



District 11-E1

Oct 2026 Newsletter

Michigan Lions Serving 16 Counties & 35 Clubs!



Upcoming

Governor's Visits

Midland

October 20

Coleman

Charter Night

October 23

White Cloud

Anniversary

October 24

Big Rapids

October 26

Greenville

November 2

Cadillac

November 17

Governor's Corner:

Happy Fall Lions of 11 E -1!

I want to congratulate you all! Our District is in positive numbers for our membership!

Let's keep it going! More members mean we can provide more service!

I have just returned from the Council of Governors meeting last weekend.

I have a couple of things I brought back that need attention.

Our District has 13 out of 35 clubs that are delinquent in paying their dues. The previous policy was there was a 150-day grace period before going into suspension. The new policy is only 90 days before going into suspension. Please check with your treasurer. Make sure they understand you have to go online to get the statement.

On a more exciting note, our Lions have a chance to volunteer at the USA/Canada Leadership Forum! This is coming to Grand Rapids, September 21-23, 2028! If you have never attended a Forum, it is an excellent chance to meet Lions and learn more ways to serve, fund raise or develop your leadership skills!

I would like to challenge our clubs to schedule a new type of vision screening. Our state office now has a screener for Diabetic Retinopathy. This is a wonderful way to support our community of people with Diabetes! Talk to your club, get one scheduled.

In closing, I am beginning my travels around our district. If you would like me to come at a certain meeting, please get ahold of me!

Let's all be "Rooted in Service"
DG Laura Johnson



Diabetic Retinopathy Awareness: Protecting Your Vision

October is Vision Awareness Month, making it a good time to remind our community about the importance of protecting our eyesight, especially for people living with diabetes.

Diabetic retinopathy is a diabetes-related eye condition that can damage blood vessels in the retina. In its early stages, it may cause no noticeable symptoms. Regular eye examinations and early detection are important because treatment can prevent or slow vision loss.

The Lions District is helping bring greater awareness to diabetic eye disease through screening. Our Lions District has a diabetic retinopathy screening camera, similar to the camera used in our KidSight screening program. This technology can help identify changes in the eye that may need further evaluation by an eye-care professional.

A screening is not a substitute for a complete dilated eye exam. However, it can be an important tool for identifying people who may need to seek professional eye care.

We encourage everyone with diabetes to talk with their doctor and eye-care professional about recommended eye exams and to seek medical attention if they notice changes in their vision.

Through education, screening, and early detection, we can work together to help protect the precious gift of sight.

Lions District — Serving Our Communities and Helping Protect Vision





Hans Neidhardt International Director VIP Guest at District Conference

Hans Neidhardt from Potwin, Kansas, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 105th International Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 7 through July 11, 2023.

Director Neidhardt is a retired Colonel with 39 years of service in the United States Air Force. After retiring from his career in the military he served another eight years as a special education paraprofessional/substitute teacher. Since 2020, he has been fully retired.

Inspired by their community service and camaraderie, Director Neidhardt became a Lion in 1981 after joining the Potwin Lions Club. Since 2015, he has served with the Towanda Lions Club. He has held a number of offices within the association including more than 15 years of service as multiple district council treasurer. He has also served as the Great Plain Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) curriculum coordinator and registrar as well as a GPLLI facilitator.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including multiple International President's Awards, International President's Certificates of Appreciation and an International President's Leadership Award. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Neidhardt is active in numerous professional and community organizations including more than 40 years of membership with the American Legion. He is the recipient of several military distinctions and honors including KSANG Company Grade Officer of the Year, the USAF Legion of Merit, and the Kansas Medal of Excellence.

Director Neidhardt and his wife, Shari, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have two children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

2026 Lions District 11E1 October News

Lion Steve Glazier District
11E1 Chairperson

bearlakecamp.org Camp information and Camp Newsletter site



Below are excerpts from our Executive Camp Director Traci Pohoda Bear Lake Camps September Newsletter

Welcome to Our Summer Wrap Up Edition!

What a summer it has been at Lions Bear Lake Camp! More than 11 weeks of camp, over 1,300 kids, 19,500 meals served between June and August, countless memories, and plenty of memories made..



BEAR LAKE CAMP NEWSLETTER

October 2026 Edition

A Message from the Pride: Turning Leaves and Full Hearts

There is something truly magical about autumn at **Lions Bear Lake Camp**. After **11 incredible weeks of summer camp** and watching more than **1,300 inspiring kids** pass through our gates, the sudden quiet takes a moment to get used to!

Our summer was beautifully loud, fast-paced, and exhausting in the best way possible. It was a season defined by campers trying things for the first time, overcoming fears, and building friendships that turned strangers on Sunday into inseparable friends by Friday. We watched music carry across the campus, heard laughter echoing from the cabins, and saw families creating unforgettable memories together.

To our incredible Lions, Leos, volunteers, and donors: A summer this massive simply doesn't happen without you. Because you stepped up to serve, our dedicated staff could work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our campers safe, fed, and smiling. You are the heartbeat of Bear Lake Camp!

What's Next?

Summer camp may be wrapped up, but Bear Lake is just getting started! We are moving right into our busy autumn retreat season. The mornings are crisp, the leaves are turning vibrant colors around the lake, and new groups are already filling the cabins. It's a different kind of busy, but one we look forward to every year.

Double the Celebration!

While the camp was transitioning from one beautiful season to the next, our Executive Director was doing the same. As soon as the summer camp season wrapped up, **Traci and Mike and Traci got married!** Please join the entire Lions family in congratulating Traci on her new chapter as a newlywed!

Camp activities include a variety of things such as trail hikes,

wheelchair accessible paved trails, rope climbing, , team building games and challenges, group bonding, bonfires, swimming, camp fire smores, songs, crafts, fishing, boating, archery, 50 foot climbing tower, zip line and so much more!. **And get this, we are fully approved to accommodate both kids and adults with mobility issues on the tower rock climb and the ever popular zip line, so nobody has to sit out on the adventure!**

We have many partnerships allowing us to host several additional Summer Camp week opportunities for kids with specific special needs.

Mark Your Calendars: Exciting Events Coming Up at Lions Bear Lake Camp!

We have an incredible lineup of events scheduled over the coming months, and we want you to be a part of them! Whether you are looking to challenge yourself physically, enjoy an unforgettable meal, or give back to the camp community, there is something here for everyone.

Save these dates and join us for the fun:

- **The Polar Ice Plunge**
- **When:** January 30, 2027
- **What:** Brave the freeze! Take a chilly dip to help us raise warmth and funds for camp programs. Last year we woke up to “Zero” degrees but it wa a record \$\$\$ event.
- **Wild Game Dinner** 🍖
- **When:** April 10, 2027
- **What:** A culinary adventure featuring buffalo, boar, and other incredible wild game dishes.
- **Spring Workbee (Campus Clean-Up)** 🧹 ****If you can only make one event I recommend this one to attend. Plus free overnite camp lodging, Bring your own bedding.**
- **When:** May 8, 2027
- **What:** Grab your work gloves and help us refresh the campus ahead of the summer season.
- **Lions Bear Lake Golf Classic** 🏌️
- **When:** June 7, 2027
- **What:** Hit the links for a fantastic day of golf, camaraderie, and fundraising.
- **Annual Open House** 🏠
- **When:** June 27, 2027
- **What:** Tour the camp, meet our team, and see firsthand the impact your support makes.

Want to register, volunteer, or buy tickets?

Stay tuned to our Bear Lake Camp website or keep reading Dist. 11E1 newsletters for full details and registration links as each event gets closer. We can't wait to see you there!

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP ICE PLUNGE & DINNER FUNDRAISER

JANUARY 30, 2027 2:00PM

**3409 N. FIVE LAKES RD
LAPEER, MI 48446**

ICE PLUNGE REGISTRATION FEE & PLEDGES

There is a \$50 registration fee to jump. Jumpers may collect pledges to support Lions Bear Lake Camp. The Jumper that raises the most money will receive a commemorative plaque. Based on pledge amounts, Jumpers Receive:

\$50 Registration Fee: Plunge, Dinner, T-shirt, Medal

\$100 or More: Plunge, Dinner, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal

\$250 or More: Plunge, Dinner, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal, Beanie

\$500 or More: Priority Jump, Dinner, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal, Beanie, Hoodie, Duffle Bag

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Sponsorships support the event. Pledges are collected by participants to reach prize levels—two separate ways to make a difference.

Event Sponsorship Opportunities

Polar Legend Sponsor - \$2,500

Exclusive top placement of Sponsor's Logo on T-shirt and sponsor banner, Recognition as Presenting Sponsor during event announcements & speaking opportunity, Recognition on Social Media, Table of 8 Complimentary Dinner Tickets, 2 Complimentary Jumpers, 1 Ice Plunge T-shirt, Premium Sponsor Plaque

Sub Zero Hero Sponsor \$1,000

Sponsor's Logo will be featured on back of T-shirt and sponsor banner, Recognition on Social Media, 2 Complimentary Jumpers, 4 Complimentary Dinner Tickets, 1 Ice Plunge T-shirt, Sponsor Plaque.

Arctic Champion Sponsor \$500

Sponsor's name or Logo will be featured on back of T-shirt, Recognition on Social Media, 2 Complimentary Dinner Tickets, 1 Complimentary Jumper, 1 Ice Plunge T-Shirt.

Frosty Friends Sponsor \$250

Sponsor's name will be featured on back of T-shirt, Recognition on Social Media, 2 Dinner Tickets, 1 Ice Plunge T-Shirt.

Ice Breaker Sponsor \$100

Sponsor's name will be featured on back of T-shirt. Recognition on Social Media.

Donations Welcome!!!

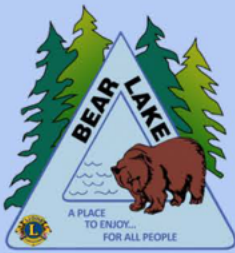
Donated raffle and prize items are appreciated.

Donors will be acknowledged throughout the event via announcements

Please visit the "Events" page on bearlakecamp.org or send check to:

**Lions Bear Lake Camp
3409 N. Five Lakes Rd
Lapeer, MI 48446**





Lions Bear Lake Camp 5th Annual Ice Plunge Pledge Form



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP, A 501-C3 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING PREMIER OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES TO ALL, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY. ESTABLISHED IN JULY 2000, WE'VE SERVED OVER 10,000 CAMPERS, FOSTERING LEADERSHIP AND CONFIDENCE IN INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH VISUAL AND HEARING IMPAIRMENTS.

**EVENT DETAILS: JANUARY 30TH, 2027
3409 N FIVE LAKES RD. LAPEER, MI 48446**

JOIN ME IN THE THRILL OF THE LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP 5TH ANNUAL ICE PLUNGE AS I HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THIS FANTASTIC CAUSE. YOUR SUPPORT WILL DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCES FOR YOUTH WITH VISUAL AND HEARING IMPAIRMENTS.



Make a Pledge Online

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

NAME	PLEDGE	EMAIL	PHONE

◆ bearlakecamp.org

◆ 810-245-0726

TOTAL

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING MONEY AND TURNING IT IN BY JAN 30, 2027

LIONS OF MICHIGAN | MD-11

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PINS

Celebrate our legacy. Wear your Lions pride!



Our District 11-E1 pin will highlight E1
where this sample photo shows B1.

\$2.75 EACH

A keepsake to treasure. A gift to share.

Order one for yourself, a fellow Lion, or your club members.

**PLACE YOUR ADVANCE ORDER
WITH DG LAURA JOHNSON**

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Fall Conference / Parade of Checks
2nd District 11-E1 Town Hall Meeting

ORDERS DUE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Submit your order to DG Laura Johnson by October 25, 2026.



WE SERVE. WE CELEBRATE. WE REMEMBER.

District Team

District Governor:

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

1st Vice District Governor:

Vacant

2nd Vice District Governor:

Roger Gilbert (Mt. Pleasant)
(989) 330-1908
sullysdad@chartermi.net

Cabinet Secretary:

Donna Vangessel (White Cloud)
(813)-713-4909
walmartredhead@yahoo.com

Cabinet Treasurer:

Jaymie Ricksgers (Weidman)
(805) 551-0248
jaymie.ricksgers@gmail.com

Global Membership Chair:

PDG Jackie Glazier
(231) 534-4932
Jackieglazier14@yahoo.com

Global Leadership Chair:

IPDG Jeff Schafer (Coleman)
(812) 325-3130
jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Global Service Chair:

Steve Adsmond (Fremont)
(231) 740-7076
adsmond@comcast.net

LCIF Chair:

PDG Sheryl Schafer (Coleman)
(812) 325-7762
sheryl.schafer1@comcast.net

District Administrator:

Peggy Frank (White Cloud)
(616) 217-6840
pfrank1219@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:

Paula Rigling (Arcadia)
(512) 791-4701
district11E1Newsletter@gmail.com

Prayer Corner

With deep sadness, the Lions of Michigan District 11-E1 extend our heartfelt condolences to **Lion Ron Sharp (Midland Lions Club)** and his family following the sudden passing of his wife, Karen, on Friday, October 9, while attending a wedding in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Lion Ron currently serves as our District IT Chair and the Assistant MD-11 Lions of Michigan IT Chair, has previously served as District Leader Dogs for the Blind Chairperson and as a Leader Dog puppy raiser. During this difficult time, we stand beside him with the friendship and compassion of his Lions family.

Please keep Ron and his family in your thoughts and prayers. May the love of family and friends, and the cherished memories of Karen, bring comfort and peace in the days ahead.

With deepest sympathy,
Your Lions family of District 11-E1

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 INTERNATIONAL
Peace Poster CONTEST
Young Artists. Big Dreams. Brighter Futures.

2026-2027 THEME: HARMONY IN HUMANITY

We invite youth ages 11-13 to express their vision of peace through art. Show us a world where people of different cultures and backgrounds live together in harmony—celebrating differences, finding common ground, and treating one another with respect and kindness.

Creativity today. Peace tomorrow.

IMPORTANT DATES

Icon	Date	Event
Shopping Cart	OCTOBER 1	Deadline to purchase Peace Poster Contest kits from the Lions Shop.
Envelope	NOVEMBER 15	Lions International's postmark deadline for clubs to send their winning poster to the District Governor.
Calendar	NOVEMBER 20	DISTRICT DEADLINE DG Laura Johnson would like all district Peace Poster entries received by this date.
Mailbox	MAIL POSTERS TO:	DG Laura Johnson 1298 E. 15 Mile Rd. Bitely, MI 49309

QUESTIONS OR ARRANGE A DROP-OFF?

Call DG Laura: 231-250-0537
Email DG Laura: lionlaura1953@gmail.com

We can't wait to see the amazing artwork from our young artists!

Let's encourage the young artists in our communities to show us what "Harmony in Humanity" looks like!

For official contest information and resources, visit lionsclubs.org/peaceposter

KINDNESS INCLUSION RESPECT

Building Our District's Leadership Future: An Opportunity to Serve

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Leadership development is one of the cornerstones of a successful Lions district. Through the Global Leadership Team (GLT), Lions Clubs International encourages us to identify, develop, and mentor Lions who are willing to take on new responsibilities.

Strong leadership isn't simply about filling positions. It's about preparing Lions to serve effectively, strengthening our clubs, and ensuring that our district continues to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

As we begin another Lions year, we have an important leadership opportunity in District 11-E1.

District 11-E1 currently has a vacancy in the Office of First Vice District Governor for the 2026–2027 Lions Year

The First Vice District Governor plays a vital role in supporting the District Governor, gaining valuable leadership experience, and preparing to assume the responsibilities of District Governor for the following Lions year.

Filling this vacancy is particularly important because the First Vice District Governor is expected to become District Governor for 2027–2028, subject to applicable Lions Clubs International requirements and procedures.

We are seeking a qualified Lion who is willing to step forward, accept this responsibility, and help guide our district into the future.

What Are the Requirements to Fill the Vacancy?

Because this is a vacancy rather than a regularly scheduled election, the selection process is governed by **Article II, Section 6, of the District 11-E1 Bylaws**.

The following qualifications apply to a Lion seeking appointment to fill the vacant position.

A qualified candidate must:

1. Be an Active member in good standing.

The candidate must be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club that is in good standing within the applicable single or subdistrict.

2. Obtain Club Endorsement.

The candidate must secure the endorsement of their club or a majority of the clubs in the single district.

3. Have Club Leadership experience.

The candidate must have served, or must have served by the time they take office as First Vice District Governor, as an officer of a Lions club (President, Secretary, Treasurer, LCIF Coordinator) for a full term or a major portion (6 months + 1 day) of a term.

4. Have District Cabinet experience.

The candidate must have served, or must have served by the time they take office, as a member of the district cabinet (Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Treasurer, Region/Zone Chairperson, LCIF Coordinator, GET, GLT, GMT, or GST Chairperson for a full term or a major portion (6 months + 1 day) of a term.

5. Meet the nonconcurrent service requirement.

The Club Officer service and District Cabinet service described above must not have been completed concurrently.

6. Have not previously served a full term or major portion thereof as District Governor.

These qualifications are set out in Article II, Section 6, of the District 11-E1 Bylaws.

How Will the Vacancy Be Filled?

Our district's governing documents outline a specific process for filling a First Vice District Governor vacancy.

The process includes:

1. A special meeting will be convened.

The District Governor will convene an in-person or virtual meeting of the eligible Lions identified in Article II, Section 6, of the Bylaws.

Those eligible to receive invitations include:

- The Immediate Past District Governor (IPDG)

The Second Vice District Governor (SVDG)

- All Past International Directors (PIDs) and Past District Governors (PDGs) who are members in good standing of a Lions club in the district

2. Written invitations will be issued.

The District Governor, or the most recently serving available Past District Governor, must send written invitations at least **15 days before the meeting**.

3. Qualified candidates will be considered.

The attendees will appoint a qualified, club-endorsed Lion to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

4. Voting will take place.

Under Exhibit C of the District 11-E1 Constitution and Bylaws:

- Nominations may be made from the floor.
- Each eligible attendee may make one nomination.
- Voting will be conducted by written ballot.
- A simple majority is required.
- Additional ballots will be held if necessary to achieve a majority.

5. The results will be reported to Lions Clubs International.

The meeting chairperson must submit the voting results and evidence of invitations and attendance to the international office within seven days.

The complete procedures are outlined in Article II, Section 6, and Exhibit C of the District 11-E1 Constitution and Bylaws.

What Does the First Vice District Governor Do?

Serving as First Vice District Governor provides an opportunity to work closely with the District Governor while developing the skills needed for future district leadership.

Under our district's Bylaws, the First Vice District Governor is the chief administrative assistant and representative of the District Governor.

Responsibilities include:

- Supporting the district's membership growth efforts.
- Working toward the success of the current district plan.
- Helping develop future district leaders.
- Working with club leadership to identify and prepare Lions for leadership opportunities.
- Participating in cabinet meetings.
- Becoming familiar with the duties of the District Governor.
- Assisting with district convention planning and other district activities.

These responsibilities are outlined in Article III, Section 2, of the District 11-E1 Bylaws.

Additional District 11-E1 Responsibilities

Our district's Policy Manual also identifies several responsibilities for the First Vice District Governor, including:

- Attending all cabinet meetings.
- Attending region and zone meetings.
- Participating in the District Leadership Training Program.
- Representing the District Governor at official Lions functions when requested.
- Attending the District 11-E1 and Multiple District 11 conventions.
- Attending the USA/Canada Forum.

These responsibilities are outlined in Section C, Policy 6, of the October 2025 District 11-E1 Policy Manual.

Leadership Development Starts with Each of Us

You don't have to wait for a district leadership vacancy to begin preparing for greater responsibility.

At the club level:

- Volunteer to serve as a club officer.
- Participate in committees and service projects.
- Encourage newer members to take on leadership responsibilities.

At the district level:

- Attend leadership training opportunities.
- Participate in zone and region activities.
- Explore district committee assignments.
- Take advantage of Lions Clubs International leadership development resources.

As experienced Lions:

- Mentor newer members.
- Share your knowledge and experience.
- Encourage fellow Lions to consider leadership opportunities.

Every Lion has the Potential to make a Difference.

Our District's Future Depends on All of Us

Finding our next First Vice District Governor is an important step in preparing District 11-E1 for the future.

We encourage qualified Lions to learn more about this opportunity and consider how their experience, skills, and commitment to service could benefit our district.

Leadership is about more than holding an office. It's about helping our clubs succeed, developing other leaders, and ensuring that Lions can continue serving our communities for years to come.

Interested in Learning More?

If you are interested in exploring the First Vice District Governor opportunity, please contact:

District Governor: DG Laura Johnson, Cell/Text: 231-250-0537

District Global Leadership Team Coordinator: Jeff Schafer, Cell/Text: 812-325-3130

Please reach out to discuss the qualifications, responsibilities, and next steps in the appointment process.

Our District's future begins with Lions who are willing to Serve.

-Lion Jeff Schafer

IPDG 11-E1

Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator

Every Lion Makes a Difference: Supporting LCIF in District 11-E1

35 Clubs. 100% Participation. A Greater Impact.

The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) helps Lions expand their ability to serve through grants, disaster relief, and humanitarian projects. By supporting LCIF, our clubs and individual Lions help create opportunities to make a difference both locally and around the world.

Last Lion year, approximately **22 of our 35 clubs in District 11-E1 donated to LCIF**. This year, our goal is to achieve **100% club participation—35 out of 35 clubs making a donation**.

Your Support Can Make a Difference Right Here at Home

We often hear clubs say, *"We want our fundraising dollars to stay local."* We understand. Supporting our own communities is at the heart of Lions service.

However, **supporting LCIF can also help make local projects possible.**

Through the **District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) program**, qualifying donations to LCIF can help generate funding for approved humanitarian projects at the club or district level.

Fremont Lions: A Local Success Story

Last Lion year, the Fremont Lions Club was awarded a **\$3,000 DCG grant** to support the *Fremont Lake Park Playground Enhancement Project*. Working alongside the City of Fremont, Fremont Rotary Club, and other community partners, the Fremont Lions helped advance plans to renovate and improve the playground at Fremont Lake Park. The project includes new slides and climbing features, sensory play elements, Buddy Benches, and an ADA-accessible swing. The improvements are expected to benefit more than **1,300 Fremont Public School students, local families, and visitors**, including children who use wheelchairs.

This is an example of how LCIF grant funding can help Lions address important needs in their own communities.

LCIF Emergency Grants: Helping Michigan Communities

Last Lion year, District 11-E1 also received a **\$15,000 LCIF Emergency Grant** to support flood relief efforts in mid to northwest Michigan communities. When disasters strike, LCIF provides a resource that helps Lions respond to urgent humanitarian needs.

Our local clubs serve on the front lines. LCIF helps strengthen our ability to respond.

Every Contribution Counts

You don't have to make a large donation to support LCIF. Individual Lions can make either one-time or recurring contributions.

Consider what collective giving can accomplish:

Contribution	Annual Impact
\$5 one-time gift	\$5
\$10 one-time gift	\$10
\$5 monthly gift	\$60
\$10 monthly gift	\$120

For example, if 100 Lions each gave \$5 per month, together they would contribute **\$6,000 in one year**. Small gifts, combined with the generosity of Lions everywhere, help strengthen LCIF's ability to fund grants and humanitarian programs.

How Do Club Donations Help Fund DCG Grants?

Under LCIF's DCG program, qualifying unrestricted donations help establish funds that eligible clubs and districts can access for approved local projects.

- Generally, 15% of qualifying unrestricted donations (club or district donations) is set aside for DCG funding. If a club contributes at least \$5,000 in a fiscal year, they qualify for their own DCG fund.
- Funds earned during one fiscal year become available the following fiscal year.

A club's donation (under \$5,000) doesn't necessarily return directly to its own community, but it helps support the broader grant system (at the district level) that can make projects like Fremont's playground renovation possible.

Local giving and Global giving can Work Together.

Our Challenge: 35 Clubs. 100% Participation.

This year, let's work together to reach our goal of **35 out of 35 District 11-E1 clubs supporting LCIF**.

Whether your club makes a one-time donation or establishes a recurring contribution, your participation matters.

Individual Lions can also help by making a personal gift of \$5, \$10, or whatever amount fits their circumstances.

Together, We Can Do More!

The Fremont playground project and the \$15,000 emergency flood relief grant remind us of what is possible when Lions, clubs, and LCIF work together.

Support LCIF. Strengthen Lions. Expand Our Impact.

Contact **PDG Sheryl Schafer** (812-325-3130) for more information about LCIF or to schedule her to visit your club.



Lions of Michigan FOUNDATION Executive Summary

The Lions of Michigan Foundation is a public charity that was created in 1984 to help Michigan Lions Clubs provide community services. We work in partnership with our member Lions Clubs and other organizations to provide disadvantaged individuals and families with access to affordable medical care and services designed to help improve their quality of life.

While our programs encompass many areas, through screening, diagnosis, treatment, education and research, we primarily help underserved populations and financially struggling individuals who require assistance with eye care, hearing aids or an unexpected life event.

Through our KidSight Program, we aim to identify and help restore normal vision to children suffering from undiagnosed vision disorders that affect their ability to perform in school and develop on pace with their classmates.

Through our Eye Care Assistance Program, we help underinsured and financially struggling families with eye care and eyeglasses. We partner with regional and statewide eye care providers to maximize quality of service for our clients and minimize programs costs.

Through our Hearing Screening Program, our objective is to identify and treat hearing problems before they impede a child's learning and development and negatively impact a child or adult's quality of life.

Through our Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Program, we help low-income people with hearing loss maintain self-sufficiency through the provision of affordable hearing aids and audiology services.

Through our Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Program, we aim to identify and treat diabetic eye diseases during the onset of the disease to prevent vision loss and potential blindness. Diabetic eye diseases are the leading cause of preventable blindness in adults.

Through our Emergency Individual Assistance Program, we help uninsured and underinsured people who suffer from severe vision and hearing disorders that can only be corrected through surgical intervention or costly medical procedures.

Through our Emergency Military Family and Veterans Relief Program, we help current and former military members and their families with financial emergencies.

Through our Emergency Disaster Relief Program, we help people and families affected by natural disasters, including severe storms, flooding, fires and tornados. Funding is determined by the number of individuals and families affected by the disaster and the overall amount of losses incurred.

Through Donor Advised Funds, we partner with individuals, families, businesses and other non-profit organizations to provide charitable services that are important to the fund's primary donor or donors. Our status as a 501(c)(3) Public Charity allows us to create Donor Advised Funds that others can operate like their own family, private or corporate foundation. All contributions are tax-deductible; and we are responsible for sending receipts to the donors, disbursing funds at the donor's request, and reporting information to the IRS and other government agencies. Tax attorneys and accountants are not needed, donors simply contribute to the fund and decide what grants to make.

Lions of Michigan Foundation 2026-27 Officers



ALICE ZAJAC, PDG
PRESIDENT
akmsu@gmail.com
989-827-9614



PEGGY ALLEN, PCC
VICE PRESIDENT
Peggya7747@gmail.com
734-428-7034



JULIE MAYUIERS, PDG
PAST PRESIDENT
jumayuiers@gmail.com
269-254-1936



KURT STROMLUND, PDG
SECRETARY
stromlund@comcast.net
810-923-4252



KERRY MCGINLEY, PCT
TREASURER
Knm51@gmail.com
231-250-1092



BARB DURFLINGER, PDG
ASSISTANT TREASURER
lionbarb@comdac.com
989-742-2790



Save-The-Date

District 11-E1 2027 Convention

Saturday-Sunday, April 17-18, 2027

The Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan

More information will be provided in the December Newsletter

Lions of Michigan FOUNDATION



Eye Care Assistance



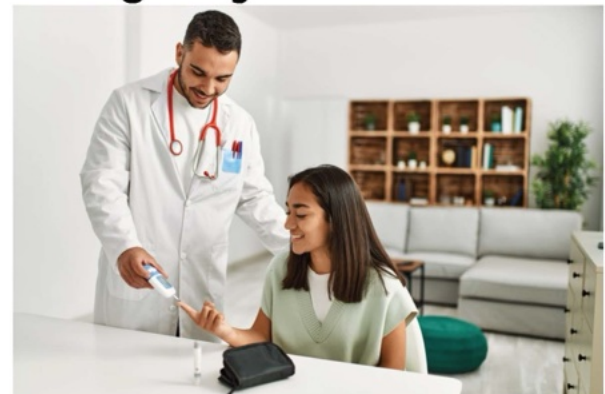
Affordable Hearing Aids



Emergency Disaster Relief



**Military and Veterans Families
Emergency Individual Assistance**



Medical Care and Equipment



LIONS OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION

Dr. Robert H. Mathog Lions Hearing Centers

From 1977, until his death in October 2014, Dr. Robert H. Mathog served as professor and chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Wayne State University, and he was also chief of Otolaryngology at Harper and Detroit Receiving Hospitals from 1977 to 2007.

As a staunch supporter of our Michigan Lions Clubs' efforts to fight hearing loss and provide affordable hearing aids for people in our state, Dr. Mathog established our first Lions Hearing Center at Detroit Medical Center in the year 1999, and he served as President and Chair until 2014.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCREENING PROGRAM

We provide hearing screenings for children at schools, churches, Head Start Programs, the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility, and at various health fairs and events.

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

We provide hearing screenings for seniors at community centers and events. Screenings are offered on location and at no cost to participants. Follow-up care and hearing evaluations are also provided through some participating providers, like the Michigan Ear Institute.

AFFORDABLE HEARING AID PROGRAM

For individuals without insurance coverage and who need help acquiring hearing aids, we provide new production multi-channel digital hearing aids from prominent hearing aid suppliers, including:

GN ReSound – www.gnresound.com – 800-248-4327

□ Vivia 4 □ Enzo Q 5 – BTE □ Enzo IA 4 – BTE

OTICON – www.oticon.com – 800-526-3921

□ Ruby 2 □ Ruby 2 – Power Plus – BTE

□ Ruby 2 – RITE & MiniRITE □ Xceed 3 – BTE

PHONAK – www.phonak.com - 630-699-5682 or 800-777-7333

□ Audeo L30 – RIC □ Naida L30 – RIC □ Virto I30 – ITE

SIGNIA – www.signia.net – 800-766-4500

□ Pure Charge&Go 2IX – RIC □ Styletto Charge&Go 2IX – RIC

□ Silk Charge&Go 2IX – CIC □ Motion Charge&Go X – BTE

□ Insio Charge&Go 2AX – ITC

STARKEY – www.starkey.com – 800-328-8602

□ Picasso 1200 □ Evolve AI 1200

UNITRON – www.unitronhearing.com – 763-744-3401 or 800-888-8882

□ Moxi B3 312 – RIC □ Stride B3-UP – BTE □ Inera B3 312 – ITE



EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

We distribute a wide range of educational resources on hearing health care at hearing screenings, health fairs and community events and through our website and social media.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, through an application process, we provide four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school students or current college students with documented hearing loss.

Congratulations Lions of Michigan

2026 Hall of Fame Inductees



PEGGY ALLEN
Council Chair 2017-2018

Peggy Allen began serving Lions before she was officially inducted, participating in District 11-B1 vision screenings and attending leadership training at the Higgins Lake Lions Leadership Institute. From her beginning in Lions, Peggy has shown exceptional motivation and commitment to her Lions Club and community. She continues to seek new challenges, answer the call to serve, and support her Lions Club, District, and the Lions of Michigan with unwavering dedication.



JULIE MAYUIERS
District Governor 2020-2021 & 2022-2023

Julie Mayuiers has been a member of the Three Rivers Lions Club for 14 years and is the only District Governor in District 11-B2 to serve two terms, holding the position in 2020–2021 and 2022–2023. She currently serves as Club Treasurer and has previously served as Club President, Club Secretary, Board Member, Membership Co-Chair, and Chair or Co-Chair of several Three Rivers Lions Club projects, including its Annual Ox Roast and the Christmas Food and Toy Distribution. In addition, Julie has served as Vice District Governor, Cabinet Secretary, Zone Chair, District GLT, Guiding Lion, President of the Lions of Michigan Foundation, and Chairperson of the Lions of Michigan Forum Committee.



DR. PAUL HODGE
District Governor 2019-2020

Dr. Paul Hodge has been a member of the Allegan Lions Club for 24 years, following 15 years of service with the Allegan Jaycees, where he received a lifetime membership and JCI Senatorship. As an Allegan Lion, Paul has served on the Board of Directors, as Vice President, five-time President, Membership Chair, Club LCIF Chair, Tail Twister, and Club Administrator. In District 11-C1, he has served as Zone Chair, Region Chair, 2nd VDG, 1st VDG, District Governor, and Vice Council Chair. He has chaired the District 11-C1 GLT since 2020 and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee since 2021. In addition, Paul has also served as MD 11 Constitution and By-Laws Co-Chair since 2022, and he has served on the Lions of Michigan Foundation Board since 2000, including roles as Secretary, Vice President, and President.



NORBERT "BERT" RIVETTE
District Governor 1986-1987

After leaving the United States Air Force and settling in the Zilwaukee area with wife Dottie, Bert Rivette joined the Zilwaukee Lions Club. He advanced through the club's offices, served on numerous committees, and maintained perfect attendance for more than 40 years. Bert will be remembered for his love of people and his unwavering kindness and generosity. He was active in countless associations and organizations that improved the lives of others, but

his greatest passions were the Zilwaukee Lions Club, the Special Needs Vision Clinic, and Eversight, formerly the Michigan Eye Bank.



STEVE VAN TOL

District Governor 2019-2020

Steven Matthew Van Tol was born on December 21, 1952, and he was a westside Bay City native. Steve moved to Auburn shortly after marrying Debra Laetz on July 6, 1973. Lions became part of Steve's life in 2010, and he quickly immersed himself in Lions service. His Lions journey included roles as Club President, Secretary, Treasurer, Region Chair, and District Governor in 2019. He received many awards and honors, served twice as President of the Lions of Michigan Foundation and held numerous district committee positions. As his health declined and mobility became limited, he continued mentoring as many Lions as possible, sharing his deep knowledge of Lionism and promoting his "Just Ask" philosophy.



DAVE WINEMAN

International Director 2024-2026

Dave joined the Sebewaing Lions Club, now the USA Lions Club, in 1994, and he has held many leadership roles within the Lions association, including District Governor, Guiding Lion, Zone Chairperson, Region Chairperson, Vice Council Chairperson, Youth Chairperson, Area Leader, Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee, President and Board Member of Lions Bear Lake Camp, and at the Association of Lions Clubs 106th International Convention, held June 21-25, 2024, in Melbourne, Australia, Dave was elected to a two-year term to serve as International Director.



JERRY BRANDT

District Governor 2000-2001

Jerry was a charter member of the Harrison Lions Club. He served as President three times, as well as Vice President, Treasurer for seven years, Hearing Aid Chair, and Eyeglass Chair. In 59 years of Lions service, he sponsored more than 30 new members. A devoted Lion and strong leader, Jerry touched countless Lions across the state, his district, and the Harrison Lions Club through his commitment to service, leadership, and kindness. He believed in the power of Lions to change lives and worked tirelessly to strengthen clubs and inspire new leaders. Jerry served as Zone Chair, Region Chair, Deputy District Governor, District Governor, District Convention Chair for five years, Membership Chair, District Chaplain, LCIF Coordinator, International Understanding and Cooperation Chair, Vice Council Chair, and Lions of Michigan Convention Committee Chair.

Club Chronicles

Empire

In September members of the call conducted their Fall 2026 Adopt a Highway cleanup.

Photo: Standing from L to R:
Trish Baker, Donna Haiderer, Jackie Watson, Doug Watson, Linda Peppler, Jackie Gibler, Maggie Bacon

Kneeling from L to R:
Peter Maher, Mike Bolton, Steve Lewis, Tom Haderer



Baldwin

On Monday, October 12, the Baldwin Lions Club completed the Fall Highway Clean-up along a 2-mile stretch on M-37. With the help of the Baldwin High School Honor Society, they collected 30 bags of litter. In exchange for their help, the Honor Society received a \$200 donation from the Baldwin Lions Club.



Greenville

The final numbers are in from the Fall Lions Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. The total profit was \$2,240.82!!! Great Job Everyone!!



District 11-E1 Fall Conference / Parade of Checks / 2nd Cabinet Town Hall Meeting

Zone Chairman Deb Salada, from the White Cloud Lions Club and DG Laura Johnson gather up the dozens of pill bottles collected for the Mathew 25 project! They will be sent on to impoverished countries in Africa to be filled with vital medicines for their people!



Luther

On September 26th the Luther Lions hosted a dinner and silent auction at the Luther Lions Hall. They had about 100 people in attendance, with over 200 items auctioned off.



Traverse City

DG Laura Johnson with Lion Natalie Young of the Traverse City Lions Club. She is receiving her 10 year Chevron pin.

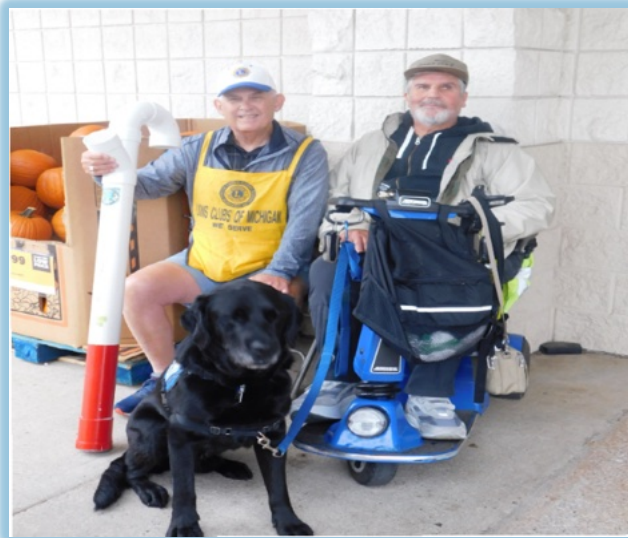


Midland

September White Cane Fundraiser

The Midland Lions finished their White Cane fundraiser on the 17th & 18th and it went very well.

We raised \$1,309.36 in the two-day period.



Please Send Articles and Photos to Paula Rigling, Newsletter Editor, at District11E1Newsletter@gmail.com by the 29th of each month.