

# 37S LIONS ROAR ...



Volume 3 – 2011-2012

News from District 37-S

## **Message from the Governor...**



What does your club do for the Holidays?

You can feel fall in the air, which means the holidays are coming fast. Of course if you talk to many Montanans, including your District Governor, the holidays have started already, with the start of hunting season and football season. Soon it will be Cat-Griz which is considered by most Montanans a holiday in its own right. It is a wonderful time of year.

When I was at District Governor School, at the International Convention in Seattle, they talked about the holiday season and asked if our own clubs had a holiday program. There were over 8,000 people from around the world in the room and I was taken back when 80% of them stood.

The message was clear, without saying much at all, the point was made. Lions Clubs are one of the largest providers of holiday joy in the world. Every club doing what they can in their communities adds up to one giant effort worldwide.

I think it is time to celebrate our Holiday success stories. In talking with many of you, I know the Lions in District 37S are doing incredible projects to help the less fortunate at this time of year, especially with the difficult economic times. In fact I know of Lions who are hurting really badly themselves, but are rolling up their sleeves to help.

**Please send us your club's holiday success story by December 1 for publication in the next newsletter.**

I cannot wait to read what all of you are doing and what huge impact Lions provide in their communities this time of year.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Thanksgiving. It is a time to share with family and close friends. It is time to thank the good Lord for our blessings.

Yours in Lionism,

*District Governor George Chenoweth*



## **IN THIS ISSUE.....**

- MD37 Leadership Institute – Page 2
- District Convention Ballot Results – Page 2
- Lion Albin Johnson – Page 2
- Billings Lions Celebrate Anniversary – Page 2
- District Convention Wrap-up – Page 3
- Ronald McDonald House – Page 4
- Children First – Stuff-a-Bus – Page 4
- Hope for the Holidays – Page 5

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....**

- January 13-14, 2012 District 37-O Convention to be held in Canmore, AB.
- January 20-21, 2012 Northern Rally to be held in Edmonton, AB
- January 21, 2012, District 37-S Cabinet Meeting to be held in Big Timber, MT
- February 23-24, 2012, MD 37 Council Meeting to be held in Bozeman, MT
- February 24-25, 2012 Montana Rally to be held in Bozeman, MT
- April 14, 2012 District 37-S Cabinet Meeting to be held in Great Falls, MT
- May 16-17, 2012 MD 37 Council Meeting to be held in Athabasca, AB
- May 17-19, 2012 MD 37 Convention to be held in Athabasca, AB
- June 22-26, 2012 95<sup>th</sup> International Convention to be held in Busan, Korea

# District 37S Convention Election & Ballot Results



Submitted by Lion Nancy Winget  
District 37-S Cabinet Secretary

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Lary Garrison was elected as District Governor 2012-2013. Zone Chair Jack Beckman was elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor 2011-2012 and as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor 2012-2013. Congratulations to you both!

Doug Skillman was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor elect, but has since stepped aside in order to focus on his GOP responsibilities.

The District 37S Convention included voting on eight (8) items. All eight (8) issues passed! Items approved included:

- PCC Ben Apeland to be inducted into the MD 37 Hall of Fame. Congratulations PCC Lion Ben – we are all very proud of all the work you have done and the difference you have made to MD 37.
- District 37S annual dues of \$5.95 were raised \$2.05 to total annual dues of \$8.00 per Lion. As passed, \$1.00 of the increase will be effective January 2012 and \$1.05 of the increase will be effective January 2013.
- 2013-14 convention site Red Lodge, MT  
More information soon!
- 2014-15 convention site Ennis, MT

Thank you to all the delegates who took time during the busy convention schedule to cast ballots on these issues!!

## MD37 Leadership Institute

Submitted by Lion Nancy Winget  
District 37-S Cabinet Secretary

The upcoming MD 37 Leadership Institute has been rescheduled for April 26-29, 2012. It appears that hunting season and the Cats/Griz football seasons made it too difficult for many Lions to attend the institute in the fall! The Institute will still be held at Camp Make a Dream, and the weatherman promises beautiful weather! If you are interested in attending the Institute please find the application form on the District 37S website. If you have questions regarding the Institute please contact ZC Doug Skillman (406 682-4904 or [dlmskill@3rivers.net](mailto:dlmskill@3rivers.net)) or DG George Chenoweth (406 581-058 or [osugeorge@gmail.com](mailto:osugeorge@gmail.com)). All Lions interested in improving their leadership skills are encouraged to apply, but don't delay as openings are limited and are being filled quickly.

## Lion Albin Johnson

Submitted by Lion Charles Schabel  
Great Falls Electric City Lions

Lion Albin (Al) Johnson passed away on the 9th of October 2011 as a result of serious injuries from a car accident in September.

Lion Al was a 29 year member of the Great Falls Electric City Lions Club. He served as club president in 1992-93, 1996-97 and 2003-04 and was a Melvin Jones Fellow.

Lion Al was a wonderful individual and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Lion Al was 94 years young.

## Billings Lions 90th Anniversary

Submitted by Lion Sue Hanson

The Billings Lions Club hosted their 90th Anniversary Charter Night on Nov 5th, 2011. PID Mick Barrus gave a stunning dialog upholding the "we serve" motto of all Lions. Along with the 37S District and Vice District Governor, there were several PDG's, a couple of PID's, Lions from several clubs and guests there to honor the evening and share in the camaraderie of Lions. A good time was had by all!

# District 37S Convention Recap



Submitted by Lion Joe Haas  
District 37-S Convention Co-chair

When we started the planning for the Convention this year we had a couple of goals. We obviously wanted to conduct the business necessary for the District. We wanted to educate the Lions in attendance on some important projects going on in the District. And lastly and most importantly, we wanted to have FUN. I would like to think we accomplished those goals and in addition WE ATE REALLY WELL.

The business session kicked off Saturday morning with an inspiring flag ceremony. It never gets old seeing all of the flags brought in. We had nominations from the floor for various items and ultimately voted to increase our dues by \$2.05 over the next two years. We also elected Jack Beckman to fill the current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor position and Doug Skillman as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor elect. We reconfirmed Lary Garrison as our DG Elect for the 2012 – 2013 Lionistic Year. Ben Apeland received the nod for Hall of Fame candidate and Ennis was granted the 2014 convention.

Although the education was ongoing throughout the whole convention the bulk of it happened after the morning break. We had some great presentations. We heard what Montana Lions Sight and Hearing is up to. What a great organization. They have distributed over \$200,000 in aid over the last 8 years or so. We heard more about Camp Make-A-Dream. If you want to feel really good about yourself next year, go volunteer there for a week and see how inspiring those kids can be that are dealing with having cancer. Dr. Ott Jones gave a very insightful presentation on Diabetes and its effect on vision. It was very informative to see how the disease is linked with the health of the eyes. Lastly we heard about the new efforts with Children First.

Amber Guth was there to present the Stuff-A-Bus program. This program helps to put warm clothes, hats, coats and gloves on kids that don't have them in the Bozeman area. The Lions in the Bozeman area are working very closely with the Kiwanis club to make this a success.

WE HAD FUN!!! Friday was filled with golf, a trip to Yellowstone and other activities in the Big Sky area. We played Bingo and contrary to popular opinion the one table that seemed to win a lot was not cheating. The coronation (in jest) of DG George as Lion King of District 37-S was great. Fortunately he has a good sense of humor as we had him dressed in a rather silly costume. Then the music and dancing started outside by the roaring campfire. It was very entertaining watching some of the dancers. DG Elect Lary sure can cut a rug.

The weekend was wrapped up on Saturday evening with the traditional banquet. We were honored to have PIP Al Brandel and his lovely wife, Lion Maureen join us. PIP Al gave a very nice speech. The raffle winners were announced as was the Parade of Green totals. All of the programs were supported very nicely, but Leader Dog and Montana Lions Sight & Hearing received some very nice contributions.

I would like to personally thank all those who attended. Make sure when you get back to your clubs you tell everyone that didn't attend how much they missed. I would also like to thank the staff at Buck's. They really went above and beyond to help us put on a great event. Lastly, I would like to thank all those that helped with the planning, my Co-Chair PDG Mary Kay, Lions Dave, Leona, George and Nancy. What a team!

Everyone can be great because anyone can serve.  
You don't have to have a college degree to serve.  
You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love...

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



# Ronald McDonald House

For a family traveling to Billings seeking lifesaving treatment for their child's illness, stress and uncertainty are among the many burdens that they carry with them on their journey. For over 29 years families' find compassion when they walk through the doors of the Ronald McDonald House which provides them with all the comforts of home. They are surrounded by a warm, peaceful and comforting atmosphere that strengthens them during trying times.

The Ronald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for nearly four hundred families each year so they can stay close by their hospitalized child. The Ronald House offers a place to call home at little or no cost so families can afford the best care for their child. The program allows families to stay together, helping their children heal faster and cope better. The Ronald House in Billings is one of more than 309 Ronald Houses serving families in 31 countries and regions worldwide.

After families return home we often hear from them with pictures and often kind words of appreciation. I would like to share with you a recent note we received as the family prepares to leave and return to their home.

"Hi to all of you,

*How do I thank you for the loving support you each offered me and my family thru these months we've been here? It's been one of the hardest journey's I've ever experienced. And emotions have been raw many times. You continue to support us gently, understand our breakdowns, lifted our spirits, prayed for us, cooked for us, hugged us, and gave us many smiles and moments of encouragement.*

*I think back the 3 1/2 months of our time here and can remember each of you giving love and support in many ways. I want you each to know, your love and kindness shall travel with us when we leave, much love and many thanks. "*

Your gifts will truly make a difference in the lives of our families. Your giving helps families lead as close to normal lives as possible and to find the hope that they

will need. We express our deepest appreciation to District 37S Lions Clubs for your support to keep families together so they can focus entirely on their sick child.

My deepest appreciation to all of you,

Connie Grammens

Executive Director

Ronald McDonald House of Billings

## CHILDREN FIRST

Submitted by Lion Carla Marinko

This month's featured Children's First Project is **STUFF-A-BUS**. Stuff-A-Bus is an organization that provides gently used shoes, clothes, and winter clothing for children of all ages. The Stuff-A-Bus goal is that no child goes without warm clothes or shoes this winter. Amber Guth, the founder of the program, has expressed her thanks to the Lions Clubs for their assistance and support.

Amber was able to secure a van from a local car dealership which she moves to different sites. The bus has great visibility with bright colors and the names/logos of the sponsors. Stuff-A-Bus works closely with many agencies to get the word out and to help as many children as possible. Everyone knows they can drop their items off wherever they see the bus.

In its second year now, **Stuff -A-Bus was in need of volunteers**. Amber found herself helping families late on weekdays and every weekend in the winter months, in addition to holding a full-time job. **LIONS TO THE RESCUE!!** The Bozeman Lions Club will help by scheduling shifts to help more families get assistance. More volunteers mean more time spent with these families. They know they aren't alone and it allows them to get help from other services of which they may not be aware.



I'm waiting to hear what your club is doing to help its children. This is your chance to show what your club does and brag a bit. **Submit YOUR Children First project to Carla at [cmarinko@stockmanbank.com](mailto:cmarinko@stockmanbank.com), or call 556-4165 with details.**

# Hope for the Holidays

Submitted by Lion Connie Thomas  
Bozeman Lions Club



Pumpkin Painting



Dog Costume Contest



Choosing the Best Pumpkin

Local service clubs in Bozeman and Belgrade are joining forces to bring Hope for the Holidays to local families struggling during a difficult economy.

The Bozeman and Belgrade Lions Clubs, along with Kiwanis Clubs are working together to raise funds to provide Christmas gifts for children, infants to teens, and holiday meals as well.

The fundraising efforts began in September with the first annual Hope for the Holidays Golf Scramble held at Bridger Creek Golf Course and continued with a second fundraiser, Taters n Pumpkins for Toys for Tots, where the groups sold pumpkins and potatoes and gave kids a chance to play games, paint pumpkins, and roast marsh-mellows.

If a family can't afford Christmas gifts, they likely can't afford a Christmas meal...and the goal is to do something about that.

The groups have a big task ahead of them...fund raising, finding a facility to store all the items they hope to collect and recruiting volunteers to help during their Christmas effort.

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**PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS AND IDEAS WITH OTHER CLUBS IN DISTRICT 37S. SEND YOUR INFORMATION**

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