

Anchored in Service



Lighting the Way Forward

District 11-E1 Newsletter

Michigan Lions Serving 16 Counties & 35 Clubs!



Upcoming Events:

- Jul 13-17: LCI Convention, Orlando, FL
- Aug 1-2: CoG Mtg, Mt. Pleasant
- Aug 16: District 11-E1 1st Cabinet Mtg, White Cloud Lions Hall
- Aug 27: Region 2 Zone 1 Mtg, Shepherd Bar & Restaurant
- Sep 27: Fall Conference, Luther Lions Hall

Upcoming Official Visits:

- Jul 10: Chippewa Lake-Mecosta
- Aug 11: Barryton
- Aug 14: Traverse City
- Sep 8: Big Rapids
- Nov 3: Greenville
- Nov 4: Midland



Governor's Corner:

It is a true honor to serve as your District Governor for the 2025–2026 Lions year. As I begin this journey, I do so with deep humility, a servant's heart, and great pride in the strength, history, and potential of our district.

My personal motto this year—**“Anchored in Service. Lighting the Way Forward.”**—reflects both my background as a U.S. Navy Veteran and my belief in the power of Lions to guide, uplift, and serve our communities, especially in times of uncertainty or transition. Like a lighthouse standing firm in a storm, our mission as Lions is to offer stability, clarity, and hope—no matter the challenge.

This year, I am focused on three key goals:

1. **Support and Rebuild Clubs:** We will work hand in hand with clubs that are struggling, providing the support they need to regain strength and momentum.
2. **Empower New Leaders:** Leadership is not about position—it's about stepping forward. We will identify and uplift Lions with passion and potential and give them the tools to lead.
3. **Serve with Purpose:** We will align our service with the global causes of Lions Clubs International—vision, hunger, the environment, childhood cancer, and diabetes—while responding to the specific needs of our local communities.

You Are Not Alone

Whether you are a seasoned Lion or just beginning your journey, you matter to this district. You are the heart of Lionism. My team and I are here to **support, listen, and serve**—not to direct from above, but to stand beside you.

In the coming months, you'll hear more about leadership opportunities, district service initiatives, and club development tools. I encourage you to get involved, stay connected, and most of all—**never underestimate the difference you make.**

Together, we are not just Lions—we are **Lions of purpose, pride, and progress.** Let's make this year one of growth, unity, and meaningful service.

With gratitude and dedication,

DG Jeff Schafer

District 11-E1

District Team

District Governor:

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

1st Vice District Governor:

Vacant

2nd Vice District Governor:

Vacant

Cabinet Secretary:

Vacant

Cabinet Treasurer:

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Global Leadership Chair:

Vacant

Global Service Chair:

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Zone Chairperson(s) Corner:

Hello Members of the Region 2 Zone 1 (Coleman, Harrison, Midland, Mt. Pleasant, Shepherd, Weidman):

My name is Chuck Dinsmore from the Coleman Lions Club, and newly appointed Zone Chairman for Region 2, Zone 1. I hope during the next year to provide you with a connection avenue to our District Governor and the Lions Club International. Our meetings are intended to let you know what is happening Nationally, in Michigan, our 11 E-1 District, and in the other clubs in our Zone. By interconnecting with clubs in our Zone, you will gain information about their projects, and you may wish to participate or assist them if there is a need. It is also a great way to obtain information and discuss their projects to see if that is an activity that your club may like to adopt.

Our next Zone meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27th at 6:00 P.M. at the Shepherd Bar & Restaurant, 324 W. Wright Ave, Shepherd. Dinner items are available from the restaurant's menu, and once the meal requests are taken the meeting will start, with a break taken when the food arrives. Zone meetings are open to all club members, especially board members. My plan is to try to send invitation emails to past Presidents and Secretaries along with newly elected ones. My hope is that the past officials will accompany the elected ones to assist them with familiarization with the Zone meeting.

Hope to see a great turnout for our first meeting,



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF)

District and Club Community Impact Grant Program

District and Club Community Impact Grants (DCG) empower Lions to support humanitarian activities in their communities. Funded by contributions from clubs and districts to LCIF, these grants incentivize Lions' donations and service projects that align with the foundation's key areas of focus. Under the program, 15% of qualifying unrestricted donations are set aside for DCGs, with all projects requiring LCIF approval. This initiative is available to both districts and clubs. Only donations to the Empowering Service Fund are eligible for DCG funding.

Districts or clubs qualified for DCG funds can apply at any time. Submit applications to LCIF at least 90 days before the project starts to allow for processing. District applications must be signed by the current district governor and certified by the district cabinet, while club applications require the club president's signature and certification from the club board.

-PDG Sheryl Schafer, LCIF Coordinator, District 11-E1

Saylor's Corner:

Hello everyone, my name is Saylor and I'm the 14th Leader Dog for the Blind puppy being raised by DG Jeff & PDG Sheryl. I'm a black female Lab and was initially raised at the Lino Lakes prison in Minnesota.



I've been with DG Jeff since February, and my planned return date is September 14. I worked hard on my obedience training while at Lino Lakes, and DG Jeff has been exposing me to various social environments. I spent 4 hours at a Credit Union Board meeting (a long time to be under the table!), walking in downtown Midland, attended my first Bark for Life event (American Cancer Society event), visit multiple stores (DG Jeff's favorite is Home Depot), and travel quite a bit in the truck and RV! I've also attended the District's new club officer training too.

I think DG Jeff has already received information about his new Leader Dog puppy when he returns me in September. She is a yellow female Lab named Avi. We think she is coming from a Michigan prison but don't know which one. I hope everyone has a wonderful Independence Day holiday. Woof Woof!

**CONTACT US:**

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Midland, MI 48640

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Club	Member	Sponsor
Lake Ann	Cheryl Morse	Jeff Morse
Edmore	Kennen Huber	Jeramee Gilman
Empire	Steve Acton	Martha Acton
	Beth Kaelson	Sandy Wilson
Fremont	Katey Peterson	PDG Jim Patterson
	Kelly Wawsczyk	PDG Jim Patterson
Greenville	Errol Moerdyk	John Autio
	Steven Roose	Joseph House
Onkama	Michael Greven	Richard Lenz
	Heather Schlaepfi	Duane Anderson
Arcadia	BeeJay Reffitt	Roger Brown

For the month of May & June we added 11 new members as of June 27!

Congratulations to everyone that has added new members this month. Keep up the good work and remember ***"Just Ask One!"***

Visit our facebook page.

District 11-E1 Lions

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Lions11E1>



Prayer List:

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



Global Leadership Team (GLT) Corner:

Leadership in Lions is not just about titles—it's about stepping up to ensure that our clubs and communities thrive. As your District Governor, I am committed to building a strong, supportive, and service-driven leadership team for the 2025–2026 Lions year—but I can't do it alone.

To move forward with strength and vision, we must fill several **key leadership roles** that are still open. These positions are vital to the success of our district, and I know we have Lions with the heart, experience, and commitment to take them on.

Current Open Positions:

Cabinet Secretary

The backbone of district communication and recordkeeping. Helps ensure our operations run smoothly and clubs get the info they need.

Global Extension Team (GET) Coordinator

Focuses on strengthening and guiding the formation of new ones.

Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator

Develops leaders by promoting training, mentoring, and leadership growth across the district.

Zone Chairpersons (Multiple Zones)

Serve as the direct link between the district and clubs—supporting, mentoring, and representing Lions at the grassroots level.

Why Step Up?

Taking on a leadership role in Lions is a unique opportunity to:

Grow personally and professionally

Inspire and support fellow Lions

Help clubs succeed in their service missions

Shape the future of our district through teamwork and vision

You don't need to be perfect—you just need to care, commit, and be willing to learn. Training and support will be provided every step of the way.

Will You Help Light the Way?

If you or someone you know is ready to take the next step in their Lions journey, I'd love to speak with you. Let's find a role that fits your passion, your strengths, and your schedule.

Reach out to DG Jeff Schafer directly at:

jeff.schafer1@comcast.net | ☎ (812) 325-3130

Save the Date!

1st Cabinet Meeting

White Cloud Lions Den

Saturday, August 16 from 9am-2pm
294 N. Charles (M037) St., White Cloud, MI

Lunch is planned but more details in August's Newsletter



2024-2025 International President Fabricio Oliveira Message

Dear Lions,

Congratulations on all the success you achieved this Lion year. Lions around the world have made a commitment to achieving our *MISSION 1.5* goal, and no one made a greater commitment than you. I would like to personally thank you for your contributions to a great year.

On behalf of the Executive Officers, thank you for your hard work, your dedication and the mark you have made as a Lion and a Leader.

At Your Service,

Fabricio Oliveira, International President

District Governor Official Visit

Club Presidents & Secretaries are asked to contact DG Jeff Schafer to schedule their official visit with him. In requesting the visit, please identify what subject you would like him to discuss: Lions Club International news, MD-11 & District 11-E1 news, Leader Dogs for the Blind, or Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). He will be happy to discuss any of these or just attend the meeting and observe. In addition, please note if a service dog in training is NOT welcome. He plans to bring his Future Leader Dog puppy with him to all meetings for social exposure and training.

DG Jeff Schafer, call/text 812-325-3130, email: jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Updated Photos on Captain



Captain at Dogs, Inc. in Palmetto, FL



Captain is the 13th Guide Dog puppy that DG Jeff & Sheryl have raised. He is from Dogs, Inc., a non-profit organization similar to Leader Dogs for the Blind location in Palmetto, FL.

Lions July Issue Bear Lake Camp News

Steve Glazier

District 11E1 Bear Lake Camp Chairperson

Hi Fellow Lions! Wow, I blinked and here we are in the last six months of 2025 under the guidance of our new Governor Jeff Schafer. Lions Bear Lake Camp is thrilled to report that they have just started another fantastic camp year at the beginning of June. They had a new record 1079 kids experience camp last summer over an eight-week period. This was a substantial increase from 785 attending two summers ago which was a previous record.

This year 2025 Summer Camp will be expanded to a projected “1500 kids over 11 weeks”. We should all be proud that all Michigan Lions play a part in the success of this Camp just by being a Lion. To clarify, not all attending 1500 kids though are financially supported by Lions. Only Visually Impaired and Hard of Hearing camps are funded by Lions at a nominal cost of \$40 per camper with Lions picking up the estimated \$800 balance per camper. Often the \$40 is even paid for by the referring Lions Club. Most of the Kids Summer Camp attendees “are not” sponsored by Lions such as Autism, Foster Care, Grievance Loss, Cancer, and many others are typically contracted to other groups and organizations at negotiated rates based on a variety of factors such as the activities and facilities they utilize, which staff they require from Bear Lake and whether their mission aligns with Bear Lake’s. Usually, these camps do not require as many Bear Lake Camp staff members as they often bring their own counselors, chaperones, nurses and coordinators. So, you can see that if there is a special needs kid, there probably is a Lions Kids Camp for them. If you know of a child eligible for visually impaired or deaf and hard of hearing camps made affordable by Lions or any of the other kids camp available on the web site, their parents can register directly online on LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP [website](#), contact your local Lions Club, the Bear Lake Camp directly or myself for further assistance.

A quick overview of Lions Bear Lake Camp for any newer members just starting to read our Lions District 11E1 Newsletter. Lions Bear Lake Camp is owned by “all” Lions in the State of Michigan. It’s located on 120 acres in Lapeer Michigan (about 20 miles west of Flint). At full capacity, it can house 160 occupants. The Camp consists of 10 two story “modern dorm style” cabins housing 16 people each and a main lodge, all located on the camp’s own private lake. There are additionally several other buildings for various uses. But by not describing them or their uses you now have an additional reason to come visit the camp.

The Summer Camp is open to ages 6 to 16 years old. Camp activities include a variety of things such as trail hikes, wheelchair accessible paved trails, rope climbing, 50 foot climbing tower, zip line, team building games and challenges, group bonding, bonfires, swimming, camp fire smores, songs, crafts, fishing, boating and so much more! It was initiated by Big Al Kassin in 1982. The Camp was opened at its current location in 2000 with the following Bear Lake Summer Camps being “sponsored” by Lions. Visually Impaired Youth that started it all has been available for 38 years. Later in history, adding Lion Summer Camps for Deaf and Hard of Hearing kids, also a special Hard of Hearing and Visually Impaired weekend camp added that includes their family attending. Diabetes Camp for kids while previously supported is now sustained by another juvenile diabetes camp about 20 minutes from Bear Lake camp. 85% of the Bear Lake summer staff are returning campers.

A reminder about Lions Bear Lake Camp Lions of Michigan weekend coming up this fall.

I know I said this in last month’s issue but.....If you can only make one event this year to Lions Bear Lake Camp “THEN THIS IS THE ONE”!.

I am excited to report that a fun time can be had by all at this year's annual Lions Bear Lake Camp open house Friday September 26th and Saturday September 27th. This weekend experiences is exclusive to "all" Lions in Michigan from Past and Present International Directors and Governors to New Club Members. Your weekend will start with a Friday leisure no stress drive to Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer Michigan through some beautiful countryside and small towns. Upon arrival you will be greeted by Tracy Tribley, Executive Camp Director, and Chrissy Andre, our State Chairperson and Food Director. You will then be assigned a "free night's stay" dormitory style, spacious cabin (10 in total each housing up to 16 people) including indoor bathroom and showers, overlooking a beautiful tranquil lake. After a "free" fabulous buffet dinner provided by Bear Lake Camp (They will also provide a "free" fabulous breakfast and lunch on Saturday and no worries about any special dietary needs as they've got that covered after working with a Camp projected record of almost 1500 kids this summer).

Did you pick up on how affordable this weekend getaway will be, all while learning what Bear Camp has to offer? It's not only for kids summer camp but activities throughout the year for adults too.

Friday evening will conclude with a bonfire, smores, conversation, laughter and comradery. The following morning activity choices at Bear Lake Camp include conquering a 50 foot rock climbing tower and zip lining experience, complete of course with instructions, safety harness and supporting safety overhead rope lines. All pre-tested by several Certified Camp course instructors before allowing us to face our inner most fears but then feeling exhilarated at having completed something that secretly was on your bucket list. I know I can't wait to do it again....Sign me up!!!!

They can even accommodate adults and kids with mobility issues on the tower climb and zip line as proven by one of the attending Lions, Sue Adams, last year, with their accessible facilities. She was able to climb the tower, use the zip line and be lowered back into her mobility device. To paraphrase Chrissy Andre, Camp State Director, "That moment captured the spirit of inclusion that Bear Lake Camp stands for." Other more leisurely activity choices will include fishing off a dock in front of the cabins (poles and bait provided), archery (equipment or small game license not required :), camp tours, nature center tour, boating and I believe I saw a sign up for an indoor activity.

Another of my favorite activities last year was to try a few of the 16 Team Building and Problem-Solving Challenge stations placed throughout the woods such as tight rope walking. This consists of walking a low to the ground (maybe a foot) approximately 20-foot stretched cable while holding on to overhead ropes spaced about 5 or 6 feet apart, but not to worry your teammates are on both sides of you to support you. Then mix it up having the next person doing it backwards and for the final event last year having me walk it backwards, blind folded, with one rope removed without telling me!!! All the while being guided and supported by your fellow team members to keep you from falling.

Another event last year was the group balance platform (Aptly called "the boat") where the platform could tilt 360 degrees from a central pivot point. The objective was to work together as a group to try to balance the platform level with everyone standing on it. You soon learned moving one person's foot a few inches can change the center of gravity. It's a lot harder than it sounds, but certainly fun was had by all! The Challenge Course Coordinator/Director, Kenny Gillotte, is a former student camper himself who went on to college and received his master's degree and who returned to give back to the Camp. Kenny also teaches and explains to the group and the individuals in a very dynamic way how all these challenges that need to be overcome and what are perceived to be mental obstacles in each of the 16 challenges can actually help you navigate through real life.

So, if you're looking for something affordable to excite your senses and challenge your inner self or just enjoy kicking back and relaxing on your cabin deck overlooking the lake absorbing all nature has to offer or even just hanging out at the main hall making new Lion friends, then Lions Bear Lake Camp Open House for all Lions throughout the State is the place to be this September 26th and 27th. Of special note this may be an especially great additional recruitment enticement tool for younger members showing an interest in joining your club.

Please Note: The Cedar Polish Festival Lions parade float for Aug 23rd has been canceled.



Coleman Lions



Left Photo: Coleman Lions held a picnic at their last meeting for the year. DG Appointee Jeff Schafer installed the new officers. Pictured from left to right: Lions Chuck Dinsmore (Lion Tamer), Katie Huber (Director), Amy Hovey (President), Billie Jo Parker (Secretary), Pat Hovey (Tail Twister), PDG Sheryl Schafer (1VP), Matt Huber (2VP), and DGA Jeff Schafer. Not pictured are Lions Pam Render (Treasurer) and Jason Perkins (Director).



Right Photo: Lion Ann Roeseler presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Pam Render in appreciation of her years of service as the Coleman Treasurer. Lion Pam was surprised with the Fellowship at her work (CW Gordon Sales & Service). Her boss, Lion Curt Gordon was a proud witness! We were not able to present the MJF at their last meeting as Lion Pam was participating in a race up North. Pictured from left to right: Lion Curt Gordon, Lion Ann Roeseler, and Lion Pam Render.



Left Photo: Members of the Coleman Lions Club made birthday kits (14 of them) and delivered them to the Coleman Family Center. The kits consisted of cake mix and ingredients, plates, napkins, candles, tablecloth and birthday card. Picture in the photo is PDG Sheryl Schafer who brought the idea back from visiting a Lions Club Convention in southwest Indiana (District 25E).



Right Photo: Two members of the Coleman Lions Club along with their Future Leader Dog Puppy, Saylor participated in the Bark for Life event held in Midland. One member from the Mid-Michigan Leader Dog puppy raiser group participated. Pictured from left to right are DG Jeff Schafer, PDG Sheryl Schafer, Future Leader Dog puppy Saylor (black female Lab), Mid-Michigan Puppy Raiser Cindee Shaffer and her Future Leader Dog puppy Mufasa (male Golden Retriever).

Lake Ann Lions



Members of the Lake Ann Lions Club helped put out signs for the community 5K run.





The Lake Ann Lions Club hosted a Scholarship Reception for their High School Scholarship Recipients in June.

Greenville Lions Club



Greenville Lions Club members hard at work staffing the Lions Food Booth at the Montcalm 4H Fair.



The Greenville Lions Club hosted the Lions Club Kreitner Memorial Golf Classic on Saturday, June 14th. They raised over \$8,000 at this event with 17 teams and sponsors!

Midland Lions Club



During the June 03 Midland Lions Club meeting, Lion Jim Mitchell was honored with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award as well as a Service Award marking 30 years of Lions Service



The Midland Lions newly installed board for 2025-2026.

Empire Lions Club



Mike Bolton receives the Lion of the Year award



Tom Pykosz (L) outgoing president, gives Tom Haiderer, new president, the gavel.



New members Steve Lewis and Beth Kaelson (center) being inducted as new Lions by Martha Acton (L), Steve Wilson and Sandy Wilson (R)

2025



90+
★ MIDLAND LIONS CLUB ★
90 PLUS YEARS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY 1933

\$15
CHICKEN HALF
BAKED POTATO
APPLE SAUCE,
ROLL, COOKIE
& WATER

midland area
River Days
FESTIVAL

BARBECUE

CHICKEN

ROASTED ONSITE
BY M&M MEATS

DINNER

August 2
3:00 to 7:00pm
OR UNTIL 900 MEALS SOLD
@ The Lions' Tent Behind the H Hotel
OFF SITE 3:00 TO 6:00 PM CITY PARKING NEXT TO BP ON JEROME ST.

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