

Anchored in Service



Lighting the Way Forward

# District 11-E1

## Dec 2025 Newsletter



Michigan Lions Serving 16 Counties &amp; 35 Clubs!



### Governor's Corner:

#### A Christmas Message from Your District Governor

As we enter this joyful season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to every Lion in **District 11-E1**. May your Christmas be filled with peace, gratitude, and time spent with the people who matter most. Thank you for all you have done throughout the year to bring hope, service, and compassion to your communities. Our district is stronger because of each of you.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I'd like to offer a few important reminders to help keep our district on track:

#### Membership Updates – Due by December 31

Please take a moment to review your club's membership roster in the Lions Portal.

- **Add new members** who have joined this fall.
  - **Drop members** who are no longer active.
- Accurate membership reporting ensures your club receives proper credit, and it helps keep our district information current as we enter the second half of the Lions year.

#### Service Reporting – Enter at Least One Project

If your club has completed **any service activity or fundraiser** this year and hasn't yet entered it in the Portal, please do so before December 31. Every act of service—big or small—matters. Reporting it ensures our district's collective impact is recognized and celebrated.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to serving with heart, kindness, and purpose. I am proud to be your District Governor and grateful for each Lion who makes District 11-E1 a shining example of what it means to serve.

Wishing you and your families a very **Merry Christmas** and a joyful start to the new year.

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



Avi has been a real trooper over this past month. She just completed her first heat cycle (ended on Thanksgiving Day!). A dog's heat cycle is 21 days long and Leader Dog's policy is to keep your dog in quarantine during that time. She has only been in and around our home and yard. No Lions Club visits, no short runs to the store, no puppy outings with other Leader Dog puppies. She only gets to lay around the house with her besties, Molly (11 yr old Black Lab), Lil Ann (15 yr old Cockapoo) and Oliver (3 yr old Ginger cat). Avi hopes to see all of you in the next few months!

Last week we received a call from Lion Dave Chase (Georgia Lion) who had our first Leader Dog puppy, Shadow. Shadow (Black male Lab) has been a guide dog from 2014 through 2022, when he retired in July 2022. Their veterinarian had told him that Shadow had cancer, and he could live another 2 weeks or 2 years. We're hoping for 2+ years!

#### Upcoming Events:

- Dec 5-6: CoG Mtg, Holiday Inn/Suites, Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Dec 13: R3Z2 Mtg, White Cloud Lions Den, 9am-Noon
- 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
- Mar 27-28: District 11-E1 Convention, Evergreen Resort, Cadillac, MI

#### Upcoming Official Visits:

- Dec 1: Coleman
- Dec 3: Edmore
- Dec 8: White Cloud
- Jan 12: Crystal

### Avi's Corner:



## District Team

### District Governor:

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

### 1st Vice District Governor:

Vacant

### Assist 2nd 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 Adsmund (Fremont)  
(231) 740-7076  
[adsmund@comcast.net](mailto:adsmund@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)  
(616) 217-6840  
[pfrank1219@yahoo.com](mailto:pfrank1219@yahoo.com)

### Newsletter Editor:

Paula Rigling (Arcadia)  
(512) 791-4701  
[district11E1Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:district11E1Newsletter@gmail.com)

Anchored in Service



Lighting the Way Forward

## Happy Holidays fellow Lions! Look what's happening Region 1, Zone 2!

The Zone is working on a possible Zone project. More details to come in February.

**Arcadia Lions** - Arcadia Lions are down for the winter and the SnowBirds have gone south for the winter to a much warmer location.

**Cadillac Lions** - Get your Tip-ups ready for winter fishing season. "The Sink the Shack" contest will be starting soon as enough ice is on Lake Cadillac. Contact the Cadillac Lions if you want tickets.

**Kaleva Lions** - Thanks to a great group of volunteers pasties are made and sold every Thursday (except Holidays). We will be selling pasties at the Maple Grove Community Center Craft Sale in December. We have helped several families who lost their homes to fires. Also working on the 2026 Club Activities Calendar.

**Manistee Lions** - Manistee Lions are slowing down with a significant amount of SnowBirds going to warmer weather.

**Mesick Lions** - December 6, 2025, Breakfast with Santa. Mesick Lions are having a Hat and Mitten Drive for Mesick School Kids. They will be adopting ten children for Christmas gifts.

**Onkama Lions:** Fundraiser for Onkama High School Girls Softball Team on December 13, 2025. Working on food Baskets for Christmas. January 2026 Corn Hole starts on Fridays. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for food and Corn Hole Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year! **WE SERVE**

-Lion Karla Kasten, R1Z2 Chairperson

## Save-The-Date

## 3<sup>rd</sup> District 11-E1 Cabinet 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

More information on lunch will be in the January Newsletter  
Agenda is included in this newsletter on Page 11



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**

## Celebrating Generosity and Honoring Melvin Jones: A Message from Your District LCIF Coordinator

As we approach the start of a new year, I want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to every Lions Club and Lion in District 11-E1 who has made a contribution to **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)** this year. Your generosity strengthens our ability to respond to disasters, support youth, restore vision, fight hunger, and bring lasting change to communities locally and around the world. Every dollar makes a difference—and your support truly matters.

### Celebrate Melvin Jones' 147th Birthday with a Gift to LCIF

January marks the **147th birthday of our founder, Melvin Jones**, whose belief that “You can’t get very far until you start doing something for somebody else” remains the guiding spirit of our service today.

In honor of his legacy, I’m encouraging every member who has not yet made a personal gift to LCIF this year to consider making **their first donation**—no matter the size—to help celebrate this special occasion. A small gift from many Lions adds up to a major impact.

### If You Have Already Donated—Thank You!

For those who have already shown their support this year, thank you again for your commitment. I invite you to consider **renewing your contribution** in honor of Melvin Jones and encouraging a fellow Lion to join you. Together, we can expand the reach of our foundation and ensure we remain a powerful force for good.

Your kindness fuels LCIF’s mission. Thank you for being part of the global effort to serve “Together as One,” and thank you for helping keep Melvin Jones’ legacy alive through your continued support.

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



## District 11-E1 Peace Poster Winner Announced

I am pleased to announce the winner of the **District 11-E1 Peace Poster Contest** for this year’s theme, “**Together as One.**” This theme challenged young artists to illustrate how unity, understanding, and shared purpose can create a more peaceful world—and our district’s students rose to the challenge with creativity and heart.

This year, we received **four outstanding entries**, submitted by the:

- **Coleman Lions Club**
- **Harrison Lions Club**
- **Central Montcalm Lions Club**
- **Lake Ann Lions Club**

Each poster reflected a unique vision of peace, hope, and global togetherness. Thank you to every club that worked with local schools and youth programs to make this year’s contest a success. Your involvement keeps the Peace Poster tradition strong in District 11-E1.

After careful review, the winning entry for our district was submitted by a talented young artist sponsored by the **Harrison Lions Club**. Their poster beautifully captured the spirit of “Together as One,” using vibrant imagery and thoughtful symbolism to show how people of all backgrounds can come together to build a brighter, more peaceful future.

This winning poster has been sent forward to the **Multiple District** level for further judging. We are proud to have it represent District 11-E1. Thank you again to all participating clubs and to the youth who shared their vision of peace with us. You remind us why Lions continue to champion programs that uplift creativity, unity, and global understanding.

**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>

For the month of November, we added 22 new members! Overall, we have added 53 new members, transferred in 9 members & 29 dropped members, gain of +29.

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

## Welcome New Members!

Club	Member	Sponsor
Greenville	Heather Catt	Larry Alman
	Scott Horn	Dan Eagles
Lakeview	Jack Koester	Rosie Witt
Midland	Ken Henderson	Alan Ducham
	Ryan Pelletier	David Romenesko
Northport	Bonnie & John Kalous	Clifford Hale
	Nina Collins	
	Jennifer Haro	Douglas Whitley
	Jacquie Johnson	Dave Johnson
	Dan Malski	Douglas Whitley
	Ann McInnis	Douglas McInnis
	Patricia Noftz	Allen Noftz
	Ivan Paciorka	Steven Paciorka
	Janis Rygwelski	Tyrus Wessell
	Hugh Scott	Douglas Whitley
	Pam Strawbridge	Marian Kromkowski
	Janet Whetsel	Charles Whetsel
Shepherd	Renee & Thomas Chrispell	Richard Hetherington
	Kim Lavigne	Robert Gates
Weidman	Joy Sue Ecker	Dennis McMichael

## Prayer List:

PDG Jim & Peggy Walls  
PDG Pam Schroeder and PDG Dan Gibbons



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 Opportunity: Our District Needs a First Vice District Governor

As your District Global Leadership Team (GLT), one of our primary responsibilities is ensuring that Lions in District 11-E1 have strong, capable leaders who can guide us into the future. Today, I want to bring attention to an important leadership need in our district:

### We currently do not have a First Vice District Governor (FVDG).

Despite outreach and conversations with a number of dedicated Lions, we have not yet identified someone willing to step into this crucial role for the upcoming year. The First Vice District Governor is an essential part of building continuity, supporting the District Governor, and preparing for leadership at the district level.

### Why This Role Matters

The FVDG:

- Helps support clubs and district initiatives
- Assists with training, membership, and service goals
- Builds experience to step into the DG role the following year
- Ensures leadership stability and continuity for the district

Without someone in this role, our district faces challenges in planning, representation, and long-term leadership development.

### Who Can Serve?

Any Lion in good standing who meets the basic LCI qualifications—and who has a passion for helping clubs succeed—may be eligible. Past club officers, cabinet members, zone chairs, region chairs, or Lions with organizational experience often find the role both rewarding and achievable.

### You Don't Have to Be an Expert—Just Willing to Serve

The leadership team and MD GLT provide full training and support. No one is expected to take this journey alone. Many District Governors will tell you they never imagined themselves in the position until another Lion encouraged them or recognized their potential.

### We Need Your Help

If you—or someone in your club—may have the heart, experience, and willingness to serve, please reach out. Even a conversation is a good first step. Our district's strength depends on developing leaders who can guide our clubs and support the Lions we serve alongside.

Please contact the District GLT or District Governor if you would like more information or wish to recommend a Lion for consideration.

Together, we can ensure that District 11-E1 continues to grow, lead, and serve with excellence.

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



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

### The 2026 Club Officer Nomination & Election Process

As we begin planning for the 2026–2027 Lions year, it's time for clubs to prepare for the **nomination and election of club officers**. Establishing strong leadership ensures continuity, healthy club operations, and a smooth transition into the new year. Below is a simple outline of the recommended process to follow over the coming months.

#### 1. Appoint a Nominating Committee

Each club should form a **Nominating Committee**, typically consisting of three experienced members who are not currently seeking office. Their role is to:

- Identify members interested in leadership roles
- Confirm eligibility and willingness to serve
- Prepare a slate of recommended candidates

#### 2. Present the Slate of Nominees

The Nominating Committee should present its recommended slate of officers at a regular meeting. At this time:

- Members may offer additional nominations from the floor
- Candidates should be given the opportunity to accept or decline

#### 3. Publish the Slate at Least Two Weeks Before Elections

To ensure transparency and give members adequate time for consideration, clubs should:

- Publish the full list of nominees in the club newsletter, email, or meeting announcement
- Inform members of the official election date

#### 4. Conduct Club Elections

Elections should take place **no later than April**, following Lions Clubs International guidelines. Clubs may vote by:

- Voice vote
- Show of hands
- Secret ballot (recommended if multiple candidates are running for the same office)

A simple majority is required for election.

#### 5. Report New Officers in the Lions Portal

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





## Global Service Team (GST) Corner:

### 2025-2026 Club Excellence Award Criteria

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. Hunger: January 3-11, 2026
  - b. 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.

### Don't Forget to Report Your Service!

Every act of service matters — and when you report it, it *multiplies* the impact!

As Lions, we serve from the heart, but when those projects are entered into the Lions Clubs International reporting portal (MyLion), they become part of a much bigger story — one that shows the world just how much District 11-E1 is doing to make a difference.

When you report your club's service activities, you help:

- **Highlight your club's impact** locally and globally.
- **Support district and international recognition** of your members' hard work.
- **Inspire other clubs** with new service ideas.
- **Strengthen our ability to apply for grants and partnerships** through accurate reporting.

Please take a few minutes after each project or event to log in and report your service through the **MyLion portal** (accessible via [lionsclubs.org](https://lionsclubs.org)). It's quick, easy, and ensures your service counts toward our district's overall impact.

Let's make sure every hour, every meal, every pair of glasses, and every smile is recorded — because **every service story deserves to be told.**

Together, we are building a legacy of service that roars across communities and around the world!



## Global Membership Team (GMT) Corner:



### Growing Our Pride – Let's Strengthen District 11-E1!

Every great service story begins with a Lion who said “yes” — yes to serving others, yes to fellowship, and yes to making a difference. As we continue to serve our communities across District 11-E1, let's also focus on growing our clubs so that even more hands and hearts can join our mission!

Membership growth isn't just about numbers — it's about **sustaining our ability to serve**. When we welcome new members, we bring in new ideas, new energy, and new opportunities to expand our impact.

Here are a few ways to help your club **attract and retain members**:

- **Invite a friend or family member** to join you at a service project — seeing Lions in action is the best recruitment tool!
- **Host a “Meet the Lions” social or open house** at your local library, park, or community center.
- **Partner with local schools, businesses, or churches** — many people want to serve but don't know where to start.
- **Highlight your projects on social media** — photos of Lions in action inspire others to get involved.
- **Ask members to share why they joined** — personal stories are powerful recruitment tools.

Remember, each new member brings new passion, connections, and creativity to your club. Let's make it our goal for every club in District 11-E1 to **invite at least one new Lion** this year!

Together, we can grow stronger, serve farther, and ensure that the spirit of Lionism continues to roar across our communities for generations to come.

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

### Save-The-Date

## 3<sup>rd</sup> District 11-E1 Cabinet 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

**More information on lunch will be in the January Newsletter**  
Agenda is included in this newsletter on Page 11





## Membership Monday – LET’S GROW -4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month

Join Past International President Brian Sheehan as we look at resources you can use to grow your club.

Register once for monthly inspiration: <https://bit.ly/MbrshpMondays>



### GROWING FUTURE LEADERS

Join Lions Ed Farrington & Sue Hurlburt as they share great ideas & tips to help fill your club & district's leadership bench!



Register once. Join every month.  
<https://bit.ly/LUSAWisdom>  
Questions? [info@lionsusa.org](mailto:info@lionsusa.org)



### Get Ready for Hunger Relief Global Week of Service

Join fellow Lions, Leos, and community changemakers for an interactive "Hungry for Service" event — your go-to session for learning how to take action during Lions Clubs International's Hunger Relief Global Week of Service.

- Simple, high-impact ways your club can fight hunger locally
- How to partner with schools, shelters, and food programs
- Creative project ideas for all ages (and budgets!)
- How your service ties into Lions International's global hunger goals
- Resources and toolkits available to support your club's initiatives

Bring your club members, invite your Leo advisors, and discover how together we can serve more, share more, and change more lives.

Questions? [info@lionsusa.org](mailto:info@lionsusa.org)



Tuesday, December 2

8pm EST / 7pm CST  
/ 6pm MST / 5pm PST

Log in:  
<https://bit.ly/4ooSqWl>

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Plunge – Lions Bear Lake Camp

Enclosed (pages 13-15) you'll find the flyer, sponsorship form, and registration form for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Plunge**, benefiting **Lions Bear Lake Camp** on **Saturday, February 7, 2026**.

This event is one of our biggest annual fundraisers, last year raising \$20,000 and we're aiming to raise even more this year to support camp programs that build confidence, leadership, and independence for the children we serve.

We need your help to make this year's plunge a success!

- Recruit **jumpers** to take the plunge
- Connect with **businesses or clubs** to sponsor the event
- **Share** the attached materials with your districts, club members, local organizations, and community partners

Every share, sponsor, and jumper brings us one step closer to helping more kids experience the magic of Lions Bear Lake Camp.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the camp and the kids we serve. Let's come together once again to make a splash for a great cause!

With appreciation,

**Chrissy Andre**  
Ice Plunge Chair/MD11 LBLC State Chair



## LIONS DISTRICT 11 E-1 CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Lions of District 11 E-1, save the dates! The District Convention will take place on March 27 and 28, 2026, at the Evergreen Resort in Cadillac, Michigan. This event promises to be one of the most conservative conventions held in recent years, and we are excited to welcome you.

### Special Guest Room Rates

The Evergreen Resort is offering a special rate for convention attendees. Guest rooms are available for \$99 plus 15% taxes, bringing the total to \$113.40. This rate includes a complimentary continental breakfast, ensuring a comfortable and convenient stay for all participants.

### Discounted Meal Packages

The Convention Committee has arranged for a significant discount on meal packages. Attendees can enjoy meals for just \$20, representing a savings of \$28.72. We hope this makes the convention more accessible to everyone.

### Supporting the Convention

To help provide these discounts, we are asking for your support. Clubs are encouraged to advertise their events in the District 11 E-1 Tidbits flyer, which will be distributed to all convention attendees. Additionally, clubs are invited to contribute an item for the Silent Auction. Extra revenue is expected to be generated through 50/50 raffles, table release, and various games.

### Service Project: Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Steve Adsmond 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, at an SHP construction site where bunk beds will be assembled. The second part will occur during the convention, where participants will assemble blanket quilts by cutting the edges and tying them together.

### Stay Tuned for Updates

The Convention Committee is still finalizing the exact times for all events. Please watch for upcoming newsletters for the latest updates and schedules. Expect a nautical theme for this year's convention and get ready for a memorable and enjoyable experience.

Charles Dinsmore, Chairman  
11 E-1 Convention Committee

***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	
1230	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***



## Help restore sight:



*Make a gift to Eversight today*

Ben was a joyful, brilliant and driven 20-year-old — a devoted brother, passionate musician, and someone who made everyone around him feel seen and valued.



In 2015, Ben's life was tragically cut short when he suffered a brain aneurysm. Yet his legacy endures. Ben donated his corneas, which are now advancing groundbreaking eye and vision research that has the potential to make vision a reality for significantly more people around the world.

Ben once wrote, *"Change one person's life for the better."* Through his gift, he has done that and more.

**You can honor Ben's legacy by [making a gift](#) to Eversight today.** Your support will advance vision research and bring the gift of sight to more people than ever before.

You can learn more about Ben's story at [eversightvision.org/ben](https://eversightvision.org/ben) and contact us at (734) 780-2616 or [philanthropy@eversightvision.org](mailto:philanthropy@eversightvision.org) for any reason.





## 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 8, 2026 is only \$15. After March 8 registration fee goes up to \$25. Registration begins in January 2025**

**\*4 informative seminars + 2 service projects**

**\*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:** TBD.

**\*Lodging:** 25 Standard Rooms available at The Evergreen Resort at a discounted rate until March 8. Rooms are \$113.40 (resort fee & tax included) and includes complimentary breakfast (a \$15 savings)!

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



**LIONS INTERNATIONAL TRADING PIN CLUB  
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
LETTER TO THE PIN TRADING CLUBS**



July, 1 2025

Dear Trading Pin Club President,

As you know the LITPC Youth Scholarship Program will provide a US\$4,000 scholarship for a graduating senior who is the child or grandchild of a Lion, Lioness and/or Leo Club member. We feel the most important aspect of the Youth Scholarship is that it will help young people pursue their education and follow their dreams.

In order to be successful, the Youth Scholarship Program needs the help and support of all pin trading clubs and areas without a pin trading club. This is another opportunity to demonstrate that pin traders are "Lions First". Teamwork has always been the hallmark of the pin trading family, and with that in mind, the enclosed guidelines will help you promote the program and distribute information and applications.

It is only by working together that we can continue a very special program to help young people and, hopefully, establish a program for future Lions. Your involvement is essential and we need your time and effort to make the program work. The Scholarship Committee is open to any suggestions of help to improve the program. Thank you for your cooperation and know that we appreciate it.

The Scholarship Guidelines, Application Form and Acknowledgement form can be found on the LITPC web site at the following URL. [www.litpc.org](http://www.litpc.org)

Yevs Leveille, PID  
President Lions International Trading Pin Club

## **Save-The-Date**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> District 11-E1 Cabinet 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**

**More information on lunch will be in the January Newsletter  
Agenda is included in this newsletter on Page 11**



# 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



**\$50 - Jump/Dinner  
\$25 Dinner for Spectators Only  
(Ages 0-5 Free, 6-12 \$10)**

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

**For More Information Contact**  
**[traci@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:traci@bearlakecamp.org)**  
**[chrissey@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:chrissey@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 Jumper & Dinner Reservation Form

### Participant Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 T-Shirt Size (Jumpers Only) (S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL): \_\_\_\_\_

### Participation Selection (Check One):

- ☐ **Jumping & Dinner** – \$50 Initial Pledge (includes dinner & T-shirt)  
☐ **Dinner Only** – \$25 per adult ticket, \$10 per child ticket (ages 12 & under)

If purchasing **dinner only**, please indicate the number of tickets:

- **Adult Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = **Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- **Child Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = **Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Pledge Donation (For Jumpers Only):

- **Initial Pledge (Required to Jump): \$50**
- **Additional Pledged Amount Turning in Today: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Pledge Donation Submitted Today: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*(Any remaining pledge amounts can be turned in on the event day.)*

### T-Shirt Pre-order (Non-Jumpers) \$10 Each

To purchase an Ice Plunge T-Shirt please select and indicate how many you would like of each size.

#### Youth Sizes

Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ X-Large \_\_\_\_\_

#### Adult Sizes

Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ X-Large \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_\_\_ 4XL \_\_\_\_\_

### Total Payment (Jumpers & Dinner Reservations)

**Pledge Donation Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dinner Ticket Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**T-Shirt Preorder Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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

### Payment Method:

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

### For credit card payments:

- If registering online, visit [www.bearlakecamp.org](http://www.bearlakecamp.org) under “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  
 📧 [chrissey@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:chrissey@bearlakecamp.org) | 📞 **(810) 245-0726**



## DONATE TO LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

*Your Gift Makes a Difference*

Your generous contribution helps us continue providing life-changing experiences for children of all abilities. Every donation goes directly to supporting our programs, enhancing our facilities, and ensuring that Lions Bear Lake Camp remains a place of adventure, learning, and growth for generations to come. Thank you for your support in helping us fulfill our mission of empowering youth and fostering leadership in an inclusive, welcoming environment.

☐ Enclosed is my gift for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Lions Bear Lake Camp.

☐ Please bill me for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as my gift to Lions Bear Lake Camp.

This gift is for:

☐ General Donation

☐ Visually Impaired & Blind Youth Camp

☐ Sponsor a Camper

☐ Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth Camp

To make a secure credit card payment please visit our website:

[www.bearlakecamp.org](http://www.bearlakecamp.org) under the "Donations Tab" and click "Donate" or scan the QR code.



This gift is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Lions Bear Lake Camp 3409 N. Five Lakes Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446 [bearlakecamp.org](http://bearlakecamp.org) 810-245-0726 [info@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:info@bearlakecamp.org)

## ***District Governor's Club Visits***



**Midland Lions:** DG Jeff was able to induct 3 new members during his visit with the Midland Lions Club.

From Left to Right: new member Ken Henderson, sponsor Lion Alan Ducham; new member Cyndi Breault, sponsor Lion Thayre Talcott; new member Ryan Pelletier, sponsor Lion David Romeresko; DG Jeff Schafer



**Shepherd Lions:** During the Region 2 Zone 1 meeting held at the Shepherd Bar & Restaurant, DG Jeff was able to induct 3 new members.

From Left to Right: new member Tom & Renee Chrissell, sponsor Lion Richard Hetherington; new member Kim Lavigne, sponsor Lion Robert Gates; DG Jeff Schafer



**Cedar-Maple City Lions:** DG Jeff was able to induct 1 new member and award a 10-year Length of Service Chevron during his visit with the Cedar-Maple City Lion.

**Left Photo** (Left to Right): Sponsor Tom Pleva (President), new member Mike Salamino, & DG Jeff Schafer.

**Right Photo** (Left to Right): Lion Mary Kapat (Secretary) receiving her 10-year length of service Chevron from DG Jeff Schafer.



## Lions Bear Lake Camp News

### Steve Glazier District 11E1 Bear Lake Camp Chairperson

Hi Fellow Lions! I hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving.

We are pleased to report the following for Bear Lake Kids Camp:



For any new member readers, Lions Bear Lake Camp was Founded in 1982 by the late "Big Al" Kassin and the Lake Orion Lions Club, Bear Lake Camp has been a beacon of hope and adventure for visually impaired youth for 43 years. The camp opened at its current location in 2000, initially welcoming 53 campers.

Building on that foundation, the Lions later expanded their mission to include summer camps for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. We also host a unique weekend camp for hard-of-hearing and visually impaired individuals and their families, providing a supportive environment to meet, share experiences, and navigate common challenges. We now also have many partnerships with other organizations that allow us to host several other summer camp opportunities beyond blindness and vision impairment such as autism, those in foster care, cancer and those affected by grief are only a few examples.

Bear Lake Camp offers a true escape into nature and adventure. Situated on 120 acres with most of the onsite buildings being very near to and overlooking a large private lake. Bordered by vast tracts of state land, the setting feels expansive and secluded. The facilities can house up to 160 individuals in 10 two-story modern dorm style cabins and the dining hall has a capacity of 250 people.

#### **An Unforgettable Summer! Lions Bear Lake Camp Shatters Attendance Record.....**

And what an **incredible** summer it was!!!!

We are thrilled to announce that the Lions Bear Lake Summer Camp has achieved a **new all-time attendance record** for 2025. After a final review of all summer camp programs, we confirmed that **1,506 special needs children** were served over the course of 11 weeks.

This remarkable achievement **surpasses** the previously announced record of 1,406 children and is a testament to the **passion and dedication** of our staff. The overwhelming interest and demand from families to attend this camp reflects the high quality of our programs and the meaningful impact they have. The kids themselves are the camp's best advertising. Some come in shy and quiet and in a few days are yelling "Pick Me-Pick me." Parents can sometimes be overly protective, but the camp teaches and emphasizes independence. Such as visually impaired or blind getting their own plates, silver ware and food using guide ropes or experiencing Zip Lining and Rock wall Climbing for the first time. Also, with some exceptions. all make their own beds (not a maid or mom at camp!)

Thank you to everyone who made this record-breaking summer possible!










Some interesting statistics:

- Overall Impact: More than 15,000 campers and visitors have been welcomed since 2000.
- Culinary Excellence: The food service team, led by Camp Food Director Chrissy Andre, served over 25,500 meals in 2025.
- Leadership Development: An impressive 85% of our summer camp staff are returning campers who have successfully completed our leadership development program, demonstrating the enduring impact of the camp experience.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and partnership in making these life-changing experiences possible.

**Please save these Upcoming event dates...** More to come on each event.....

 **Ice Plunge- February 7** Talk your Governor and Club Presidents into joining me!

-  Wild Game Dinner – April 11
-  Work bee – May 9
-  Golf Outing – June 8
-  Open House – June 28
-  Clay Shoot – September 26

Everyone Please Note **FREE LODGING** available at Bear Lake Camp for District 11E1 Lion members attending the Ice Plunge or Work Bee.... So start planning your weekend getaways for 2026.

While I'm aware these are difficult times, it would be really nice if Clubs in our District could find the time to donate \$10 or \$20 toward the Polar Plunge on the attached form or online, so we could be impressively proud to be the District having the highest participating percentage of supporting clubs in the state for this event.

Thank you again to everyone who made this record-breaking summer possible from the entire Bear Lake Team. Your support ensures Bear Lake Camp continues to provide life-changing experiences for children and families.

## Save-The-Date

### 3<sup>rd</sup> District 11-E1 Cabinet 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

**More information on lunch will be in the January Newsletter**  
Agenda is included in this newsletter on Page 11

## Chapter Chronicles

### Greenville Lions Conduct Successful Thanksgiving Dinner Project on November 23rd

Thank you to all the Lions, Friends & Family that helped assemble the Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes at the Greenville Public Schools, Central Services Building on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We assembled 45 boxes for 45 families to have enough food for about a week. Also, a thank you to everyone who purchased and donated a frozen turkey(s) for this project helping to make this project a success!



### Coleman Lions Club Donate 12 Turkeys to the Greater Midland Coleman Community Center



**Gobble Gobble.** Coleman Lions, recognizing that we live in an area impacted by food security, collected and delivered 12 turkeys to the Greater Midland Coleman Community Center. These turkeys will be combined with other donations to create and distribute holiday meals for local families in need of food assistance this holiday season. This meaningful and impactful donation has become an annual event for the Coleman Lions!

## Luther Lions Host a Successful Fall Crafts Show

Our November Craft Show was a huge success this year! We sold every little spot on our floor to vendors. Customers came in to shop and our Bake Sale sold out!

I hope everyone survived their Thanksgiving and the weather. Our all you can eat Breakfast is being held Dec. 7th from 8:30am to 11:00am at our Luther Lions Hall. Price is just \$12.00 for adults and \$6 for children 6-12 years old. Come on down for some fellowship and good food.

Dec. 11th is our Feed America truck in the Luther Lions Club parking lot. Line up starts around 3 pm give or take. Food choices unknown at this time. Food will be given out until gone.

Upcoming for the new year is our regular monthly, all you can eat Breakfast on January 4, 2026, and February 1st, 2026.

Please have a Blessed and Safe MERRY CHRISTMAS ...Enjoy the holidays with family and friends. HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Merry Christmas &**  
**Happy New Year**