

Anchored in Service



Lighting the Way Forward

# District 11-E1

## Feb 2026 Newsletter



Michigan Lions Serving 16 Counties &amp; 35 Clubs!



### Governor's Corner:

#### District Convention 2026: Anchored in Service – Lighting the Way Forward

#### Upcoming Events:

- Feb 7: District 11-E1 3<sup>rd</sup> Cabinet Mtg, Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Feb 27-28: Lions of Michigan Forum, Delta Marriott, Kalamazoo, MI
- Feb 27-Mar 1: CoG Mtg, Delta Marriott, Kalamazoo, MI
- Mar 27-28: District 11-E1 Convention, Evergreen Resort, Cadillac, MI
- May 14-16: MD-11 State Convention, Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI

#### Upcoming Official Visits:

- Feb 24: Mesick
- May 18: Arcadia
- May 27: Northport

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

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

We are also pleased to welcome our international guest, **International Director Gary Steele** and his wife **Lion Elizabeth** from North Carolina. ID Steele will be our Saturday evening banquet speaker, and we look forward to his insights and inspiration from across our association.

On Saturday morning, we will take time to honor those Lions we have lost this year during our Memorial Service, held shortly after breakfast. This will be a meaningful moment of reflection as we recognize their service and dedication to Lionism.

Education and leadership development will also play an important role in our convention. **Saturday morning training seminars** will include:

- A discussion on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and its growing role in our world
- **President Training**
- **Secretary Training**

During the Saturday night banquet, we will proudly present LCI and District Awards, recognizing the outstanding service, leadership, and dedication of our clubs and members.

Friday evening will also bring some fun and creativity with our District Apparel Contest, inviting Lions to bring our theme to life through nautical-inspired apparel that reflects being **Anchored in Service** and **Lighting the Way Forward**.

To make this convention as accessible as possible, we have worked hard to keep costs down. Meals (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and Saturday banquet) have been **discounted by approximately \$28 per person**, and we have secured an excellent lodging rate of \$99 per night, plus resort fee and taxes (approximately **\$113.85 per night**) for a standard room at the Evergreen Resort.

Finally, clubs are encouraged to support our **Silent Auction** by bringing an item to donate. If you are unable to attend, please consider sending an item with someone who is attending or contact me directly so arrangements can be made.

I truly hope you will join us for this special weekend of service, learning, remembrance, and fellowship. Together, we will continue to move our district forward — **Anchored in Service and Lighting the Way for Those We Serve**.

**Yours in service,**  
**Lion Jeff Schafer**  
DG 11-E1

## District Team

### District Governor:

Jeff Schafer (Coleman)  
(812) 325-3130  
[jeff.schafer1@comcast.net](mailto:jeff.schafer1@comcast.net)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor:

Vacant

### Assist 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor:

Heather Dourron (Cedar-Maple City)  
(248)-644-1963  
[Hdourron1963@gmail.com](mailto:Hdourron1963@gmail.com)

### Cabinet Secretary:

Donna Vangessel (White Cloud)  
(813)-713-4909  
[walmartredhead@yahoo.com](mailto:walmartredhead@yahoo.com)

### Cabinet Treasurer:

Jaymie Ricksgers (Weidman)  
(805) 551-0248  
[jaymie.ricksgers@gmail.com](mailto:jaymie.ricksgers@gmail.com)

### Global Membership Chair:

Jeff Morse (Lake Ann)  
(231) 620-5333  
[Inlandfirechief@gmail.com](mailto:Inlandfirechief@gmail.com)

### Global Leadership Chair:

Vacant

### Global Service Chair:

Steve Adsmond (Fremont)  
(231) 740-7076  
[adsmond@comcast.net](mailto:adsmond@comcast.net)

### LCIF Chair:

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

### District Administrator:

Peggy Frank (White Cloud)  
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Anchored in Service



Lighting the Way Forward

## Message from the 11-E1 Region 2, Zone 1 Chairperson

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you all enjoyed the Holiday season and had a chance to relax with friends and family. Now that we're kicking off the new year, it's time to shift gears and get ready for all the activities ahead. I know that some of our newly elected officers may not have had a chance to attend training before the holidays hit, but don't worry. Our third Zone meeting on January 28, 2026, is all about Leadership Training. We'll focus on building up the skills of our club officers and making sure everyone feels confident in their roles.

To get ready for the meeting, I've gone through the training outlines for President, Secretary, and Treasurer in the Lions Portal Learning Center—they do a great job covering the big responsibilities for each position. As I continued searching for some extra leadership tips, I came across the [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com) website. Their archive has years of *Lions Pride* magazines with tons of helpful articles on leadership. (Just a heads up: They're cutting back on mailing the magazine to save money, but you can still check out all the issues online at [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com).)

Also, as District 11-E1 Convention Committee Chairman, I wanted to let you know that DG Jeff Schafer and the committee are hard at work putting together a great program. There will be fun activities and chances to learn something new—more details are in the convention section of this newsletter.

**-Lion Chuck Dinsmore, R2Z1 Chairman**

## Prayer List:

PDGs Jim & Peggy Walls (Stanwood)  
PDGs Laura Johnson (Baldwin)  
PDGs Pam Schroeder & Dan Gibbons (Onkama)  
PDG Pete Conarty (Midland)



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

**Hope to See You at the  
3<sup>rd</sup> District 11-E1 Town  
Hall Meeting  
Saturday, February 7, 2026**

**from 9am-3pm  
Isabella Commission on Aging  
2200 S Lincoln Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI  
50/50 Raffle and Door Prizes  
Agenda is included in this newsletter on Page 8**



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**

## Strengthening Our Impact Through LCIF

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the humanitarian heart of our organization. Through LCIF, Lions around the world can respond to local and global needs — from disaster relief and vision programs to hunger, youth, and humanitarian service. Our ability to make this impact starts at the club level.

Each club is encouraged to **appoint an LCIF Coordinator**. This Lion serves as the club's connection to LCIF by:

- Sharing information about LCIF programs and grants
- Promoting LCIF awareness within the club
- Encouraging participation and donations that support Lions' global service

If a club has not appointed an LCIF Coordinator, **the Immediate Past President automatically assumes this role**. Ensuring someone is designated helps keep LCIF visible and part of regular club conversations rather than an afterthought.

In addition to appointing a coordinator, clubs are encouraged to **support LCIF through donations**. Every contribution — no matter the size — helps fund life-changing projects and empowers Lions to serve beyond what local resources alone can accomplish. Donations to LCIF are an investment in the future of Lionism and the communities we serve.

Supporting LCIF is also an important component of qualifying for the **Club Excellence Award**. To meet the LCIF requirement, clubs must contribute to LCIF at a level based on their membership as of June 30, 2025. Making a club donation (\$20 per member) not only supports Lions' global impact but also helps position your club for this prestigious recognition.

As you work toward Club Excellence this year, please consider taking a few simple steps:

- Confirm who is serving as your club's **LCIF Coordinator**
- Discuss LCIF at a club meeting
- Make a **club donation to LCIF** to support humanitarian service and meet award criteria

When clubs are engaged with LCIF, they strengthen their leadership, expand their service reach, and move closer to achieving **Club Excellence**. Together, our collective support ensures Lions continue to make a meaningful difference around the world.

Together, when every club is informed, engaged, and supportive of LCIF, we truly expand our reach and **strengthen our impact** as Lions.

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



## From Puppy to Guide Dog: Saylor's Journey Continues!

We are proud to share exciting news about **Saylor**, the **Leader Dogs for the Blind puppy** that Sheryl and I previously raised. After completing her formal training, Saylor has officially become a Leader Dog and is now preparing for her next adventure — traveling to **Hawaii**, where she will be matched with her new partner.

Recently, Sheryl and I had the opportunity to visit **Leader Dogs for the Blind** to wish Saylor safe travels and say our goodbyes. While it was an emotional visit, it was also incredibly rewarding to see how far she has come and to know the life-changing impact she is about to make.

Saylor's journey is a powerful reminder of how Lions' service truly changes lives. From her early days as a playful puppy to becoming a trusted guide, she represents the dedication, compassion, and teamwork that define Lionism.

We are grateful to everyone who supported Saylor's journey and proud to see her take this next step in helping someone live with greater independence.

-DG Jeff & PDG Sheryl Schafer, LDB Puppy Raisers



**CONTACT US:**

DG Jeff Schafer  
975 Outback Ridge  
Midland, MI 48640

Cell: 812-325-3130  
jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

We're on the Web at:  
[www.MiLions11e1.org](http://www.MiLions11e1.org)

Visit our facebook page.

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

## Welcome New Members!

Club	Member	Sponsor
None		

For the month of January, we added 0 new members but reinstated 3 members. Overall, for the year, we have added 59 new members, transferred/reinstated 15 members & dropped 53 members. Net gain for the year of +21.

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

### Save-The-Date District 11-E1 Convention Evergreen Resort, Cadillac Fri-Sat, March 27-28, 2026

7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI

Details including registration, Tidbit forms, Exhibit forms, Apparel  
Contest details, and Lodging in this Newsletter

**Bring an item for the Silent Auction!**

### Lions Service Project for District 11-E1 Town Hall Meeting (Saturday February 7)

Our next venue is the Isabella Commission on Aging, so it makes sense to do a service project to benefit seniors. By the time we meet we will be starting the month of February, which can be long and lonely for people living alone. Our project will focus on collecting items to help brighten the lives of seniors during the long, often lonely month of February.

What can you or your club collect to fill this need? Great Question...Here are some ideas...

Sudoku games, Cross Word Puzzles, Word Search booklets, Large Print Books, Craft Kits from Michael's or other similar stores, Reader's Digest magazines, Blank Cards for writing to friends, Fleece Blanket Kits, Simple paint kits for clay pots, Mosaic Tanagram Puzzles, Adult puzzle Books for seniors, Puzzles up to 500 pieces. These are just the tip of the iceberg of possibilities. Anything that might interest you may interest a person living alone, so we don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Anything in excess to what the Isabella Commission on Aging can use will be spread out to any other senior centers in our District. Come be a part of this Service Project.

-Lions Steve Adsmond  
Global Service Team (GST) Coordinator  
(231) 740-7076  
[adsmond@comcast.net](mailto:adsmond@comcast.net)





## Global Leadership Team (GLT) Corner:



### Leadership Matters: Filling Our FVDG Vacancy for a Strong 2026–2027

As we begin a new year focused on service, growth, and planning for the future, it's important that we also address a critical leadership need within our district. As your Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator, I want to bring attention to the importance of filling our **First Vice District Governor (FVDG)** vacancy—and what it means for the stability of our district moving forward.

At this time, our district does **not** have a Lion serving in the FVDG role. This position is essential because the FVDG becomes our **District Governor Elect** and, ultimately, the District Governor. If we are unable to appoint or elect a Lion to fill the FVDG vacancy—or if a Past District Governor is not willing to step forward to accept an appointment to repeat a term—our district will face a serious leadership gap for the **2026–2027** Lions year.

It is also important to note that our current District Governor is **not eligible to serve a second consecutive term**. Without a qualified Lion in place as FVDG, the District Governor position for the 2026–2027 year will remain **vacant**.

### What Happens If the DG Position Becomes Vacant?

If we reach the end of the year without a District Governor Elect/Appointed in place, the responsibility for leading and supporting the district will fall to our Past District Governors or the Immediate Past District Governor. These leaders may need to temporarily share duties to keep the district operating smoothly until the 2026–2027 FVDG can be elected at the **2027 district convention** and move into the DG Elect role.

While this structure ensures our district can continue to function, it is not ideal. Lions Clubs International is strongest when leadership roles are fully staffed with prepared and enthusiastic Lions ready to guide our clubs and support our members.

### This Is the Time to Step Forward

Our district is filled with capable, dedicated Lions who have the experience, passion, and heart to lead. If you—or someone you know—has ever considered serving as a District Governor, this is the moment to explore the opportunity. The GLT is here to support, mentor, and prepare future leaders every step of the way.

Strong leadership today ensures a strong district tomorrow. Let's work together to fill this vital role and keep our district *Anchored in Service, Lighting the Way Forward*.

If you'd like more information about the FVDG role, eligibility, or training, please reach out. Leadership begins with a single step—and our district needs someone willing to take it.

**Yours in service,**  
Lion Jeff Schafer  
GLT 2025-2026





## Global Leadership Team (GLT) Corner: (Continued)

### Understanding Our Lions Club Nomination & Election Process

Each year, our club selects new leaders to serve in key officer roles — such as President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other important positions. This democratic process helps ensure strong leadership and continuity of service. Here's how it works:

#### 1. Nomination Meeting

In early spring (typically March), the club holds a **Nomination Meeting**. At this meeting:

- A **Nominating Committee**, appointed by the club president, presents a proposed slate of candidates for each office.
- Members may also nominate qualified Lions from the floor at this meeting.
- Notice of the meeting must be given to all members at least **14 days in advance** by mail, email, or personal delivery.

This step ensures every member has a chance to participate in selecting candidates.

#### 2. Election Meeting

Following nominations, the club holds an **Election Meeting** (typically in April):

- All qualified nominees are listed in the official notice provided to members at least **14 days before the election**.
- Only those members present and in good standing at the meeting may vote.
- Elections are conducted by **secret written ballot**.

To be elected, a candidate must receive a **majority of the votes** cast by members present. If no candidate wins a majority on the first ballot, further rounds of voting are held until someone does.

#### 3. Taking Office

Once elected, officers typically begin their term on **July 1st** and serve for one year. The club secretary then reports the new officers to Lions Clubs International (via the Lion Portal) within 15 days after the election.

#### Why This Matters

This structured process ensures transparency, fairness, and member involvement in choosing the leaders who will guide our club in serving the community. If you are interested in leadership or would like to nominate someone, mark the nomination meeting on your calendar and participate!

If you have questions about the timeline or how to get involved, please contact a club officer — we'd love to help you participate.

**Yours in service,**  
Lion Jeff Schafer  
GLT 2025-2026





## Global Service Team (GST) Corner:

### 2025-2026 Club Excellence Award Criteria - Updated

The Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs. Excellence Awards honor club leaders who demonstrate outstanding membership growth, impactful service and humanitarian contributions. This year's criteria are:

1. **Induct** a minimum of two (2) or 20% new members, whichever is greater (does not include transfer, reinstated, or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the Club's membership count on June 30, 2025.
2. **Or sponsor** a new Lions Club.
3. **Report a minimum of four (4) service activities** in the Lions Portal. Three of these service activities must show participation in each of the three International "Weeks of Service."
  - a. Mental Health/Well-Being: October 4-12, 2025
  - b. Hunger: January 3-11, 2026
  - c. **Environment: April 18-26, 2026**
4. **Report newly elected club officers** in Lion Portal by May 15, 2026 of the current Lion Year.
5. A minimum of 10% of the club's members **complete any three courses** in the Lions Learning Center.
6. **The Club President** for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.
7. **A minimum of two or more club officers** (president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer. Of which, one must be the club President) complete Club Officer Training (on-line with Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator) between May 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.
8. **Contribute to LCIF** a minimum of the Club's membership total on June 30, 2025 of the previous Lion year, multiplied by \$20.

Contact DG Jeff Schafer or GST Coordinator Steve Adsmond if you have any questions.



## Global Membership Team (GMT) Corner:

### Membership Matters: Every Lion Can Make a Difference

As we look at our district's membership this year, there is good news to celebrate and an opportunity to build on our momentum.

So far this year, our district has:

- **Added 59** new members
- **Reinstated 15** former members
- **Dropped 51** members

That gives us a net gain of 21 members, which is something to be proud of and a testament to the work being done across our clubs.

While January did not bring any new members, we did see **three members reinstated** and only one member dropped. This is an important reminder that reconnecting with past Lions can be just as impactful as recruiting new ones.

As we move forward, I encourage every Lions Club to take on a simple and achievable challenge:

- **Add 1 new member**

That one member could be:

- A friend, neighbor, or coworker who shares our passion for service
- A younger community member looking to give back
- Or a **former Lion** who may be ready to return

Please take time to **review your club's list of past members from the last few years**. A personal phone call, text, or invitation to a meeting or service project can make all the difference. Many former members leave for reasons unrelated to Lionism — life changes, time constraints, or family responsibilities — and are often happy to return when invited.

Together, small efforts by each Lion can lead to big results for our district. Let's continue growing, reconnecting, and strengthening our clubs — one Lion at a time.

**Let's make this our Year to GROW!**

For membership support or ideas, contact **Global Membership Team (GMT) Coordinator Lion Jeff Morse** at 231-620-5333 or email: [inlandfirechief@gmail.com](mailto:inlandfirechief@gmail.com).

**District 11-E1 Town Hall Meeting Agenda****Isabella Commission on Aging**

2200 S Lincoln St, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

February 7, 2026

8:30	Registration/Sign in	CS Donna Vangessel CT Jaymie Ricksgers
9:00	Honorary Meeting	
10:00	Call to Order	DG Jeff Schafer
	Pledge of Allegiance	ZC Heather Dourron
	Patriotic Song "America the Beautiful"	PDG Sheryl Schafer
	Invocation	Lion Steve Adsmond
	Welcome	DG Jeff Schafer
	Roll Call	CS Donna Vangessel
	Update from Around the State	DG Jeff Schafer
	Secretary Report	CS Donna Vangessel
	Treasurer Report	CT Jaymie Ricksgers
	LCIF	PDG Sheryl Schafer
	GLT Report	DG Jeff Schafer
	GST Report	Lion Steve Adsmond
	GMT Report	Lion Jeff Morse
	Zone Reports	
	Zone Chairs Heather Dourron, Karla Kasten, Chuck Dinsmore, Dave Hamelund, Jacob Ricksgers, & Debra Salada,	
	Tail Twister	PDG Sheryl Schafer
12:00	Lunch	
12:30	Service Project	Lion Steve Adsmond
	<b>State &amp; District Projects:</b>	
	Lions of Michigan Service Foundation	PDG Jackie Glazier
	Bear Lake Camp	Lion Steve Glazier
	Leader Dog	Lion Ken Theobald
	All State Band	IPDG Tom Mac Naughton
	Michigan Eversight	DG Jeff Schafer
	Paws with a Cause	Lion Mike & Tina Hoy
	Project Kidsight	
	<b>Committee Reports:</b>	
	Constitution & By-Laws	PDG Tim Anderson
	Diabetes	PDG Bill Bradfield
	District Convention	Lion Chuck Dinsmore
	District Editor	Lion Paula Rigling
	Information Technology	Lion Ron Sharp
	MD-11 State Convention	PDG Laura Johnson
	Peace Poster	PDG Sheryl Schafer
	Speech and Hearing	Lion Peggy Frank

**3:00 Adjourn****Upcoming Events:****Lions of Michigan Forum**

February 27-28, 2026

*Delta Marriott Hotel, Kalamazoo, MI***District 11-E1 Spring Convention**

March 27-28, 2026

*Evergreen Resort, 7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI*





## Save the Date March 27-28, 2026



### Anchored in Service Lighting the Way Forward

## District 11-E1 Spring Convention

The Evergreen Resort, Cadillac, Michigan  
(7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601)

\*The Early Bird registration fee until March 4, 2026 is only \$15. After March 4 registration fee goes up to \$25. Registration begins in January 2026

\*Online Registration Link: [Click Here.](#)

\*4 informative seminars + 2 service projects

\*Bring the theme "**Anchored in Service – Lighting the Way Forward**" to life with your convention apparel! Whether inspired by anchors, lighthouses, Michigan's Great Lakes, or service and Leadership, we invite Lions to showcase their creativity and Lion pride. Individual, group, and club entries are welcome. Awards presented for several fun and themed categories. Join in and let your Lion spirit shine!

\*Meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast (free if staying at the resort, otherwise \$15), lunch, and banquet dinner. All meals are \$20 and have been discounted for a total savings of \$28.72 to make this event more affordable!

\*Friday Night Speaker: Mekoe & David Peterson - Sleep in Heavenly Peace (Wexford & Missaukee County's Chapter).

\*Lodging: 35 Standard Rooms available at The Evergreen Resort at a discounted rate until March 8. Rooms are \$113.85 (resort fee & tax included) and includes complimentary breakfast (a \$15 savings)! Request a room in the "29581" block of rooms.

\*Silent Auction, State & District Projects, 50/50 drawing, Memorial Service, Voting, new member inductions, Peace Poster winner recognition, and more!

### EPIC District 11-E1 Convention Service Project

Come be part of a Bed Build at Sleep In Heavenly Peace, Lake City on Friday afternoon from 12:00-3:00 pm or a Blanket Tying for Sleep In Heavenly Peace at the Evergreen Resort during the same timeslot for anyone that would like to participate. Our goal is to complete construction of 15 beds ready to take to children who live in Missaukee and Wexford Counties and surrounding townships in neighboring counties as well.

You are not required to be registered for the convention to participate.

Sleep In Heavenly Peace, 1551 S. Morey Rd., Lake City MI has a wood shop that will accommodate a maximum of 50 Lions and family who want to participate. All the wood will be cut ahead of time so we will do all the fabrication of bed sections and finish the wood, including sanding & staining so the beds will be ready for delivery when we are done.



We also need to pay for the materials to make the wood beds and Sleep In Heavenly Peace donors will cover the bedding cost for the beds. We are looking for 8 more Lions or Lion Clubs in our District 11-E1 who will sponsor a bed for \$250. For Lions who would like to be involved in this project with a smaller donation, we are also needing blanket sponsors for \$24 each, for a total of 15 blankets. Currently we have beds sponsored by White Cloud Lions, Midland Lions, Coleman Lions, Chuck & Barbara Dinsmore, DG Jeff & PDG Sheryl Schafer, Audible Hearing Center-Peggy and Mark Frank, Brenda & Steve Adsmond. Ann and PDG Al Roeseler have donated four blanket kits and DG Jeff & PDG Sheryl have donated two blanket kits. Thank you to these generous Lions!

We will sign up for participation on a first-come basis, with a maximum of 50 people for the bed build using the link below to register for the bed build. No registration is required for the blanket tying service project, just show up at the Evergreen Resort. Please send your bed sponsorship, blanket sponsorship, and for participation in blanket tying to Service Chair Steve Adsmond, 411 E. Maple St., Fremont MI, 49412. Checks should be made out to Lions District 11-E1. Email [adsmond@comcast.net](mailto:adsmond@comcast.net) with Subject: LIONS BED BUILD

Click: [Lions Club Convention Build](#) to register for the bed build.

(<https://volunteer.shpbeds.org/opportunities/EAI61zI3F4>)

If anyone has trouble with the link to register, please call Steve Adsmond 231-740-7076.



**District 11-E1 Spring Convention**  
**The Evergreen Resort**  
**March 27-28, 2026**



***The Evergreen Resort***  
7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI

The District's Spring Convention is open to ALL Lions and their guests (if not a Lion, please insert "Guest" in where you would state your Club. All events at the Convention are open to anyone to attend which includes cabinet meeting, training seminars, business meeting, etc.

**\*\* Two name(s) may be listed on one registration form if both reside at the same address. \*\***

Person 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First	Last	Title
-------	------	-------

Person 2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First	Last	Title

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

Street	City	State	Zip

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

	First Name(s)	Qty	Price	Total
<b>Registration Fee</b>	N/A		\$15*	
<b>Friday Dinner</b>			\$20	
<b>Saturday Lunch</b>			\$20	
<b>Saturday Banquet</b>			\$20	
			<b>TOTAL:</b>	

\*Registration fee will increase to \$25 on March 4, 2026.  
No meal reservations will be accepted after March 18, 2028.

Make checks payable to: **"Lions District 11 E1"** and mail to DG Jeff Schafer, 975 Outback Ridge, Midland, MI 48640. For questions call DG Jeff at (812) 325-3130 or Email: [jeff.schafer1@comcast.net](mailto:jeff.schafer1@comcast.net).

**Friday Dinner:** Dinner will be buffet style to include BBQ pulled pork, slider buns, mac & cheese, cole slaw, potato salad, house salad with toppings and dressings, and assorted cookies.

**Saturday Breakfast:** Breakfast is included with your room if you stay at the resort. If you drive in and want breakfast, it is \$15/person.

**Saturday Lunch:** Lunch will be buffet style to include penne and cavatappi pasta, marinara and alfredo sauce, and bolognese sauces, seasoned chicken, garlic bread, house salad with toppings and dressings, and assorted cookies.

**Saturday Banquet:** Banquet will be buffet style to include marinated chicken breast, char-grilled 6oz sirloin, baked potato, asparagus, house salad with toppings and dressings and assorted cookies.

**All meals have been discounted for a total savings of approximately \$28.72 to make it more affordable for Lions to attend those events.**

**Meal tickets will be provided for each meal purchased and must be presented during the meal.**

**Seminars:** There will be two time periods for seminars this year, one between 9:30 – 10:15am and the other between 10:30 – 11:15am with two seminars per time period. Seminars will be in meeting Cadillac and Wexford rooms.

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
2. Club President
3. Club Secretary
4. TBD

**Seminar Description:**

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The various AI tools focused on recruiting new members, creating membership growth plans, researching demographics within a community, help with converting service projects from the Lions Portal to a marketing brochure, creating service carnival or other events to recruit new members.

**Club President/Secretary:** Club officer training for new Club Presidents and Secretaries

**District Service Projects** will be on Friday. Steve Adsmund (District GST) has identified an outstanding service project for this year's convention: building beds for children in need through the "SHP"—Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program. The project will be divided into two parts. The first part will take place on Friday before the convention begins (12-3pm), at an SHP construction site (1551 Morey Rd.) where bunk beds will be assembled. The second part will occur during the convention at two different times, where participants will assemble blanket by cutting the edges and tying them together. The first session to assemble blankets will be from 12-3pm at the Evergreen Resort and the second session will be from 7:45pm-9pm in Wexford room. If you're interested in building beds, please be aware that you're going to get dirty, so wear the appropriate clothing and shoes.

**Lodging:** 35 standard rooms at a nightly rate of \$99 plus taxes (approximately \$113.85), per single or double adult occupancy has been set aside for the Lions of District 11-E1. Resort overnight guests receive a complimentary breakfast. To reserve a room, call 1-231-775-9947 and request a room in the "29581" block of rooms. **March 4 will be the DEADLINE for room reservations to receive the discounted rate.**





## 2026 Lions District 11-E1 Convention

### Anchored in Service – Lighting the Way Forward

Bring the theme “**Anchored in Service – Lighting the Way Forward**” to life with your convention apparel! Whether inspired by anchors, lighthouses, Michigan’s Great Lakes, or service and leadership, we invite Lions to showcase their creativity and Lion pride. Individual, group, and club entries are welcome. Judging will take place during Friday nights “Meet/Greet the International Director,” with awards presented for several fun and themed categories. Join in and let your Lion spirit shine!

#### Award Categories:

**The Guiding Light Award:** Awarded to a Lion or group that most powerfully represents “Anchored in Service – Lighting the Way Forward” through creativity and symbolism.



**The Great Lakes Lion Award:** Honors the best use of Michigan, Great Lakes, or local maritime pride woven into their apparel.

**The Lion Crew Award:** Given to a club or group that demonstrates teamwork, unity, and coordinated spirit – Sailing together as one crew.



**The Service & Honor Award:** Acknowledges a thoughtful tribute to service, duty, and commitment – reflecting the values of Lionism and military service.





## 2026 District 11-E1 Convention

March 27-28, 2026

*The Evergreen Resort*

*7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, Michigan*



## Exhibit & Project Application

**\*Setup will be on Friday (March 27) from 4-9pm or Saturday (March 28) before 9am. Location will be in Wexford A.**

**\*Tear down should be no earlier than 3pm and prior to 6pm on Saturday, March 28.**

**\*There is no fee to display your exhibit if you're signed up to attend the 2025 District 11-E1 Convention. If not, then the registration fee of \$15 is required. Please make your check payable to "*Lions District 11-E1*."**

Please return this form (**by March 18**) to DG Jeff Schafer, 975 Outback Ridge, Midland, MI 48640 or email to: [jeff.schafer1@comcast.net](mailto:jeff.schafer1@comcast.net).

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

Club/Project/Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Table Needed: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Skirting Needed: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for supporting the Lions of Michigan District 11-E1**





## 2026 Tidbits



## Anchored in Service Lighting the Way Forward

### Personal Tidbits Ad Fund-Raiser

Do you have a member of your club you'd like to honor? You can recognize that special someone's Birthday. Would you like to share a special "Thank You" for something or someone that needs recognition? **This is the year to show your appreciation to someone. Just let us know, we'll publish it for you.** Fill in the blanks below or create your own ad, email the ad to me then mail a check made out to "Lions District 11 E1" for \$25 for each ad. **Deadline is March 15, 2026.**

Mailing address: DG Jeff Schafer, 975 Outback Ridge, Midland, MI 48640

Email: [jeff.schafer1@comcast.net](mailto:jeff.schafer1@comcast.net)

Cell Phone/Text: 812-325-3130

Honoring: \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Anything Else to Include? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Tidbit Ads can be Campaign Ads, Club Fund-Raisers (BBQ Chicken Dinners, Pancake Breakfast, Fish Fry, etc.), Club Anniversary Celebration, Individual Birthdays or Wedding Anniversary, Thank You Note, and anything else you want to share with the Lions of District 11-E1!**

**DISTRICT 11E1 DELEGATE CERTIFICATION FORM for March 28, 2026 Convention Voting****CLUB NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Members** \_\_\_\_\_

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2 of the District 11E1 Constitution and By-Laws: CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA. Each chartered club in good standing in Lions Clubs International and its district shall be entitled in each annual convention of its district to one(1) delegate and one(1) alternate for each ten(10) members, who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club, or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held (February 1, 2025) The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members. Further, full delegate status shall be accorded each Past District Governor who is a member of a Club in this District, independent of the Club delegate quotas herein above specified. Each certified delegate present in person shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote only for each office to be filled by, and one (1) vote only on each question submitted to, the respective convention. Unless otherwise specified herein, the affirmative vote of a majority of delegates voting on any question shall be the act of the convention. All eligible delegates must be members in good standing of a club in good standing in this district. Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification (12 noon, Saturday, March 28, 2026)

PRINTED NAME OF DELEGATES(D) ALTERNATES(A)	(D)(A)	MEMBER SIGNATURE AT CONVENTION
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

PRINTED NAME PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS (PDG)	PDG SIGNATURE AT CONVENTION
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I hereby certify that the delegates and alternates listed above are in good standing with Lions of Michigan & Lions Clubs International: \_\_\_\_\_ Club President/Secretary or DG at Convention

Note: TO VOTE delegates MUST be registered and certified BEFORE 12 NOON, Saturday, March 28, 2026.

MAIL form by MARCH 10<sup>th</sup> to District Credential Chairperson: Janalee McClure, Box 177, Brohman, MI 49312



## Bear Lake Camp News Update


By Steve Glazier, Bear Lake Camp District 11E1 Chairperson



### 4th Annual Ice Plunge: Be a "Super Hero" for our Vision and Hearing impaired special needs campers!

**Date:** February 7, 2026 | **Check-in:** 2:00 PM | **Plunge:** 3:00 PM

**Location:** Lions Bear Lake Camp (3409 N. Five Lakes Rd., Lapeer, MI)

Who's ready to get "Titanic" levels of cold for a great cause?  Our **4th Annual Ice Plunge** returns on **Feb 7, 2026**, at [Lions Bear Lake Camp](#) (double click to open). Last year, we shattered records by raising **\$20,000** and with your help, we're going to do it again! All for the kids Lions worthy cause.

Being a first-time jumper last year, I can personally attest to the thrill. Despite the 25-degree weather last year and some pre-jump nerves (partially initiated by a re-watch of *Titanic* the night before), the exhilaration of the crowd and the thought of that first icy splash into the chilled water were unforgettable. For those that aren't ready for the lake, we have an ice water filled **"Inflated Kids Pool" option**. You still earn the official T-shirt and medal, and it only requires you to dip a toe in! This year's Ice Dive costume theme is **"Super Heroes."** As the song goes "Be happy don't worry" —as we have professional divers and medics on standby to keep things safe.

Be 'freezin' for a reason' or stay dry and cheer — Either way you're a "Super Hero" for Bear Lake Kids Camp

My research indicates it has been approximately 1,360,000,000 geological days since sharks inhabited the waters that once covered Michigan. I'm just mentioning this in case anyone from our district was planning to use "fear of sharks" as an excuse to stay dry! I've started a promotional campaign that **"You're officially safer in the Bear Lake Camp lake water"** than you are in your own bathtub" according to unofficial statistics..... :)

**Reminder that weekend lodging is free for this event for District 11E1 Lion Members** but be sure to contact Traci or Chrissy in advance to reserve your room at the Camp. Please bring your own bedding as its off season and housing staff is minimal. Dorm style single bed arrangements are only available. However off-site motels are available at standard rates if preferred. Phone Bear Lake Camp 989-277-7437 or 810-245-0726 for additional information..

While the above is all fun and games the mission is serious. As mentioned in last month's District 11-E1 Newsletter the importance of this and other held fundraisers are to help support and ensure our Summer Kids Camp remains affordable for Visually Impaired and Hard of Hearing kids our core reason for Kids Summer Camp which was Initiated by Lion Big Al Kassin in 1982. Last year 2025, Lions of Michigan made an incredible difference in the lives of **"107 kids from Michigan"** with blind and impaired vision and deaf and hard of hearing to attend our truly life-changing Summer Camp. For most of them this would have been an impossible dream without the financial support of Lions. Our Camp remains the only one of its kind in Michigan. Please consider donating just as little as \$20 towards the Bear Lake Camp Ice Plunge noted above or contribute an amount directly to the Camp. Be sure to mention you're from District 11-E1 so our district receives recognition. Also as mentioned last month in our District

11E1 newsletter, Bear Lake Board discussions have been recently held about budgeted fee increases required to maintain the level of Camp experience our kids have come to expect and it was approved this week to increase Summer Camp charge per each impaired vision and hearing youth camper from \$40 to \$100 starting this Summer Camp year 2026( Lions pick up the \$800 balance ). This is due to inflationary upkeep and expense cost to run and maintain the camp. I also previously mentioned last month to search "Google" to see how much \$1 is worth today compared to as little as 5 or 10 years ago. Please consider this when budgeting your Clubs 2026 State Project donations.

Again If it's been a while since your last visit, we'd love to welcome all **11-E1 Club Members** to the campgrounds for our upcoming **Ice Plunge**. There is truly no substitute for seeing the mission in motion—walking the campus, connecting with our dedicated staff, and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact your generosity creates."

These are the weeks you or your clubs Polar Ice Plunge support makes possible at minimal cost

- \* **July 3–5th:** Visually Impaired and Blind **FAMILY Camp**
- \* **July 5–11th:** Visually Impaired and Blind **YOUTH Camp** (Ages 6–16)
- \* **July 12–18th:** Deaf and Hard of Hearing **YOUTH Camp**
- \* **July 24–26th:** Deaf and Hard of Hearing **FAMILY Camp**

**Thank You Lion Steve Glazier**

Learn more about our Lions of Michigan owned camp at:  
[www.bearlakecamp.org](http://www.bearlakecamp.org)



From January 1 through December 31, **9,811** donors and their families selflessly gave the gift of sight. **11,247** tissues were provided for sight restoring transplants, and **3,364** tissues helped to advance vision research and support clinical education and training.

### **A journey of courage across borders**

With no access to corneal tissue in Venezuela, Teresita de Jesús Perozo de Dávila traveled over 1,500 miles to the U.S. for the chance at a sight-restoring cornea transplant made possible by the generosity of a donor and their family.





# Lions Bear Lake Camp 4TH ANNUAL ICE PLUNGE & DINNER Fundraiser

**FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT**  
**ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS**

*Dinner Includes Jumper Contests*

**Soup Bar  
Bread Bowls  
Salad Bar  
Hot Chocolate Bar  
Dessert  
Cash Bar**

**Prizes for  
Best Costume  
Best Jump (no diving)  
and Most Money Raised**

## **FEBRUARY 7TH 2026**

2:00 PM Check-In 3:00 PM Ice Plunge  
followed by Dinner



Sign up online at  
[bearlakecamp.org](http://bearlakecamp.org)  
under the "Events" Tab



**Seating limited to 200  
so get your tickets early.**



**For More Information Contact**  
**[traci@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:traci@bearlakecamp.org)**  
**[chrissy@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:chrissy@bearlakecamp.org)**  
**810-245-0726**

**\*\*Costumes are encouraged, birthday suits highly discouraged.\*\***



# LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP ICE PLUNGE & DINNER FUNDRAISER

**FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026 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:** Priority Jump, Dinner, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal, Event Beanie

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

## 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, Recognition as Presenting Sponsor during event announcements & speaking opportunity, Recognition on Social Media, Table of 8 Complimentary Dinner Tickets, 2 Complimentary Jumpers, 2 Ice Plunge T-shirts, 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.*

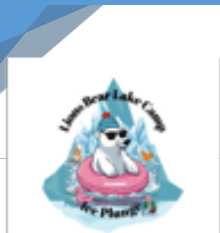
*Donors will be acknowledged throughout the event via announcements*

**Please visit the "Events" page on [bearlakecamp.org](http://bearlakecamp.org) or send check to:**

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







## Lions Bear Lake Camp Sponsorship & Raffle Prize Donation Form

### Business/Donor Information:

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Sponsorship Opportunities (Select One):

☐ **Polar Legend Sponsor – \$2,500**

- Exclusive top placement of Logo on event banner, signage, and on back of Event T-shirt
- Recognition as Presenting Sponsor during announcement & Speaking Opportunity
- Recognition on social media
- 2 Complimentary Jumpers (a registration form will be mailed to you to return)
- Table of 8 complimentary dinner tickets
- Premium Sponsor Plaque
- 2 Event T-Shirts: Size \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Sub Zero Hero Sponsor – \$1,000**

- Logo on event banner, signage, and on back of Event T-shirt
- Recognition on social media
- 2 Complimentary Jumpers (a registration form will be mailed to you to return)
- 4 complimentary dinner tickets
- Sponsor Plaque
- 1 Event T-Shirt: Size \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Arctic Sponsor – \$500**

- Business name on event signage, and back of Event T-shirt
- Recognition on social media
- 1 Complimentary Jumper (a registration form will be mailed to you to return)
- 2 complimentary dinner tickets
- 1 Event T-Shirt: Size \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Frosty Friends Sponsor – \$250**

- Business name on back of Event T-shirt
- Recognition on social media
- 2 complimentary dinner tickets
- 1 Event T-shirt: Size \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Ice Breaker Sponsor – \$100**

- Business name on back of Event T-Shirt
- Recognition on social media

**Raffle Prize Donation (If Applicable):**

☐ Yes, I am donating a raffle prize!

Description of donated item(s):

---

Estimated Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Sponsorship & Donation Summary:**

Sponsorship Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation (Optional): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Payment Method:**

☐ Cash ☐ Check (Payable to Lions Bear Lake Camp) ☐ Credit Card

**For credit card payments:**

- If paying online, visit [www.bearlakecamp.org](http://www.bearlakecamp.org) under the "Events" tab
  - If paying by phone, please call the camp office at (810) 245-0726
- 

**Return completed forms to:**

📍 Lions Bear Lake Camp

3409 N. Five Lakes Rd, Lapeer, MI 48446

✉ [chrissy@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:chrissy@bearlakecamp.org) | ☎ (810) 245-0726



## Beat the Winter Blues and Play Euchre!

WHEN? 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays

January 9 & 23, February 13 & 27, March 13 & 27

1:00 to 3:00 pm

WHERE? Empire Township Hall

ENTRY FEE: \$2 per person PLUS a Canned Food item for Empire Food Pantry

Brought to you by the Empire Lions

Coffee will be provided.

You may bring a dish to share if you wish

Singles or Couples

For questions, please email

Tom Haiderer at

[thomas2011thomas@gmail.com](mailto:thomas2011thomas@gmail.com)

February 2026

# LEADING THE WAY

Leader Dogs for the Blind – Lions Newsletter



Each year, we set a fundraising goal for our partnership with Lions. Reaching this goal helps continue the Lions legacy of supporting vision through Leader Dogs for the Blind. We reached the midpoint of the fiscal year, and the months ahead are critical. Together, we have a real opportunity to accelerate toward our \$2.5 million goal.

**Can you help us reach our goal?** Giving options are on the [Ways to Give page of our website](#), which you can access with the QR code to the right. If you would like to make a personal gift, please include your Lions Club so we can recognize your gift as a Lions gift.



## Vision Activity for Convention Season

Convention season is here! Between February and May, the Lions team and a few Leader Dog clients will join you at dozens of Lions conventions across North America. Conventions are an important opportunity for Lions to gather, celebrate our impact in our communities, and educate each other on the causes we support.

We outlined an activity you may be interested in bringing to your convention or your club meeting. It allows participants to **experience first-hand the importance of vision for orientation in space**, and how quickly those with low vision can become disoriented without support like Leader Dog's Orientation & Mobility program.



Lion Christie Boyer of New Mexico serves as Leader Dog Chair in District 40, and she designed this activity for district leadership with great feedback. **Participants said, "It was fast, furious, and fun."** Get an activity guide for this activity and order blindfolds with the QR code to the right or on the [Lions Club Resources page of our website](#).


[LeaderDog.org](http://LeaderDog.org) | [LionsSupport@leaderdog.org](mailto:LionsSupport@leaderdog.org)


Lions International



## Lion Melissa Weisse Honored as a Melvin Jones Fellow



In December, the Royal Oak Lions Club of Michigan recognized Lion Melissa Weisse, President and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind, with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. They presented the award in front of an audience of more than 200 Lions from Michigan and Ontario, underscoring how deeply Melissa's leadership and mission-driven dedication resonate across the Lions community.

For more than 20 years, Lion Melissa has been a fierce advocate for the blind and low vision community. **"Melissa exemplifies the heart of Lionism and demonstrates a commitment to dedicated humanitarian service—the basic principle of being a Melvin Jones Fellow,"** said Lion Laura Mastracci, President of the Royal Oak Lions Club. "We were privileged to bestow this honor on Melissa for the compassionate, hard-working Lion that she is."

Lion Karen Burke, a Leader Dog client, shared her perspective: "Melissa knows what she stands for, which is to serve. **Not only is she a Lion, but she's also very persistent in making sure that clients are served at Leader Dog.** She listens to what we share and looks for ideas to improve our experience when we come for a program."

Melissa expressed her deep appreciation for the recognition, saying, **"To be awarded this by Lions who do so much good in this world is incredibly meaningful to me.** I am proud to be a longtime Lion and to partner with Lions every day to advocate for people who are blind and to support the critical work of Lions globally."

### Mission Moment

"When you lose your vision, you lose your independence, and that was the hardest thing. Leader Dog Timber will make it a little easier to keep going.

I've never been a very emotional person, but meeting Leader Dog Timber was emotional. **It was this overwhelming happiness and feeling that this is going to work out.** It's a hard feeling to describe. It's not just having a companion but thinking about our life together."

- Rich, Guide Dog Client from Michigan,  
pictured with Leader Dog Timber



[LeaderDog.org](http://LeaderDog.org) | [LionsSupport@leaderdog.org](mailto:LionsSupport@leaderdog.org)



Lions International





## KidSight Wrap Up

At the beginning of 2026, it's worth looking back at the KidSight Michigan project in our district and all that we accomplished in 2025. We were pretty much at a standstill after the Covid lockdown. This year was a "waking up" for us. We've had more activity this year than before 2020. We're still way down in our numbers but things are looking up!

This year everyone with expired background checks, except two, renewed their status. We now have 34 certified volunteers and 30 certified vision screeners in the district.

We held 25 screening events district-wide. This is way up from last year. The Midland Lions Club led the pack with nine screenings followed by Coleman Lions with four, Fremont Lions with three and eight other clubs with two or one screening each.

Clubs screened a total of 1,318 children and had 98 referrals. That sounds like a lot until you realize there are approximately 111,700 school-aged children in our district. We screened less than 2% of the total kids that needed one. We have lots of room for growth.

The district has four Welsh Allyn "cameras" that I know of. We own two KidSight trailers. With all the certified vision screeners in our district, we can come to your area and do a screening event. All a club needs to do is make the contacts, do the scheduling and provide some volunteer help.

I cannot stress enough how important vision screening is. In my opinion it is one of the most important things we do as Lions! The scanner/camera is such a marvelous, easy-to-use tool and it does so much.

One of the most significant things it does is to check for conditions that may cause "lazy eye" (amblyopia.) Lazy eye is a condition where the brain favors one eye over the other. This cannot be found with an eye-chart style of exam. When not found by age seven, the condition may become permanent. If for no other reason than that, every child should be screened and you can do it.

As many of you know, I have been restricted in my activity since my spine surgery. I am happy to report that I am starting physical therapy in January and will be back to full-time activity soon. My plan is to schedule a few training sessions to help clubs get back on track scheduling screenings.

If your club has never had a vision screening event, it is time to get started. Contact me and I will assist you in contacting your local school districts, early learning centers, and day care businesses. Let's continue the rebuilding of our district's valuable KidSight program and set ourselves a goal of screening 5% of the children in our district.

Together we can do it.

- **PDG Jim Patterson, KidSight Coordinator, 231-250-0925, [pattersonjv@comcast.net](mailto:pattersonjv@comcast.net)**

## LIONS OF MICHIGAN FORUM SERVICE PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Forget Me Not Little Heroes is an organization dedicated to supplying backpacks full of essential items to fostered, sheltered, and underprivileged children ages 3-12 years old. They have been selected as our Forum Service Project this year.

### Why Backpacks?

Most children arrive at foster homes and shelters with nothing but a garbage bag. When the organizers heard of this, they stepped up to make a change. Items are designed to fit in a backpack. It makes them feel special, keeps them organized and teaches them to care about their belongings.

### What Can You Do to Help?

Our goal is to fill 300 backpacks with color coordinated items in their very own backpack. The cost for one backpack is \$40.00. Through districts, clubs and grants, our goal is to raise \$12,000.00. Each club is being asked to donate as much as they can afford as part of a club service project, enabling us to provide many more of these special items for special kids.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause!

Checks can be written and mailed to Three Rivers Lions Club:

Three Rivers Lions Club

PO Box 134

Three Rivers, MI 49093

Attn: Forum Service Project

Contact PDG Julie Mayuiers, Michigan Lions Forum Chair, with any questions you may have. 269-254-1938 or 2jumayuiers@gmail.com.



**The Lions Michigan Forum 2026**  
**Delta Marriott Kalamazoo, MI**  
**February 27-28, 2026**

**Keynote Speaker**



**Kathleen Marcath**  
Author & Founder, ASL Picture Books

# MICHIGAN LIONS FORUM



**LEAD TO SERVE, SERVE TO LEAD!**

**February 27–28, 2026**

**Featuring Keynote Speaker Kathleen Marcath**

## Delta Marriott Kalamazoo

2747 S 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

**Room Reservations call 269-375-6000**

CODE: LIONS MI FORUM

**Cost: \$119.00 Cutoff date: 2/1/26**

**Alternate Hotel:**

**BEST WESTERN SUITES KALAMAZOO**

**269-350-5522 Room Rate: \$112.00**

**Registration Cost: \$60.00/person**

Please complete the registration form and send it along with a check to:

**Lions of Michigan**

**5730 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911**

**Telephone 517-887-6640 or Fax 517-887-6642**

**-OR-**

**Register online at [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

District \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Registrants

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

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

**Early Registration Deadline: February 14, 2026**

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

\*Registration includes lunch, Forum, and proceedings booklet.

List food allergies or dietary requirements:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTER EARLY

**To help us plan, prepare materials and guarantee lunch!**

### FRIDAY EVENTS: Registration open 6:30 pm

- ☐ 7:00 p.m. Service Project Forget Me Not Little Heroes
- ☐ Hospitality – Mingle at Lift inside the Hotel

### SATURDAY SESSIONS:

7:00 a.m. Registration Delta Marriott Conference Center

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions - Lunch to follow

#### Session 1 Breakout Session - 8:30 a.m. (Check One)

- ☐ Leadership Challenge
- ☐ Managing Your Club on the Web
- ☐ Officer Training; President
- ☐ LCIF / LMF

#### Session 2 Breakout Session - 9:30 a.m. (Check One)

- ☐ Building Membership through Specialty Clubs
- ☐ Cybersecurity
- ☐ Club Secretary / Service Reporting
- ☐ Leader Dog / Puppy Raisers

#### Session 3 Breakout Session - 10:30 a.m. (Check One)

- ☐ Serving Together: Partners in Service
- ☐ Flipping for Fundraisers / LCI Legal Rules
- ☐ Officer Training; Treasurer
- ☐ Estate Planning

#### Session 4 Breakout Session - 11:30 a.m. (Check One)

- ☐ Attracting Younger Members
- ☐ Service Carnival
- ☐ Tail Twister / Ice Breakers
- ☐ Eversight

**12:45 p.m. Luncheon, Scholarships, Keynote Address by Author Kathleen Marcath, Raffle Drawings**





# Greenville Lions Club

## Kreitner Memorial Golf Classic

"In memory of Lions passed"



**Title Sponsor:**



**DATE:** June 20th, 2026  
**TIME:** Registration at 8:00 am. Shotgun start at 9:00 am.  
**PLACE:** Candlestone Golf & Resort  
 8100 Storey Road  
 Belding, MI 498809

**ENTRY FEE:** \$75 per golfer (\$300 per team)

**Entry Fee Includes:**

Green Fees - 18 Holes  
 Cart  
 Catered Lunch  
 Each Player will receive a "Goodie Bag"

**Contests:**

Hole-in-one  
 Longest Drive  
 Closest to the pin  
 Longest putt  
 & many more.....

**Format:**

Tournament will be played in 4-person scramble format.  
 Individuals are encouraged to sign-up and will be placed on a team.



**Premier Sponsors:**



Please return the bottom section with your team entry fee.

**ENTRY FORM:**

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

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to "Greenville Lions Club"  
 Send entry form and payment to: PO Box 721 Greenville, MI. 48838 For  
 more information, call 616.255.5031

## Chapter Chronicles

### Remus Lions Club Christmas Breakfast

The Remus Lions Club held their annual breakfast with Santa on December 13, 2025 at the Remus Town Hall. They worked in conjunction with the Remus Fire Dept and Remus DDA to put the event together. Approximately 100 attendees participated and fun was had by all, especially the children. Everyone left with full bellies and gifts for all the children.



From Left to Right (left photo): Lion Al McCall, Santa Fireman Joel Ball, and Lion John Orr.

### Weidman Lions Club

The Weidman Lions Club got into the Holiday Spirit and did a few things for their community. They were able to use an idea from another Lions Club and purchased Poinsettias for anyone in Weidman who they thought were living alone. It was received by the community very well. They also donated \$1,000 to a local restaurant that was giving Christmas Eve Dinners and furnished lunches to the Power Utility Company workers who were working during the recent ice storm!

### Luther Lions Club

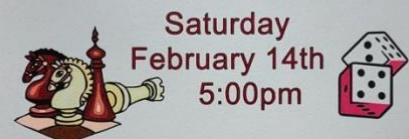
#### Luther Lions Club News....

1. February 1 8:30-11am: All You Can Eat Breakfast. Cost: \$12 Adults/\$6 Children 6-12 Yrs.
2. February 12 @ 2:30pm: Feed America Truck at the Luther Lions Club Parking Lot. Distribution of food.
3. February 14 @ 5pm: Pot-Luck & Game Night. Come by yourself or bring your friends and a dish to pass. No entry fees and adults only.
4. March 1 8:30-11am: All You Can Eat Breakfast. Cost: \$12 Adults/\$6 Children 6-12 Yrs.
5. March 12 @ 2:30pm: Feed America Truck at the Luther Lions Club Parking Lot. Distribution of food.
6. March 21 @ 5pm: Luther Lions Club first BINGO of the year! Early bird BINGA starts at 5:30pm with regular BINGA starting at 6pm. Food will be available for purchase.

### Luther Lions Club

1003 State Rd  
Luther MI 49656  
# 231-388-2467

#### Pot-Luck & Game Night



Saturday  
February 14th  
5:00pm

Come by yourself  
or bring your friends & a dish  
to pass - we have games  
galore or bring your own.



NO ENTRY FEE!  
ADULTS ONLY!





## Greenville Lions Club

Greenville Lions Club purchases sleds for all the Elementary students in the Greenville Public Schools.

Pictured is Lion Dan Eagles delivering sleds and having several children read to him.



### Greenville Lions Club News....

1. March 7 8-11am @ American Legion Hall. Greenville Lions and Greenville Rotary Joint Pancake Breakfast.
2. March 31 4pm @ Greenville Public School: Greenville Lions and Greenville Rotary Spring Break Food Box Assembly.

## *District Governor's Visits*



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

From Left to Right: DG Jeff, FLD Avi, and President Rich.



DG Jeff and PDG Sheryl traveled back to the Lakeview Lions Club to induct three new members. President Tim sponsored Lion Ramon, Lion Greg McKenna sponsored Lion Jack, and Treasurer Rose Mary Witt sponsored Lion Makayla. Welcome to Lions Club!

From Left to Right: President Tim Erspamer (Sponsor), new Lion Jack Koester, new Lion Ramon Holcomb. Missing from the photo is new Lion Makayla Knopf.