



Serving Lions Clubs in British Columbia, North Idaho and Washington Since 1922

# The Border Crossing

March - April 2026

Bi-Monthly Newspaper

Volume 28, No 5

MD19 Lion's Office, 4141 Bennett Drive, Bellingham, Washington 98226  
 MD19 Website: <http://www.lionsmd19.org>

Phone: (360) 733-4911  
 Editor: Sofia Kruger Email: [bordercrossing@lionsmd19.org](mailto:bordercrossing@lionsmd19.org)

Email: [md19lions@lionsmd19.org](mailto:md19lions@lionsmd19.org)  
 Web Master: JD Nellor Email: [jd@nellorlaw.com](mailto:jd@nellorlaw.com)

## Leadership Corner

By **Debbie Bostock, MD19GLT**

*The ability to learn is the most important quality a leader can have. –Sheryl Sandberg*

First, I would like to extend my congratulations to Michael Contreras on successfully completing his post-institute facilitation requirement, making him the newest member of the Faculty Development Institute in our Multiple District.

As we enter the final quarter of the Lions year, I trust that all clubs have conducted their elections and appointed incoming officers accordingly.

I am pleased to announce that we are organizing at least one in-person club officer training session in each District. A dedicated team is currently coordinating these events, and we will share the dates and locations once finalized. Additionally, club officers can access a range of educational sessions through Lions Clubs International ([lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org)) by navigating to the Portal, selecting "Learn," and then choosing LLC: Online Learning. On the MD19 website ([lionsmd19.org](http://lionsmd19.org)), under the Toolbox Tab and subsequently the Learning Tab, members can download e-books and handbooks for the roles of Club President, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing-Communications, Membership, Service, Taittwister, and Public Relations.

The upcoming MD19 Convention in Wenatchee, scheduled for May 23rd and 24th, will feature several informative sessions, including:

- The Power Behind the Magic: Mastering the Role That Makes a Club Work
- Lead with Purpose, Serve with Impact
- Invite, Ignite, Induct: Practical Ways to Recruit New Lions
- Grow With Us Marketing Initiative
- Making Meetings Engaging
- Unlock the Power of the Lion Portal: From Confusion to Confidence
- Data to Impact: Leveraging the Lion Portal to Highlight Your Club's Achievements
- Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)
- Hub N Spoke: Addressing Needs Wherever They Arise
- Handcrafted Card Making

## Links to More Information

Explore How LCIF Grants Can Help You Serve  
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/lcif-grants-toolkit>

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum  
<https://members.lionsforum.org/>

CARE Program  
[https://youtu.be/Md8S\\_XSItw](https://youtu.be/Md8S_XSItw)

Wondering about the future? Look here:  
<https://lionsmd19.org/calendar.php>

Lions Quest Canada  
<https://www.lionsquest.ca/>

Lions Camp Horizon  
<https://lionscamphorizon.org>

Lions Member Resource Center  
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center>

Lions Virtual Events Center  
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/virtual-events-center>

Lions International Calendar  
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/lions-events-calendar>

Lions Easter Seals Camps - BC/Yukon  
<https://www.eastersealsbcy.ca/summercamp/>

International Lions Christmas Ship Foundation  
[https://e-district.org/sites/district\\_19-o/projects.php](https://e-district.org/sites/district_19-o/projects.php)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM INSIDE

Words from Council Chairperson & Leadership Corner Cont'd.....	2
Backpacks for Blind Children.....	3
KOTB Holiday Broadcast.....	4
Vital Information.....	5
Memorials, Dues + Donations & Diabetes Across the Border.....	6
Wenatchee Convention Information.....	7
Wenatchee Convention Information Part II.....	8
Youth Exchange Report.....	9
Accessible Virtual Events Training & Advertise with BC.....	10
Medal of Merit Fundraising Gala.....	11
Northwest Lions Leadership Institute & Screenings.....	12
CARE Update & Leader Dogs for the Blind.....	13
Lions Project for Canine Companions Donuts + Dogs Event.....	14
Border Crossing Information.....	15
Upcoming Events.....	16

## MD19 Council Chairperson - Steve Brooks



As I am writing this article, we are entering into the district convention season across MD19. District 19-O just completed their convention where DG September Stokes took everyone Back to School. Friday night had a spaghetti dinner followed by an old-fashioned Sock Hop with a parade of socks. Saturday morning there were a few challenges with the pancake breakfast but it was great to see Lions overcome. The rest of the meals were very good. Rather than having separate breakout rooms, we gathered in the auditorium for educational class sessions.

DG September started off by teaching us about the ABC's of having fun! It was great to learn some new ideas for a club meeting and how to change it up. Michele Materi presented an update on Easter Seals House in B.C. followed by PDG Al Stobbard gave a presentation about LCIF.

In the afternoon, there were sessions on Working as a Team, Lions Quest, When Good People Clash, Marketing, and ending the day with how to do a Creative Reset, which confirmed I don't do art well. International Director Debbie Dawson provided an inspirational speech about how LCIF impacts our communities and how their efforts had an impact on her daughter following a natural disaster.

April 10th and 11th Districts 19-N and 19-L both had their conventions at the same time but different locations. Additionally, District 19-L had a Leo summit on April 12th after the district convention. DG Teresa of 19-L and DG Donna Murr both have stated they are having inspiring speakers for attendees.

April 17th to 19th District 19-S will have their convention hosted by DG Roger Schramm at the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel in Worley Idaho. DG Roger's theme this year has been "Having Fun" and it is fitting that the convention theme is "Let's Have Fun!". I did observe that DG Roger was sitting in the front row during 19-Os convention and was taking lots of notes. We will see what he learned!

April 24th and 25th District 19-I will be celebrating "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things" in Kelowna B.C. with DG Steve Sweeney. Friday night should be fun with a magician making magic happen. There will be panels presenting fresh ideas on what actually works, training that actually works, along with making connections across the district.

May 23rd and 24th we head to Wenatchee for the MD19 Annual Convention where we will be "Celebrating The Fruits of Service". The convention dates had to move by a day due to scheduling at the convention center. Training for Zone Chairs Elects, 2nd VDG Elects, 1st VDG Elects, DG Elects will start on Friday May 22nd. Lions International 1st VP Mark Lyon and Lion Lyn Lyon will be our international guests, providing an opportunity for you to meet with our next International President. The Convention Committee has been working hard to put this together and make it a family friendly convention. They are providing a list of local things for your family to do if they don't want to participate in all of the sessions at the convention. Fun night will be family friendly at the Circle 5 winery with entertainment, food and drink will be order what you want off of the menu.

I am personally looking forward to seeing old friends and new ones at the various conventions. Bring a fellow Lion or Leo with you to either a district or MD19 convention.

## Leadership Corner - Continued

Informative sessions (continued):

- Lilac Services for the Blind
- Lilies of the Valley – Floral Arrangements
- Conflict Resolution

The Northwest Lions Leadership Institute takes place June 4–7 and is already half full. For details and registration, visit [nwlli.org](http://nwlli.org). We encourage all members to take advantage of these opportunities for professional development and networking.

I also request incoming District Governors to please forward me their incoming Zone Chairs, Vice District Governors and their Global Action Team members. I would like to send information on sessions for all these positions prior to the MD19 Convention in Wenatchee on Friday, May 22nd and for Zone Chairs Friday as well as Saturday, May 23rd morning.

Thank you, I do appreciate your assistance with this. If I can assist anyone, please feel free to contact me at [debbie.bostock@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.bostock@gmail.com)

## Backpacks for Blind Children

### Lions Clubs Share an Idea to Support Blind & Low Vision Learners

As back-to-school advertisements begin appearing in newspapers and stores, many individuals and organizations prepare to donate supplies to help children start the school year. While these generous efforts benefit many students, one important group is often overlooked—children who are blind or partially sighted. Lions Clubs have long been committed to supporting individuals who are blind or partially sighted, a new initiative highlights how clubs can meet this need.

At a recent Knights Of The Blind (KOTB) committee meeting of the MD19 Lions Clubs, committee member Jennifer Gass, chair MD4 Accessibility Committee/Lions for Access, shared an inspiring example. She described how her Lions Club developed backpacks specifically designed for blind students. Each backpack contained back-to-school supplies adapted for their specific needs, and 24 backpacks were distributed.

Sharing successful ideas often sparks volunteer energy in other communities. Joanna Jones, co-author of Grandpa's White Cane and a virtual member of the Anacortes Lions Club, and a member of the MD19 KOTB Committee was inspired by the project. She contacted her local school district in Rio Rancho, New Mexico to determine whether students with special needs might benefit from similar backpacks.

The response was encouraging. Plans are now underway to prepare 15 backpacks, which will be distributed on August 1, just before the start of the 2026–2027 school year, with the financial support of her local community for this Lions Project. The Anacortes Lions and other KOTB members are reaching out to their school Districts to identify needs and interest. Each backpack will contain specialized learning tools designed to support the needs of the specific students with the advice of their teachers.

A few of these include:

- Jumbo calculators
- Large-print rulers
- Bump-dot braille stickers
- Braille writing paper
- Braille alphabet boards

All supplies will be new and purchased through Amazon to ensure consistent quality and accessibility. The products selected were the collaborative decision of Lions who are blind and teachers of blind and low vision learners. This project demonstrates how Lions Clubs continue to live the motto “We Serve.” By sharing ideas and working together, Lions can identify unmet needs and create meaningful opportunities for children to succeed in school.

As this article goes to press, members of MD19 Lions Committee are reaching out to their local schools to identify students who would benefit from these specially designed backpacks. If your club is interested in this project, contact Lion Joanna at [jonesdrj@gmail.com](mailto:jonesdrj@gmail.com) or (605) 450-0121, and she will be happy to share her experience.

***Important NOTE: KOTB will be doing a community needs assessment through the Teachers of the Blind and Low Vision Learners in Washington State to determine the need for and/or interest in pursuing this Project in our local communities, and will let Lions Clubs know of students in their areas should you be interested in participating.***

Submitted by Colette Arvidson  
 President Anacortes Lions and Member, MD19KOTB  
[Colette.Arvidson@gmail.com](mailto:Colette.Arvidson@gmail.com)  
 (360) 391-5880





## Share the Joy! Spread the Word! Celebrating Blind Abilities!

### ***4th Annual KOTB Holiday Broadcast Invitation & Call for Performers!***

**Saturday, December 12th at 2:00 PM PST**

This holiday season, the Lions MD19 Knights Of The Blind (KOTB) Committee invites blind and partially sighted individuals to share their voices in joyful celebration.

**Attend the broadcast by this ZOOM Link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86175071178?  
pwd=pPO8f2yxYszSnUacmnDu54ZbjWuhRs.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86175071178?pwd=pPO8f2yxYszSnUacmnDu54ZbjWuhRs.1)

## Interested in Performing at the 4th Annual KOTB Holiday Broadcast?

**We welcome:**

- Family-Friendly, Holiday-themed songs, poems, or stories celebrating your culture or faith traditions (up to 5 minutes)
- *The Holiday YOU celebrate in December – Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Family, etc.*

**Submit your entry early — space is limited! Performers should email the following information, attaching their submission file or a link to a download location to [KOTBXmas@hedstrom.ws](mailto:KOTBXmas@hedstrom.ws) - no later than **12/01/26!****

**Please provide:**

- Performer's Name(s) and Location
- The type of performance: Song, Instrumental, Narration, or Other
- A few sentences to describe yourself, so we can introduce you personally
- Attach your submission to the email, recorded in one of the following formats:
- Video: MP4, AVI, or MOV. Audio: MP3 or WAV.
- I-Phone Voice Memo app will need to convert the resulting M4A file to an MP3 file.
- A photo may be included if you are not providing a video

### **Questions, October Submission training details?**

Contact: Joanna Jones

Email: [jonesdrj@gmail.com](mailto:jonesdrj@gmail.com)

Phone: (605) 450-0121

---

### **Let your light shine this season**

— **whether as a performer or as an encouraging audience** —

be part of a celebration that embraces joy, diversity, and the power of community.

Invite your friends and family to watch, support, and celebrate with us!

## Vital Information (March + April 2026)

The **2026-2027 PU101 Report Form (Club Officer Report)** is due in the MD19 Office on or before **May 15 (or as soon as you hold your club election)**. If you did not receive the information on how to do the PU101, via AWeber, contact the office and we will send you instructions for doing the LCI PU101 from your club's site. Once completed, send a copy to the following email address: md19lions@lionsmd19.org. Hard copies can be mailed to 4141 Bennett Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226. A copy of the directions are also included in this Border Crossing.

Please send a copy of your PU101 Report Form to your current 1st Vice District Governor and Zone Chairperson. **Before sending to the MD19 Office or anyone else: double check with all your incoming club officers to make sure the information provided on the form is correct and update your club officer's information via the Lions Portal if necessary. If your club has a P.O. Box, ask your officers if they want their mail delivered to the club P.O. Box or to their personal home or business address.** If all information is not available, send what you can. Call the MD19 Office if you need assistance. Remember: The International Club Officer Report goes to LCI and to the MD19 Office.

**Club Officer Training:** As was done last year, online club officer training will be provided and information will be sent out by those conducting the training. Please see our MD19 Website for more information. The MD19 2026 Club Officer Manuals will be available shortly on the MD19 Website under "Toolbox" and then "Learning". They can be downloaded and kept on your computer for quick reference. They are still being updated but that will be completed shortly.

**MD19 Recognition of Excellence forms** for Club President, Treasurer and Membership Director Recognition of Excellence forms are available on the MD19 website (Toolbox>Forms>Club Report Forms). An AWeber message will be sent as a reminder shortly (close to the end of May). These forms need to be sent to the MD19 Office by July 25, 2025. **There is no form to fill out for the Club Secretary Recognition of Excellence nor for the Zone Chairperson Recognition of Excellence.** The criteria for these awards are tracked by MD19 throughout the year.

### LCI Club Excellence Award criteria

Applications will not be necessary for the 2025-2026 award cycle. Awards will be distributed by Lions International to clubs that meet the updated criteria and eligibility requirements. You will find these listed below. The LCI Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs and is the foundation for excellence awards presented to Zone Chairpersons, Region Chairpersons, and District Governors.

### Membership

- Induct a minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or sponsor a new Lions club.

### Service

- Report a minimum of four (4) service activities to Lions International. Three (3) must align with the International Weeks of Service around Mental Health, Hunger and Environment. These service projects can be completed throughout the 2025-2026 Lion year.

### Leadership

- Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15 of the current Lion year.
- A minimum of 10% of the club's members complete any three courses in the Lions Learning Center.
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.
- A minimum of two or more club officers (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Of which, one must be the club president) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) between May 1 – December 31.

### Donations

- Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year, multiplied by US\$20. MD19 Clubs that meet the criteria for the LCI Club Excellence Award receive a banner patch and the Club President receives a lapel pin. It will be sent to the 2026-27 District Governor for awarding.

**Memorials for February + March 2026**

L A6	Gibsons	Clifford Moss
L A6	Gibsons	Angie Terrillon
L I3	Central Saanich	Larry Rhodes
L I6	Port McNeill	Norm Crabe
I 1	Fairmont	John Selzler
O 1	Tsawwassen Boundary Bay	Richard Marks
O 3	Surrey Central	Beverley Bly
O 4	Chilliwack Mt. Cheam	Kristen Macpherson
O 7	Coupeville	Virginia L. Munn
O 9	Seattle Rainier	Samuel Olsson
O 9	Seattle University Ballard	Donald Wahlquist
N 1	Poulsbo	Larry D. Linn
N 5	Aberdeen	Robert K. Andrews
N 5	Cosmopolis	James B. Phipps
N 7	Lacey Lamplighters	Robert Fraser
N 8	Orting	Renee Hart
S 5	Lewiston	PDG James N. Luper

**Special Donations**

**2025-2026**

		<b>CARE</b>
	PDG Breakfast at Chilliwack	65 CDN
L A-1	DG Teresa Ng	100
19-I	PDG Chuck Robinson	500
19-I	DG Steve Sweeney	100
19-N	PDG Emerson Bishop -In memory of PDG Bill Ellis	200
19-N	PDG Emerson Bishop -In memory of PDG Melvin Mackey	200
19-O	DG September Stokes	100
19-O	PID & PDG Roger and Rosemary Richert -in Celebration:PDG Emerson's 90th Bday	90
19-O	Michele Barrie -In honor of her children	150
19-O	From 19-O Zone Chairpersons -For DG September Stokes	500
19-N	PDG Emerson Bishop -In memory of PDG Mel Mackey	200
19-N	DG Donna Murr	100
19-S	Walla Walla Downtown -In memory of PCC Steve Noble	500

		<b>DUES</b>
<b>Percentages of</b>	19-L	98%
<b>Second Half Dues</b>	19-I	93%
<b>Paid for 2025-2026</b>	19-O	95%
	19-N	88%
	19-S	86%

**Diabetes Across the Borders**

**Let's talk Diabetes Camps and how Lions help!**



Camps for children who have diabetes give children a chance to meet and share experiences with other children who have diabetes. These camps help children take responsibility for their condition and gain independence in diabetes care. They also provide a fun outdoor experience. That may include swimming, hiking, or other sports, arts & crafts.

Camps give parents a break from managing diabetes. You can rest assured that the children will get the right care at camp. There is a staff of which includes a healthcare team and a Leadership development staff. The healthcare team consists of a committed group of healthcare professionals led by a Doctor. The Leadership development staff is headed by Leadership directors who complement the existing program and medical staff.

Three camps in MD19, Camp Kakhamela along the Sunshine Coast in Gibsons, BC, Camp Leo in Western Washington, and Camp Stixin in North Eastern Washington. I don't have numbers for the two Washington camps, but do know that a total of 231 campers used the BC camp last year. Our donations have helped make it possible for kids to attend these three camps. Thank You!

**Now let's talk step challenge!**



As we are nearing the end of our 30-week challenge, I am so grateful to all who have participated, and even some clubs have donated even though they didn't take part! Well done! As of April 23, there were a total of 85 clubs, 376 steppers, and 2 service dogs reporting to me! That doesn't mean that some clubs weren't taking part, but maybe just forgetting that their steps needed to be recorded on the master sheet. Unfortunately, there were only three of the five districts taking part this year. I have it on good authority that this challenge will happen again next year, so tune up your walking shoes over the summer! After the MD19 convention, I will give a full report with numbers :)

Lion Georgia

# ***Celebrating The Fruits of Service***

## **MD19 Annual Convention Registration**



**May 23 & 24, 2026**  
**Wenatchee, WA**




### **Friday 5/22/26**

- 8-4:30** Training for DG Elects, 1VDG, 2 VDG, Zone Chairs & GAT Members
- 10:00am** Join Wenatchee Lions for flying 200 flags for Memorial Day
- All Day** Shop around town w/coupons, bus to Cashmere, Leavenworth, Chelan
- 5:00pm** Dinner on own. Join local lions at Pybus Market for a fun evening
- 7:30-9pm** Pre-Council Meeting, then join others at Pybus Market

### **Saturday 5/23/26**

- 7- 11am** Leavenworth Lions Club Pancake Breakfast in Lions Park/Leavenworth
- 8-11:30am** Zone Chair Training Continues
- 8:30-9:30am** Council of Governors Mtg (closed 8-8:30)
- 10-11am** Lillies of the Valley – Learn how to arrange flowers, which will go to hospital
- 12-12:45pm** LUNCH (must have your ticket)
- 1:00-2:15** Opening Sessions
- 2:30-3:40** Secretaries Power Behind the Magic / Hub & Spoke / Making Meetings Fun  
Lilac Services for the Blind
- 5:00-9:00pm** Head for Circle 5 Winery, Dinner on own & available to purchase at winery

### **Sunday 5/24/26**

- 6:45am** PDG & Partner Breakfast 6:45 am Regular Breakfast
- 8:30am** Memorial Service
- 9:45am** Morning Session
- 10:50-Noon** Presidents Lead w/Purpose / LCIF / Portal Class 1
- 12:30-2:00** Lunch w/ program
- 2:15-3:25** Invite, Ignite, Induct / Grow With Us / Portal Class 2
- 3:34pm** Silent Auction & Raffle CLOSSES
- 3:35-4:45** Card Making Class
- 5:30** Social
- 6-8:30** Dinner
- 8:30-10:00** Line Dance & Lessons with Luke 

- ▶ Convention Attire: Pride of Lions wear your Club shirt, hat, vest, jacket, or Business Casual
- ▶ Sunday Evening Attire: Business Professional
- ▶ Contact MD19 to reserve a display table \$5 or \$30 if selling items [md19lions@lionsmd19.org](mailto:md19lions@lionsmd19.org)
- ▶ Delegates must be fully registered and have their voting credentials certified prior to voting
- ▶ Advertising in Program, sponsorship of breaks, available. Please contact Steve Evitt [wpdofc20@gmail.com](mailto:wpdofc20@gmail.com) or Shelley Costello [shelan1437@aol.com](mailto:shelan1437@aol.com)
- ▶ Advertising in Program, sponsorship of breaks, **CANADA** Leslie Smith [blsmith01@telus.net](mailto:blsmith01@telus.net) .....The ladies will have price sheets, once you reach out with interest.
- ▶ Registration in Hotel Lobby Thursday Night for arrivals, then Convention Center Friday & Saturday. Hours will be posted.
- ▶ Raffle/Auction Room will be open to accept items Friday/Saturday. Purchase raffle tickets Saturday at the winery from Lake Chelan Lions Table.
- ▶ **Hotel Room Block cut off date is Tuesday 5/5/26.** Please do not wait as rates are much higher since this is Memorial Day Weekend.
- ▶ **Registration with meals cut off date is Saturday 5/16/26,** as numbers must be turned in to the Center.



**OUR GUEST IS INCOMING PRESIDENT  
OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL!  
VISIT WITH LION MARK LYON  
& HIS PARTNER IN SERVICE LION LYN**



## Youth Exchange Report

### February through March has been very busy with Youth Exchange and Adult Exchange.

February 25-28, our MD19 group hosted the North American Youth Camp and Exchange Forum in Seattle. The meetings were held downtown Seattle. We had representatives for the program from California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, South Carolina, Washington, Australia, Mongolia and Brazil (via zoom).



March 1-15, was the very first time MD19 offered the 25+ Lions and Leos Exchange Program. We had four travelers, two Lions from Wisconsin, and two Leos from Hong Kong and Italy. The camp traveled to all five Districts in MD19.

We partnered in service projects with the local Lions and enjoyed seeing what the Lions were doing in their community. Everywhere we went, we all were treated like royalty, as we visited the clubs and got to know each other.

Special thank you to our hosts, Nancy & Roy Messmer from Clallum Bay-Sekiou Lions Club, Tracey Thompson from Wenatchee Valley Lions Club, Patty & Rock White from District O Zone 5, Leslie Chase from Camas Lions Club, Tammy & Ken Allan from District S Zone 1. This program is not possible to keep the expenses down without the many host families we enjoyed. Lastly, a huge shout out of Thanks to PDG Kevin Borde for offering your cabin in Sekiu!

In Service,  
Tammy Allan



## Accessible Virtual Events Training

**Interested in being sure ALL your members can receive your message?**



**Join MD-19 Training session hosted by PCC Al Hedstrom  
–May 19, 2026, 7:00 PM Pacific Time on ZOOM!**

### **Accessibility: Foundations of Blind & Low Vision Friendly Virtual Event Design**

Whether you have members (or prospective members) who are blind or partially sighted, or perhaps older members who may be embarrassed to let you know how little they can see, this is a meeting you won't want to miss!

Special Guest Speaker, Amy Amantea, Associate Director, VocalEye, is an accessibility educator and creative access strategist with over 15 years of experience advancing inclusion across the arts and cultural sector. She is known for practical, engaging training that turns complex ideas into actionable change. This session explores how to design and host online events that are accessible and inclusive for people who are blind or low vision.

Participants will learn practical tools and techniques, from clear verbal facilitation and visual description to accessible materials and platform settings, that can be implemented right away. Grounded in real-world examples, this workshop shifts accessibility from an afterthought to an integral part of event planning. Whether you're hosting meetings, webinars, or performances, you'll leave with strategies to ensure blind participants can engage at their level, enjoy content, and feel welcomed in your virtual space.

**Please RSVP for all training to Al Hedstrom at [LionAl@Hedstrom.ws](mailto:LionAl@Hedstrom.ws).  
–Each session is free and starts at 7 PM Pacific**

**Permanent Training Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85745644261#success>**

**Your club/zone/district event could be showcased  
here, in the next edition of Border Crossing!**

**Email your flyer/poster/photos to  
[bordercrossing@lionsmd19.org](mailto:bordercrossing@lionsmd19.org) to be included!**

# MEDAL OF MERIT

## *Fundraising Gala*



Co-Chair :  
PDG Syrus Lee  
PDG Henry Ng  
Honorary Chair :  
Richard Wong

Date: May 14, 2026 (Thursday)  
Reception: 5:30 pm Gala: 6:00 - 9:30 pm  
Place: Pink Pearl Chinese Restaurant  
1132 East Hastings Street, Vancouver  
Tickets: \$100



**Ken Sim**  
Medal of Merit Recipient

*Net proceeds: Lions Clubs International Foundation  
Chinatown Medical and Scholarship Foundation*



**溫哥華華埠獅子會**  
**VANCOUVER CHINATOWN LIONS CLUB**

## Northwest Lions Leadership Institute (NWLLI) 2026

**This is your personal invitation to attend the Northwest Lions Leadership Institute (NWLLI) 2026, taking place June 4–7, 2026, in Chilliwack, British Columbia.**

NWLLI is a hands-on leadership experience created specifically for Lions. It's practical, interactive, and focused on real skills you can use immediately—in your club, your district, and your everyday life. This is not a lecture weekend. It's not about titles. It's about learning how to lead people, build momentum, and strengthen clubs.

### Event Details

Chilliwack, British Columbia

June 4–7, 2026

The registration fee includes the full institute experience, lodging, meals, and materials.

\$350 USD / \$375 CAD

\$200 grant available for MD19 Lions

### NWLLI is designed for Lions who are:

- Ready to step up in helping their club
- Current or incoming club officers
- Wanting to grow as leaders—without pressure or politics

### What you'll gain from this experience:

- Greater confidence in speaking up, leading discussions, and sharing ideas
- Practical tools for building strong, effective teams
- Strategies to keep members engaged and motivated
- Better delegation and time-management skills
- A stronger understanding of your personal leadership style and goals
- Real experience applying leadership skills through team-based activities
- Meaningful connections with Lions from across the Northwest

You do not need prior leadership training. You do not need a leadership title. You will need a willingness to participate and learn. Important: Space is limited. NWLLI is intentionally capped at 50 participants to maintain a personal, engaging, and interactive experience. Once those spots are filled, registration will close. Don't wait—secure your spot early.

### Travel & Carpooling

Many participants carpool with Lions from their club or nearby clubs. It's a great way to connect early, share travel costs, and arrive together. If you're interested in carpooling, let us know—we're happy to help connect you.

**Learn more and register: <https://nwlli.org>**

Still have questions? Contact:

Registrar: Shannon Croitor: Email [smartypants5955@gmail.com](mailto:smartypants5955@gmail.com) Call or text 604-997-0553

Superintendent: Roger Chevrier: Email [rogerchevrier@gmail.com](mailto:rogerchevrier@gmail.com) Call or text 604-828-5900

## Northwest Lions Foundation Vision and Hearing Screenings

**Northwest Lions  
Foundation**



*Restoring Sight, Hope, & Hearing*

The Northwest Lions Foundation is embarking on a vision/hearing project to help ensure that the children of MD 19 are receiving proper and timely vision screenings and appropriate referrals to professionals in those fields. We know that several of you have already been doing a fantastic job to screen children and we appreciate your efforts.

We ask you to forward numbers of children screened and numbers of children referred for further evaluation to your districts vision/hearing coordinators or to myself ([chrisbabin8@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbabin8@gmail.com)) or Shelley Costello ([shelan143@msn.com](mailto:shelan143@msn.com)). The information collected will allow us to show our members how much of a difference their efforts are accomplishing as well as providing us information to apply for grant money to improve your abilities to meet this need.

We are also asking you to provide us with the number of vision/hearing screeners in your club in order to determine the need for acquiring additional such devices. Please include the number of these devices you have that need to be repaired. If additional devices are needed we can get a price break based on the number purchased. Thank you in advance for your attention regarding this matter.

## CARE Update

### CARE - Cooperative and Assistance Everywhere

Donations received this fiscal year for CARE will go to help provide clean water in schools located in Guatemala. Currently, Guatemala schools lack proper infrastructure for preparing meals in the schools. This also attributes to poor sanitation procedures when it comes to washing hands.

The Council of Governors discussed and voted on the above project for MD 19. We need to support the decisions that our leaders make. We currently are in the first year of a two-year project. Let's support CARE and our leaders.

Thru the end of March our donations to CARE are \$26,685 compared to \$30,015 for the same period of time last year. This is a reduction of \$4,330. I feel very confident we can make up this difference by the end of June. Over the years I have seen Lions rise to the occasion to accomplish their goals. I've seen it in planting of trees serving individuals, Campaign 100 and more.

Remember a donation of \$500.00 or more in this fiscal year entitles the club to request a Gordon F Smith Fellowship. Currently there are 25 clubs that have donated \$500.00 or more. Five clubs have donated \$1,000.00 or more. Clubs must request their Gordon F Smith Fellowship from the MD19 office by fiscal year end. There is a form on the MD 19 website. From landing page go to toolbox, forms and scroll to bottom of the page.

Thank you to all clubs that are supporting CARE and supporting what our Council of Governors selected as a needy cause.

Bob Yeoman  
MD 19 CARE Chair

## Leader Dogs for the Blind - Matching Gift Challenge

### \$60,000 Matching Gift Challenge for Leader Dogs for the Blind!

I am thrilled to share that Chief Financial Credit Union has launched a **\$60,000 Matching Gift Challenge** on our behalf, and every dollar you give by April 30 will be matched 1 to 1 to DOUBLE your impact!

Your generosity will help people like Joey. When he was losing his vision, he came to Leader Dogs for the Blind to learn essential white cane skills through our free Orientation & Mobility program. That week of instruction changed everything – he found confidence, independence and a community that understood his journey. Later, Joey returned for his guide dog. Now partnered with Leader Dog Tucker, he travels the country teaching and inspiring others who are blind or low vision.

Today, many more people are waiting for that same freedom. That's why this matching opportunity is so critical.

Please make the most generous gift you can today. Your support will go twice as far to create more perfect matches like Joey and Tucker. Donate at: <https://give.leaderdog.org/for/d031/info/email>

With gratitude,  
Melissa L. Weisse | President and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind

# Donuts & Dogs

MD19 Lions are invited to join Lions Project representatives at the Canine Companions Puget Sound Field Office to learn more about how your Club can help support the need for more expertly trained service dogs!



## SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2026 10:00 AM - NOON

### Lions will enjoy:

- Tour of the Training Center
- Service Dog Demonstration
- Meeting a Veteran Graduate Team
- Learning about ways to support the Lions Project Foundation
- Donuts, Coffee, & Juice

**Lions Project for Canine Companions**, a nationwide Lions Foundation and non-profit organization, has been raising awareness and funds to support the mission of Canine Companions since 1983. Canine Companions is leading the service dog industry, allowing their clients to live with greater independence **by providing service dogs free of charge** to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities.



### Register Now:

[www.lpcanine.org/donuts-md19](http://www.lpcanine.org/donuts-md19)

Questions? [aballard@lpcanine.org](mailto:aballard@lpcanine.org)

### Canine Companions Puget Sound Field Office

2454 Occidental Ave S Bldg 3B

Seattle, WA 98134



### Funding of MD19 Border Crossing:

The salary for The Border Crossing editor is partially funded by a grant from the MD19 Lions Service and Leadership Development Foundation. This is an example of your leadership dollars at work in the Multiple District.

## Border Crossing Ordering Options

The *Border Crossing* is automatically emailed by AWeber as a link to all club, zone, district and multiple district officers. Those wanting a hard copy of the newspaper, including the above listed officers, will need to purchase a subscription.

### 2026-2027 Lions Year:

**Border Crossing:** 6 issues in hard copy format. Subscription begins with the August issue. \$16.00 to U.S. Addresses; \$20.00 to Canadian Addresses.

Send form below with your check or money order to MD19, 4141 Bennett Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226. No Credit Cards Please. All orders are pre-paid only. Questions: 360-733-4911 or [md19lions@lionsmd19.org](mailto:md19lions@lionsmd19.org)

-----  
 Print Name on Line Above Phone Number / Email Address

-----  
 Print Mailing Address City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

**Border Crossing Link! IMPORTANT!** All club, Zone, District and Multiple District Officers and Email Border Crossing subscriptions will receive an email from Peter Anderson, via our AWeber email communications system sometime in late July with the Subject: **“Confirm Your Subscription”**. Within that same email is a link that you need to click on in order **to give us permission** to send you the Border Crossing link and other important MD19 information during the year. You **must confirm your “subscription” in order for us to communicate with you by following this procedure**. If you do not confirm that you will accept further communications via AWeber, your email will be automatically removed from the list and nothing further can be sent to you.



**Border Crossing / AWeber (Emailed Ads and Fundraising Events sent to MD19 Lions)**

Name of Company or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address / P.O. Box City State/Prov. Zip/Postal code

Size of Ad: \_\_\_\_\_ #of issues: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card, please complete the following: ( ) Visa ( ) Master Card

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (payment will be in US Funds)

**Border Crossing / AWeber (Emailed Ads & Announcements sent to MD19 Lions)**

2025-26 Rates cover inclusion in 1 issue of The *Border Crossing* and 1 AWeber Message.

Full Page	\$160.00	(8.5 x 11)
1/2 Page	85.00	
1/4 Page	50.00	
Business Card	35.00	

The *Border Crossing* is published August, October, December, February, April & June with a publication date of the 10th of the month. All ad information **MUST** be in the MD19 Office by the last day of the month previous to publication.

The AWeber announcement with the ad will be emailed out to all subscribers within 10 working days of the *Border Crossing* in which the ad is published.

**Submission Guidelines:** Camera-ready artwork in either a .jpg, .png, or .tif file. When submitting written copy only, not camera-ready, an additional \$25.00 will be charged for ad design. You will be asked to sign off on any ad created for you. Specify ad size and number of issues the ad will run.

## MD19 Calendar of Events

**2026-2027**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
MD19 Annual Convention	Wenatchee, WA	May 23–24, 2026
Northwest Lions Leadership Institute (NWLLI)	Chilliwack, BC	June 4–7, 2026
Hong Kong 108 <sup>th</sup> Lions International Convention	Hong Kong, China	July 3-7, 2026

***The Border Crossing***  
**MD19 Lions Office**  
**4141 Bennett Drive**  
**Bellingham, WA 98226 USA**

**The future depends on YOU!**  
**Ask someone to become a Lion!**