



## Lions of Michigan – District 11-C-1



**District Governor Lion Larry Morlock**

**First Lady Lion Gayle**

Lion Larry Alman District Editor

[11e1editor@charter.net](mailto:11e1editor@charter.net)

<http://milions.org>

**Newsletter April 2009**

### **Should Lions Clubs Concentrate on Youth for Future Membership?**

Should your Lions clubs be more focused on serving the needs of youth? A good portion of our U.S. economy has the youth factor as an important aspect of how we spend our dollar bills. I believe that our Lions clubs accept a role supporting youth activities, but do not make a concentrated effort to adopt programs that give youth a role or recognition in our Lion culture. Only a handful of Michigan Lions clubs encourage Lions members to make Lion membership meetings a family meeting.

How many of our clubs sponsor youth athletic teams or even more so coach athletic teams among the adolescent and teenage groups or organize other recreational venues for their community youth? There are many activities that Lions clubs could support or just volunteer to help fulfill a kids childhood experiences in his or her community. Any time a child has repeated pleasant experiences, he/she is more apt to remember those experiences as an adult and if the association is made that a Lion provided that pleasant experience, he/she is more apt to support Lions when they become an adult.

The Lion concept of “We Serve” is one of rarity among adult non-profit service organizations. Nearly all of the non-profit service organizations members here in Michigan are worried that membership decline is at a rate of greater proportion than would be expected because of the loss of population and economic conditions. Could the pressures on adults living in today’s Michigan society have the effect that results in less willingness to volunteer in community service? As I visit the clubs in northwest Michigan it is clearly evident that we have a generation gap that is occurring in our clubs. There is a generational disconnect as there are very few Lions members at club meetings under the age of 50 years. To me, that is clear evidence of an intergenerational disconnect with the two generations below us.

Lions clubs need to examine their role in their community in relation to our motto “We Serve”. Our Lions clubs have evolved from our humble beginnings in Chicago nearly a century ago consisting of an organization of men, to an organization of men and women (1987), to one of a family organization just a few years ago. Our clubs here in Michigan need to modify our “We Serve” attitude to include youth more than we do today. Non-profit organizations, corporations, companies, and private business always must metamorphose as societal conditions warrant the need to change. Should your club modify its structure and program of service to its community? A farmer is very experienced in planting seeds, cultivating the seeds, nourishing the seeds with water to produce a young plant. The plant matures, is harvested and some of the seeds are taken by the farmer and the cycle is started all over to produce a new generation of plants. Has our generation of Lions lost the ability to reproduce the process of farming when adapted to “harvesting” new members into our clubs? I believe many of us have!

## FOUND

One Vice-District Governor 11-E-1 name tent—name VDG Wayne Kreitner. Tail twister will auction it off at the 11-E-1 Cabinet Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the District Convention.

### Governor's Travels

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VISITATION/EVENT</u>
April 14	Baldwin Lions Club—Official Visit
April 17-19	District Convention—Big Rapids
May 2	Onkama Lions Club Charter Night
May 7	Sanford Lions Club 5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
May 13	Region 2 Zone 1 Meeting—Clare
May 15-16	MD11 Convention—Lansing
May 19	Midland Lions Club 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
May 20	Region 2 Zone 3 Meeting—Luther
June 8	Weidman Lions Club—Official Visit

### Used Hearing Aid Collection

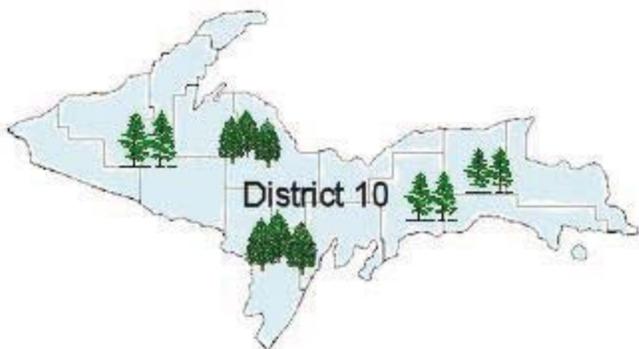
**Don't forget to bring used hearing aids to the District Convention.** A drop off box will be on the table with the new Hearing Committee brochure.

### *Puzzle Piece Reminder*

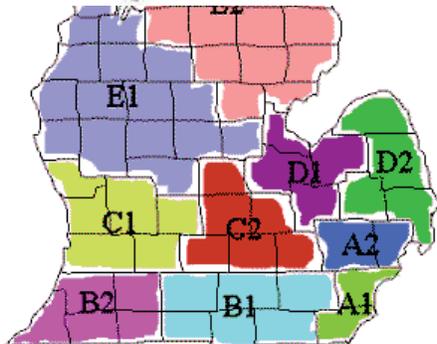
Well the District Convention is almost here and this is a reminder concerning the 3 year traveling puzzle and the pieces which should be circulating around the clubs within each zone.

The piece assigned to your area needs to be at the Convention on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> so that all the pieces for this year from both districts can be assembled. If your club currently has a piece of the puzzle please send it along with your delegate to the Convention. If your club's not sending a delegate pass it onto a club that is attending or contact your zone chair. Thanks for

help!



your





***Lion Vice District Governor and  
Lioness Debroah Kreitner***

My Fellow Lions,

On many occasions during my life I have been astounded at the lengths that some will go to help their fellow human beings. For the past 35 years I have belonged to an organization that enables “The Touching of Life” as a matter of course each day. Being part of the largest volunteer organization in the world that spans more than 200 countries has opened my eyes as to how easy it can be to show you care yet how powerful we can be when we serve together.

The Lions Club International association has been a conduit for humanitarian service in the world for over 90 years. Around 1.5 million people, young and old, male and female, are working with a passion to “Serve” their international communities, whether it be in the name of the club in their local community or the world association.

It’s an organization that provides a forum for open discussion regarding matters of public interest yet there is no platform for the discussion of politics or religion. Instead there thrives a purpose to create and foster the understanding among all people of the world. Lions have a code of ethics that can be summed up by just one of them which states “We should be careful with our criticism and very liberal with our praise, we should always endeavor to build up and not destroy.”

The Lions motto is “We Serve”. I am proud to be part of it and congratulate the Lions of this great district 11 -E1 for their years of service and ensuring that where ever possible they are making peoples quality of life that is much more comfortable.

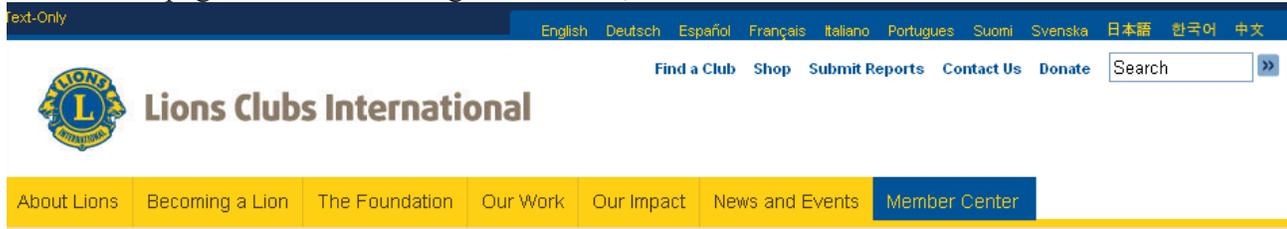
*Quote of the month*

If your actions inspire others to dream more,  
learn more, do more and become more,  
you are a leader.

**John Quincy Adams**

*New website*

How many people have checked out the NEW! Lions International website? Learn to get use to it, It looks real good to me. You will get a short video when you first log into the website. Give it a try. Below is just a sample of the home page. The new site began March 30, 2009.



**CONVENTION IS ALMOST HERE**

APRIL 17, 18, 19

It won't be long now. We are looking forward to seeing everyone. Some reminders for everyone:

**CERTIFICATION ENDS AT 11 A.M.** on Saturday

Collecting eyeglasses for the school of Optometry

Collecting used hearing aids

Bring your club banners and stands.

Bring your Auction items – this helps with convention costs

There will be a schedule on Saturday to take spouses to

The School of Optometry and or downtown shopping

The theme is Knights of the Round Table

Hearing Lab will be there in the afternoon

Diabetes testing will be done on Saturday

Computer Training will take place on Saturday

Come and join us for some FUN



## One-On-One Basic Computer Instruction

Your Lions District 11-E1 IT Committee will be providing one-on-one basic computer instruction at Convention in Big Rapids at the Holiday Inn. Several learning stations will be available from 8:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00 on Saturday, April 18. You can bring your own laptop or use one of ours.

Learn how to:

- Navigate on the internet
- Attach pictures to an email
- Cut & paste
- Fill out & submit forms online
- Check your spelling
- Edit photos
- Write a letter
- File management
- Anything else you've been wondering how to do



If anyone is interested, I could use 2 or 3 more trainers for a couple hours. For more information contact Lion Karla Roebuck, District 11-E1 IT Committee Chair, at [kroebuck@greenridge.com](mailto:kroebuck@greenridge.com) or 231-972-8885.

### *State Convention*

It is time to think about State Convention. The theme is Tailgate Party. It will be held in Lansing. The dates are May 15 – 16, 2009. The registration forms are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The hotel reservation is due April 14<sup>th</sup>, to get the rate of \$79.

The clubs have all been sent information, be sure your King Lion brings this information to the club.

### *Leader Dog training*

When Lions and other good people come together good things happen. During the past month this happened and many area school kids learn about leader dogs. The following story said it better than I can. Thank you for the GREAT JOB.

By KEN GRABOWSKI

Associate Editor

MANISTEE -- Dogs have often been referred to by their owners as “man’s best friend,” “the family pet,” “a watchdog,” and just about everything else, but probably the most important role they fill in society is when they take on the challenge of being a leader dog for the blind.

A Leader Dog is a lifeline to the world for someone with a vision impairment. It gives them the opportunity to function normally on a daily basis. However, getting a dog to the level of being a Leader Dog is something that takes a great deal of time, training, and patience on the part of the leader dog puppy trainers.

During the course of the next several weeks, students from Manistee County schools will get the opportunity to see what goes into that process of changing a cute puppy, into a working leader dog. The local Leader Dog puppy program is a joint effort of the Michigan State University 4 -H program and the local Lions Clubs.

MSU Extension 4-H program leader, Deb Laws, said the local program began about five years ago with the assistance of some dedicated volunteers. She said Lions Club member, Tom Silverthorn has a Leader Dog to assist him with his vision impairment, and he joined forces with Lions Club member Clara Kraus -Saari to put together the local puppy training program in conjunction with 4 -H.

“They raise money to help train these puppies to become Leader Dogs,” said Laws. “Clara makes these famous blueberry pies and muffins they sell to raise money for the program.”

Laws has organized a group of puppy trainers and their dogs to give displays in the local schools on some of the things they do in the process. The trainers and their dogs that appeared included Kathy Bachman (Edgar), Kim Wattles (Aberdeen and True), Bruce and Carol Hutchins (Corey and Becca) John Snyder (Hope).

The puppy trainers usually have dogs from the time they are a few weeks old, until they are one year in age. The dogs leave to attend the Leader Dog School in Rochester when they are one year old. Puppy trainer, Kim Wattles said it is like going to the “university” for the dogs.

“I have them for a whole year, and we start their training on how to obey, and to be comfortable around people in public,” said Wattles.

She demonstrated how the dogs are rewarded for meeting their training goals. The types of things they work on at that age prepares them for their trip to “the university.”

Wattles gave an example by putting down two treats in front of “True” who was then instructed to stay. The black Labrador held its position laying flat on the floor without moving. When “True” accomplished the task, Wattles feeds her the treats.

“We always reward them and say, ‘good dog,’ when they perform their task,” said Wattles.

Carol Hutchins is the regional puppy counselor for this area, and Thursday morning she told the students at Trinity Lutheran School the things they should always remember when they encounter someone with a Leader Dog, or a puppy in training. She said the first thing they should do is to look for something in particular on the dog.

“If they have a harness on, or the puppy has a light blue scarf around its neck, it means it is a working dog,” said Hutchins. “When a dog is working you shouldn’t bother it.”

Hutchins said there are five basic rules to keep in mind. Those who follow the rules will not usually encounter any problems from a leader dog.

“The first thing you should do is walk slowly toward the dog,” said Hutchins. “Something else you should never do is make direct eye contact with the dog. That can make the dog wonder what you want, and it is something dogs do when they fight.”

Another thing Hutchins stressed they should do is to ask the owner if it is okay to approach the dog. Someone who is visually impaired needs the dog’s full attention to navigate around things, so if the dog is distracted it could cause the person to fall or trip.

“Something else people should do is let the dog sniff you first when you approach it,” said Hutchins. “The last thing they should do is ask if it is okay to pet the animal. If they agree, the petting should only be done on the side of the head. That is because the dog isn’t sure what you are going to do if you put your hand over the top of its head, and it might become startled.”

Tom Silverthorn explained that in most instances a Leader Dog will walk on the left side of a visually impaired person. He said his dog, Ranger, is trained to walk on that side, and it takes a great deal of training to change them over to the other side.

“Ninety-seven percent of the time they walk on the left side and the reason for that is when you walk on the roads where there aren’t sidewalks, like I do, it is necessary for him to keep me away from traffic,” said Silverthorn.

“They get used to a certain routine, and it hard to change them over. When I had my hip replacement surgery, I needed to walk with a cane on my left side, so Ranger had to get used to walking on the other side.”

Silverthorn also demonstrated how Ranger will lead him away from obstacles to an open pathway. He said it would be impossible for him to find his way without the dog’s assistance.

Wattles said the four main types of dogs they utilize for leader dogs are yellow Labradors, black Labradors, golden retrievers and German shepherds. Those breeds are the easiest to train and teach the detailed assignments required of a Leader Dog.

“We do take crosses of the breeds, but it really depends upon the dog,” said Wattles.

Training leader dogs is a very important task, and puppy trainers take a very serious approach to their job. They realize that the work they do today will benefit someone down the road in having a Leader Dog that will be the eyes of a visually impaired person tomorrow.

Ken Grabowski can be reached at: [kgrabowski@pioneergroup.com](mailto:kgrabowski@pioneergroup.com).

## Michigan Diabetes Camp

Michigan's only American Diabetes Association (ADA) sponsored camp program is Camp MIDICHA located in Fenton Michigan. It is a residential summer camp program designed for, and dedicated to, children and teens with diabetes. Camp MIDICHA is proud to be the largest camp of its kind in the nation. 2009 camp dates are:

Session 1- June 14-19

Session 2- June 21-26

Programs are geared toward children with TYPE I Diabetes. Age groups are broken down as follows:

MIDICHA Adventurers - ages 8-9

MIDICHA Trailblazers - ages 10-12

Teen MIDICHA - ages 13-15

MIDICHA Mosaic - ages 14-16

XTREME MIDICHA ages 14-16 (a week in Pennsylvania)

Participation in this program will not only increase wisdom and knowledge of diabetes, it will offer great fun and experience for kids.

District 11-E1 is offering 3 scholarships of \$ 500 each to attend a camp this summer. The criteria to obtain one of these scholarships is (1) camper must have Type I Diabetes and (2) camper lives in District 11-E1 and (3) one scholarship allotted per family.

There is a deadline. Nominations (to include name, age and address) must be sent to PDG Richard Daniel (Diabetes Chair) at 11234 S Lacore, Empire MI 49630 by 15 May 2009.

Hope we can get some nominations. The sooner the better, some camp slots fill fast.

## Extension Update

It was a nice crisp Spring Day in Marion, Michigan. LCI's Global Membership Team Leader for our area was on hand to indoctrinate some 15+ leaders from our District on the techniques and strategies for getting a new Lions Club in our District. The day long training culminated with the members of the group setting a meeting place and time for an informational meeting for the new perspective members in each location. They then departed for the towns of Marion, Mc Bain, and Lake City. Each group canvassed its respective town and after talking with many people, invited each of them to attend the informational meeting. For the most part, there was little if any opposition to having a Lions Club in their town. One hurdle that was rather unexpected was that of "Spring Break". Putting that aside, there was interest by residents (although somewhat minimal), at both the Lake City and Marion sites. Another meeting is scheduled in both towns and when the respective inductees return with a friend or two it is felt by all members of the group that we can come away with at least one or two new Clubs.

Harry Johnson – PDG Extension Chairperson

### **Baldwin Lions Club**

The Baldwin Lions and Lioness Clubs have been busy during the past month. In preparation for the upcoming "Buddy Day" at the local Secretary of State office and the White Cane Sale, the Club has invested in some new club vests. These vests will be a welcome apparel item for our old and new members alike.

We received two applications for residents in the community who were in need for assistance in the fitting and purchasing of new hearing aids and the Lions of Michigan Foundation responded by giving the Club a Grant to help them out. Each Club has agreed to give the required assistance to make this a reality.

We are looking forward to the Blessing of the Bikes (one of our major fundraisers). The Michigan Eye Bank is planning to be on hand to assist with making this project one to remember. (More Details Later).

Laura Johnson, President  
Baldwin Lions Club

### **Cadillac Lions Club**

#### **The "Shack" has Sunk!**



Early on a Monday morning the Cadillac Lions Clubs yellow "Shack" finally fell through the ice to make one lucky person \$1000 richer. The surveillance tape was viewed by Capt. Matt Wohlfiel, Cadillac Police Dept. and Lion Harry Engels who both agreed the "Shack" officially sunk at 12:52 am, Mar 30, 2009.

This year's 1<sup>st</sup> place \$1000 winner is Alice Hunter of Cadillac, MI with the closest guess of Mar 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ 1:00 am and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Robin Mosher of Marion, MI with the guess of Mar 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ 1:12 am.

The "Shack" is still partially visible through the ice and will be retrieved just as soon as the weather permits its removal from the lake.

The Cadillac Lions Club would like to say thanks to everyone your help in making this fundraiser successful and Congratulations to our 2 winners!

### **Coleman Lions Club**

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March 2 meeting, Lion Al Mueller was awarded a 25 year He has been very active in club business, serving in the past president and club secretary (15 years)! He currently is assistant treasurer and assistant secretary and is an instrumental member of the sight committee.

19 was a big night for Coleman Lions. After almost 2 years planning and grant applications, Lion Al Mueller presented Braille Mobile Manager to a local woman who is enrolled in classes. Amanda was very pleased to receive her new computer which replaces one which was damaged beyond

repair. Amanda, along with her parents and boyfriend were greeted by Coleman Lions members as well as a number of dignitaries. Guests included DG Larry & Lion Gayle Morlock, VDG Wayne & Lion Debbie Kreitner, Region II Chair Lion Laura and Lion Harry Johnson, Zone I Chair Lion John Monahan, and Midland Lions President Lion Kevin Kearney.

It is with great pleasure that we present to you this new Braille Mobile Manager computer tonight to replace your computer that was damaged beyond repair.



Back in June 2007 you were referred to us by Mr. Ray Kirkland from the Commission for the Blind to aid you in obtaining a replacement computer. The Coleman Lions Club, upon approving your request, applied for a grant from the Lions of Michigan Foundation, which was approved in November 2007 for \$500.00. They recommended that we also apply for a grant from the Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund which was done in November 2007 and was approved in October 2008 for \$810.00. Due to technical difficulties by the manufacturer, a new computer could not be ordered until February 2009.

We wish to acknowledge that this evening would not be possible without assistance from you, your parents, Mr. Ray Kirkland from the Commission of the Blind, the generosity of the Lions of Michigan Foundation, the Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund, and the membership of the Coleman Lions Club. We sincerely hope that this computer will be beneficial to you in your continued pursuit of higher education. Thank you for allowing us to help you.

Lion Laura Johnson spoke about the club upcoming District Convention and about membership. She encouraged everyone to find ways to increase membership, especially among women, families and college students.

### ***Honor Lions Club***

Honor Lion's are off and running for a hopefully busy Spring and Summer after a LONG Winter break. We just completed a successful KIDS SIGHT Screening, for kindergarten Round -Up at one of our Benzie Central Elementary schools. Thanks to the help of Mesick Lion Arlene Baldinger and Mesick Leo Kelly for coming to help Lion Dan Gibbons and Lion Pam in photographing the kids eyes, Our own Lions Ed and Jeffie Jones , Connie McMorris, Kim Wattles and future Leader Dog True, kept the kids and parents informed and entertained during the screening process. True enjoyed many treats as the kids learned about her training and responsibilities as a Leader Dog. Honor Lions Connie McMorris and Kim Wattles , with Leader Dog True will be participating in Buddy Days at the Beulah Secretary of State Office to assist in informing possible Organ and Tissue Donors on April 8th. Honor will be hosting a Easter Egg Hunt for the area kids. On April 11th. The club gets together on the day before and colors at least 30 dozen real eggs along with many filled plastic eggs and the Bunny comes to Homestead ball park to hide the Eggs. It is free for local kids ages 1 -12. Then they are treated to Hot cocoa and Cookies, and stuffed animals for everyone after the hunt. Happy Easter to everyone hope to see you at convention

### ***75 YEARS OF SERVICE MIDLAND LIONS***

**The Midland Lions Club was chartered on January 25, 1934 by the Saginaw Lions. The club was the fourth club to be chartered in the old District 11 -D which consisted of Flint, Saginaw and Bay**

City. The twenty-eight charter Lions immediately started their fundraising activities and were able to fund eye glasses and exams to the total of \$1,500 their first year.

Today, the Midland Lions Club has 74 members that are involved in numerous fundraising activities – White Cane, Hole In One Golf Contest, Chicken Dinner, a Golf Outing, Light Bulb Sales and Lions Mint Sales.

The Midland Lions Club offers a scholarship at Ferris State University for students majoring in eye care, participates in Project Kid Sight, sponsors scholarships through the American Red Cross for emergency situations, provides a large clientele with eye exams and glasses, aids in diabetes programs, Leader Dog activities, and Backpack Buddies (lunches for school children on weekends) Midland Youth are also a part of the programs that the Lions serve.

The club will celebrate its 75 Anniversary on May 19, 2009 with a dinner at the Apple Mountain Resort in Freeland.

### ***Mt Pleasant Lions Club***

Mount Pleasant Lions club is planning their annual Chicken BBQ for May 3, 2009. The club is now meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday at the Comfort Inn. Also meeting informally at Cheers the alternate week Mondays.

### ***Onekama Lions Club***

The Onekama Lions Club held a pancake breakfast Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, to raise funds for the Manistee animal shelter, Homeward Bound. Besides the Lions, volunteers from the shelter as well as from our local Cub Scout group helped to serve approximately 150 hungry people, with profits of \$542.00 going to the shelter. Pictured are Lion Jim Maue, scout leader Craig Peterson, and Craig's son.



You are cordially invited to **CHARTER NIGHT, 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY**: Saturday May 2, 2009, The Onekama Lions Den cocktail hour 6:00 pm, cash bar. Prime rib dinner 7:00 pm chicken only on request. Cost of dinner is \$20.00 per person. Please R.S.V.P.

by April 18, 2009, Lion Pam at 231-889-4870 or Lion Jack at 231-889-4451. We hope to see you there.