 43, Number 4 | Official Publication of Lions Districts 5NE & 5NW | June 2026

The Global Action Team

One person can start a project; a team can change a community

Global Membership Team (GMT) focuses on membership growth and retention. Helps clubs: recruit new members, improve current member experiences and help clubs maintain healthy membership levels.

Global Service Team (GST) promotes service projects that address community needs. Help clubs identify service opportunities, increase visibility through service, and connect service to member engagement and recruitment

Global Leadership Team (GLT) Develops current and future leaders. They provide training, mentoring, and leadership opportunities to ensure Lions have the skills needed to lead clubs, districts, and communities effectively.



The work of the Global Action Team cannot be accomplished by district leaders alone. Every Lion can contribute.

Support GMT by inviting new members and helping them feel welcome.

Support GST by identifying community needs, leading service

projects, and sharing stories of impact.

Support GLT by participating in training, mentoring newer Lions, and accepting leadership opportunities with in their clubs.

Every Club President will be emailed a district directory which will allow the clubs to contact their

multiple district, district, and club leaders. Use this directory to reach out to any of these leaders for help, ideas, and to communicate with clubs in your district.

The Global Action Team Leaders
District 5NE
GMT: Rick Swenson

GST :Kate Lea
GLT :Paula Swenson
GET: Sco Hildre

District 5NW
GMT: Mark Koller
GST: Roberta Benne
GLT: Ma hew Farnsworth
GET: Karen daSilva



The 2026-2027 District Governor Team

The District Governor Team serves as a resource, support system, and source of encouragement for Lions clubs throughout the district. Working together, the District Governor, First Vice District Governor, and Second Vice District Governor help clubs grow, strengthen leadership, promote service projects, and connect



members with opportunities offered through Lions International. They visit clubs, provide training, answer questions, and help clubs overcome challenges while celebrating their successes. Most importantly, the District Governor Team is dedicated to helping every Lions club thrive so that together we can make an even greater impact in our communities through service.

5NE

District Governor Kristi Swenson
1 Vice District Governor Bryon Novotny
2nd Vice District Governor Tracy Wicken

5NW

District Governor Jacob Thrailkill
1 Vice District Governor Brian Beckers
2ne Vice District Governor Melanie Willoughby



A photo from the girls' basketball game at Fargo South High School in 2025. A referee stands with his back to the camera, overseeing the game. A player in a gold jersey shoots the ball toward the hoop while surrounded by teammates in gold and opponents in purple.

50th Annual Lions All-Star Basketball

Submitted by James Palmer,
Fargo Gateway Lions Club,

Come out and enjoy some basketball in July! The Fargo Gateway Lions and Capital City Lions will kick off the 50th annual Lions All-Star Basketball games on Wednesday, July 8th at Bismarck State College - Bavedick Campus. The girls from the AA division

will take on the girls from the A & B divisions at 6 pm followed by the boys game at 8 pm. The games move to Fargo South High School on Thursday, July 9 with the same rotation. These games support most of our club's yearly budget through ad sales and ticket sales and raise awareness of all North Dakota Lions clubs.

Club News

Bismarck

Lions stay as long as needed

Bismarck, North Dakota experienced the Alberta Heights and Kirkwood apartment building fires May 4 and May 15, 2026. 103 apartments were damaged and 148 residents were displaced needing clothing, personal hygiene items, bathroom items, kitchen items, beds, bedding, some furniture, and temporary housing. One unique situation occurred when a resident of Alberta Heights was relocated to Kirkwood only to be displaced again in less than a week.

The North Dakota Emergency Relief Branch Club rented 2 storage units for 2 months, set up a Facebook page and registered all displaced persons. We are coordinating community and Lions club donations to assist displaced people locate new housing and replace clothing, cleaning supplies, bathroom supplies, bedding, and kitchen supplies. We say a huge thankyou to the members of Minot Magic City, Dacotah Mandan, Hazen, Reeder, Wilton, and Bismarck Capital City for your generous donations. Thank you Bismarck, Bismarck Capital City, Dacotah Mandan, Mandan, North Star, Prairie Rose, and Wilton Lions for volunteering at our assistance centers.

Thank you Bismarck & Mandan residents, Basin employees, Baymont Inn, Bennisgans, Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck Larks, Bismarck Sign Company, Bravera Bank, Chick-fil-A, Comfort Inn, Costco, Evangel members, Grace Point members, GLS



Properties, Integrity Property Management, Marathon, ND Community Foundation, Pappa Johns, Quality Movers, Red Cross, Shiloh students, Slumberland, Space Aliens, Storage Kings, Wrap & Pack, and many others.

Displaced people and their needs are recorded on an intake form for each apartment unit and needs are checked off when they are met. The North Dakota

Emergency Relief Lions Club meets to review forms and makes every effort to keep the number of items donated and purchased equitable. We anticipate it will take another month to relocate and meet the needs of all those displaced by the fires.

*We Serve
ND Lions Emergency Relief Lions club*



Bismarck Lions delivered sheets for the residents as they move into their new residents.

Correction and Apology

In a recent issue of the ND Lion, an incorrect caption was inadvertently attached to a photo of the Enderlin Lions Club. We sincerely apologize to the members of the Elderlin Lions for this error. We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your continued service to your community and to Lions.



Watch Tell-A-Thon stories that connect us

<https://www.youtube.com/@LionsVirtualLive>
We are asking every Lion and supporter to do one simple thing: Share the story that moved you with the people in your life.

Send it to your friends. Send it to your family. Send it to coworkers. Send it to your club, district, group chats, community partners and anyone who has ever asked, "What do Lions do?" Then add your why. One sentence is enough.

This story reminded me why I serve." This is what Lions and Leos can do when we show up together." This one moved me. I hope you'll watch it." That is what turns a link into something personal. That is how stories travel. That is how service grows. One story at a time. One person at a time.

Lions Foundation of North Dakota, Inc. Recent Donors

Lion E. Brinkman \$250

Thank you to Lions Clubs and to individual Lions for your generous contributions.

Dacotah Mandan Lions Club



Burgers in the Park



Tuesdays, June 9th – August 11th

No Burgers 4th of July Week.

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm



**Mandan Dykshoorn Park
511 Main Street**

Burgers in the Park

**Honoring Veterans with a FREE MEAL!
Tuesday, July 28th, 2026**

Stay and Listen to the Music!



5NE DISTRICT GOVERNOR’S REPORT

PAULA SWANSON
952.201.5531
swansonp816@gmail.com



How does one sum up a year as District Governor in just a few paragraphs? I’m not sure, but I have tried to write this article about 4 times, but DG Karen says it was due 5 days ago, so it is crunch time!

As we come to a close on my year as District Governor, I want to say a huge thank you to all the clubs that have welcomed me and the rest of the team to visit your clubs throughout the year. I know my visits have been more than welcoming and it has been great to see the wonderful work being done by each and every club in the district.

I look forward to the next few years as Kristi Swenson takes over as District Governor on July 1st, to be followed by Bryon Novotny and then

Tracy Wicken. All are amazing Lions in our District, and I can’t wait to see what the next few years holds for our District.

You may have seen that we have launched a new marketing campaign. Be on the lookout for Facebook ads with stories of why local Lions decided to join their clubs. This is just one of the many exciting things happening in not only our District but across the multiple.

Sharing the role of District Governor with Karen daSilva in 5NW along with the other 4 Governors in our multiple has been an amazing journey and I look forward to continuing to work with each and every one next year as our Multiple District Council Chair. I am excited for the next

step in my Lions journey and look forward to everything our District has coming in the future.

Thank you for your confidence and continued support of me in Lions, and as always let me know if you have events coming up that you would like me to attend.

Thank you,
Paula Swanson, District Governor

5NW DISTRICT GOVERNOR’S REPORT



During my club visit to the Lake Metigoshe Lions, I gifted President Mary Grosgebauer, a travel pillow so she could take a well-earned nap. Honestly, after a busy year of service, many of us can relate!

It is hard to believe that my installation as District Governor in Orlando feels both like a lifetime ago and just yesterday. Serving District 5NW has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am grateful to every Lion who made

this journey so rewarding.

Together, we accomplished remarkable things. We launched the ND Lions Clubs website, creating a statewide resource that connects communities with local clubs and showcases the impact of Lionism across North Dakota. We revitalized the ND Lions Newsletter, transforming it into a monthly source of ideas, education, inspiration, and celebration.

Through our MD5 grant and LCIF support, clubs received new marketing materials and began expanding their presence through social media. We proudly chartered the Underwood Lions Club, bringing fresh energy and new opportunities for service. We also launched the ND Lions Disaster Relief Branch Club, which immediately stepped forward to assist families affected by the Bismarck apartment fire.

We gathered in record numbers at our State

DG KAREN daSILVA
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Convention and enjoyed outstanding fellowship at our Spring Rally. Most importantly, we served our communities with compassion, dedication, and heart.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Governor. Rest up, recharge, and get ready—because the next Lions year is already calling!

Yours in Service,
District Governor Karen daSilva
District 5NW

Club News

Williston



Williston Korner Loins served over 400 hot dogs to community members at the Williston Community Library Summer Reading Bash.

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The North Dakota LION

Club News

Napoleon



Napoleon Lions Club members helped clean ditches from Napoleon to West Lake last week. (l-r): Chad Berger, Lorraine Piatz, Brian Schneider, Rich Bjerklie, John and Sally Johs.



The Napoleon Lions Club handed out carnations to area mothers on Mother's Day, May 10. Receiving carnations were left to right, front row: Barb Hilzendeger and Gloria Wipperling; back row: Luella Wangler, Mary Lou Hilzendeger, Helen Braun, and Napoleon Lion's Secretary Lorraine Piatz handing out the flowers.

Bismarck



Bismarck Lions thanked the teachers by delivering meat and cheese trays to every school in the Bismarck area.

Chaffee



Arlo Anderson has been sponsored by the Chaffee Lions Club to receive a MagniVision reader magnifier. Arlo has been a Lions Charter Member for over 52 years.

Fargo



Fargo Lions representatives attended the volunteer fair at the Fargo Public Library on April 11, promoting all Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo area Lions Clubs (nine clubs total). Many attendees were seeking new connections and ways to give back following life changes such as retirement, relocation, or loss of a spouse. Several visitors were new or returning to the Fargo area and shared positive impressions of the community's friendliness. Information and club materials were shared, with optimism that some will attend an upcoming meeting.

Club News

New Rockford



On Saturday, May 30, the New Rockford Lions club prepared a meal of shredded beef, barbecue chicken, potato salad, fruit and cookies. The Lions then delivered and served 155 soldiers during their annual training. No one went away hungry and everyone had a good time.

Lake Meigoshe



Left to Right: Lions Jim Borkowski, Margie Borkowski, Sue Jacobson, Cedric Jacobson. (Not pictured Lions Gale Wondrasek & Mary Grosgebauer)

Get Your Ice Cream Here!

Submitted by: Mary Grosgebauer,
Lake Metigoshe Lion Club,

Once again, our Metigoshe Lions traveled to Rugby, ND. to help with the annual Rugby Lion dinner fundraiser on May 5th, 2026. The Metigoshe Lions main duty was to take care of dishing

up the ice cream, as you can see 3 serious workers and one enjoying taking care of the bottom of the bucket;). The dinner consisted fried chicken with sides and ice cream Great interaction with the Rugby Lions and public was had along with many laughs.

Lisbon



The Lisbon Area Lions club president Connie Radcliffe and member Elise Meyer were part of a Mother's Day celebration. Lion Elise delivered an assortment of vases to the mothers at the North Dakota Veteran's Home and the Parkside Nursing Home. Bouquets were delivered to Beverly Ann Assisted Living, Prospect Manor Retirement Home, and CHI Swingbed hospital. Thanks Lions for bringing joy to the hearts of all these Moms!!

Bowdon & Strausburg

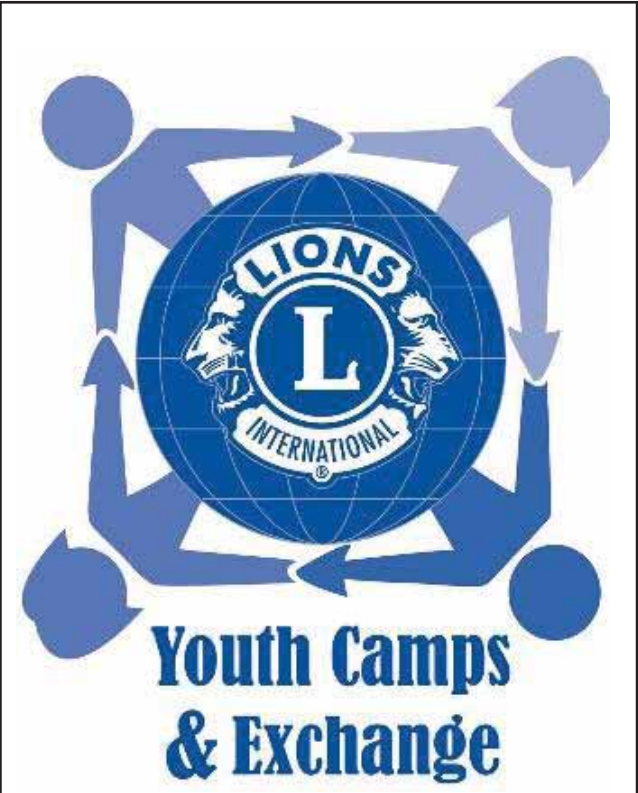


Bowdon Lions donated 12 Sunday buffet meals to local mother's at the Bowdon Cafe. Thanks President Dale Peaslee for your leadership
Strausburg Lions donated over 100 meals to the local Mother's at the Blue Room. Thanks Lions for carrying on with your legacy community event.

JUST A
REMINDER

ND Lion deadline is the 5th of the month

Any questions contact the
newsletter editor at kdasilva@bis.midco.net



Lions MD5 is hosting a Lions International Youth Exchange Camp this summer from July 12 to 18, 2026 in Northern Saskatchewan. We would love to have the support of MD5 Lions Clubs. We will be renting a bus and adventuring through beautiful Saskatchewan. We have youth registered from 15 international countries such as Finland, Brazil, Czech Republic, Latvia and Poland to name a few. We are looking for 20 to 25 MD5 campers. Some of the camp activities will include ziplining, paintball, mini-golf, boating, swimming and a Pow Wow. There are three ways you can support our camp:

1. Sponsor a youth aged 14 to 18 to attend camp. The cost of camp is \$400 USD or \$550 CAD.
2. Make a monetary contribution of \$500 to \$1,000 to the camp.

Please reach out to either the camp chairman, Lion Darryl Oster or camp secretary Lion Candy McKerchar for more information or to support the camp.

Sincerely,
Lion Darryl Oster
deoster7@gmail.com
780-872-8314

Lion Candy McKerchar
lionsyouthcamps@gmail.com

Lion Judy Beaudry -jbeaudry@westriv.com - Youth Exchange Director PH. 701-220-4410

Dear North Dakota Lions Clubs - I am needing help with for two projects. 1. One is for travel to Camp from ND. It is a two day trek from ND to very Northern Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I need \$1200 for this trip. You ask how to help now here is number 2. We need \$1000 for food as we travel. Last year clubs in Saskatchewan gave the Camp both of these amounts. If you can help. I would like to see ND but there name on the Camp. PLEASE CALL. Also call for more information. We leave July 11th. This camp is the most worthwhile project I could ever be part of. PLEASE HELP!!! LIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Club News

Magic City

Club Spotlight: The Magic City Lions Club of Minot

The Magic City Lions Club of Minot, North Dakota has been a steadfast Top Dog Club. They shared: "The Magic City Lions are proud to support Leader Dogs for the Blind because their mission reflects the heart of Lionism: helping people gain independence, confidence, and opportunity. The organization is especially meaningful to our club because it's close to home, impacting our own friends and neighbors. For more than two decades, our club has been honored to contribute to this life-changing work and to support the blind and low-vision community. We're grateful to be part of a global network of Lions helping make mobility and independence possible."

Annual Dacotah Mandan Lions Herman Schafer Memorial Golf Scramble

Mandan Municipal Golf Course

1002 7th St. SW, Mandan, ND

Friday, September 18th, 2026

Registration 12:00 pm, Shotgun start 1:00 pm

\$75.00 per person / \$300.00 per team

Includes golf cart/ hamburger meal/ *Wing City Wings*

Funds Raised Go to Local Causes:

- Help Kids with Pediatric Cancer
- Help Kids Attend Camp Maverick Diabetic Camp

Team Prizes: \$300-\$200-\$100

- Longest Drive in the Fairway
- Longest Putt/Closest to the Pin
- Medora Prize

For Information Contact:

Lion Arlen Fetch 701-426-3431
arlen.fetch@bis.midco.net

Lion Sherry Fetch 701-426-3432
sherry.fetch@gmail.com

Lion Steve Moore 701-527-8179
steve.moore@mwbeef.com

The Eight Lions Global Causes

- Lions International currently focuses on eight global causes: Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian Service, Hunger, Vision, and Youth.
Suggested District 5NW Theme Months
 - July – Humanitarian Service
 - August – Youth
 - September – Vision
- October – Vision & Mental Health
 - November – Diabetes
 - December – Hunger
 - January – Hunger
 - February – Childhood Cancer
 - March – Disaster Relief & Humanitarian Service
 - April – Environment
 - May – Youth
 - June – Lions Service Celebration

2026–2027 Club Planning Guide

- Key Dates, Deadlines & Opportunities for Success
JULY 2026
 - July 1 – Start of the Lions Year
 - New club officers take office
 - Verify club officers in Lion Portal
 - Establish club goals, budgets, and service plans
 - Attend Lions International Convention (Hong Kong, July 3–7)**AUGUST**
 - Finalize annual club calendar
- Enter committee chairs in Lion Portal
 - Begin Peace Poster Contest planning
 - Schedule fall membership and service activities**SEPTEMBER**
 - Promote membership growth and visibility projects
 - USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum (September 3–5)
 - Review first-quarter service plans

2026 ND State Lions Convention

Soaring In Service

October 23-24, 2026



Alerus Center Grand Forks, ND
INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Club _____ Club Title _____ Lion____ Leo____ Non-Member _____

Name: _____ Club _____ Club Title _____ Lion____ Leo____ Non-Member _____

District or Other Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Guest Children: _____ Age: _____

Guest Children: _____ Age: _____

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Convention Package (includes all meals & breaks)
Make checks payable to: District 5NE Lions Convention Fund

+++++

Convention Rate is \$150 Through July 2026
August 1st to Convention On-site, Rate is \$175

+++++

PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR BANQUET MEAL: Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Any Special Dietary Needs?

Cancellations will be charged a \$20 fee. Cancellations after September 15, 2026, no refund will be made.

Rooms at the Canad Inn are \$189.00 per night + taxes
Sleep Inn nearby, has a block rate for Oct 22nd - \$94.00, Oct 23rd - \$104, Oct 24th - \$144 +tax
Staybridge Suites nearby, rate for Queen Suite, \$159+; 1BdrmSuite King, \$179+;
1Bdrm Suite 2dbl beds, \$194+; 2Bdrm Suite, 2dbls & 1King, \$259+
Canad Inn 701-772-8404/888-332-2623 - 1000 S 42nd Street
Sleep Inn 701-757-2900/877-424-6423 – 1350 S 42nd Street
Staybridge 701-772-9000/877-238-8889 – 1175 S 42nd Street
Check websites for many other favorite nearby motels

Make Checks payable to: District 5NE Lions Convention Fund
Send to: South Forks Lions
PO Box 6164
Grand Forks, ND 58206
Contact: Lion Del Hager
del714@hotmail.com
218-779-4971

MD5 Convention

MD5 Convention Brings Learning, Service, and Fun to Aberdeen

Lions from across the MD5 area gathered in Aberdeen, South Dakota, for a memorable convention filled with fellowship, service, and a little storybook magic. We were honored to welcome special guests International Director Dr. Mark Mansell and his partner-in-service, Debbie Mansell, along with International Director Bert Nelson and Past District Governor Jay Norby from Minnesota.

Convention attendees conducted the business of Lionism, participated in service activities, and celebrated the installation of our incoming District Governors as they prepare to lead their districts in the coming Lions year. Of course, it wasn't all business! Lions also enjoyed time together at Storybook Land, creating memories and strengthening friendships while experiencing one of Aberdeen's most beloved attractions. The MD5 Convention was a wonderful reminder that Lions serve with purpose, lead with dedication, and always find time for fellowship and fun.



PID Pat Vanett ID Mark Mansell PDG Scott Hildre PDG Debbie Mansell ID Bert Nelson PDG Scott Hildre was award the Presidential Leadership Medal



PID Pat Vanett ID Mark Mansell PDG Scott Hildre PDG Debbie Mansell ID Bert Nelson PDG Sherry Fetch was award the Presidential Leadership Medal



PID Pat Vanett ID Mark Mansell PDG Scott Hildre PDG Debbie Mansell ID Bert Nelson Lion Lois Reirson was award the Presidential Certificate



District Governors 2026-2027: Timothy Brown 5SW, Jackie Cerkowniak 5SE, Shelly Carroll 5SKS, Jacob Thrailkill 5NW, Kristi Swenson 5NE, Randy Braaten 5SKN.



ID Mark Mansell PDG Scott Hildre PDG Debbie Mansell ID Bert Nelson Lion Crystal Dueker was recognized with a Presidential Certificated.



Everywhere you looked a Lion was tying a blanket!! These blankets will be distributed to those in need in each district.



Lions know how to have fun and a great time at Storybook land.

Club News

Hettinger



Congratulations to the Hettinger Lions on their successful Golf Tournament.