



# LION PRIDE WE SERVE

A PUBLICATION OF THE LIONS OF LOWER MICHIGAN - MD11

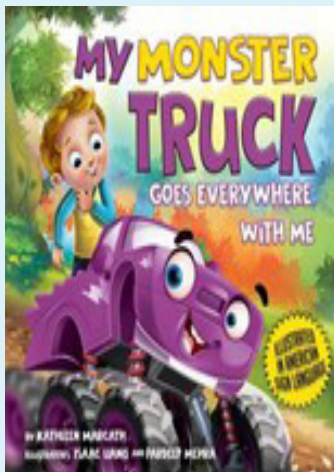
## LIONS MICHIGAN FORUM FEB 27-28



**Keynote Speaker  
Kathleen Marcath**

**Keynote speaker and author Kathleen Marcath's** presentation, delivered in an **inspirational storytelling** format, shares the moving story of how one language—**American Sign Language**—opens hearts, minds, and possibilities. From the moment young *Alice Cogswell* learned her name for the first time at age nine, to children inspired by *My Monster Truck Goes Everywhere with Me*, the talk invites audiences to experience the power of connection and the importance of communication for every child—regardless of hearing, vision, or circumstance.

Hear Kathleen's inspirational message during the Saturday luncheon.



For mail returns see ID statement.

## LIONS MICHIGAN FORUM SERVICE PROJECT FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27 - 7PM



**Lion Holly Johnson  
Tessman**



Lion Holly Johnson Tessman is the Director of Operations for Little Heroes. She is also a member of the Three Rivers Lions Club. Friday night will be a great time for all and an enormous relief to the children who are waiting for these backpacks.

<https://www.littleheroesbackpacks.com>

Little Heroes provides backpacks filled with essential needs to fostered, homeless and displaced children ages 3 to 12. There are over 25 items in each backpack. Throw blanket, hair brush, school supplies and even a comfort animal, just to name a few. We have a dedicated board and over 20 volunteers. Our program covers the State of Michigan and upper Indiana. We work with DHHS, Elementary Schools, homeless shelters and domestic violence hidden homes. Our headquarters is located in Three Rivers Michigan.

Lions from across the state and other organizations have helped to financially support the purchase of exceeding our goal of 300 backpacks for Little Heroes. At the Friday night, February 27 group service project we will meet to package up these special backpacks. Remember "More Hands More Service" so everyone come help us pack these special backpacks.

**LIONS MICHIGAN FORUM SERVICE PROJECT  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27  
7:00 P.M. DELTA MARRIOTT CONFERENCE  
CENTER, KALAMAZOO**

**LEAD TO SERVE, SERVE TO LEAD!**  
February 27-28, 2026  
Featuring Keynote Speaker Kathleen Marcath

### SATURDAY SESSIONS:

**7:00 a.m.** Registration Delta Marriott Conf. Center  
**8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Breakout Sessions - Lunch to follow

**Session 1 Breakout Session - 8:30 a.m.**  
(Attend 1 of 4)

#### Building Membership through Specialty Clubs

PDG Ron Riebschleger, GMT Area Leader

#### Managing Your Club on the Web

Lion Douglas Klein, PR/Social Media/Marketing

#### Officer Training: Club President

DG Mark Scicluna & PDG Rhonda Furby

#### LCIF & Lions of Michigan Foundation

PDG Julie Mayuiers/PCC Terri Huffman

**Session 2 Breakout Session - 9:30 a.m.**  
**Leadership Challenge**

PCC Jeff Mayuiers

#### Cybersecurity

Mr. Chris Lim, CLDO Consulting, LLC

#### Officer Training Club Secretary/Service Reporting

Lion Tammie Grabowski

#### Leader Dogs for the Blind & Puppy Raisers

Lion Kelsey Marten Gardner, Amy Schupska

**Session 3 Breakout Session - 10:30 a.m.**

#### Serving Together: Partners in Service

PDGs Karen Routson, Brent Beracy, Roger Spriggs

#### Flipping for Fundraisers: LCI Legal Rules

Lion Deborah Davis

#### Officer Training: Club Treasurer

Lion Carol Patridge

#### Estate Planning – Elder Law

PDG John Postelli, Attorney

**Session 4 Breakout Session - 11:30 a.m.**

#### Attracting Younger Members

Council Chair Becky Hamilton

#### Service Carnival

PDG Traci Tribbley

#### Club Tail Twister / Ice Breakers

PCC Jim Pettinato

#### Eversight

Lion Marta Garzczarczyk, Director of Philanthropy

Thank you to the many volunteer presenters this year who have helped make this year's Lions Michigan Forum a success!

*Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead.*

## UPCOMING

### Events:

#### FEBRUARY

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

#### FEBRUARY 27 - 28 2026

LIONS MI FORUM  
Kalamazoo Delta Marriott Hotel

#### FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1 2026

4th COG Kalamazoo  
Delta Marriott, Kalamazoo

#### APRIL 24 - MAY 3 2026

WHITE CANE PROCLAMATION WEEK

#### April 2025

Family & Friends Month  
Environmental Awareness Month  
Leo Club Awareness Month

#### May 14-16 2026

MD 11 LIONS CONVENTION  
Shanty Creek Resort Bellaire MI  
GUEST SPEAKER INTERNATIONAL  
PRESIDENT A.P.SINGH

#### MAY 15 2026

5th COG  
Shanty Creek Resort Bellaire MI

#### 2026 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

#### HONG KONG

July 3-7 2026

#### September 3 - 5 2026

USA/Canada Forum  
Memphis TN

Check our website for updates

& additional information

[www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)



### READ ALL ABOUT IT – ONLINE!

Please be aware that this issue of the Lion Pride will be available for online access only.

This decision has been made due to the rising cost of publishing and postage.

For your full color version, please access the Pride online at:

<https://lionsofmi.com/index.php/lionpride>.

A limited number of papers will be printed and can be mailed to those who prefer this option.



> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NEWS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS PRIDE  
BY LION WENDY BURNS



Congratulations to all who took part in the Super Bowl, Olympics, and the Ice Plunge 2026!

The Michigan Lions Forum committee is like an Olympic team of their own. Under the direction of Chairperson PDG Julie Mayuiers, they have worked together since October to create a lineup of presenters with an array of educational topics and have mapped out the order of business with a strategic plan in place. So many details go into events such as the Forum and MD 11 Lions Convention. Without the assistance of so many, events such as these would be impossible to offer our members.

The group service project became a tradition on Friday night before the Forum and has become a great way to SERVE. This year is no exception, as we package up items for backpacks to benefit Forget-Me-Not Little Heroes, a non-profit organization based out of Three Rivers. Join us at 7:00 pm on February 27 at the Delta Marriott Convention Center. Reminder

to all: Be sure to record service hours while attending this event.

Sixteen breakout sessions will take place over a 4-hour timeframe with a total of 21 presenters taking part. These presenters will share their knowledge and expertise to assist you in your Lion’s journey, no matter how many years you have served.

Author Kathleen Marcath will share her story during the luncheon program. Her message echoes the Lions' values through their service: compassion, inclusion, and community. ASL Picture Books exist to help children feel seen, heard, and valued—and to remind us all that ASL is an untapped resource with limitless potential for our children.

Three very deserving scholarship recipients will be introduced during the luncheon program. This year’s recipients are Lexi Green, Kristen Farley and Paighton Argue. The White Cane Committee had several qualified applicants to consider and narrowed the list down to their top three choices. Each student will receive a \$3,000.00 scholarship. We’re excited for you to meet each one of these outstanding students.

It will be great to see so many Lions and friends as we wind down a long winter! You won’t want to miss out on this opportunity.

Yours in Service,  
Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director

GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM - IPDG CHERYL ANDERSON  
COUNCIL CHAIR ELECT



Global Service Team – IPDG Cheryl Anderson  
Council Chair-Elect

Lions, you have done such wonderful service activities this Lion year in your communities. The service we have done during our Council of Governors meetings has been unbelievable and so needed in those communities. You have seen

the pictures posted and how grateful those organizations have been for what we did for them. The “Lions” were seen!!! We are not finished yet. There are still several months left in this Lion year!!! At times it may seem tedious and tiring to do service but aren’t the rewards heartwarming!!! “We Serve” is our motto and thank you all for all that you do to represent our motto to the public. That is the true Lion way.

Listed below are several service initiatives this second half of our Lion year that you can participate in.

FOLLOW UP:  
January:

- 1. January 4-11, 2026 we had the Global Hunger Initiative. I hope you were able to participate in that initiative and remembered to report your service hours on LCI’s website.
- 2. Jan 11-17, 2026 was Melvin Jones Birthday Celebration, 2026 the perfect time to contribute to LCIF.

FUTURE SERVICE EVENTS:

**February:** February 27 & 28, 2026 is the Lions of Michigan Forum at the Delta Center in Kalamazoo. The Service backpack initiative for the “Forget Me Not Little Heroes”. This is an organization that is dedicated to supplying backpacks full of essential items to fostered, sheltered and underprivileged children ages 3-12 years old. Help assemble the backpacks Friday at 7:30 pm.

**March:** Will be your district conventions. Plan to attend and participate in your district’s service project and post pictures. Information should be coming to your clubs from your District Convention Chair & District Governor. Be watching for your emails and newsletters for details.

**April:** April 18-26, 2026, The Last Global Initiative; is the Environment Initiative. Details to follow on ways to participate in this initiative and suggestions of things to do for the environment.

**May:**  
May 14-16, MD11 State Convention being held at the Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire. Our special guest speaker is International President A.P Singh from India!! I cannot remember the last time we had an International President from outside the USA speak at our MD11 Convention. This is quite an honor and one speaker you do not want to miss. Start planning now and bring your

Lion friends along. At the MD11, is our last statewide service project for 2025-26. It is to help the Bellaire Youth Initiative, grades 1st – 12th. They have a wish list ranging from guitars, storage lockers to legos and stuffed animals along with much more. A list will be coming out along with a way to purchase these items in March.

**June:**  
This month is for your club to serve your community and report it. Let’s finish STRONG!!!!

I hope your clubs are recording their service hours. If you are having a difficult time or don’t want to record your service hours, contact your District Administrator, District Governor, me or your District GST person to help with recording your service hours. There are way TOO MANY clubs that have still not reported service and I know you have all done service in your club. It is **SO IMPORTANT** to get your club’s service hours submitted. We are happy to help you, just ask and show the world, yes the world, the service we do in Michigan!!

Thank you for serving with such heart and dedication. I'm honored to serve alongside you this past year.

Thank you!  
GST Cheryl Anderson, andersoc@gvsu.edu, 616-443-1995

YOUTH CAMP AND EXCHANGE  
PROGRAM 2026



Youth Camp & Exchanges Program  
By: Lion Elvie Marfil, State Chairperson

- Key details regarding the YCE Program for 2026 are as follows:
- 1. Hosting dates will be from July 16-August 6, 2026.
  - 2. Designated airports are Detroit, Grand Rapids, and/or Chicago O'Hare.
  - 3. We will accept 15-20 international youths, with only one participant per country.
  - 4. The accepted age range is 15-18 years old at the time of camp.
  - 5. Invitations will be extended to Michigan Leos and youths of the same age to join us at camp.
  - 6. We propose July 27-31, 2026, as camp week.
  - 7. WE NEED HOST FAMILIES!
  - 8. For more information, please check out our Lions of Michigan website and click Youth Exchange.
  - 9. For further information, please call me at 818-800-1060 or email epmarfil5@gmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing support.

SPOTLIGHT

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

DG KIM HOOPER 11-A1



KINDNESS MATTERS

Kindness matters—not as a slogan, but as a daily choice that changes lives. For Lions, kindness is not an abstract idea. It is the very foundation of our service and the reason our organization continues to make a global impact.

Every Lions cause is rooted in kindness. When we provide vision screenings or help supply eyeglasses, we restore independence and opportunity. When we address hunger, we offer dignity and hope to families facing uncertainty. When we support childhood cancer initiatives, diabetes awareness, mental health, environmental stewardship, and disaster relief, we are meeting people at their moment of need with compassion and action. Kindness is the common thread that weaves through all that we do. Kindness also shows up in practical, local ways—one meal served, one child helped, one family supported at a time. It is found in the hands that volunteer, the hearts that give, and the commitment Lions make to serve without expectation of recognition.

It is with great pride that we share that the Bedford Township Lions Club was recently named a recipient of the Lions International Worldwide Kindness Matters Award. This prestigious recognition honors Lions who exemplify exceptional compassion, creativity, and dedication in service. The Bedford Township Lions have demonstrated that kindness, when put into action, can have a powerful and lasting impact on an entire community.

This recognition is not just a celebration of one club—it is a reflection of what Lions everywhere strive to be. It reminds us that kindness is contagious, that service inspires service, and that even the simplest act can change someone’s life.

As Lions across Michigan continue to serve, may we remember that kindness truly does matter. It matters to the child who sleeps better at night, the family who receives help in a difficult moment, and the community that knows it is not alone. Together, through kindness and service, we continue to make our world a better place.

This year’s worldwide award-winning Kindness Matters Award winners can be found at:

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/grants-and-awards/association-awards/kindness-matters-service-award>

TURNING SERVICE INTO

GREATER IMPACT

LCIF PCC

TERRI HUFFMAN CH



Every donation, no matter how inconsequential, makes the biggest of difference.

The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Individual Donors Program reminds us that every Lion can make a difference. Through personal, voluntary contributions, individual donors help ensure LCIF remains strong, responsive, and ready to support Lions’ service both locally and around the

world. Individual giving fuels LCIF’s ability to provide grants for humanitarian projects, disaster relief, and global causes such as vision, hunger, diabetes, childhood cancer, and environmental sustainability. While clubs deliver hands-on service, individual donations provide the stability LCIF needs to multiply that service into life-changing impact.

Whether through a one-time gift or recurring contributions, LCIF individual donors demonstrate leadership, commitment, and belief in the power of Lions serving together. Their generosity helps turn compassion into action—locally and globally.

How to Give:

Individual Lions can make a personal contribution at any time by visiting [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate). The secure online giving page allows donors to make a one-time egift or set up recurring donations, select recognition preferences, and make gifts in honor or memory of someone special.

When individual Lions give, LCIF can do more—and when LCIF does more, Lions everywhere serve with greater impact.



“Lions build communities where kindness is the foundation.”



LION PRIDE MAGAZINE

The Lion Pride (USPS 978-200) is created and published monthly at the Lions State Office for the Lions members of Multiple District 11, Michigan, except for the combined issues of: January/February, April/May, July/Aug., and September/October, at Lions Clubs of Michigan, 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, MI 48911.

Lions receive the publication for annual dues/subscription rate of \$4.50. Advertisements must reach the above address by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month’s issue. All clubs must send their own news and pictures to their district editor, allowing ample time for the district editor to forward the copy to meet the deadline stated above.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Lions Clubs of Michigan, 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, MI 48911. Wendy Burns, Editor.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Please notify your post office and club secretary immediately if you change your address so that your Lion Pride copy can be mailed to your correct address. New labels are prepared by Lions International and usually require 2-3 months before taking effect. For advertising rates, please contact Lion Pride Magazine, 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, MI 48911.

For information on State Projects or the State Office, Contact 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, MI 48911,

(517) 887-6640, fax (517) 887-6642.

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[www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)



> FORUM NEWS

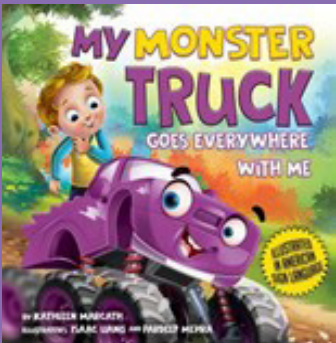
FORUM SPOTLIGHT: KEYNOTE SPEAKER,  
AUTHOR KATHLEEN MARCATH



The Michigan Lions Forum Committee is pleased to announce the 2026 Keynote Speaker at this year’s event.

After several years working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students as a Special Education Sign Language Supporter, Kathleen decided to pursue her dream of writing for children. Her grandson, then three years old and attending the same school daycare where she worked,

became the heart behind her story. When he ran to greet her and they asked him to wait, Kathleen knew it was time to focus on family. Together, they played with monster trucks—building ramps, racing, laughing—and My Monster Truck Goes Everywhere with Me – Illustrated in American Sign Language was born. Inspired by her grandson and her love for children, Kathleen’s delightful award-winning picture book captures imagination while encouraging a love of reading, language, and learning. Speaker and author Kathleen Marcath’s presentation, delivered in an inspirational storytelling format, shares the moving story of how one language—American Sign Language—opens hearts, minds, and possibilities. From the moment young Alice Cogswell learned her name for the first time at age nine, to children inspired by My Monster Truck Goes Everywhere with Me, the talk invites audiences to experience the power of connection and the importance of communication for every child—regardless of hearing, vision, or circumstance. At its core, her message echoes the Lions' values through their service: compassion, inclusion, and community. ASL Picture Books exist to help children feel seen, heard, and valued—and to remind us all that ASL is an untapped resource with limitless potential for our children.



February 27-28, 2026  
Delta Marriott, Kalamazoo, Michigan  
2026 LIONS OF MICHIGAN FORUM  
ADVERTISEMENT OPTIONS

Listed below are several options to sponsor a personal or business ad in the 2026 Lions of Michigan Forum Proceedings Book. Placing an ad shows fellow Lions you support the Michigan Forum!

ADVERTISING RATES AND SIZES

- 1.1/8 page ad business card size 3.6 x 2.3” ..... \$20.00
- 2.1/4 page ad 3.6 x 4.8” (vertical) or 7.5 x 2.3” (horizontal) ..... \$25.00
- 3.1/2 page ad 3.6 x 10” (vertical) or 7.5 x 4.8” (horizontal) ..... \$30.00
- 4.3/4 page ad 7.5 x 7.4”..... \$50.00
- 5.Full page ad 7.5 x 10”..... \$60.00

EXHIBITOR’S SPECIAL!

Rent an exhibitor’s table and run a full-page ad in the Michigan Forum book for just \$85.00!

LIONS OF MICHIGAN FORUM ADVERTISING FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ☐ Included is a print ready ad or message
- ☐ Please design my personal or business ad to read: (use separate paper if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size: 1/8 page 1/4 page 1/2 page 3/4 page full page TOTAL COST: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting Lions of Michigan! Deadline to submit: 2-9-2026  
Please send completed form and checks to: Lions of Michigan  
5730 Executive Drive • Lansing, MI 48911



2026 MICHIGAN LIONS FORUM  
LEAD TO SERVE, SERVE TO LEAD  
Featuring Keynote Speaker,  
Kathleen Marcath, Author & Founder, ASL Picture Books



Join us February 27 - 28, 2026 at the Delta Marriott Kalamazoo  
2747 S 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
Reservations available at the Marriott Delta Kalamazoo  
(269) 375-6000 Rate: \$119.00 Registration Code: Lions MI Forum  
Alternate Hotel located in front of the Delta Marriott:  
Best Western Suites 269-350-5522 Room Rate: \$112.00  
2575 11<sup>th</sup> St. S., Kalamazoo  
[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.23163.html?groupId=X93ZN514](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.23163.html?groupId=X93ZN514)

Please complete the registration form and send it along with a check to:  
Lions of Michigan 5730 Executive Drive • Lansing, MI 48911 Telephone 517-887-6640  
or Fax 517-887-6642.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name/District \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Registrants: \_\_\_\_\_ Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Registrants at \$60.00/person\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Online Registration Available Soon!  
\*Registration includes lunch, Forum, and proceedings booklet.  
Register by February 14 to guarantee lunch and booklet.  
Large Group Service Project Friday Night – Lions MI Forum Saturday!

EXHIBITOR’S AGREEMENT  
MICHIGAN LIONS FORUM 2026: February 27-28

Please reserve a display table for the undersigned at the 2026 Michigan Lions Forum, held at the Delta Marriott Kalamazoo, 2747 S 11<sup>th</sup> St., Kalamazoo, Michigan. (Set up available on 2/27/26) Enclosed is a check covering the exhibition fee of \$55.00 OR \$85, which includes an ad in the Forum proceedings booklet. The charge is fully refundable only if, for any reason, the Forum is canceled or moved to another city or in case of fire or other catastrophic occurrence to the property. All conditions stated in the letter of invitation shall be accepted and followed by all exhibitors and their representatives.

Exhibitor Hours: Friday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The undersigned releases the Lions of Michigan Multiple District 11 and its agents from any and all liabilities that may arise or be asserted as a result of participation in this exhibition. The Lions of Michigan Multiple District 11, Inc. will determine the eligibility of any company or product for exhibit. Acceptance of an exhibitor for the MD 11 Michigan Forum does not imply endorsement of the product or services, nor does rejection imply lack of approval of the product or manufacturer.

Exhibitors shall take precautions to provide security to safeguard their property during show hours. It is understood that neither the Lions of Michigan Multiple District 11, Inc. nor the Delta Marriott Kalamazoo (nor legal entities which own, lease and/or operate it), nor their members, officers, directors or employees shall be responsible for injury to any person or persons for loss or damage to property belonging to the exhibitor or any person or persons while in transit to or from the hotel or while in the hotel property or otherwise. The exhibitor assumes complete responsibility and liability for all injury to any and all persons or property in any way connected with exhibitor’s display caused by the exhibitor, his agents, representatives or employees. The exhibitor indemnifies and agrees to hold harmless the Lions of Michigan Multiple District 11, Inc. and the Delta Marriott Kalamazoo (and legal entities which own, lease and/or operate it), their members, officers, directors and employees against any and all liability whatsoever arising from any or all damage to property or personal injury caused by exhibitor or his agents, representatives, employees or any other persons.

EXHIBITOR’S SPECIAL  
Exhibit Table and Full-page Ad  
in the Michigan Forum Proceedings Booklet for just \$85.00!  
EXHIBITOR TABLE ONLY: \$55.00  
Registration Deadline to guarantee booklet: February 9, 2026  
MAIL FORM AND CHECK TO:

LIONS MICHIGAN FORUM 5730 EXECUTIVE DR., LANSING, MI 48911  
PHONE: 517.887.6640 FAX: 517.887.6642 EMAIL: [wburns@lionsofmi.com](mailto:wburns@lionsofmi.com)

Name: _____	
Business: _____	Club: _____
Billing Address: _____	
(City, state, zip) _____	
Home Phone: _____	Business Phone: _____
Email address: _____	Cell Phone: _____
DO YOU REQUIRE AN ELECTRICAL HOOK-UP? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my check for \$ _____	



# NEWS FROM SD 10 ACROSS THE BRIDGE

DG COLLEEN MAKI

Gladstone Lions Give Generously: The club recently made several donations from the Club’s Community Service Fund in the amount of \$8,575. Pictured above: Club Secretary/P.D.G. Joe Maki presents \$1,000 check to Anita Hardwick of the Gladstone St. Vincent De Paul Society. This is the Club’s annual contribution for Christmas and is an increase of \$500 from the Club’s usual donation.



Lions of Michigan All-State Band raffle tickets are now available. Tickets are \$5, 3 for \$10. The Marquette Lions Club has issued a challenge to district clubs to purchase more than their \$300 worth of tickets. IPDG Scott will have tickets to sell at the Cabinet Meeting. The drawing for the LMASB raffle will be held at the convention although you do not need to be present to win. This was a big success last year and helped our band members reach their financial goals.



Bay De Noc Lions Club: Pictured is Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie (“The Soo Line”) retired steam locomotive # 730 which is a tourist attraction in Gladstone along the U.S. Highway 2 and 41/M-35 corridor.}

Annually in November the Soo Line Historical Committee decorates the train for Christmas and invites media and the public to celebrate the event.

This year the Committee struggled with insurance requirements for the event until District Governor/Bay De Noc LION Colleen Maki suggested the Club apply for coverage through the LIONS International 1 million insurance policy for such events that are sponsored by a local LIONS Club.



Super One stores in Marquette, Negaunee, Iron Mountain, and Iron River are partnering with UP Lions Childhood Cancer and asking Yoopers to round up their purchases to directly help families with children in the Upper Peninsula that are battling cancer. Visit any of these four locations in Marquette, Negaunee, Iron River, and Iron Mountain to shop February 6 through the 23rd to make an impact for a local families. This is the second year that Super One has committed to our program. Last year, the total donation was \$6,779.77! Thank you, Upper Peninsula Super One Stores!

Skandia Lions Club is not big, but they are mighty. Their annual fundraising events provide the funds for them to give generously to a variety of local projects, community services, individuals, and district Lion’s endorsed programs. Note the diverse span of their giving. Thank you, Club Treasurer ion Brian Hill, for sharing your club’s generous donations. The Skandia lub’s Lions spirit is inspirational!



Club Secretary/P.D.G. Joe Maki presents \$500 check to Deputy Steve Kozitsky of the Delta County Sheriff’s Department. This is the Club’s annual contribution for the “Shop with A Cop for nKid’s” Christmas season program.



Stephenson Lions honored Tammy Peterson with a Melvin Jones Fellow at their last meeting. DG Colleen presented Tammy he MJF plaque. LCIF coordinator Jim is shown at the presentation.

## A LITTLE LION MADE WITH LOVE — AND ON A MISSION TO CHANGE LIVES



This little Lion could be yours!

This little felted lion began as a simple bundle of wool... but with hours of shaping, needling and love, it became something truly special.

Now he carries a bigger purpose: helping support LCIF, our organization that brings hope, relief, and compassion to people who need it most.

By purchasing a **\$10 raffle ticket**, you’re not just entering to win a handmade keepsake — you’re becoming part of a story of kindness. A story where small contributions create big impact. A story where creativity meets service.

On July 21, 2026, one lucky supporter will either be taking this lion home or have it sent to them by mail. But every person who participates becomes part of the heart behind it.

Thank you for helping this little lion make a big difference.

[www.lionleo.win](http://www.lionleo.win)

is his website and shows you how Lion Leo was made, how he was named, and who made him! The website also gives you the link to his facebook page and a link to purchase a ticket on line if you wish. Or alternatively text Lion lindy wineman at 989 450 3644 or email at lindy@abadata.com



## MICHIGAN LIONS: STRENGTH THROUGH LCIF GIVING

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is how we turn service into global impact. Through LCIF, donations from Lions clubs fund grants for disaster relief, vision programs, diabetes prevention, youth initiatives, hunger relief, and more.

### A Simple, Powerful Goal

CAN YOUR CLUB AFFORD A \$100 DONATION TO LCIF? We’re asking **every Lions Club in Michigan to make a minimum annual donation of \$100** to LCIF. One hundred dollars may not seem like much on its own — but when every club participates, that support adds up to thousands of dollars invested back into our communities through LCIF grants.

### Why Monthly Giving Matters

Many Lions are choosing to set up automatic monthly donations, making giving simple and sustainable. Even \$10 a month from a club equals (and often exceeds) the \$100 annual goal and helps LCIF respond quickly when disaster strikes or new opportunities for service arise.

### Be A Part of 100% Club Participation

Your club’s gift helps ensure that Michigan is leading the way in service impact — locally and globally.

Let’s stand together to support LCIF, so LCIF can continue supporting us.

Learn more or set up your club’s donation at [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org). Happily submitted by LCIF Coordinators Terri Huffman, PID Justin Faber

> WHITE CANE WEEK



FREE WHITE CANE PROGRAM



The white cane allows you to travel independently and safely—no blind person should be without one. We offer you a free one. You can order a new one every six months. The National Federation of the Blind has distributed nearly 100,000 free white canes since 2008.

white cane gives blind people the ability to achieve a full and independent life, allowing us to travel freely and safely. We started our free white cane program because we believe that no blind person should be without a white cane, regardless of his or her ability to pay for it.

Request a Free White Cane

Complete our Free White Cane Online Application. Any blind individual in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico can request a cane for their personal use. Requests can be made as often as every six months.

<https://freecane.nfb.org/>

History

In 1921, James Biggs, a photographer from Bristol, England, became blind following an accident. Because he was feeling uncomfortable with the amount of traffic around his home, he painted his walking stick white to be more easily visible.

In 1930, Lion George A. Bonham, President of the Peoria Lions Club (Illinois) introduced the idea of using the white cane with a red band as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility. The Peoria Lions approved the idea, white canes were made and distributed, and the Peoria City Council adopted an ordinance giving the bearers the right-of-way to cross the street. News of the club’s activity spread quickly to other Lions clubs throughout the United States, and their visually handicapped friends experimented with the white canes. Overwhelming acceptance of the white cane idea by the blind and sighted alike quickly gave cane users a unique method of identifying their special need for travel consideration among their sighted counterparts.

Also in 1931, in France, Guilly d’Herbemont recognized the danger to blind people in traffic and launched a national “white stick movement” for blind people. She donated 5,000 white canes to people in Paris.

Today white cane laws are on the books of every state in the US and in a few other countries, providing persons who are blind a legal status in traffic. The white cane universally acknowledges that the bearer is blind. For specific information contact your local government office for motor vehicles.

Lions and International White Cane Safety Day

International White Cane Safety Day is an opportunity to increase awareness about the white cane, which:

- Signifies that the pedestrian using it is blind or visually impaired;
- Alerts motorists of the need to exercise special caution and provide the user the right of way;
- Symbolizes the independence, confidence and skills of the person who is using it.

1964: the U.S. Congress approved a resolution authorizing the President of the US to annually issue a proclamation designating October 15<sup>th</sup> as “National White Cane Safety Day.”

1969: the International Federation of the Blind adopted October 15<sup>th</sup> as “International White Cane Safety Day.”

*\* The above referenced date is a suggested date. Lions clubs are free to hold awareness events according to the schedule of the club and the community it serves.*

Health & Children’s Services Department  
[programs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:programs@lionsclubs.org)

IAD 413 rev 9/2014

White Cane Supplies

Popular Picks: For photos of items visit our website at [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)

**Certificate of Appreciation**  
Recognize businesses and individuals who support your White Cane Drive.  
**60¢/each**

**Bib Apron**  
Over-the-shoulder apron made of heavy duck. Durable and good for all your Lions projects.  
**\$14.00/each**

**String Tags**  
Blue tag with cane on front. White Cane Law printed on back.  
**\$60.00/1000**

**White Cane Placemats**  
Very colorful and great for public relations! (measures 10"x13")  
**\$21.00/500**

**Waist Apron**  
Cloth apron with two large pockets for collecting money and holding white cane supplies.  
**\$8.00/each**

**Eyeglass & Hearing Aid Collection Boxes**  
White fiberboard collection boxes include stickers on three sides. Small box measures 9x9x14 1/2, large box measures 14x14x30.  
**\$6.50/each (small)**  
**\$8.50/each (large)**

**Extra Eyeglass Collection Box Stickers**  
Each set consists of two large stickers promoting used eyeglass and hearing aid collection and one small sticker with club contact information.  
**\$3.00/each (set of 3)**

**White Cane Lapel Pin**  
Show your support for Lions of Michigan and people with vision loss when you wear this distinctive White Cane Lapel Pin.  
**\$85.00/500**

CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR OTHER GREAT ITEMS!

**White Cane Leader Patch**  
Recognize club members who are leaders in your White Cane Drive.  
**\$3.00/each**

**White Cane Leader Pin**  
Recognize club members who are leaders in your White Cane Drive.  
**\$1.50/each**

**White Cane Law Pamphlet**  
Tri-fold brochure which features the White Cane law and Public Accommodations act. It also explains what an individual should do when encountering a blind person.  
**\$20.00/250**

**White Cane Bookmarks**  
Bookmark with White Cane Law printed on back. Great giveaway for libraries.  
**\$10.00/100**

**White Cane Stickers**  
Two-color stickers on a roll. Design features the Lions logo and White Cane traffic symbol. 2 1/2" in diameter.  
**\$32.00/1000**

WHITE CANE ORDER FORM

Lion Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

BILLING ADDRESS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

UNITS	ITEM	UNIT	PRICE	TOTAL
	String Tags	1000/box	\$60.00	
	White Cane Stickers (roll)	1000/roll	\$32.00	
	Bib Apron	Each	\$14.00	
	Waist Apron	Each	\$8.00	
	White Cane Placemats	500/bundle	\$21.00	
	Eyeglass Collection Box (large)	Each	\$8.50	
	Eyeglass Collection Box (small)	Each	\$6.50	
	Extra Eyeglass Box Stickers (set of 3)	Each	\$3.00	
	White Cane Law Pamphlets	250/bundle	\$20.00	
	Certificate of Appreciation	Each	.60¢	
	White Cane Bookmarks	100/bundle	\$10.00	
	Leader Patch	Each	\$3.00	
	Leader Pin	Each	\$1.50	
	White Cane Lapel Pin	500/bundle	\$85.00	
	** Shipping and Handling			
<b>**You will be billed for shipping and handling fees.</b>		<b>TOTAL:</b>		

Order Form Online: [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)

Mail to: Lions of Michigan • 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, MI 48911 • (517) 887-6640 ext. 1 • fax: (517) 887-6642

WHITE CANE WEEK

2026 MD 11 CONVENTION MAY 14-16, 2026

WELCOME LCI  
PRESIDENT  
A.P. SINGH  
INVITED GUEST  
SPEAKER



MAY 14-16, 2026

MD 11 LIONS CONVENTION

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

THURSDAY PICNIC AT CELLAR 1914

FRIDAY RENAISSANCE WELCOME PARTY

SATURDAY BUSINESS SESSION

S.A. DODGE AWARDS BANQUET

SHANTY CREEK, BELLAIRE, MICHIGAN

PREPARE TO BE MERRY

> HONG KONG NEWS

HONG KONG! GET READY TO LEAD AND SERVE

July 3-7, 2026 • #LionsCon26 • lionscon.lionsclubs.org



 **HONG KONG 2026**  
108th Lions International Convention

GET READY TO LEAD AND SERVE.

The international convention happens once a year, and in 2026, we'll celebrate together in the skyscraper capital of the world. Get ready to be entertained, find inspiration and meet new friends. We'll see you in Hong Kong, where we will truly make unforgettable memories together!

We have made important scheduling updates to our 2026 convention events. Schedule adjustments were recently identified to align with host city guidelines and maintain the convention's overall structure.

While the dates of the convention haven't changed, we have changed the dates of several key events, including the following:

- Opening Plenary Session: Saturday, July 4
- Elections: Saturday, July 4 – Monday, July 6
- Second Plenary Session: Sunday, July 5
- Closing Plenary Session: Monday, July 6
- MJF Luncheon: Monday, July 6
- Parade of Nations: Tuesday, July 7 (pending finalization of plans)



As many of you know, the convention was moved to Hong Kong after our planned destination of Atlanta was cancelled by the city of Atlanta due to the FIFA World Cup. Our host Lions and the city of Hong Kong stepped up to help us transition to our new location. As we worked together to support this significant shift, we recently identified schedule adjustments needed to align with our host city's guidelines and maintain the convention's overall structure.

We will be updating our Convention Schedule webpage on lionscon.org with more details as they are confirmed, but here are some initial updates we'd like to share with you.

- Convention Dates: Convention dates are not changing, only the convention schedule, so we will still be hosting convention July 3-7.
- Plenary Sessions: Our three plenary sessions will be moved up one day, now scheduled for July 4-6.
- Parade of Nations: The parade will be moved to Tuesday, July 7 pending finalization of plans.
- Elections: Elections will be held July 4-6.
- Pre- and Post-Convention Events: There are currently no planned changes to pre- and post-convention events such as the board meeting, the DGE Seminar, the post-convention board meeting and New Directors Orientation.

ERVE - INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2026

July 3-7, 2026 • #LionsCon26 • lionscon.lionsclubs.org



HONG KONG 2026  
108th Lions International Convention



### Lions & Friends to China



#### Post-Convention 9-Nights July 8 - 17, 2026

Macau \* Shanghai \* Beijing \* Great Wall \* Xian Terra Cotta Warriors

*This tour will be escorted by Lion Amy Fink and PID Ken Ibarra*

*Take advantage of this culturally enriching getaway after the Lions International Convention in Hong Kong*





**Lion Amy Fink, CTC**  
Blue Ribbon Travel Arrangements  
(650) 624-8252  
amyefink@yahoo.com  
CST# 1000233-10

In partnership with:



GroupsOnly

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Based on minimum 25 passengers – Price and availability subject to change. Cost is per person based on twin share.



#### Trip Highlights:

- 1-night hotel accommodation in Macau
- 3-night hotel accommodation in Metropark Jichen Hotel Shanghai
- 3-night hotel accommodation in Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing
- 2-night hotel accommodation in Grand Mercure Hotel Xian On Renmin Square
- 9x breakfasts, 5x lunches, 1x dinner
- Roundtrip transportation from airport to hotel and vice-versa (when traveling with group)
- Half-day Macau City Tour
- Full day Exploring Historic Shanghai
- Half-day Zhujiajiao Water Tour Shanghai
- Full day Imperial Beijing Tour
- Half-day visit to Great Wall of China
- Half-day in Beijing includes Hutongs and more
- High speed train from Beijing to Xian
- Half-day visit to Xian Terra Cotta Warriors and more
- Domestic airfare – Macau/Shanghai/Beijing (incl. taxes and 1PC 20kg (44lbs) luggage per person)
- All entrance and admission fees
- All taxes and fees included

#### Trip Excludes:

- Excludes international flights
- Travel Insurance (contact Amy for an insurance quote)
- Meals not listed • Personal items
- Tips/gratuities • Early check in/late check out
- Government taxes at existing rates until paid in full

#### Price Starts

(limited to 25 participants)

## US \$ 3,220

(in double/twin room)

Deposit: USD\$250 will secure your spot!  
\*Balance/Final Payment: Due on May 1, 2026  
(Payment plans available)

TO MAKE A DEPOSIT - COPY THIS LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER

<https://travel.goway.com/paymentform?id=0060000001awHYAB>

or contact:



**Lion Amy Fink, CTC**  
Blue Ribbon Travel Arrangements  
(650) 624-8252  
amyefink@yahoo.com  
CST# 1000233-10



TERMS & CONDITIONS: Based on minimum 25 passengers – Price and availability subject to change. Cost is per person based on twin share.

HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
LIONS



LCI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - WE ARE GLOBAL!

Membership Application

WE ARE GLOBAL

Membership types and fees

**New member**  
New members pay an entrance fee of US\$35 or must submit the proper waiver certification form. International dues total US\$50 annually. Dues are billed on a semi-annual basis. Additional district, multiple district and club dues may apply.

**Transfer member**  
Transfer members in good standing pay no entrance fee when transferring to an existing club within 12 months.

**Family member**  
The Family Membership Program provides families with the opportunity to receive a special dues discount when they join a Lions club together. The first family member (head of household) pays full international dues (US\$50), and up to four additional family members pay only half the international dues (US\$25). All family members pay the one-time entrance fee of US\$35.

The Family Membership Program is open to family members who are (1) eligible for Lions membership, (2) currently in or joining the same club, and (3) living in the same household and related by birth, marriage or other legal relationship. Common household family members include parents, children, spouses, aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, in-laws and legal dependents. Submit via the Lion Portal, or include the Family Unit Certification Form with the Monthly Membership Report Form (MMR).

**Student**  
Students between the age of majority and through age 30 pay no entrance fee and half international dues. Students over age 30 and joining a Campus Lions club pay a US\$10 entrance fee and full international dues. Submit the Student Member Certification Form (STU-5) for each student.

“What are your community’s needs?”

**Current or former Leo**  
Current or former Leos seeking membership through the age of 35, who have served as a Leo for at least a year and a day, pay half international dues and receive an entrance/charter fee waiver under the Leo-Lion membership program. You may select Leo-Lion as the membership type in the Lion Portal or submit the *Leo to Lion Certification* form with your MMR.

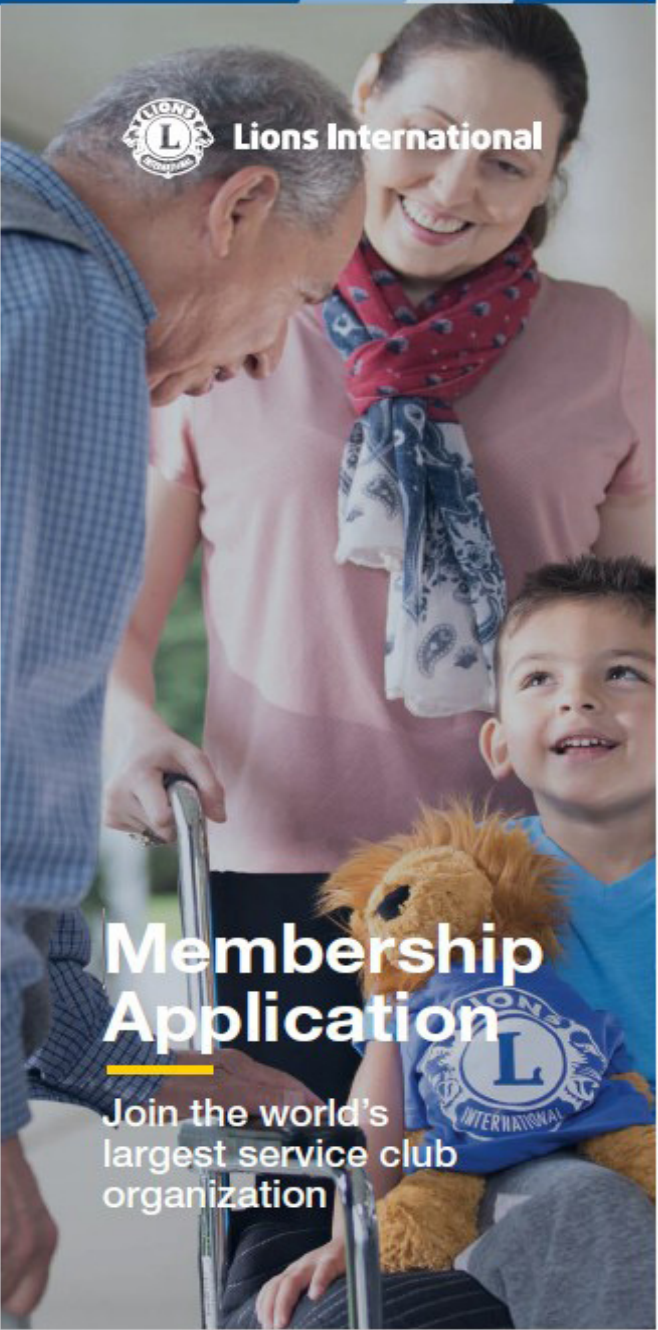
Leos over age 35 who have served as a Leo for at least a year and a day receive an entrance/charter fee waiver.

Submit the *Leo to Lion Certification Form* for credit of Leo years of service to the Lion member record for each current or former Leo.

**Young adult**  
Young adults through the age of 30 receive an entrance fee waiver and pay half international dues when joining a Leo-Lions club.

**Who are Lions?**  
Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world. The 1.4 million members of our volunteer organization in over 200 countries and geographic areas are different in many ways, but share a core belief – community is what we make it.

**Lions serve**  
When caring people join together, roll up their sleeves and take action to make their community better, it’s a beautiful thing—and an incredible feeling for everyone involved. That’s Lions. Being a Lion is about leading by example, building relationships and improving the world through kindness. It’s 1.4 million caring men and women serving together so they can make a lasting impact and change more lives.





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS  
Invitation-Application for Membership

Lions club name:

Member sponsor:

First name: MI: Last name: Suffix:

Gender: Male Female Non-Binary Prefer not to answer Occupation:

Date of birth: Spouse's name:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Country:

Phone: Email:

Please review qualification criteria and fees for the following:  
I am a: New member Former member Transfer member Member number: (If unknown, email stats@lionsclubs.org)  
Previous Club Name: Previous Club Number:  
Family member Student member Current or former Leo Young adult

Enclosed is \$ as an entrance fee, in addition to \$ for international, multiple district, district and club dues.

I accept membership into Lions International and that the standards are limited to persons of good moral character and reputation. I recognize the importance of rendering personal service to my community in cooperation with other civic-minded persons. I understand that membership is not valid until approved by the club's board of directors.

Signature: Date:

FOR CLUB SECRETARY USE  
I confirm that the board of directors has approved this member for membership in this Lions club.

Signature of club secretary :



- Checklist:
- Keep a copy of the completed application form for the club's files. Do not send it to Lions International.
  - Add the member using the Lion Portal or include the member's name and address on the monthly membership report.
  - When the entrance fees and dues have been collected and the new member has been provided with a membership card, turn money over to the club treasurer.
  - Add the new member's name and address to the club roster and mailing list.
  - See that the new member receives a New Member Kit. The materials within are to be presented at the new member's induction ceremony. Take the time to complete the certificate for the new member prior to the induction ceremony.
  - Included in the New Member Kit is a coupon for our Club Supplies store at [www2.lionsclubs.org](http://www2.lionsclubs.org). Show the new member the website so they may browse items to spend their coupon on, such as shirts or personalized badges.

OUR MISSION

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

11 A1



DG Kim Hooper  
MONROE • WAYNE  
[www.metrodetroitlions.org](http://www.metrodetroitlions.org)

District A1 • District Editor: VDG Deborah Love  
[justjameen@gmail.com](mailto:justjameen@gmail.com)



PDG Charlie Cone celebrated his 100th Birthday in January. Happy Birthday from the Lions of Michigan! District Governor Kim Hooper had the honor of presenting a personal letter and the official banner from Lions International President A.P. Singh to a truly remarkable Lion. Lion Charlie Cone of the Plymouth Lions Club recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Charlie still drives, and he proudly shared that he goes to the gym three times a week, working with a personal trainer—a testament to his lifelong discipline and determination. Charlie joined the United States Air Force, became a pilot, and flew missions in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, ultimately retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Following his military service, Charlie continued to serve others in extraordinary ways. As a private pilot, he founded an organization he called Angel Flight, recruiting fellow pilots to transport children to distant hospitals for critical medical treatment—at no cost to their families.



Lions from District 11 A1 and around the state sponsored KidSight screenings at the Detroit Auto Show for the 2nd year in a row.



Lions spotted around the District

**Westland Lions Club Game Night**  
**Roll the Dice for an Epic Night of Fun!**  
**Let the Games Begin!**  
**Date: February 21, 2026**  
**Time: 11AM to 1PM and 2:30PM-6PM**  
**Location: Timothy Lutheran Church**



Livonia Lions Club recent meeting Lion Geri Boswell is the District 11A1 Chairperson for the Childhood Cancer Committee. After 32 years of dedicated service as a supervisor at the Central Cancer Registry of Michigan, she retired. Her career began at Children's Hospital, where she reviewed each child's medical records and determined the stage and type of cancer they had. She has witnessed incredible progress in cancer treatment and is passionate about ensuring that patients receive the best care possible, not just for the patients themselves but also for their families.

She is reaching out today on behalf of the parents and siblings who are also part of the cancer treatment journey. The Ronald McDonald House is a truly remarkable place for families to find peace and a safe haven during this challenging time. While life continues for the families, they're facing immense financial strain. Her goal is to raise awareness and support for our cause through gift card donations. We all know that our economy is tough, and I truly appreciate your help in making a difference for as many families as possible. Contact Lion Geri at 313-682-1742 [boswellg@att.net](mailto:boswellg@att.net).



A1 Lions Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead.



Bedford Township Lions Club supporting Monroe Community Opportunities



Bedford Township Lions Club Three more new members were inducted in the Bedford Township club. More new members to be inducted after the first of the year. District 11A1 is on a roll. Our new members are The Meadows, Sandy White, wife of Past President Jon White, and sponsor Past President Laurie Althaus.

11 A2



DG Mark Scicluna  
MACOMB • OAKLAND  
[www.lionsdistrict11a2.org](http://www.lionsdistrict11a2.org)

District A2 • District Editor: Lion Wes Garman  
[lionsgladd@gmail.com](mailto:lionsgladd@gmail.com)



The Rochester Lions Club participated in the annual "Fire and Ice" festival in downtown Rochester. We had a warming tent where we sold hot chocolate, s'more kits and toy cars handmade by a friend of the club. We enjoyed all the people that came to our tent as well as the ice sculptures, entertainment and of course, the fireworks that ended the festival.



Rochester Lions and Leader Dog participated with a float in the Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade



Selfridge Chesterfield Lions and ABWA Suburban Connection Charter Chapter are co-hosting a Dueling Pianos and Mexican Fiesta Night! The event is Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 6:30 PM-10:30 PM at Lempke-Blackwell VFW Hall 7573 located at 35011 23 Mile Rd, New Baltimore, MI 48047. Doors open at 6:30 PM and the show starts at 7 PM. This FUNdraising event will help provide scholarship and grant opportunities for community members and fund additional community service projects like Leader Dogs for the Blind. Tickets will be available for raffle gift baskets and a 50/50 drawing.

Saint Clair Shores Lions Club members prepare Kongs for Leader Dog dogs. Chuck Bellestri, Debra Bellestri, Renee Licavoli and Randy Klinger stuff the rubber dog toys with peanut butter and dog treats.

Lions club members in Macomb and Oakland Counties gathered before Christmas to perform a service project. The Saint Clair Shores Lions Club hosted the work session and district meeting that took place at the Fraser Lions clubhouse. Volunteers prepared about 100 peanut butter enrichment Kong toys for Leader Dogs in training. This week, about 50 members of the New Baltimore Lions Club prepared another batch of Kongs with peanut butter and treats for Leader Dogs.





CHILDHOOD  
CANCER



DIABETES



DISASTER  
RELIEF



ENVIRONMENT



HUMANITARIAN  
EFFORTS



HUNGER



VISION



YOUTH

**Childhood cancer:**

Supporting children with terminal cancer and their families

**Diabetes:**

Funding research, education, and screenings to improve quality of life

**Disaster relief:**

Helping communities recover from disasters

**Environment:**

Working to protect the environment

**Humanitarian efforts:**

Providing humanitarian services to communities

**Hunger:**

Working to end hunger

**Vision:**

Working to improve vision

**Youth:**

Supporting young people

> REGION NEWS

11 B1



**DG Bea Furman**  
**BRANCH • CALHOUN • HILLSDALE**  
**JACKSON • LENAWE • WASHTENAW**  
[www.11b1lions.org](http://www.11b1lions.org)  
**District B1 • District Editor: Roger Yoder**  
[Rogeryoder@yahoo.com](mailto:Rogeryoder@yahoo.com)



Battle Creek Middle School student Bennie Daughtery had the winning poster for the Battle Creek Cereal City Lions Club. The Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest had the "Together as One" theme this year, as Bennie's poster included the world peace sign symbol, with a hand showing a peace sign on earth curvature. Club judges were Lions Nancy Gallant, Susan Heeres and Jerry Mackey.



Bryan and Jane Cook - There were 23 Lions and friends craft 47 tied blankets for the Santa's Helper project in Battle Creek. The Battle Creek Cereal City and Battle Creek Host Lions clubs participated. Pizza was provided, with 1VDG Teresa Gest bringing chili from the Bedford Area Lions Club Soup and Salad event.



The Penrickton Center for Blind Children held their Christmas Party on December 1. The Battle Creek Cereal City Lions Club adopted a young man Julian that has Cerebral Palsey. Club members pictured each purchased a gift on the list for Julian. Pictured are President Dorothy Bosse, Julian and Santa Claus seated, as Roger Bosse, ZC Hope Swank, Scott Swank and Muriel Walters are standing.

The Clinton Lions Club was represented in the Christmas in the Village Parade by Lions Dick Graham waving to the crowd and driver Alicia Seegert.

11 B1 Fall Conference and Parade of Checks was held at the Bedford Lion's Den on 1 November. The Bedford Lions and the committee of Battle Creek Cereal City Lions staged an event to remember. There were project tables with info and Parade of Check donations, but the highlight was the Roger Bosse beard and hair fundraiser for the Winter Camp for the Blind that raised over \$5,500. District Governor Bea Furman, First Vice District Governor Teresa Gest, and Second Vice District Governor Gregg Brindamour presided.



Battle Creek Cereal City Lions volunteered service hours at the First United Methodist Church to box food items for the Franklin Food Pantry when SNAP benefits were paused by the Federal government. Diane Sweetter suggested members bring mac-n-cheese and peanut butter to the club meeting, as the shelves for these food items were bare. Lion Diane also coordinated non-perishable foods to be collected at the Barista Blues Restaurant.



donation from Meijers, with a matching grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation. This project at the S.A.F.E. Place organization that provides temporary shelter for victims of abuse and sex trafficking included upgrading one of the three units that were outdated, separated by curtains and not secure or safe for families. The \$36,000 community service project was the largest undertaken in club history.



Pennfield Lions Club held their annual "Stuff the Bus Food and Toy Drive" at the Pennfield Middle School. We thank the Lions, students, school staff, and community members, as the bus was completely full of food, household items, toys and gifts to support local families this holiday season.

Dexter Lions Club sponsored the Lions Peace Poster Contest at Creekside Intermediate School in Dexter. Lion John Gochis was the chairman for the contest. Emmy DiPatrizio was the first-place winner, followed by Annabelle Tabor in second-place, and George Larson in Third-place, as each received a cash award from the club.

Clinton Lions Club were sponsors for the Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest at two local schools. The entries for the "Together as One" themed art included first-place winners Jemma Meeks at Clinton Middle School and Allison Yang at the Britton-Deerfield Middle School.

The Festival of Trees at the Gilmore Car Museum has 40 Christmas trees on display, with an entry from the Battle Creek Cereal City Lions Club decorated with all things Lions. Club members participating were PDG Roger Spriggs, 1VDG Teresa Gest, Harriet Spriggs, Kay Smith and Mary Wallace.



Bedford Lions Club Eyeglass Service Project - 30 Lions cleaned, sorted, and boxed 2,900 glasses for delivery to the Saginaw Special Needs Vision Clinic.

The Battle Creek Cereal City Lions Ad-Hoc Committee of 1VDG Teresa Gest (Chair), PDG Roger Spriggs (Grant Coordinator), Mike Guzak, Harriet Spriggs, Mary Wallace, ZC Hope and Scott Swank led the community service "Safe Place Project 5,000" initiative. The club raised \$17,000 and received a \$5,000



Hanover Horton Area Lions Club held their Christmas Party on December 10, with Treasurer Louis Wisniewski winning a McAuliffe's Meat Market gift box and Jordon Bryan won a package of a Detroit Tiger book, bag of peanuts and a Max Scherzer collector's player card delivered by stepmom PDG Annette Hemeryck.



VDG Teresa Gest attends the Fall Conference



Battle Creek Cereal City Lions Club assisted the Charitable Union which served over 500 families by providing winter weather clothing. Ann Arbor Host Lions Club donated 70 books to the Erickson Elementary School library in Ypsilanti.

11 B2



**DG Karen Joy Bouwman**  
**BERRIEN • CASS • KALAMAZOO**  
**ST. JOSEPH • VAN BUREN**  
[www.e-district.org/sites/11b2.org](http://www.e-district.org/sites/11b2.org)  
**District B2 • District Editor: Karen Joy Bowman**  
[lionkarenjoy@gmail.com](mailto:lionkarenjoy@gmail.com)



What a great week! The PKS volunteers from 11B2 managed to screen 2,221 students and found 232 referrals so far. Not bad for us jumping back into screening again. I appreciate all of you for getting up early volunteering to take care of our future generations. And, schools are starting to line up for screenings for the rest of the year. Looking forward to a good year for Project KidSight!



The Buchanan-Galien Lions Club participated in Buchanan's Faith & Family Day on August 24. We offered free vision screenings, snow cones and popcorn for those in attendance. "We Serve" is more than just the Lions' motto. It is our call to action.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our community and everyone who supported our Corn and Sausage roast August 23 . We truly appreciate your support. Weather was beautiful, food was great, and the people wonderful.



Three Rivers Lions held their August picnic on the 26th where several awards were presented. Lion Gary Reames received the 2024-2025 Lion of the Year Award from Club President Dave Miller. Lion PJ Storm-Artis received a Helen Keller Fellowship for her efforts in Project KidSight, presented by Past Council Chair Jeff Mayuiers and assisted by District Governor Karen Joy.

No one has more fun than the Lions at their weekly meetings. Hope some of you can make it this Thursday when the area Football Coaches are with us to brag about their squads. Last week we had a reporter visit us from the Herald Palladium so keep your eyes peeled for a piece by Lauren Rice one of these days! Remember to bring shelter items this week - bath and kitchen cleaning items. Laundry soap, dish snoop and more



The Mattawan Lions Club was on hand to serve up breakfast for hungry flyers and onlookers at the annual Dawn Patrol Fly-In held in August at Newman's Air Field in Kalamazoo. The weather was excellent this year, which brought in flyers from all over the tri-state area to sample the blueberry pancakes and fixin's.



South Haven Lions attended the South Haven National Night Out. We had a fun spinner game with prizes and passed out special fans (they came in handy on this warm night) along with information on Our Lions Club. We also gave away books.



Paw Paw Lions Welcome to our newest Lions. Lion Sue Swank and her sponsor Lion Noreen Miller, Lions Robert and Michelle Ramirez with their sponsors PCC Don and PDG Marsha



Thank you to our trainers from last night's training event. PCC Jeff, PDG Julie, Lion Tammie, Lion Carol. Shout out to Sister Lakes Lions Club for hosting the event and to DG Karen for the giveaway prizes and to GLT Lion Dan for setting up the training! Next training will be Zone Chair training on Sept. 8 and the next President, Secretary, Treasurer, Service and Membership training will be on November 15 along with a Chili/Soup Cook off. All at Antwerp Activity Center!



Cub catch up! Granville and Zoey read to their friends at River Ridge Senior Living today. Cubs Max, Trevor, and Zoey were a huge help Friday setting up for the South Haven Black River Lions Club BBQ On The Bluff. These kids are amazing!

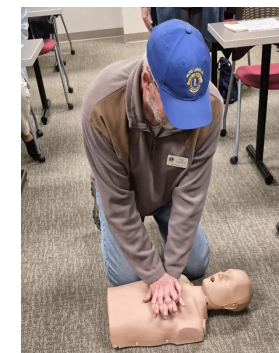
11 C1



**DG Earl Howell**  
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[www.e-district.org/sites/11c1.org](http://www.e-district.org/sites/11c1.org)  
**District C1 • District Editor: Julie May**  
**4379 Frietrodge Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49544**  
[jmay4379@gmail.com](mailto:jmay4379@gmail.com)



Alto Lions and Royal Neighbors members attended a CPR class at the Alto Fire Barn Thursday February 5.



Assistant Fire Chief Phil Dougherty and First Responder James Carey conducted a review and update on all the new methods of CPR including Hands Only chest compression and the proper use of an AED. The Royal Neighbor Chapter 20264 hosted the event and provided the pizza and drinks.



Wyoming Lions Club members collected food items to help support the Family Network of Wyoming.



**February is Low Vision Awareness Month, and this is the part we don't talk about enough. Article from The Blind Poet**

There's no cast. No wheelchair. No clear sign to point at. And because of that, so many of us are quietly misunderstood. People assume you're rude when you don't wave back. Uninterested when you don't make eye contact. Awkward when you hesitate. Or worse exaggerating, because you don't "look" blind. What follows is isolation. Not because we want to withdraw but because constantly explaining, correcting, apologising... it wears you down. So some stop going out. Some stop asking for help. Some stop talking altogether. Low vision can shrink the world, not just physically, but socially. And invisibility is often the hardest part of the disability. Awareness isn't just about eye conditions or statistics. It's about empathy. It's about believing in people when they tell you what they live with. It's about creating spaces where no one feels like a burden for needing a little patience. If this month does one thing, I hope it opens conversations. Because understanding is powerful and connection is the opposite of isolation. If you live with low vision or an invisible disability, you're not alone. And if you don't listening might be the most important thing you do.



Ottawa County Veterans Services is grateful for the tremendous support from the Wyoming Lions Club and other Lions across West Michigan. Through a partnership with Kent County Veterans Services, we received backpacks filled with essential supplies to distribute to Ottawa County veterans in need. Each pack includes items such as sleeping bags, warm clothing, hygiene products, snacks, first aid supplies, and much more, all carefully assembled by Lions from Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan, and Barry Counties. We have a limited number available. If you or a veteran you know could benefit from one, please contact us at [veteranservices@miottawa.org](mailto:veteranservices@miottawa.org) or (616) 393-VETS. Thank you to all the Lions Clubs and community partners who made this meaningful donation possible!



Fruitport, Muskegon Northside and Wyoming Lions Clubs provided vision screening to schools in Muskegon School District. Michigan KidSight program in District 11-C1 has concluded its activities for December 2025. To recap our accomplishments, we successfully conducted vision screenings in 17 schools within the Muskegon School District, testing 5,841 students, identifying 621 referrals, and utilizing 409.25 man-hours. A total of 25 Lion volunteers and 5 non-Lion volunteers contributed their efforts across 17 schools, accumulating 134 volunteers.



Lion Ken Adamy checks the camera before screening and Lion Elvie Marfil focuses on the perfect shot



11 C2



**DG Aleta Cozart**  
**CLINTON • EATON • GRATIOT**  
**INGHAM • LIVINGSTON • SHIAWASSEE**  
[www.lionsdistrict11c2.org](http://www.lionsdistrict11c2.org)  
**District C2 • District Editor: Doug Klein**  
**MI**  
[dougklein@usa.net](mailto:dougklein@usa.net)



Be sure to attend upcoming District 11-C2 Business & Cabinet Meetings! March 13 and 14, 2026 Celebration of Service / District Business Meeting April 24, 2026 5:00 PM District Cabinet Meeting at Dutch Hollow, Durand RSVP to Cabinet Secretary Lion Denise Temple at [tsjellyboo@aol.com](mailto:tsjellyboo@aol.com) for cabinet meetings.



Grand Ledge Lions gather together for a recent meeting.



Grand Ledge Lions Club - Despite the cold temperatures, there was a terrific turnout at the second monthly Grand Ledge Lions Club meeting! Look at all these fabulous volunteers who make our meetings so much fun. Community, laughter, and service—couldn't ask for better!



DeWitt Lions Club At their December meeting, the DeWitt Lions Club hosted some special guests. Above are PDG Ted Hamilton, PDG Tom Doyle, CC Becky Hamilton, PDG Jim Kraft, DG Aleta Cozart, IPDG Carl Cozart. Besides the good food and spirited companionship, the club members and guests played a quiz with 10 prizes being given.



Durand Lions Club Lion Bill Isaacson received a chevron from the International President of Lions, commemorating 20 years of service. He also received the Ken Lautzenheiser Fellowship from the Lions of Michigan Foundation, recognizing his unselfish and dedicated service to humankind. Much deserved!



Owosso Lions Club had a great turn out for the Owosso Lions Club's Culver's Share Night! It was great to see so many smiling faces enjoying great food and delicious custard! #owossilionsclub #culvers #supportlocal



Mason Lions Club met on Wednesday, January 28 at Bestsellers Books and Coffee Mason. Jewell Snipes, manager of Capital Area Community Services, Rural Ingham Service Center on Maple Street in Mason, spoke about the Center's many assistance programs in the community.



Hartland Lions Club - District Governor Aleta Cozart who they put to work with some very special business. First, she made Tracy Schulke an official member. Standing in for her sponsor was Jake Andrews. They were not done yet. PDG Kurt Stromland assisted in presenting a Charles Weir Fellowship award to Aimee Hougaboom. And to finish up the night, Yvonne Cavalli was presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



St. Johns Lions Club - Lion Marilyn Witter sold the club's first Lions of Michigan Service Foundation Sight & Hearing Sweepstakes ticket to 2VDG Chuck Vasilion. Tickets for this fundraiser are \$10 each for a chance to win a \$5000 first prize, \$2500 second prize, or eight other \$1000 cash prizes. Raffle tickets are available from any St. Johns Lions Club member.



St. Johns Club President Dean Hartenburg presented a check in the amount of \$100 to Lion Aleisha Wenzlick (right), Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of St. Johns Public Schools. The money will be used to support the food backpack programs at Gateway North Elementary and Oakview South Elementary schools. The club also donated \$200 to the Good News Kitchen free lunch program.



Grand Ledge Lions Club District 11-C-2 zone rep., Curt Sonnenberg and 1st vice-district governor Kenny Kinsey pose with Maxine Burkhardt, GL Lions president, Chuck Wriska, and Bill Ferrigan. Maxine (40 yrs.) and Bill (30yrs.) had just been presented with their years of service chevrons.



Mason Lions Club held its annual in-meeting eyeglasses and hearing aid sorting and counting service activity on January 14th. This time, donation box locations allowed residents of the Mason area to contribute 1780 pairs of glasses and 19 hearing aids. Thanks, Mason! The items will be recycled into kits that go on mission trips with vision professionals to help people see better immediately after their examinations. Led by Lion Lynne Mark, Lions Lorraine Sparks, Jeff Routson, Jeff VanEenaam, Tony Igl, Sid Hawkins, and Karen Routson are also pictured.



Four clubs representing 11-C2 working the food bank Bountiful Harvest in Brighton! Ashley Lions, Bancroft Lioness Lions, Champs Club, and Hartland!



Lions Of Michigan Foundation - Project KidSight PDG Kurt Stromland was among the many Lions throughout the state who did vision screenings at the Detroit Auto Show this year.

> REGION NEWS

11 D1



**DG Gerald Whitney**  
BAY • GENESEE • SAGINAW • TUSCOLA  
[www.e-district.org/sites/11d1](http://www.e-district.org/sites/11d1)  
**District D1 • District Editor: Phyllis Pross**  
2065 Rich Rd., Mayville, MI 48744  
[pdpross@charter.net](mailto:pdpross@charter.net)

The 2026 D1 Convention will be held April 18-19 at the Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant. LCI Guest Speaker will be ID Melissa Washburn from New Mexico. Registration is now open.

Handy Middle School Leo group has been actively serving the community through a variety of meaningful activities. During the holiday season, members helped assemble and distribute 50 Christmas food baskets to the community. We are currently preparing for our upcoming Valentine Rose Candy Fundraiser, which helps raise funds for future service projects. Looking ahead to spring, our LEOs are excited to give back through a community park clean-up on Earth Day, continuing our commitment to service, leadership, and community involvement.

Western Middle School / High School Leo's have done yard work for the Toni and Trish House in Auburn, they did a craft with the Seniors at Hampton Manor and visited the Humane Society. The LEOs also assisted the Auburn Food Pantry for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner distribution. They are currently working on setting up a few fundraisers including a can drive, car wash, and bake sale. In April the Western LEOs have plans to clean the Firehouse Museum in preparation for its summer opening.

Bay City Lions Club reflects with pride and gratitude on a season filled with service, generosity, and community spirit. Thanks to the dedication of our Lions, Leo Club members, partners, and volunteers, we were able to make the holidays brighter for many families across our community. One of the highlights of the season was our annual Christmas with Santa celebration. This special event brought joy to approximately 100 children, each receiving gifts and the chance to visit Santa.



CARO LIONS Club had the honor of receiving the Club Excellence Award on January 20th at our club meeting with PDG RG Barnum to present our Club President, Tony Szczygiel with our award, a pin and a patch. Tony is also running for 2nd Vice District Governor and has started his campaign trail by visiting clubs in our district. He has a very busy schedule to visit 20 Clubs before the District Convention in April and I'm happy to say he has the support of everyone in our club.

Frankenmuth Middle School/ High School In December we went caroling at Frankenmuth Medilodge and handed out holiday cards and goodies to residents there. Some of our Leos and their parents assisted the Lions with ringing for the Salvation Army at Kroger's. Monthly they volunteer at the After School Program, Eagle Express, playing with children. In December they made Christmas crafts with the children K-5. In January, Leos made pinecone bird feeders with the children at Eagle Express. We welcomed 6 new members to the club at our regular January meeting, presenting them with shirts and pins. Pics attached of Leos caroling and helping with crafts, playing with children and ringing for Salvation Army.



Goodrich Lions annual take down of the downtown lights to put them in storage for next year. We've been busy moving all our Christmas decorations from temporary storage into their new forever home at Atlas Township Hall. To make it happen, we hosted a build-out party, installing fixtures and organizing everything so these decorations can be safely stored and enjoyed for many holiday seasons to come. As you can see, there was plenty of hard work... and plenty of fun. P.S. We always welcome extra hands! Whether you like getting your hands dirty or prefer putting your computer skills to work, we'd love to have you join us.



Millington Lions Club presented a check to the MI-Caro Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace to assist with their mission. Sleep in Heavenly Peace build beds for children who have no bed. Their motto is "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." Pictured are SHP director Tony Szczygiel (L) and Millington Lions President Jan Snyder (R). For more information if you wish to assist or donate to Sleep in Heavenly Peace you may contact the organization via email: [mi-caro@shpbeds.org](mailto:mi-caro@shpbeds.org).



Hearty D1 Lions participated in the Lions Bear Lake Camp Ice Plunge!

11 D2



**DG Dave Fisher**  
HURON • LAPEER • SANILAC • ST. CLAIR  
[www.11-d2lions.org](http://www.11-d2lions.org)  
**District D2 • District Editor: Bruce Bronson**  
10898 Smiths Creek Rd, Riley, MI 48041  
[bebronson79@gmail.com](mailto:bebronson79@gmail.com)

Ubly Lions Club

85 Years of Service

Celebration

With Special Guests

First International Vice President Mark & Lion Lyn

Where: Ubly Heights Golf and Country Club

2409 East Atwater Road, Ubly, Michigan 48475

When: February 15, 2026 1:00-5:00 PM

\$65 per person

Please mail check to: Ubly Lions Club

2737 Ridley Road, Palms, MI 48465

Contact Lion Shelly for more details at (810) 837-0119

11 E1



**DG Jeff Schafer**  
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[www.millions11e1.org](http://www.millions11e1.org)  
**District E1 • District Editor: Paula Ringling**  
[district11e1newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:district11e1newsletter@gmail.com)



Greenville Lions Club purchases sleds for all the Elementary students in the Greenville Public Schools. Pictured is Lion Dan Eagles delivering sleds and having several children read to him. Kudos to Greenville Lions Club for bringing joy to so many!

Greenville Lions and Greenville Rotary will team up to host a joint Pancake Breakfast and will work to box up spring break food boxes for local students in March.



DG Jeff, FLD Avi, and President Rich. DG Jeff and PDG Sheryl along with FLD Avi made a visit with the Crystal Lions Club in early January. Besides handing out quite a few Length of Service Chevrons, DG Jeff was able to present President Rich Sabatovich with a Certificate of Appreciation for positive net growth in the Crystal Lions Club for last Lion Year.



From Left to Right: President Tim Erspamer (Sponsor), new Lion Jack Koester, new Lion Ramon Holcomb. Missing from the photo is new Lion Makayla Knopf. DG Jeff and PDG Sheryl traveled back to the Lakeview Lions Club to induct three new members. President Tim sponsored Lion Ramon, Lion Greg McKenna sponsored Lion Jack, and Treasurer Rose Mary Witt sponsored Lion Makayla. Welcome to Lions Club!

District 11-E1 Convention, taking place March 27–28, 2026, at the beautiful Evergreen Resort in Cadillac, Michigan. This year's convention will be a meaningful blend of service, fellowship, learning, and celebration, all centered around our district theme: "Anchored in Service – Lighting the Way Forward."

We will partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) of Lake City, Michigan. On Friday afternoon and evening, Lions will have the opportunity to build beds and tie blankets, helping ensure that children in our communities have a safe and comfortable place to sleep. We are honored to welcome Mekoe and Dave Peterson, owners of the SHP facility in Lake City, as our Friday evening guest speakers, where they will share the impact of this incredible work and how Lions are making a difference.

**3rd District 11-E1 Town Hall Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 7, 2026**  
**9am-3pm**  
**Isabella Commission on Aging**  
**2200 S Lincoln Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI**  
**50/50 Raffle and Door Prizes**



DG Jeff, Lion Cheryl and Leader Dog Saylor We are proud to share exciting news about Saylor, the Leader Dogs for the Blind puppy that Sheryl and I previously raised. After completing her formal training, Saylor has officially become a Leader Dog and is now preparing for her next adventure — traveling to Hawaii, where she will be matched with her new partner. Recently, Sheryl and I had the opportunity to visit Leader Dogs for the Blind to wish Saylor safe travels and say our goodbyes. While it was an emotional visit, it was also incredibly rewarding to see how far she has come and to know the life-changing impact she is about to make.



Lion Al McCall, Santa Fireman Joel Ball, and Lion John Orr Remus Lions Club held their annual breakfast with Santa on December 13, 2025 at the Remus Town Hall. They worked in conjunction with the Remus Fire Dept and Remus DDA to put the event together. Approximately 100 attendees participated and fun was had by all, especially the children. Everyone left with full bellies and gifts for all the children. Weidman Lions Club got into the Holiday Spirit and did a few things for their community. They were able to use an idea from another Lions Club and purchased Poinsettias for anyone in Weidman who they thought were living alone. It was received by the community very well. They also donated \$1,000 to a local restaurant that was giving Christmas Eve Dinners and furnished lunches to the Power Utility Company workers who were working during the recent ice storm!

11 E2



**DG Marie Leathers**  
**ALCONA • ALPENA • ANTRIM • ARENAC • CHARLEVOIX**  
**CHEBOYGAN • CRAWFORD EMMET • GLADWIN • IOSCO**  
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[www.e-district.org/sites/11e2](http://www.e-district.org/sites/11e2)  
**District E2 • District Editor: David Zimmer**  
[Dzim47@gmail.com](mailto:Dzim47@gmail.com)

New Central Lake Lions Brandon Herron and Joey Barlow, sponsored by Lion Burt Young and Lion Rebecca James were inducted by DG Marie Leathers.



East Jordan Lions presented Lori Argetsinger from the Care and Share Food Pantry a check for \$1,000. It was the proceeds from the live gift auction at their Lions Christmas party.



*Pictured are: EJ Lions Treasurer, Terry Graham, Care & Share Food Pantry Director, Lori Artgetsinger, EJ Lion Sherry Pursel, EJ Lions Secretary, Linda Gocha and Past District Governor Dennis Gocha.*

East Jordan Lions decorated Tourist Park for the lit-up Christmas Village. Pictured are IPDG Dennis Gocha and Lion Kurt Tesnow setting up decorations for the lit-up village at Tourist Park.



Petoskey Lions donated \$1,250 to our community with donations sent to Camp Dagget: \$300 Women's Resource Center: \$300 Northmen Den Youth Services (food for children): \$200; Nehemiah House, \$200; Leader Dog, \$150, District E1 Foundation, \$150.



Central Lake Lions spent the holidays ringing bells collecting money for the Salvation Army. Pictured are Lion Randy Thomas, Lion Di LaBeau, and Lion Ray Kuiper



Deputy John Morris was presented with the Central Lake Lions Community Appreciation Award at the club's Christmas Party and Awards Ceremony for his outstanding innovation and commitment to the Antrim County community, and for making a positive and lasting impact through his dedication and service. The club's pass the hat collection at the event resulted in a \$1500 donation to the D.A.R.E. program, an initiative Deputy Morris is heavily involved with. Other awards presented include Lion Diann Platt-Roberts and Lion Jennie Partin each receiving Melvin Jones Fellowships, Lion Ray Kuiper receiving the Lion of the Year award, Lion Kevin Clayton receiving a William "Doc" Barr Knights for Vision Fellowship, Lion Gretchen VanOrmer receiving an A. Charles Weir Sight Conversation Fellowship, Lion Kris Roberts receiving a John S. Noel Fellowship, and Immediate Past President Lion Brian Graff receiving an Appreciation of Service award for his year serving as the club's president.

# Lions, thank you for life-changing support!

*For 17-year-old Cooper Boike from Flint, Michigan, basketball is everything. But in February 2024, a single moment changed the game for him. A scratch to the eye during a district championship basketball game turned into a painful, prolonged fight against a parasite—and a battle to save his sight.*

After six months of fighting the parasite, Cooper's condition worsened. His cornea perforated and doctors had to act fast. In November 2024, he underwent an emergency full-thickness cornea transplant.

The transplant changed everything. Slowly, Cooper began to recover. The intense light sensitivity faded. The headaches eased. He could see again—first in small glimpses through an eye patch, and eventually enough to return to school and sports.

Learn more about Cooper's amazing story:  
[eversight.ws/cooperstory](https://eversight.ws/cooperstory)



@EversightVision | [eversightvision.org](https://eversightvision.org) | [philanthropy@eversightvision.org](mailto:philanthropy@eversightvision.org)