



Lions Connections

October 2024

District 11E1 Newsletter

District Dispatches

Reports from District Officers



District Governor
Tom MacNaughton

Important Location Change for the 2025 International Convention

The 2025 international convention has been moved to Orlando, Florida over the dates of July 13 -17.

Why the Change in Location?

The contracts for Mexico City were not in place and when LCI went to Mexico to fix this situation they raised the prices by millions of dollars. So, LCI said is there any other place in the world that can host us on such short notice. Orlando said we can. You will be sent more information as soon as it becomes available.

Hurricane Response- Lions on the Ground

The other important thing you should know about is the devastation in North Carolina and Florida. The Lions were there helping in the first 24 hours after the storms made landfall last month. We had 12 district Lions apply for grants and LCI issued each of them \$10,000 right away. They also granted the state lions of North Carolina and Florida \$100,000 each to help in each of their states. This is where part of your dues goes. WE SERVE, it is great to be a lion. The Global Action teams will have a zoom dealing with membership on the 19 of October. This will be coming from the state office.

Peace Poster Contest Deadline- November 15th

A reminder for those participating in the Peace Poster contest. Please contact Lion Ann Roeseler of the Coleman Lions. She is the chair and has all the details you need to know. Lion Ann Roeseler, District Peace Poster Chair (ann.roeseler@gmail.com)

Spring 2025 District Conference- April 25-26, Clare, MI

To reduce the cost of the spring conference so more Lions can attend we are looking at ways to reduce the price. Costs for hotel facilities, meats, rooms, etc. keep going up at an alarming rate. Karen Joy, a new 2VD Governor in the Kalamazoo Area, works for Pfizer and has told us her company has a matching grant program. It matches \$2.00 for every \$1.00 a group puts up to a limit of \$7,500. If each district donates \$500 it would amount to \$5,500 which would help offset some of the costs for the spring convention. I will continue to work on this with the hope of making it more affordable for Lions.

Fall Conference Recap

The fall conference, hosted by the Harrison Lions Club on Saturday, September 28th was a great success, setting a record with 49 Lions in attendance. Thank you to Harrison for hosting us and to everyone who attended!

GRAB AN OAR AND START ROWING!

Peace Poster Contest



Please notify DG Tom Mac Naughton (tommacnaughton@gmail.com) if your club is sponsoring a Peace Poster contest this year. The winning peace poster must be given to him by November 15, 2024. Posters must not be folded, so please either hand the poster to him directly or use a mailing tube to send it. (7050 S Lakeshore Dr, Cedar, MI 49621) Thanks to all the District Clubs participating this year.

Snaps from the Fall Conference



Lion Al Roeseler Moderates a Panel Focused on Increasing Membership



PDG Jim Patterson Presents on the Lions Foundation



DG Tom MacNaughton Welcomes Attendees



Fall Conference Service Project
Lion Ann Roeseler, District Service Coordinator

Lions from around District 11E1 gathered at the Harrison Lions Den on Saturday, September 28. 49 Lions from 15 district clubs worked together to fill bags for school kids with Smarties and pencils. Positive messages of encouragement were attached to each bag. We were able to finish 300 “Smartie Bags” which allowed clubs to take 20 “Smartie Bags” back home to distribute in their communities. Great job Lions!





**Lions Bear Lake Camp District Chairperson
Steve Glazier**

See new website at: BEARLAKECAMP.ORG

Hi Fellow Lions! I am excited to report that a fun time was had by all at this year's second annual Lions Bear Lake Camp open house September 13 and 14th. We had 6 members attending from our district this year. which was a 600% increase compared to last year. The day started with a leisure no stress drive to Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer through some beautiful countryside and small towns. Upon arrival all were greeted by Tracy Tribley, Executive Camp Director, and Chrissy Andre, our State Chairperson.

We were then assigned our "free" dormitory style, spacious cabins (10 in total each housing up to 16 people) with all the modern amenities, less TV :), including indoor bathroom and showers, overlooking a beautiful tranquil lake. After a "free" fabulous buffet dinner provided by Bear Lake Camp (They also provided 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 record of almost 1100 kids this summer). Did you pick up on how affordable this weekend getaway was; all while learning what Bear Camp has to offer, not only for kids' summer camp but activities throughout the year for adult groups too? More to come on that in future District Newsletter Camp updates. This explains why they are booked throughout the year except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We then concluded the evening with a bonfire, s'mores, conversation, laughter and comradery.

The next morning's activity choices at Bear Lake Camp included 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 fears but then feeling exhilarated at having completed something that secretly was on your bucket list. Just ask PDG Jim Patterson about his Tower Wall rock climbing and Zip Line experience. I'll bet he'll try to talk you in to it! I can't wait until next year 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, with their accessible facilities. She was able to climb the tower and zip line and be lowered back into her mobility device. To paraphrase Chrissy Andre Camp State Director, "This moment captured the spirit of inclusion that Bear Lake Camp stands for". Other more leisure activity choices included fishing off a dock in front of cabins, archery, camp tours, nature center tour, boating and I believe I saw a sign up for an indoor activity.

Another of the favorite activities was to try a few of the 16 Team Building (Problem Solving) Challenge events placed throughout the woods such as tight rope walking. Walking a low to the ground approximately 20 foot stretched cable by holding on to overhead ropes spaced about 5 or 6 feet apart, then having the next person doing

it backwards and for the final event 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 complete and keep you from falling. Another was the group balance platform (Aptly called “the boat”) where the platform could tilt 360 degrees from a central pivot point. The object of the challenge was to work together as a group to try 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. Lot harder than it sounds but certainly fun 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 came back 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 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 absorbing all nature has to offer or even just hanging out at the main hall with Lion friends; then Lions Bear Lake Camp Open House for all Lions throughout the State is the place to be next year. Next year’s Open House date has not yet been determined. Of special note this may be an especially great additional recruitment enticement tool for younger members showing an interest in joining your club.

While the above is all fun and games, the serious issue side is how Bear Lake Camp needs to continue to fund the growing attendance and upkeep operations year after year. They rely heavily on the generous support of Lion clubs throughout Michigan. Lions Bear Lake Camp still needs ongoing donations to maintain and improve their facilities, programs and accessibility. Our District Clubs and individual contributions are essential to helping them meet the needs of their growing number of campers and guests. This attendance increase is a testimonial to what Camp Director Traci Tribley and her Staff are accomplishing.

A big “Thanks” to the many District Clubs who have already stepped up this year and we encourage all clubs to continue their support. An **ESPECIALLY BIG THANK YOU** to the attending clubs at the District 11E1 Fall Conference Sept. 28th in Harrison who contributed collectively \$3300 at the Parade of Checks for the Camp. This was a \$700 increase per my records for that day compared to last year. Also, an **ADDITIONAL THANK YOU** to those clubs that are also donating to Lions Bear Lake Camp but have not yet mailed their checks in to Peggy, our District Treasurer.

In conclusion Lions Bear Lake Camp is a State Project and we need all Michigan Lions and Lion Clubs to support this awesome camp. There is not any camp like this in the state with all the programs it provides for the kids in Michigan. So, when your Club does its Budget for next year 2025, please put some money or additional money aside for this **SPECIAL CAMP**.



**Grow Our Community:
A Call to Lions Club Members to Inspire New Leaders and Expand Our Impact!**

**PDG Al Roeseler
District 11 E1 Membership Chair**

I suspect that there are few, if any, Lions who joined so they could have the joy of recruiting new members. In fact, most Lions are probably sick of hearing about it. Unfortunately, recruiting new and retaining current members is a matter of survival. Since my Governor year, 2018-19, our district has gone from 42 to 37 clubs. Today there are several of our clubs struggling to stay in business. This could happen to any club, so please don't think you are immune.

Every club needs to have a Membership Chair. Not just to hold the title but to actively plan ways to recruit new members to help with your community's service needs. Failing to plan is planning to fail!

Our biggest challenge is to recruit young people. We have a perhaps well-deserved reputation as a club for old people. We need to think and act outside our comfort zone. Look into a club branch. You need only 5 members, they meet on their own schedule and do their own projects. Explore TikTok, Instagram, etc. as fewer young people are on Facebook. There are many resources that can help you with your efforts. In addition to contacting me, LCI has tons of material available on their website. Please check it out [here](#).

I don't mean to sound negative, so many great things are happening in our district because of the outstanding efforts of our incredible clubs. But we cannot ignore the writing on the wall. If we do not change the trajectory of our membership, future generations will not enjoy the benefits that we bring to our communities.



Club Chronicles

Arcadia

In September, members of the Arcadia Lions participated in our twice-yearly road cleanup through Adopt a Highway. In addition, the club hosted a Pancake Breakfast over Labor Day Weekend and throughout that weekend, volunteered for the Minnehaha Brewhaha Music Festival, held annually in Arcadia, to benefit the Music Moves Me Foundation which promotes music education in schools.

Central Montcalm

The Central Montcalm Lions had a busy September. We had our highway cleanup day on September 25th; which we do three times a summer. We also donated to the Stanton Rotary Club to help with repairs and renovations to Maddie's Park in Stanton, Mi. We look forward to hosting our zone meeting on Thursday November 7th at 6:00pm at the Stanton American Legion.



Coleman

Coleman Lions Attend USA / Canada Forum

Four Coleman Lions members drove to Louisville, KY to attend the USA / Canada Forum September 5-7. They enjoyed seeing Lions from around the world, some of whom were current and Past International Presidents, Directors and their families.

There were fabulous inspirational speakers at each meal. Lion Ann Roeseler participated in the Strides Diabetes Walk the first day along with several hundred other Lions! There were interesting and informative sessions each day. They learned about new opportunities to serve globally and ways to improve our work locally.

PCC Jeff and PDG Sheryl Schafer's service dog in training, Captain, attended his first Forum! PDG Al and Lion Ann had their picture taken with the current Foundation Chair, Dr. Patti Hill whom they had met at another USA / Canada Forum before she became the Lions International President! Michigan Lions in attendance gathered for a group photo.



KidSight Camp & Games in Coleman

Coleman's fall event, a Walk Thru Town was the biggest it has ever been with 74 businesses and churches setting up tables along four blocks of Railway Street. Coleman Lions participated in the local event by not only providing games and treats for kids as in the past years, but by also providing KidSight screenings using the highly visible KidSight trailer. 12 children were screened with 1 referral.



Luther

Our Sept. 13th Bingo was a great success with the proceeds going to the UPLIFT Program for the Pine River School Children. Special thanks to our amazing Kitchen Crew who cooked up and served the food at this event. Great Job!



Weidman

At their annual picnic, the club presented four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors (pictured). Left to right: Ariana Todd (Chippewa Hills), Carleigh Thompson (Chippewa Hills), Payton Butkovich (Beal City) and Mackenna Sellers (Beal City) and Walt Schneider (Lions President).





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.

Please send your articles by the 7th of each month.

DON'T MISS THE 2025 DISTRICT 11-E1 SPRING CONVENTION	
SAVE THE DATE THE DOHERTY HOTEL CLARE, MI	
APRIL	25-26