



District 11-E1

July 2026 Newsletter



Michigan Lions Serving 16 Counties & 35 Clubs!

Governor's Corner:

Upcoming Events:

- July 3-7: 108th LCI Convention, Hong Kong, China
- Aug 8: District 11-E1 Cabinet/Town Hall Mtg, Luther Lions Den
- Sep 3-5: USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Memphis, TN

Upcoming Club Visits:

- None scheduled at this time

A New Year of Service Begins!

Greetings to all my Lions Family in District 11-E1,

As we begin another Lions year of service, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the confidence you have placed in me to once again serve as your District Governor. This opportunity was completely unplanned, but I truly believe that when Lions are called to serve, we answer that call. I am honored to serve you, and I will do my very best not to disappoint the Lions of our wonderful District 11-E1.

As I write this message, I am preparing to leave for the **Lions Clubs International Convention in Hong Kong**. I look forward to representing our district and learning from Lions around the world. Upon my return, I can't wait to share exciting ideas, new service opportunities, membership strategies, and innovative ways we can continue making a positive impact in our communities.

It has been **15 years** since I last had the privilege of serving as your District Governor. During that time, our district has welcomed many new Lions, and I am especially excited to meet new faces as I travel throughout District 11-E1 this year. One of the greatest joys of serving as District Governor is visiting clubs, celebrating your accomplishments, and learning about the creative service projects that are making a difference in your communities. I look forward to hearing your stories and seeing firsthand how Lions continue to answer the call to serve.

My District Governor theme this year is **"Service is Sweet!"** Every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, every fundraiser, and every life touched reminds us why being a Lion is so rewarding. Together, we will continue building stronger clubs, growing our membership, and creating even greater opportunities to serve.

If your club is planning a visit, special event, officer installation, charter celebration, or induction of new members, I would love to join you whenever possible. My preferred method of communication is **text messaging**, as I can usually respond more quickly while traveling throughout the district.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your District Governor once again. I look forward to an exciting year filled with fellowship, leadership, and service as we work together to make District 11-E1 even stronger. Remember... **Service is Sweet!**

Yours in Service,

-Lion Laura Johnson
DG 11-E1
231-250-0537



District Team

District Governor:

Laura Johnson (Baldwin)
(231) 250-0537
Lionlaura1952@gmail.com

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Vacant

2nd Vice District Governor:

Roger Gilbert (Mt. Pleasant)
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Global Membership Chair:

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Jackieglazier14@yahoo.com

Global Leadership Chair:

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jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Global Service Chair:

Steve Adsmond (Fremont)
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LCIF Chair:

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District Administrator:

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Newsletter Editor:

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district11E1Newsletter@gmail.com

Zone Chairperson Corner:

I am pleased to report a great start to the new Lions year within our zone!

Recently, we held one of the District 11-E1 Club Officer Training Sessions, and I was encouraged by the excellent participation. **Eleven Lions attended**, representing **all six clubs within our zone**, along with one neighboring club from outside the zone. It was wonderful to see club leaders investing in their knowledge and preparing for a successful 2026–2027 Lions year.

The training provided valuable information for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and LCIF Coordinators, while also giving attendees the opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and build stronger relationships with fellow Lions. Thank you to everyone who attended and demonstrated their commitment to strengthening their clubs. Looking ahead, I encourage all clubs to mark their calendars for our upcoming Zone Meetings. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss district initiatives, celebrate club successes, and work together to strengthen Lionism throughout our communities.

Proposed Zone Meeting Schedule

-  Wednesday, August 26, 2026
-  Wednesday, November 18, 2026
-  Wednesday, January 27, 2027
-  Wednesday, March 24, 2027

Proposed Meeting Location

📍 Shepherd Bar & Restaurant
324 W. Wright Avenue
Shepherd, Michigan

I look forward to seeing representatives from every club at our upcoming meetings. Together, we can share successful service projects, discuss membership growth, support one another, and continue making a positive impact throughout our communities.

Let's make this another outstanding Lions year as we continue proving that **"Service is Sweet!"**

-Lion Chuck Dinsmore, R2Z1 Chairman

Prayer List:

IPDG Jeff & PDG Sheryl Schafer
PDG Pete Conarty
PDG Pam Schroeder & PDG Dan Gibbons



Our thoughts and prayers are with those Lions who lost family members, those that have family members or friends that are sick or in the hospital or at home, and all others whose losses are unknown to us at this time.

Lions if you have prayer requests, please let me know so we can add you to the prayer list. If anyone has a concern and would like for me to pray with you over the phone, I will be glad to do that too. Prayer and trust are powerful in our lives.

Hope to hear from you, Blessings. - Lion Steve Adsmond, District Chaplain



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Together We Serve – Together We Give

As we begin a new Lions year, I want to take a moment to celebrate what we have accomplished together through our support of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

To date, our district has contributed **\$13,055** to LCIF. These gifts came from **22 of our 35 clubs**, along with numerous individual Lions who chose to invest in the mission of Lions serving Lions around the world.

Every dollar donated represents something much larger than a financial contribution. It represents a child who will receive vision care, a family recovering from a natural disaster, a community gaining access to needed resources, or a young person finding hope through a Lions-supported program. Through LCIF, our local generosity becomes global impact.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every club and every Lion who contributed this past year. Your generosity demonstrates what makes Lions unique. We don't simply see needs—we respond to them. We don't wait for others to act—we lead through service.

As we look ahead to the new Lions year, I encourage every club to consider how LCIF can be part of your service story. Whether your club contributes through a fundraiser, an annual donation, a Melvin Jones Fellowship, or individual gifts from members, every contribution strengthens our Foundation and expands our ability to serve.

Imagine what we can accomplish if every club in our district participates this year. Imagine the lives we can change together when 100% of our Clubs support LCIF. The impact would reach far beyond our communities and across the world.

The new year offers a fresh opportunity to build upon our success. Let's continue to demonstrate that when Lions unite behind a common purpose, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Thank you for your commitment, your generosity, and your belief in the power of service. Together, we are making a difference—one gift, one project, and one life at a time..

Yours in service,
PDG Sheryl Schafer
District 11-E1 LCIF Coordinator



Leader Dog Update: Avi

Puppy Raiser Jeff:

Congratulations! As we discussed over the phone, Future Leader Dog Avi has been selected for our breeding stock program and is now Leader Dog Mom Avi!

This means that she will be placed in a host home (your home since you have decided to host her), where over the next few years she will whelp up to four litters of Future Lead Dog puppies. After she has finished her career as a Leader Dog Mom, she will be retired and you can adopt her as a pet.

Thank you so much for raising this special dog for us. We are excited to see the wonderful puppies that she will go on to produce. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,
Brianne Frye, Early Puppy Development and Host Coordinator



Leader Dog Mom Avi official Breeding Stock photo! IPDG Jeff will be hosting her as a Leader Dog Mom in his home over the next 2-3 years.



CONTACT US:

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1298 E 15 Mile Rd.
Bitely, MI 49309

Cell: 231-250-0537
Lionlaura1953@gmail.com

We're on the Web at:
www.MiLions11e1.org



Visit our facebook page.

District 11-E1 Lions
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Lions11E1>

Welcome New Members!

Club	Member	Sponsor
Central Montcalm	Andrew Arwood	Mechela Anderson
Coleman	Adam Schafer	Jeff Schafer
Empire	Wayne Aylsworth	David Taghon
Fremont	Shirley Harris	Brenda Adsmond
Harrison	Onalee Roberts	Sandra Castle
Mt. Pleasant	Tina Rudoni	Steve Rudoni

For the month of June, we added 6 new members. Overall, for the year, we have added 80 new members, transferred/reinstated 22 members & dropped 109 members. Net gain for the year of -7.

July 2025: +2	Nov 2025: +29	Mar 2026: +15
Aug 2025: +1	Dec 2025: +21	Apr 2026: +11
Sep 2025: +15	Jan 2026: +21	May 2026: +12
Oct 2025: +14	Feb 2026: +15	Jun 2026: -7

Congratulations District 11-E1, we have had **POSITIVE** membership growth 11 of the 12 months. However, the month that counts is June and we just fell short of our goal. We had a good run at it all year, **CONGRATS.**

Bring a prospective member to a service project and remember "Just Ask One!"



Eversight: Reflect on the Impact you helped make in 2025

From January 1 through April 30, **3,539** donors and their families selflessly gave the gift of sight. **3,763** tissues were provided for sight restoring transplants, and **1,173** tissues helped to advance vision research and support clinical education and training.





DISTRICT 11-E1 CABINET TOWN HALL *Meeting!*



SAVE THE DATE!



SATURDAY

AUGUST 8, 2026



9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

(Coffee & Registration at 8:30 AM)



LUTHER LIONS HALL

1003 N State Rd.
Luther, MI

Service is Sweet!




2
0
2
6
 2
0
2
7

LAURA JOHNSON
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 11-E1

Come Together. Share Ideas. Build Our Future!

ALL LIONS ARE INVITED!

-  Club Officers
-  Zone Chairs
-  Committee Chairs
-  All Lions Members

Your voice matters!
Be part of the conversation.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

-  DG Laura Johnson's Vision for 2026–2027
-  District Updates & Priorities
-  Town Hall Discussion – Your Ideas, Your District
-  Working Together for a Stronger 11-E1!

WHY ATTEND?

-  Stay informed
-  Share ideas
-  Plan for success
-  Strengthen our Lions family

Let's make
this our best
year yet!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

and join us!

QUESTIONS?

Contact your Zone Chair
or DG Laura Johnson
We look forward to
seeing you there!

Together We Serve. Together We Lead. Together We Grow.

SERVICE IS SWEET WITH DISTRICT 11-E1!



Global Leadership Team (GLT) Corner:

Growing Leaders, Growing Service

As we begin a new Lions year in District 11-E1, I am filled with excitement and optimism about the opportunities that lie ahead. Every year brings new goals, new challenges, and new opportunities to serve our communities. Most importantly, it brings opportunities for Lions to grow as leaders.

Leadership is not about titles or positions. It is about stepping forward when there is a need, sharing your talents, and helping others succeed. Some of the most impactful Lions leaders never imagined themselves in a leadership role until someone invited them to serve. That invitation changed not only their Lions journey but also the lives of countless people they would go on to help.

As your Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator, I encourage every Lion to consider how they can grow this year. Whether it is leading a service project, mentoring a new member, chairing a committee, or accepting a district leadership position, every step you take helps strengthen our district and our ability to serve.

Currently, we still have a few district leadership positions that need to be filled. These roles are opportunities to make a difference, develop new skills, build friendships across the district, and help shape the future of Lions in District 11-E1. If you have ever thought about becoming more involved, now is the perfect time. You do not have to have all the answers—only a willingness to learn and serve. Lions leadership is a team effort, and support is always available.

I would also like to invite all district leaders, club officers, and interested Lions to attend our first District 11-E1 Cabinet Meeting of the new Lions year on **Saturday, August 8, at the Luther Lions Clubhouse**. Cabinet meetings are an excellent opportunity to learn about district initiatives, share ideas, build relationships, and discover new ways to strengthen your club and community. Whether you are a seasoned leader or attending for the first time, your voice and perspective are valuable.

The Global Membership Approach reminds us that success begins with building a team, creating a vision, developing a plan, and building success together. Leadership is at the heart of each of those steps. When Lions are willing to lead, clubs thrive, membership grows, and communities benefit.

Thank you for all that you do as Lions. Your dedication, compassion, and willingness to serve continue to make District 11-E1 a place where leadership and service go hand in hand.

I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year and seeing the incredible things we will accomplish together.

The future of District 11-E1 is not built by a few leaders—it is built by Lions who are willing to take the next step.

Yours in Service,
IPDG Jeff Schafer
District 11-E1 GLT Coordinator





Global Membership Team (GMT) Corner:



Building Stronger Clubs Through Connection

As we begin the 2026–2027 Lions year, we have much to celebrate and even more to look forward to!

District 11-E1 closed the 2025–2026 Lions year by **welcoming 102 new members** into our Lions family. While we also experienced the loss of 109 members through transfers, resignations, and other circumstances, one accomplishment deserves special recognition: **our district experienced positive net membership growth every month of the Lions year except June**, when we finished with a net loss of just seven members. That consistency reflects the dedication of our clubs to inviting others to experience the rewards of service.

Membership is about much more than numbers—it is about people. Every new Lion brings fresh ideas, new talents, and a shared desire to make a difference in their community. When we invest in our members, we strengthen our clubs and expand our ability to serve.

District Governor Laura Johnson has established two important membership priorities for this year: **Support and strengthen our clubs**, especially those that are rebuilding or facing challenges. **Grow membership through connection, mentorship, and engagement.**

These goals remind us that the best membership strategy begins with creating welcoming clubs where every member feels valued, included, and inspired to serve. By mentoring new Lions, involving members in meaningful service, and inviting friends, family, neighbors, and community leaders to join us, we ensure our clubs remain vibrant for years to come.

As you plan your club's activities this year, challenge yourselves to think beyond recruitment. Ask how your club can create an experience that encourages members to stay involved, develop as leaders, and share the joy of Lionism with others.

Together, we can build stronger clubs, develop future leaders, and continue growing the impact of District 11-E1—one new Lion, one meaningful connection, and one act of service at a time.

Let's make this a year of growth, fellowship, and service because **Service is Sweet!**

For membership support or ideas, contact:

Global Membership Team (GMT) Coordinator

PDG Jackie Glazier at 231-534-4932 or

email: jackieglazier14@yahoo.com



**USA/Canada Lions
Leadership Forum**

**September 3-5, 2026
Memphis, Tennessee**

Your registration fee covers 3 full days of educational seminars, 4 general sessions with professional speakers, and untold experiences with fellow Lions, LEOs and so many others. Register today to join with us in celebrating **50 years** of leadership skills, shared ideas, an atmosphere to build relationships and so much more.



DISTRICT 11-E1 NEEDS YOU!



Help Lead Our District in 2026-2027



Become Part of the GLOBAL ACTION TEAM (GAT)!

The future success of District 11-E1 depends on Lions who are willing to share their talents, ideas, and leadership. We are currently seeking Lions interested in serving on our District Global Action Team (GAT) for the 2026-2027 Lions Year.

Whether you are a newer Lion looking to grow or an experienced Lion ready to mentor others, there is a place for you on our team!

**YOUR
LEADERSHIP.
YOUR IMPACT.
OUR FUTURE.**

GET
GLOBAL EXTENSION TEAM

Building New Clubs

PRIMARY FOCUS:

- New club development
- Club branch development
- Reaching new communities

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ✓ Identify opportunities for new clubs
- ✓ Support club extension efforts
- ✓ Recruit charter members
- ✓ Expand Lions service footprint

**MORE CLUBS.
MORE SERVICE. MORE IMPACT.**

GLT
GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Developing Future Leaders

PRIMARY FOCUS:

- Leadership development
- Training
- Mentoring

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ✓ Organize leadership training
- ✓ Mentor emerging leaders
- ✓ Sponsor officer development
- ✓ Promote Lions learning opportunities

**STRONG LEADERS.
STRONGER DISTRICT.**

GMT
GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Growing Our Pride

PRIMARY FOCUS:

- Membership growth
- New member recruitment
- Club retention
- Supporting healthy clubs

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ✓ Help clubs attract new members
- ✓ Promote membership campaigns
- ✓ Support club retention efforts
- ✓ Encourage club excellence

**MORE MEMBERS.
MORE PRIDE. MORE POWER.**

GST
GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM

Making an Impact

PRIMARY FOCUS:

- Service projects
- Community impact
- Reporting service activities

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ✓ Promote meaningful service projects
- ✓ Increase service reporting
- ✓ Support Lions Portal reporting
- ✓ Highlight district service successes

**SERVICE FROM THE HEART.
IMPACT THAT LASTS.**

WHY SERVE ON THE GAT?



INTERESTED?

*We'd love to
talk with you!*



CONTACT:

PDG Laura Johnson
District Governor 2026-2027

OR

District Governor Jeff Schafer
District 11-E1



**TOGETHER
WE SERVE.**



**TOGETHER
WE LEAD.**



**TOGETHER
WE GROW.**

Your District Needs You!



Lions Clubs International

300 W. 22nd Street
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842 USA
+1-630-571-5466

Dear Leo Club,

As the president of Lions Clubs International, I am so pleased to welcome you as a newly certified Leo club.

You are joining our international family of over 7,700 Leo clubs in approximately 150 countries and geographic areas. Leos serve others through the shared principles of *Leadership—Experience—Opportunity*. Leo clubs bring together our most diverse, inclusive and innovative members, who are preparing to be the leaders of tomorrow by leading the way today.

As a Leo, you are taking the lead on service and are guiding the way toward a brighter future. On behalf of Lions International, I extend my best wishes for success to you and your new Leo club family.

Together we serve,

A.P. Singh

A.P. Singh
International President



Dear Lions Club of Harrison:

I am pleased to inform you that the Leo Club of Harrison was officially chartered on 5/19/26. The club's ID number is 193587. To ensure your Leo club serves effectively, please use [the Lion Portal](#) to update Leo club member, officer, and service activity information.

The Leo club advisor should receive a package* soon containing Leo club organization materials, which includes:

- 1 Leo Certificate of Organization
- 2 Leo Club Sponsorship Recognition Awards
- 1 Leo Club Sponsor Kit
- 1 Leo Club Officer Kit
- Leo lapel pins for each originating member of the new Leo club (up to a maximum of 100 pins)

During a special ceremony, present the Certificate of Organization and recognize Leo members with the Leo lapel pins. Recognize the Leo club advisor, sponsoring Lions club president and/or a Leo who was instrumental in organizing the new club with the sponsorship recognition certificates. Additional sponsorship recognition certificates are available upon request by emailing leo@lionsclubs.org.

If you have any additional questions about your new Leo club, please contact us at leo@lionsclubs.org. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leoclubs>.

Congratulations and best wishes for success to you and the members of your new Leo club!

DISTRICT 11-E1 IMPORTANT REMINDER

CLUB OFFICER REPORTING FOR 2026–2027

It is time to enter your club's incoming officers for the **2026–2027 Lions Year** into the Lions Portal.

Accurate and timely officer reporting helps ensure your club:

- ✓ Receives important district and LCI communications
- ✓ Maintains access to Lions Portal resources
- ✓ Allows incoming officers to receive training materials and support
- ✓ Starts the new Lions year successfully

Officers That Need To Be Reported:

- Club President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice Presidents
- Membership Chairperson
- LCIF Coordinator
- Service Chairperson
- Other club leadership positions

HOW TO REPORT OFFICERS

Step 1:

Log into the Lions Portal

Step 2:

Select your club

Step 3:

Go to:

Club Management → Officers

Step 4:

Enter incoming officers for the 2026–2027 Lions year

Step 5:

Save and submit your updates

PLEASE COMPLETE ASAP

Only a portion of District 11-E1 clubs have completed officer reporting so far. Please help us achieve 100% club reporting before the start of the new Lions year.

QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE?

Contact:

IPDG Jeff Schafer

✉ Jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

☎ Text/Call: 812-325-3130

Lion Peggy Frank (District Administrator)

pfrank1219@yahoo.com

616-217-6840

Together We Serve • Together We Lead • Together We Grow



Visit LionsForum.org
for more information

80+
LEARNING
SEMINARS

**EARLY
REGISTRATION
ENDS MARCH 31, 2025**



Scan Here
to register



Recommended layout for display board layout using graphics printed on 8.5x 11" paper. Suggest using heavier paper to print. Be as creative as you like so long as the information and QR code are included.



A RECORD OF DEVELOPING LEADERS

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2026

Memphis, Tennessee



**THURSDAY EVENING
45th ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

Celebrate a 50 years of the USA-Canada Lions Leadership Forum with a special evening of the formal, festive, food and beverage with other Lions and LPOs.

**1
ANNIVERSARY
PARTY**

**4
INSPIRATIONAL
SPEAKERS
during meals**



FRIDAY LUNCHEON

SEPTIMAR KROGER (Speaker and Luncheon) will discuss Lions involvement in the community and the importance of the Lions in the community. She will also discuss the importance of the Lions in the community and the importance of the Lions in the community.

SATURDAY LUNCHEON

2025-2027 Lions International President will discuss the importance of the Lions in the community and the importance of the Lions in the community.



SATURDAY EVENING



AMERICAN FLOID will discuss the importance of the Lions in the community and the importance of the Lions in the community.



LEADING THE WAY



Leader Dogs for the Blind & Lions Newsletter

July 2026



Happy new Lions year! This year at Leader Dog we are expanding our pilot programs and continuing to provide life-changing services to people who are blind or low vision around the world. Let's get started on another year of impact!

Do you have a new club president? Email LionsSupport@leaderdog.org with their contact information so we can keep you updated on the Lions & Leader Dog partnership. Also share your district directory so we can stay in touch with your governors.

Thank you, Lions of the Eastern United States!

Lion Claudia Gregory, Manager of Philanthropy, pictured with Canine Ambassador Meiyo.

Over the past year, it has been an absolute privilege to travel across the Eastern states, connecting deeply with the Lions family at various conventions, club meetings, and special events. Together, we have achieved incredible reach: I personally attended 21 events—with 3 more already on the calendar—and connected with many more Lions through 8 virtual presentations. Our collective impact was further magnified by our incredible network, as our clients attended 20 other events, 19 events were supported by dedicated district Leader Dog Chairs and other volunteers and team members, and 15 events were proudly represented by our inspiring puppy raisers.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for requesting our presence and display materials early. This is what allows me to seamlessly schedule and coordinate more than 80 events throughout the year. **Your dedication, hospitality, and unwavering enthusiasm are the driving forces behind our shared mission. Every handshake, shared story, and successful event reinforces the power of our partnership, and I encourage you to keep up this amazing momentum.** Thank you for your continued support, your passion, and for everything you do to change lives in our communities, while also helping to keep the legacy of our founders thriving!



LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND

LeaderDog.org | LionsSupport@leaderdog.org



Lions International

Connecting with the Lions in Central U.S.



Lion Kelsey Martin Gardner, Director of Philanthropy, pictured with DGE Patty Bryand, IPDG Nancy Wood, and PID Deb Weaverling.

This year has been filled with opportunities to explore new places and build new connections. I enjoyed traveling to Louisiana, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Texas while Leader Dog clients shared their stories in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arkansas, North Dakota, and Missouri. On a visit to Okmulgee, OK, I connected with the Lions of MD-3 to share how Leader Dog's programs continue to change lives through the dedicated support of Lions. The visit was a wonderful chance to **strengthen relationships, celebrate our shared commitment to service, and recognize the incredible impact we can make together.**

Thank you to the Lions who welcomed me into your communities. It has been a pleasure meeting so many new Lions and reconnecting with familiar faces. Your continued advocacy, generosity, and dedication are making an incredible difference. Thank you for serving alongside us and making the 2025–2026 year so meaningful and successful!

Road Trip in the West

Lion Jess VandenBoom, Manager of Philanthropy, pictured with guide dog client Kayla and Leader Dog Thelma.

Over the last few months, I have had countless amazing conversations with Lions from across the United States and Canada. It was amazing to visit Lions of Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon at conventions this spring. **Thank you for so many warm welcomes and for sharing your passion for Lionism and the cause of vision with me.** Let's keep the conversation going to help more of your neighbors find the services they need at Leader Dog!



On my travels, I had so many priceless experiences. In Lamar, CO I was delighted by my first goat auction at the MD-6 convention. Over a few days, I bopped around Denver, got lunch in Kaycee, wandered around parks in Billings, got a beautiful book of poetry in Townsend, and had a perfect cup of coffee in Kalispell. In Columbia Falls, MT I met two fantastic Leos at the District 37 convention. A few weeks later, in Sun Valley, ID I went stargazing with a Leader Dog client at the MD-39 convention. **Thank you for sharing your home with me!**



LeaderDog.org | LionsSupport@leaderdog.org



Bear Lake Camp July News

Lion Steve Glazier

District 11E1 Chairperson

lionsbearlakecamp.org (information site and sign up for Bear Lake Camp free Newsletter)



Hi Fellow Lions! First off a "Big Thanks" to Governor Jeff Schafer for all his support to ur our District and to Lions Bear Lake Camp during his tenure.

Lions Bear Lake Camp opened back in July 2000 with just 53 campers. Thanks to our amazing Michigan Lions, we just hosted a record-breaking 1,506 youth campers with special needs over 11 weeks in 2025! While summer camp isn't the only thing we do, it's always been the heart of who we are.

Our philosophy is simple: we want every camper to have fun, feel safe, and try new adventures. Camp is a place to gain confidence, build independence, learn outdoor skills, and make lifelong friends in a truly supportive community.

Just a quick reminder from last month's newsletter: Bear Lake Camp is officially launching our **Pantry Donation Challenge** to get ready for the hundreds of kids heading our way this summer!

The Kitchen Wish list

Because we cook in huge commercial volumes, we need specific items to keep things running smoothly and meet state standards. Please make sure everything is newly purchased, unexpired, and undamaged.

We are looking for:

- **#10 giant cans** of fruits and veggies
- **Bulk soups** and sauces
- **Kid-friendly snacks** and juice boxes
- **Everyday pantry** staples

 **How Your Club Can Help** This is a super easy project to pitch to your local clubs and neighbors. There are plenty of ways to pitch in:

- **Team up:** Organize a big group collection drive with your club.

- **Go solo:** Ask members to just grab a few extra items next time they grocery shop.
- **Share:** Pass around the attached flyer to help get the word out.

Easy Pickup & Delivery

Every single can and box helps cut down our operational costs, meaning more funds go straight toward making camp amazing for the kids. Ready to donate? We'll make it easy:

- A Flyer is attached below and ready to share. We would greatly appreciate your help promoting this challenge and encouraging participation across your areas and in your club.
- If clubs are interested in participating in this food pantry collection contact me and I will make arrangements for pick up in our district and deliver to Bear Lake for this years Summer Camp
- Steve Glazier 231-835-1238 or Contact Traci Tribbley (Camp Director) 989-245-0726
traci@bearlakecamp.org for pick up arrangements as noted in below attachment...

Whether you support Lions Bear Lake Camp financially as a State Project or buy a few extra groceries for this drive, you are keeping camp affordable for our amazing special needs campers and their families. Thank you so much for always stepping up!

Some stories stay with us for decades because they quietly shape who we become. Landon Polley recently shared a reflection on the three summers he spent at Bear Lake Camp as a child, and his words are a powerful reminder that camps are about far more than activities—they are about belonging, confidence, independence, and the lasting impact of everyday kindness.

As Landon approaches 20 years as an educator himself, he looks back on how those experiences helped shape the person and teacher he became. We are honored to share his story and grateful that Bear Lake could be part of that journey.

Three Summers at Bear Lake
By Landon T. Polley BA, ABSH

~

As I approach my 20th year as a public-school teacher, I've been thinking about the moments that shaped the person—and educator—I became. Not long ago, a casual conversation with my mother about summer plans and a possible camping trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula turned into the kind of evening when time loosens. Old-fashioned beaded with condensation as one story led to another, until I found myself drifting toward a place I hadn't visited in decades: Bear Lake Camp, where I spent three summers nearly 33 years ago. Looking back now, I see it for what it was—far more than a camp experience, and an early lesson in what belonging can do.

As a kid, I was simply excited to go to camp. Only later did I realize I was among the first campers selected just a few years after the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990—a turning point that expanded access for people with disabilities. Bear Lake was part of that shift; inclusion was built into everyday life. For many children with visual impairments in the 1980s and early 1990s, misunderstanding

and low expectations were common. I wasn't blind, but I did have low vision, and I learned early how quickly people can underestimate what they don't understand. Bear Lake offered something radically different: the chance to belong. I remember the screen-door slap of the cabins, gravel under my shoes, and the clean scent of pine—small cues that helped me feel oriented and at ease. There, I built fires, practiced archery, swam, and whittled wood—simple joys I still seek out today. Most of all, I learned what it felt like to be seen for my potential rather than my limitations.

Now, as a middle school teacher, I tell my students that what we say and do can linger longer than we expect. Bear Lake proved that to me, and I try to carry that. I lean into environmental learning that gets students outside and paying attention to the world in front of them, and I still believe in hands-on, tactile work over heavy technology—books open, pencils in hand, ideas made real through doing. Bear Lake didn't exist in isolation. It was part of a broader effort to make spaces like this possible for children with disabilities—and I remember it changing in real time. Helicopters landed during early construction, rotors chopping the air as everyone paused to watch. Even then, it felt like something bigger was being built: not just buildings, but access. In Michigan, my grandmother helped people with disabilities leave institutions and build lives in the community, and my mother spent her career in disability advocacy, including work in Lansing to push for stronger access and opportunity. Bear Lake belonged to that same push forward, and being there helped me believe I could expect more from the world—and from myself.

That is the lasting gift Bear Lake gave me. It wasn't just three summers of activities; it was practice living independently in a world that didn't always make room for kids like me. At the archery line, I learned to trust my process—the curve of the bow in my grip, the feel of the arrow set in place, a coach's steady voice nearby, and the quiet before release, followed by the soft thunk downrange that told me I'd done it. No one rushed in to take over; they coached, waited, and let me try again. Years later, in my own classroom, I still carry what Bear Lake taught me: belonging is built through expectations, patience, and everyday kindness. Bear Lake helped build my confidence, my independence, and the life I went on to lead.

See less

Partial view of Lions Bear Lake Camp Campus





LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP PANTRY CHALLENGE



Stock the Shelves. Support the Mission. Make an Impact.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

Lions Clubs and Individuals are invited to come together and help stock our kitchen with specific, high-use items that directly support our campers. These are not general donations. These are the exact items we rely on every single day.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES – PLEASE READ

Items must be NEW and recently purchased
NO expired, dented, or damaged items
Must match EXACT sizes and descriptions
Preferred store: Gordon Food Service (GFS)

#10 CANS (FOODSERVICE SIZE ONLY) (preferably in cases of 6)

#10 Cans Diced Pineapple
#10 Cans Applesauce
#10 Cans Mandarin Oranges
#10 Cans Green Beans
#10 Cans Carrots
#10 Cans Mixed Fruit
#10 Cans Apple Pie Filling
#10 Cans Cherry Pie Filling
#10 Cans Blueberry Pie Filling
#10 Cans Spaghetti Sauce
#10 Cans Salsa
#10 Cans Chickpeas
50 Ounce Cans Cream of Chicken Soup
50 Ounce Cans Tomato Soup

INDIVIDUAL SNACK ITEMS (SNACK SIZE ONLY)

Regular Lays Chips – Snack Size Bags
Fritos – Snack Size Bags
Lays Barbeque Chips – Snack Size Bags
Oreos – Individual Serving Snack Packs
Animal Crackers – Individual Serving Snack Packs
Rice Krispie Treats – Individual Snack Bars
Goldfish – Individual Snack Size Bags
Fruit Snacks – Individual Serving Bags

DRINKS

Non-Perishable Juice Boxes –
40 Count Cases Only

S'MORES & TREATS

Hershey Chocolate Bars – Full Size
Graham Crackers – Full Boxes
Marshmallows – Regular Size Bags

To coordinate drop off of donations contact:

Traci Tribley traci@bearlakecamp.org
Chrissy Andre chrissy@bearlakecamp.org



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

Quilt Raffle

Chance to win a handcrafted King Sized
Quilt by Jean Becher.



TICKET COST: \$1 EACH

The drawing will be held on the 14th of November 2026 during
the November Crafting Weekend Retreat at
Lion Bear Lake Camp, 3409 N Five Lakes Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446.

Contact 810-245-0726 for questions

Purchase tickets from any board member or visit
bearlakecamp.org to purchase

Raffle License # R86173



In October 2026, we are launching a new local leadership institute—***LionsEdge: Build Your Leadership Path***—and your role is critical to its success.

LionsEdge: Build Your Leadership Path is designed for Lions and Leos who are already achieving results and want to amplify them. Through intensive workshops across five areas of organizational sustainability—service, LCIF, new club development, recruitment and social media marketing—participants will compare methods, test solutions and build a trusted network of peers. Then, each participant selects a focus area, develops an actionable plan and commits to implementation after the institute. LionsEdge is where capable leaders become catalysts for larger impact—together.

A special ***LionsEdge*** session (English only) will take place October 2-4, 2026, in Chicago for 100 participants from Constitutional Area I. This is a key opportunity to shape the next generation of leadership.

We need your immediate support to identify and actively encourage strong candidates to apply by July 15, 2026. Application information is provided in the next 9 pages.





LionsEdge

BUILD YOUR
LEADERSHIP PATH

CHICAGO, IL, USA
OCTOBER 2 - 4, 2026
APPLICATION DUE DATE: JUNE 30, 2026

The purpose of LionsEdge: Build Your Leadership Path is to strengthen the association's leadership pipeline with skilled and innovative leaders who possess a vision for growing the impact of service on community wellbeing while also equipping them with skills and knowledge to be successful as a Lion and in life.

LionsEdge includes two components:

- (1) a three-day, in-person institute
- (2) a post-institute project to be completed independently

Applicant Qualifications

Candidates for LionsEdge should meet all qualifications before applying:

- Achieved success in **one or more** of the following areas:
 - Leading impactful service projects
 - Managing an LCIF grant
 - Chartering clubs
 - Recruiting new members
 - Administering a club or district social media page
- A member in good standing (required)
- Served as club president (recommended but not required).

Members serving or having served as Vice District Governor or higher are ineligible.

Participant Expectations

Upon acceptance to the institute, participants are obligated to:

- Attend all sessions of the 3-day institute.
- Arrange personal travel to and from the institute.
- Pay the non-refundable and non-transferable participant fee.
- Within 12 months of completing the institute:
 - Complete a post-institute project in a new impact area
 - Recruit *at least* one new member
 - Identify a mentor to support your next steps as a leader in your area

LIONSEGE: BUILDING YOUR
LEADERSHIP PATH



Lions International

LIONSEGE: BUILDING YOUR LEADERSHIP PATH

Chicago, IL, USA
October 2 – 4, 2026

Post-Institute Project

Detailed information regarding the post-institute project will be shared while onsite. Project options include:

- Organizing a new service project (or increasing the scope of an existing project)
- Applying for and implementing an LCIF grant
- Chartering a new club
- Implementing new member recruitment strategies that support recruitment across multiple clubs
- Administering a club or district social media page

Application Submission Process

Application Due Date: June 30, 2026

Submission of this application does not guarantee acceptance to the training. Ensure that your application is complete, and all questions have been thoroughly answered. Applications are evaluated based on the applicants' qualifications and experiences.

- Complete applications should be emailed to institutes@lionsclubs.org by the application due date above.
- Lions International will email a confirmation of receipt within 7-10 business days.
- Candidates will be notified of their application status approximately four weeks after the application deadline via the email address provided on this application form.

TIP: This application is in a fillable PDF format for your convenience. To type directly into the form, you'll need Adobe Reader, which you can download for free at <https://www.adobe.com>. For best results, download the application from the Lions International website and save it to your computer before filling it out.



LIONSEGE: BUILDING YOUR LEADERSHIP PATH

Chicago, IL, USA
October 2 – 4, 2026

1. Applicant Information

First/Given Name: _____ Last/Family Name: _____
District: _____ Member Number: _____
Email*: _____ Phone Number: _____

**Required information for all institute correspondence; it is recommended that you provide a unique, personal email address.*

State/Province: _____ Country: _____
Club Number: _____ Club Name: _____
Current Lions Title: _____
**Highest Lions Title: _____

***Members serving or having served as Vice District Governor or higher are ineligible.*

Have you served as a club president in the last 5 years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

→ If yes, did you receive the Club Excellence Award the year you served as president? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I confirm that I can understand and actively participate through reading, writing, and fluent speaking skills in the language(s) of the institute.

2: Personal Interest

1. Lions International needs strong leaders at all levels. Please describe your leadership aspirations and how you hope to grow as a leader over the next 5 years. (250 word limit)



LIONSEGE: BUILDING YOUR LEADERSHIP PATH

Chicago, IL, USA
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3. Club Chartering

☐ *I have been a member of a team that has chartered a club in the last five years.*

☐ *I have received a club extension award in the last five years.*

☐ *I have served as a Global Extension Team coordinator at the district or MD level.*

If you selected any of the boxes above, please share something you learned from the experience which could benefit others. (250 word limit)

4. New Member Recruitment

☐ *I have received a recruitment award in the last 5 years.*

☐ *I have participated in a membership growth initiative in the last 5 years.*

☐ *I have served as a Global Membership Team coordinator at the district or MD level.*

If you selected any of the boxes above, please share something you learned from the experience which could benefit others. (250 word limit)

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3. Lions Resume

Applicants should demonstrate experience and success in one or more of the following five focus areas. To ensure a balanced experience for all participants, the selection process will consider the overall composition of the participant group to ensure all five focus areas are represented.

1. Service Impact

- ☐ *I have led/co-led/played a key role in a service project in my club in the last five years.*
- ☐ *I have received a service award in the last five years.*
- ☐ *I have used Lions International's [Service Journey](#) resources to implement a service project in my club.*
- ☐ *I have served as a Global Service Team coordinator at the district or MD level.*

If you selected any of the boxes above, please share something you learned from the experience which could benefit others. (250 word limit)

2. LCIF Engagement

- ☐ *I have assisted with applying for an LCIF grant at the club or district level in the last five years.*
- ☐ *I have led/co-led/played a key role in implementing an LCIF-funded project at the club or district level in the last five years.*
- ☐ *I have served as a Lions Quest Chairperson in the last five years.*
- ☐ *I have earned an award for increasing donations to LCIF as an LCIF club or district coordinator in the last five years.*

If you selected any of the boxes above, please share something you learned from the experience which could benefit others. (250 word limit)



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3. Club Chartering

☐ *I have been a member of a team that has chartered a club in the last five years.*

☐ *I have received a club extension award in the last five years.*

☐ *I have served as a Global Extension Team coordinator at the district or MD level.*

If you selected any of the boxes above, please share something you learned from the experience which could benefit others. (250 word limit)

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If you selected any of the boxes above, please share something you learned from the experience which could benefit others. (250 word limit)

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5. Training

- ☐ *I have served as a facilitator for local Lions training events in the last 5 years.*
- ☐ *I have been a participant at one or more local Lions training events in the last 5 years.*
- ☐ *I have completed one or more courses in the Lions Learning Center.*

6. Marketing

Indicate your level of involvement with your club or district's social media page within the last 5 years.
(Choose all that apply.)

- ☐ *I have managed/co-managed the social media page*
- ☐ *I post regularly*
- ☐ *I don't contribute*
- ☐ *My club or district does not have a social media page*
- ☐ *I have served as a club or district marketing chairperson in the last 5 years.*

Rate your personal social media presence.

- ☐ *I do not use social media*
- ☐ *I have social media accounts but rarely post*
- ☐ *I occasionally post or share content*
- ☐ *I regularly post and interact with others*
- ☐ *I actively create content and engage with a large audience*

If you selected any of the boxes above, please share something you learned from the experience which could benefit others. (250 word limit)



LIONSEGE: BUILDING YOUR LEADERSHIP PATH

Chicago, IL, USA
October 2 – 4, 2026

4. Acknowledgement & Signatures

Applicant

If selected to attend, I understand and agree to the following:

- ☐ I will attend all sessions of the 3-day institute.
- ☐ I will complete post-institute requirements within 12 months of completing the institute.
- ☐ I will arrange my personal travel to and from the institute.
- ☐ Pay the non-refundable and non-transferable participant fee.
- ☐ **Participant Responsibility and Insurance Recommendation:** Participation at institutes is voluntary. I understand that Lions International is not responsible for personal costs related to lost or stolen property, unanticipated or other personal events, or expenses associated with illness such as medical treatment or the need to extend my stay, including hotel accommodations and meals during this time. It is recommended that participants have travel/medical insurance to cover these or other unforeseen expenses.
- ☐ **Cancellation/No Show Policy:** I understand and agree that if I am accepted to attend LionsEdge and subsequently cancel my participation without submitting written notice to institutes@lionsclubs.org at least 15 days prior to the start of the institute, my district will be billed US\$200 to offset hotel and meal expenses incurred on my behalf.

Applicant Name

Signature

District Signature: District Governor/District Governor-Elect Name

By signing below, I confirm:

- ☐ I have reviewed this application and verify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ The applicant demonstrates the readiness and competencies to successfully participate in the LionsEdge: Build Your Leadership Path institute.
- ☐ If accepted, I will support the applicant in implementing and completing their LionsEdge project within 12 months of attending the institute.

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- ☐ **Cancellation/No Show Policy:** I understand and agree that if the above-named applicant from my district is accepted to attend LionsEdge and subsequently cancels their participation without submitting written notice to institutes@lionsclubs.org at least 15 days prior to the start of the institute, our district will be billed US\$200 to offset hotel and meal expenses incurred on their behalf.

Signature

Date _____

By signing below, I confirm:

- ☐ I have reviewed this application and verify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ The applicant demonstrates the readiness and competencies to successfully participate in the LionsEdge: Build Your Leadership Path institute.
- ☐ If accepted, I will support the applicant in implementing and completing their LionsEdge project within 12 months of attending the institute.
- ☐ **Cancellation/No Show Policy:** I understand and agree that if the above-named applicant from my district is accepted to attend LionsEdge and subsequently cancels their participation without submitting written notice to institutes@lionsclubs.org at least 15 days prior to the start of the institute, our district will be billed US\$200 to offset hotel and meal expenses incurred on their behalf.

Signature

Date _____



Lions International

Chapter Chronicles

Baldwin Lions Club



Luther Lions Club

June 20th, our last Bingo for the season. Doors open at 5pm. Early Bird Specials at 5:30pm and Regular Bingo starts at 6:00pm. Food available for purchase. Hope to See You There!

Sept. 26th, Annual Auction.

Oct. 7th, 2nd Annual RIDE for Charities.

Nov. 14th, Craft Show and Bake Sale. 10am-4pm

Dec. 24th, Sheriff Martin's "Toy Give Away"

Empire Lions Club

Empire Lion Dianne Hammersmith receiving the Lion of the Year Award from last year's winner, Lion Mike Bolton during the Empire Lions Club annual Charter Dinner.



Greenville Lions Club



Induction of 2026 – 2027 Lions Club President/Officers/Board Members

Congratulations to the New King Lion John Hoppough! We look forward to a Great Year! Thank you, Past President Lion Ed Milam, for you past 2 years of Service and Leadership. Right picture (from left to right): Past President Ed Milam, new club President King John Hoppough



Lions Food Booth at the Montcalm County 4-H Fair, June 22 - 27

What a great week of weather and for everyone that helped with working the Lions Food Booth at the Montcalm County 4-H Fair. A special thank you to all the Lions, Friend and Family that helped with many hours of work and make this another successful year!

Harrison Lions Club

HARRISON LIONS CLUB ESTABLISHES THE JERRY BRANDT SCHOLARSHIP AT HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL



Each year a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a boy and a girl to be used toward higher education. Left picture is PDG Jerry Brandt and right picture (left to right) is Evan Umphrey, Lion Don Kolander and Haley Neff.



Rosemary Bird of Harrison (District Peace Poster winner) was inducted by ZC Chuck Dinsmore as the first Leo member.