

“Changing the Hearts of Lions”

I'd like to welcome you to the 5M9 Webpage and tell you a little about the Lions Organization. The Lions organization began in Chicago by a businessman named Melvin Jones. From the very beginning, the Lions worked at helping in these communities.

I joined the Lions organization in 2001 and was a member of the Vergas Lions Club. I joined the Lions organization to meet people in Vergas and get involved in projects for the Vergas Community.

I got involved with the Lions Youth Exchange program and over the next 8 years, we hosted over 21 students from countries around the world. Then I helped at Kamp KACE, which is a summer camp for cancer kids. This camp takes place the last full week of June, at the YMCA camp on Cormorant Lake. These cancer kids can have a camp experience and continue treatments while attending camp. Kamp KACE is a typical summer camp, with campfires, swimming, crafts and so much more. The Lions have special events during camp also, ice cream social, camp pictures, fishing, and a fish fry. This camping experience with these special kids made me find the true Lion in me. To this day they hold a very special place in my heart.

Over the years I have held numerous offices and obtained many special awards for my work as a Lion. I was the District Governor of District 5M9 in 2010-2011 and I am District Governor of 5M9 for 2023-2024.

We are working on a new program over the next 3 years called Mission 1.5. Mission 1.5 is a goal of the Lions to increase our membership to 1.5 million members worldwide. Increasing membership will add more hands and ideas to help our local communities with service projects, etc. Some of the service projects we do are blood drives, collecting plastic and in return we get a bench made from the plastic to place in our communities, helping schools and seniors with yard work, just to name a few things we do.

I invited you to consider joining a Lions club in your community. We do have meetings, but the work we do beyond that is so much more!

Make it a great day!

DG Linda Albrecht-Norby