

# 37S Newsletter

District Governor Jim Johnke

May 2008

## Woolgatherings

By DG Jim Johnke

My fourth and final cabinet meeting has just come to an end at the Ronald McDonald House in Billings. It was a good meeting and a great location. There was excellent attendance. I appreciate everyone for making the effort to be present. We had some important district reports and business to take care of and we did it in a timely manner. It is hard to believe there are only two months left in this Lions year. There is still hope that the district will survive my year as governor.

Happy Lions Trails,  
DG Jim

Thank you to my Cabinet for the beautiful Bulova Lions wrist watch. It is a wonderful gift that I will wear with pride. Dee noticed that the directions stated that it is water resistant watch, but that it is not meant for swimming. She thinks that is a special warning for me.

**ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS AND ALL CLUB OFFICERS;**

The district will be sponsoring club officer training in the zones this spring. Even if you are a recycled officer there is always room for improvement and for learning something new. Zones chairs need to contact clubs and try to arrange training sessions.

ST. Baldrick's Update:

Your District Governor now has a very short haircut (nearly bald) and I admit it wasn't nearly as traumatic as I thought it would be. I truly had serious reservations about my decision. Funds from pledges are still coming in. My estimate is \$1200. Thank you all for helping me to help children who have cancer. The Belgrade Club is to be applauded for their efforts to help kids and the St. Baldrick's Foundation. They have been shaving heads for a few years. Maybe some other clubs in our district could adopt this project.

## Cabinet Meeting Highlights

The last District 37S cabinet meeting was held at the Ronald McDonald House in Billings on April 26, 2008. It was well attended and productive. Doug Robinson and Christie Briggs, directors of The Low Vision Montana Organization reviewed their plans to eventually obtain a mobile unit to demonstrate low vision aides to clients state wide. The unit will be available to the most rural areas as well as the metropolitan cities. The Optometrist and ophthalmologists are aware of the service and are supporting it. The Low Vision of Montana will not be selling these devices but it will give clients the opportunity to try devices that may improve their limited eyesight. If the client cannot afford them, clubs and the MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation may offer support to the individual. This is not a service for just the financially needy. As a result of this presentation, the Cabinet unanimously voted to include Low Vision of MT as one of their endorsed projects. This may make it possible to apply for LCIF grants to bring the project into reality.

Reports by the Zone Chairs, Youth Exchange, PDG Association, USA Canada Forum, LCIF, Campaign Sight First II, and MT Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation were presented and recorded. The District is doing well with many interesting and successful projects going on. A synopsis of some of these projects will be presented in the newsletter.

DG Johnke made the ultimate sacrifice during the meeting by allowing his barber to make him bald to support the St Baldrick's Foundation for cancer awareness and cures for kids with cancer.



## District Events and Projects

**Zone 2** celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hall Of Fame Banquet April 24, 2008. The clubs of zone 2 each nominated a person from their club to be inducted into the zone hall of fame. These clubs, Big Timber, Bozeman, Bozeman Gallatin Empire, Bozeman Sourdough, and Bozeman Sweet Pea Club honored the recipients with a formal banquet and induction ceremony. Along with the ceremonies, the zone conducted an auction and raffle. Several of the Zone Chairman expressed an interest in doing this in their zones.

**DG Jim** is doing a study to re-organize the zones into clubs that are closer to each other. This may make it easier to have functions like this because of the distance being less.

**CSFII** chairman Jeff Cotterell reported that the District is among the top fundraising Districts in the world with a total of \$350,000 pledged at this point. The District is scheduled to be honored for their success at the International Convention in Bangkok Thailand in July. He also reported that there is 15 model clubs in our District and may be a few more before the Convention. A total of \$167,000,000 has been pledged so far towards the goal of \$200,000,000.

**Hysham** Lions Club has a project going called Walk for Freedom. The Club has built a path to honor all service men and women that make it possible for us to walk free. The brick walkway has been built in Evergreen Park and an engraved brick with the service members name and branch of service is installed into the walk. The cost of the brick is \$50 and the proceeds of the sale are used for the brick, engraving, and maintenance of the park. The remainder is used by the Club to make Hysham a better place to live.

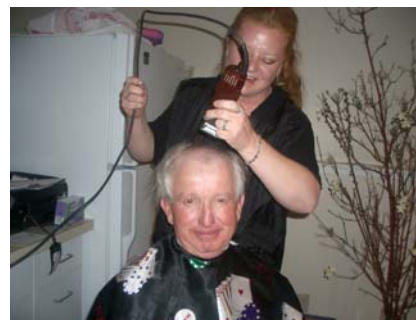
**Choteau** Lions Club is busy with a major project re-doing the community swimming pool. The Lions have long been involved with the swim team and the pool. The project will run about \$1,000,000. These good Lions have raised approximately \$200,000 thus far. Good Work Lions.

## ST Baldrick Foundation Project.

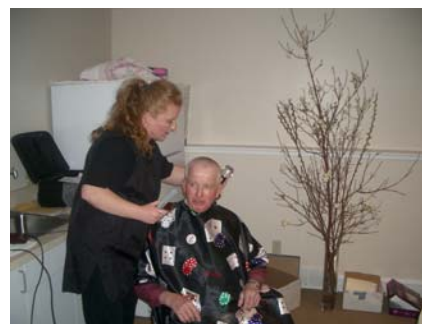
St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family. District Governor Jim Johnke joined the ranks of the St Baldrick "Baldys" by soliciting funds from the community of Winnett and the Lions of District 37S. At the time of this writing a total was not available, but it is estimated that the total should be about \$1500.



DG Jim with his personal Barber from Winnett. Minutes before Samson's hair was removed.



Half way to infamy. His silver locks will be for sale at the Winnett General Store.



And then there was none!

Thanks Jim, you are a real sport!

**Fairfield** Lions ran a successful Calcutta Auction during the NCAA March Madness. The club managed the Auction and earned a real nice donation for their effort. For details on this project contact Lion Kevin McWilliams, Box 277, Fairfield, MT 59436

## District 37S Convention 2008

Billings Lions Club is the host for the 2008 Convention with the aid of all the Clubs that comprise Zone 5. These clubs include Billings Heights, Billings Lockwood, Billings Wave, Broadview and Shepherd.

The committee has met several times and has come up with some dynamic plans for a great convention. ID Patti Hill will be our honored guest. She is our latest international director from Alberta. A great speaker and a really nice person. We know you will enjoy being in her company.

The Convention will be held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center on October 3-4, 2008. The format for the Convention will be a little different from the ordinary conventions in recent times. A series of "seminars" will be held that you may have to choose from. Some of the ideas presented thus far are: Child Care, The Internet and You, Organ and Tissue Donation, YouthExchange, Effective Fund raising Techniques, Change can be a Good Thing, Navigating "non-profit status, Effective Communication and The Vosh Used Eye Program. If you have any other ideas for sessions, contact Lion Jerry Leggate at the 37S Web Site; [www.md37s.billings.org](http://www.md37s.billings.org)

A golf session will be scheduled if there is enough interest. This will be an extra fee event and will be coordinated by PDG Dave Armstrong.

This year is the first since 1998 that we will have two candidates for the position of Vice District Governor. Lions Larry Hermance from the Belgrade Club and Lion Bill Pfeifer from the Gallatin Empire Club will be running for the office. Both of these Lion are very well qualified for the position and exemplify the Lions Moto "We Serve" They need your support. Attend the annual 37S Convention.



## USA/CANADA FORUM



The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada September 18-20, 2008. This is one of the premier events in Lionism. World Class speakers and presenters have been contracted to lead the seminars and workshops that not only makes you a better Lion, the experience makes you a better person. Private businesses will spend thousands of dollars sending their employees to a motivational seminar of this caliber. We have a great opportunity to attend this year because The Bozeman Club has arranged for a 45 passenger bus to take those Lions interested in going to the Forum. The cost of the Bus Trip will be \$100 per person. This will include Lunch and Dinner and beverages during the travel. The bus will go from Bozeman to Billings and will pick up any passengers along the route going to Plentywood where they will spend the Night at Sherwood Inn. Cost of the room that night will be \$70 for a double and \$62 for a single. There will be a barbeque dinner that evening that will be included in the price of the trip. With the price of gas here in the US and Canada, you could not drive it any cheaper. The bus is approximately ½ full at this time and filling up quickly. This will be an entertaining and educational event in your Lionistic life. To obtain an registration form go to the web site at <https://usacanadalionsforum.org/> or Contact PDG Dave Armstrong 656-9315 email address: [armstrpdg@imt.net](mailto:armstrpdg@imt.net) Reminder, you are responsible to book your room at the Sherwood Inn, Register for the Forum and Book your Hotel in Saskatoon. Contact George Chenoweth at 581-0958 for details on the Bus Trip.

**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A CURRENT PASSPORT!**

