



# Lions Connections

June 2025

District 11E1 Newsletter

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## District Dispatches

Reports from District Officers

### Introducing Your 2025–2026 District Governor: Lion Jeff Schafer

I am honored and humbled to introduce myself as your **District Governor Appointee for 2025–2026**. As a proud member of the Lions family and a U.S. Navy Veteran, I step into this role with deep gratitude, a servant's heart, and a strong commitment to lead with purpose, compassion, and integrity.

Throughout my years in Lionism, I've witnessed the power of service—not just in the projects we deliver, but in the lives we touch and the communities we transform. Lions are more than volunteers. We are **leaders, advocates, and light-bearers** in times of both challenge and celebration.

#### A Leader Anchored in Service

With a background in military service and a deep respect for the values of honor, duty, and unity, I bring a steady and focused approach to leadership. My personal motto, “**Anchored in Service. Lighting the Way Forward,**” reflects both my Navy roots and my belief in the

guiding light of Lionism. Like a lighthouse, our district can be a beacon—providing direction, stability, and hope.

### What's Ahead in 2025–2026

As we look to the year ahead, my goals are simple and clear:

- **Support and strengthen our clubs**, especially those rebuilding or facing challenges
- **Grow membership** through connection, mentorship, and engagement
- **Foster leadership** by encouraging Lions to step up and lead boldly
- **Celebrate service** at every level—because every act of kindness matters

I believe in **collaborative leadership**—working side by side with our Club Presidents, Zone Chairs, Cabinet, and every Lion who raises their hand to serve.

### Let's Serve Together

To all Lions—seasoned veterans and new members alike—I invite you to join me in shaping a year of **growth, resilience, and renewed purpose**. Together, we will face the future with courage and conviction.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with your ideas, your concerns, or your hopes for our District. I look forward to serving with you, learning from you, and celebrating the great work we'll accomplish—TOGETHER!

In Lionism and with deepest appreciation,

**Lion Jeff Schafer**

District Governor Appointee, 2025–2026

**District 11-E1**

[Jeff.schafer1@comcast.net](mailto:Jeff.schafer1@comcast.net)

Cell Phone: 812-325-3130

Anchored in Service



Lighting the Way Forward

## Leadership Opportunities: Your District Needs You! Step Forward. Serve Boldly. Lead with Purpose.

As we prepare for the upcoming Lions year, our District is calling on **dedicated, service-minded members** to help shape the future of Lionism in our district. Leadership is not just about holding a title—it's about **making a difference, empowering others, and ensuring that our clubs and causes thrive.**

We currently have several key **District-Level Leadership positions open**, and we are seeking passionate Lions who are ready to step forward and serve.

### Open Leadership Positions:

- **Cabinet Secretary**
- **Global Membership Team (GMT) Coordinator**
- **Global Extension Team (GET) Coordinator**
- **Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator**
- **Zone Chairpersons**
- **Peace Poster Chairperson**
- **Constitution & By-Laws Chairperson**
- **Credentials Chairperson**
- **Sergeant-at-Arms Chairperson**
- **Hearing & Speech Chairperson**
- **White Cane Chairperson**

### Why Serve?

- **Strengthen Lionism** in your area and help clubs grow and succeed
- **Build relationships** with Lions across the District and beyond
- **Gain Leadership experience** and professional skills
- **Serve with purpose**—and help others do the same
- **Contribute to global causes** with local impact

Whether you've served in a leadership role before or are ready for your first district-level position, **you are needed and welcome.** Training and support are provided—what matters most is your passion for service.

Let's build a stronger, more united District—**together.** Step forward, serve boldly, and help lead the way!

### Ready to Learn More or Volunteer?

Contact PCC Jeff Schafer:  
District Governor Appointee, District 11-E1  
Cell Phone: 812-325-313

Anchored in Service



Lighting the Way Forward

## Give Kids the Gift of Sight – Host a KidSight Event This Summer!

Fellow Lions,

As your newest District KidSight Coordinator, I thank you for the important work you do in your communities. Your service continues to change lives – and one of the most impactful ways **we can make a difference is through the Lions KidSight USA program.**

Each year, thousands of children enter school with undetected vision problems that can hinder learning, development, and self-confidence. With just a few minutes and a simple photo-screening device, we can identify potential vision issues in children as young as six months old – giving families the opportunity to seek early treatment and avoid lifelong challenges.

### **Now is the perfect time to schedule a KidSight event.**

Summer offers countless opportunities to reach families where they are – **at preschools, day care centers, community fairs, library story times, and festivals.** These events are ideal for KidSight screenings because:

- Kids are out and about with their families
- Many parents are planning for the school year ahead
- These informal settings create a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere for screenings.

Not sure where to start? I'm here to help! As District Coordinator, I can assist with:

- Providing equipment and the KidSight trailer for outdoor events.
- Training screeners and volunteers
- Outreach templates for contacting child care centers and community organizers
- Tracking and reporting tools to keep our efforts organized and effective

Your club doesn't need a large team or a big budget – just a willingness to serve and a desire to help children in your community. Together, we can ensure that no child falls behind because of an undetected vision problem.

Let's make this summer a season of sight!

Please contact me today to schedule your KidSight event or to learn more about getting involved.

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

“Where there's a need, there's a Lion – and this summer, the need is clear.” 🦁 👁

**Bear Lake Camp June Update**  
**Steve Glazier**  
**District 11E1 Lions Bear Lake Chairperson**

Hi Fellow Lions. Wow! Here we are already winding down the Lions fiscal year for 2025 at the end of this June. Similarly, just as the Governor reminds the Clubs to “Just Ask” for new membership each year it would be remiss on my part as 11E1 District Chair to not “Just Ask” to remember Lions Bear Lake Camp in your new 2026 budget year meeting agenda. Due to our Executive Camp Director Traci Tribble’s money management skills, every dollar is utilized to its maximum potential. This follows in keeping with Lions International practice of low overhead business cost compared to other charitable organizations. To meet this challenge the staff is cross-trained, and they all multitask enthusiastically to cover as needed where needed. Food Director Chrissy Andre also needs recognition for her cost-saving culinary skills. All while catering to multiple dietary needs and still maintaining five-star restaurant quality

The Camp’s annual Spring Work Bee held recently brought together more than 75 volunteers who showed up with sleeves rolled up, tools at the ready and a “Let’s Get Er Done” attitude. The tasks were laid out on a table under three categories: Easy – Moderate and Difficult with Teams forming and organizing spontaneously while in line. Example projects ranged from raking, planting, painting, cleaning and repairing to building and replacing new walkways. One Coleman, Chuck Dinsmore, even stopped by the camp the next day after all the volunteers left on his return home from “Up North” to volunteer to complete a few unfinished projects. Thank you, Chuck, on behalf of the entire Lions Bear Lake Camp staff, especially Jessee Walling, Assistant Director/Site Manager, whom I’m sure was appreciative of valuable time he could spend elsewhere preparing the camp. Kenny Gillotte and Brent Beracy I know you were appreciative also as you prepared for the deluge of kids showing up for Summer Camp starting early this month.

Hey District Members! The BIG LIONS event of the year (Exclusive to Lion Members only) is coming!!!! I’ve been mentioning all year in the Newsletter to keep your calendar options open in September for this. It has just been scheduled. So, if you’re looking for an affordable, as in FREE LODGING AND MEALS (Friday night lodging with dinner, breakfast, and lunch on Saturday) weekend getaway and if you can only make one event this year to Lions Bear Lake Camp “THEN THIS IS THE ONE”. [Mark your Calendar for September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>](#), as announced on the flyer below.

Come see all this camp has to offer, it’s not only for kids’ summer camp, but activities throughout the year for adult groups too. Come enjoy an evening of bonfires, smores, conversation, laughter, and comradery with Lions from throughout the State all while additionally having the opportunity of conquering the 50 foot rock wall tower climb, zip lining experience or trying some of the ever popular team bonding 15 course challenge events, dock fishing, archery, camp tours, nature center tour and that’s just off the top of my head!!

Be sure to read your monthly District 11E1 newsletter for additional exciting breaking news, experiences awaiting you and sign up for the free Bear Lake Newsletter for exhilarating camp updates and stories. There is an individual featured in this month’s Bear Lake Camp June article from our very own district. After you read Traci’s creative word smithing article about this person you’ll see why she received every grant she wrote and applied for so far for the camp.

View on: [bearlakecamp.org](http://bearlakecamp.org) (scroll to very bottom to sign up for newsletter) or Google: Lions Bear Lake Camp Lapeer

### 2025 Events:

June 9<sup>th</sup> - Golf Classic Fundraiser

July 12<sup>th</sup> - General Public Open House

July 27<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Baseball Game & Picnic

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Clay Pigeon Shoot

September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - LIONS OF MICHIGAN WEEKEND Mark your calendar as a must experience event at Bear Lake Camp

October 4<sup>th</sup> 2025- Ultra Marathon (Held at Bear Lake Camp)

### 2026 Events:

February 7<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Plunge---I mention this one so you can start practicing your ice water diving style in warmer water.

One last request that's not Bear Lake Camp related. Let's help support our Cedar/Maple City newer energetic Lion Heather Dourron in her first project in putting together a District Lions Float complete with an invite to all District Lion Clubs to participate in our local Cedar Polish Festival Parade August 23<sup>rd</sup> per below flyer. So, start listening to your favorite Polka music, grab your babushka and join the fun!!!!

More information to follow so mark your calendar and keep reading your monthly District Newsletter.





**Calling all District #11E1 Lions!**

Come show your Lions Spirit  
with

**Cedar-Maple City Lions Club**

We'd like you to join us on

August 23, 2025

for the

**Cedar Polka Festival Parade**

and

**Afterglow Lions Club Celebration**

**Details:**

Line up at 11:15am Parade starts at 12noon

Line up location Solon Township Hall 9191 S Kasson St; Cedar, Mi 49621

Short ride or walk in Parade to our Cedar Firehouse

to meet and greet our neighboring **Lions in #11E1**

Food and Games at Firehouse

Then, if you wish,

**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore** and beach right down the road  
If you've never seen it, it's just a stone throw down the road and well worth it.

Please let us know if you can come join us.

*Looking for a Lions Club member that plays accordion*

All Lions welcome!

Thank you,

**Heather Dourron**

**248-644-1963**

[Hdourron1963@gmail.com](mailto:Hdourron1963@gmail.com)



## Chapter Chronicles

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### Central Montcalm



The Central Montcalm Lions had a busy May. We participated in the We Care for Kids Family Fun Day on May 17th and served over 500 hot dogs to local families.

We awarded four \$500 scholarships to four different graduating seniors from Central Montcalm High School. We also made donations to the Central Montcalm Track Program for their league championship t-shirts, Sheridan Community Hospital for their upcoming health fair and also made a donation to Montcalm Community College to support their Athletic Department.

We are busy getting ready for our annual golf outing which will be held on June 20th. It's Great to be a Lion!!!!

### Greenville



Lion Mary Kozler (Greenville Treasurer) was recognized as the 2024 – 2025 Lion of the Year!



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Lions Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, May 9th. We raised \$4,161.80 at this event serving 211 adults & 34 children! Great Job Greenville Lions Club and all our supporters!!!

## Luther



We had Great Weather and a Great Day for our Memorial Day Parade in downtown Luther!

On June 12<sup>th</sup> the Luther Lions Hosted Feeding America at our clubhouse.

Join us for a night of fun on June 21st for another round of BINGO. Doors open at 5pm with early bird at 5:30 pm. Regular BINGO starts at 6:00pm. Food will be available for purchase.

July 5th and 6th will be two days of all you can eat Breakfast at our Lions Club. Times are 8:30am to 11:00am. Come on down. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 6-12 yrs old. Under 6 are FREE! And then after join in the festivities at the Luther Logging Days in downtown Luther.

Luther Lions will be having a two-day FLEA MARKET being held July 19th and 20th at our Club. Sat, the 19th time is 10:00am to 6pm. On Sunday, it will be from 10:00am until 5pm. If you would like to rent a table, please call our President, Linda Wellman at 503-799-3105. While shopping on Sat. stick around because at 5pm we will be having our annual CHRISTMAS IN JULY DINNER. Doors open at 5pm, and the cost is just \$15 for a fried turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Also, we will be having music entertainment for your enjoyment.

So please join us for one or more of these events.

## Midland

Earlier in the year, the Midland Lions Club was able to provide a Roger Phonak Touchscreen Mic to a family who had a hard of hearing 6-year-old daughter. This past month, the Midland Lions Club along with Lions of Michigan Service Foundation was able to provide monetary support for an individual that needed cataracts surgery. Her primary insurance will cover the surgeries, but she could not afford her co-pay and her deductible. The Lions were able to cover those expenses.

The Midland Lions had another successful White Cane fundraiser on May 29 & 30. We collected \$1443.46 with 22 Lions working 36 hours. That works out to \$40.10 an hour for the weekend, which is outstanding!



## Stanwood



Pat Langworthy of Stanwood Lions presented a certificate of appreciation and a gift card to Carlee Feliciano thanking her for being a student helper. Carlee helped with the Art Club that the Stanwood Lions sponsored during the 2024-25 school year at Morley Stanwood Elementary.



Have some club news to share of your own?  
Want to showcase some of your club's achievements?

Send your club news and photos to District 11E1 Newsletter Editor, Paula Rigling, Arcadia Lions at [District11E1Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:District11E1Newsletter@gmail.com)

**Please send your articles by the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month**