



Lions Connections

March 2025

District 11E1 Newsletter

District Dispatches

Reports from District Officers

OMG! No Way!

Immediate Past District Governor Jim Patterson

If that title has always been your first response whenever asked to be a Lions leader, you're exactly the person we need.

For the past two newsletters I've talked about the need for district leadership. I've made the case that district leadership is the best way to spread your vision of Lionism. I've also made the case that leadership takes qualities we all possess. And finally, I've made the case that taking on a leadership role makes you a better person and a better Lion.

Now please go back and reread that very first sentence.

It's true! You're the one we need! Your reluctance will make you the ideal leader. You know what you don't know and are willing to learn. You are fearful of making a mistake, so you work to minimize mistakes. You hate it when people BS you, so you never do that to others. You keep your promises and people who don't drive you crazy. Most importantly, you're not a person who tries to do everything and never asks for help.

How do I know this? Because I was a VERY reluctant leader. I said “NO” loudly for a long time. And then one day, I weakly said “yes.” My mantra became “Don’t let me suck at this.” And with the help of some great Lions, I did OK at being a governor. I’m not saying I got everything right, but I am pretty sure I didn’t suck.

The task of being a good governor takes time – time to discover the width and breadth of our district; time to learn the tools available to help governors do their job; time to find good people to help in the task – and more.

That is why it is so important for Lions to serve as vice district governor for one to two years. It helps them grow into the job. In addition, the training LCI and the Lions of Michigan offers all vice governors is invaluable. Being comfortable in the job comes from familiarity with the ins-and-outs of our district. That familiarity doesn’t come overnight.

Further, district governors don’t act alone. They have great mentors. There are enormously talented and committed Lions in our district. No matter what comes up, some Past District Governor has seen it before. A wealth of experience is no more than a phone call or email away.

Will you serve as First or Second Vice District Governor?

Don’t immediately say “OMG No Way!” Think about it. Mull it over in your mind. Why did you join the Lions in the first place? Wasn’t it to help people in your community? Now imagine your community as more than just inside the town limits. Think of the good you could do helping people all over northwestern Michigan.

By the time you read this, the written nomination deadline will have passed. Your avenue to a vice district governorship is to be nominated from the floor during the cabinet meeting at the district convention. You will need to find two club members: one to nominate you and one to second the nomination. That’s all there is to it. The election will take place that day and you will be starting a great adventure that will change your life in so many positive ways. Congratulations!





District 11-E1 Convention

Let's Go Fishing

Exciting news—our **Spring Convention** is right around the corner **April 25-26 at the Doherty Hotel in Clare!**

If you haven't registered yet, now is the time! **Registration fees will increase after April 1 to \$25 (from \$15)**, so don't miss out on the chance to secure your spot at the best rate. Room reservations must be made by **March 25** to secure the Lions rate. No meal reservation will be accepted after **April 14**.

The event will be a wonderful opportunity for Lions from across our district to come together, celebrate our achievements, and plan for an even brighter future of service. We have **Dr. Jan Pol** (known for his work on the National Geographic Wild Network show The Incredible Dr. Pol) as a guest speaker for Friday night dinner. We have **four seminars planned** for Saturday to include new club officer training, membership growth, and Golden Key Camp for Kids. Golden Key Camp is a Michigan nonprofit with a goal and mission and purpose of giving kids with cancer some time in nature with their families. We also have **two service projects planned**. The first service project (Friday evening) will be making toys for pets which we plan to distribute to various pet shelters and humane society throughout our District. The second service project (Saturday morning) will be making comfort bags for Golden Key Camp for children with cancer. Our **Lion guest** for the weekend will be **PID Bruce Beck** from Minnesota and his lovely wife Lion Erin.

Register today to lock in the lower rate! Simply print out the registration form that's included in this newsletter or register online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/242058990523157>

We can't wait to see you there—let's make this Spring Convention one to remember!

Club Banners Requested

As we prepare for our **Spring Convention**, we want to make sure every club is proudly represented! We kindly ask that you bring your **Club Banner** to display during the Convention. There will be a Banner Parade at noon on Saturday, April 26. Club banners add to the spirit of Lions, showcase our unity, and highlight the amazing



service each club provides. If you or another member can bring the banner along with a banner pole and/or stand that would be great. The district has 12 extra stands that will be set up for those who don't have their own.

Thank you for helping make our convention a great success—we look forward to seeing you and your club's banner there!

Tidbits Ad

Our **Spring Convention** is the perfect time to celebrate and recognize the amazing Lions in our district! You can do just that by purchasing a **Tidbit Ad** in our convention program.

Use a Tidbit Ad to:

-  Recognize a fellow Lion for their dedication and service 🙏 Share a heartfelt thank-you message
-  Announce an upcoming club event
-  Celebrate a milestone, anniversary, or achievement

Tidbit Ads are an easy and meaningful way to support our convention while highlighting the people and moments that matter most.

To purchase your ad, simply print out the Tidbit registration form that's included in this newsletter or contact PCC Jeff Schafer. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to PCC Jeff.

Silent Auction

As we gear up for our District's **Spring Convention**, we are excited to host a **Silent Auction** to help defray the cost of the event. To make this a success, we need your help!

We kindly ask each club to contribute a silent auction item—big or small, every donation makes a difference! Popular items include:

-  Gift baskets
-  Handmade crafts or artwork
-  Gourmet food basket items like jams, jellies, specialty meats & cheeses, etc.
-  Event tickets or gift certificates
-  Regifting (like new) Item like puzzles, books, games, home décor, etc.

If you can bring an item, please let us know by contacting PDG Sheryl, so we can plan accordingly. You can bring your item Friday evening or Saturday morning. If you're unable to attend the event but still would like to donate an item, contact PDG Sheryl and we'll get someone to pick the item up from you. If you have any questions or need ideas, feel free to reach out!

Thank you for your generosity and support. Your contribution will help make this event even more special!

If you have any questions about the convention or need assistance, feel free to reach out to one of us:

Lion Chuck Dinsmore, Convention Chair, 989-600-1873,
cbdinsmore@charter.net

PCC Jeff Schafer, Registration Chair, 812-325-3130,
jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Lion Ann Roeseler, Service Project Chair, 989-615-3959,
ann.roeseler@gmail.com

PDG Sheryl Schafer, Silent Auction Chair, 812-325-7762, sheryl.schafer1@comcast.net



District 11-E1 Spring Convention

The Doherty Hotel

April 25-26, 2025



The Doherty Hotel

604 N McEwan St., Clare, MI

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

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

Person 1 Name: _____

First Last Title

Person 2 Name: _____

First Last Title

Address: _____

Street City State Zip

Club: _____ District: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

	First Name(s)	Qty	Price	Total
Registration Fee	N/A		\$15*	
Friday Dinner			\$25	
Saturday Breakfast			\$20	
Saturday Lunch			\$20	
Saturday Banquet			\$35	
DG Tom's Pin	N/A		\$3	
			TOTAL:	

*Registration fee will increase to \$25 on April 2, 2025.

No meal reservations will be accepted after April 14, 2025.

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

Friday Dinner: Dinner will be buffet style to include three cheese & beef lasagna, garlic & herb baked chicken, Mac & cheese, real mashed potatoes with gravy, soup of the day, mix salad greens/dressing, tuna salad, Italian pasta salad, cottage cheese, dessert, and beverages (Tea, coffee, soft drink).

Saturday Breakfast: Breakfast will be buffet style to include scrambled eggs, sausage links, thick cut bacon, French toast, herb roasted red potatoes, sausage gravy & buttermilk biscuits, fresh baked pastries and muffins, fresh fruit, and beverages (Tea, coffee, orange juice).

Saturday Lunch: Lunch will be buffet style to include two soups, salad bar, and chicken salad, beverages (Tea, coffee, soft drink) and dessert.

Saturday Banquet: Banquet will be buffet style to include beef stroganoff-egg noodles, baked lemon pepper cod, baked pork loin, herb roasted red potatoes, rice pilaf, green beans, California blend (cauliflower, broccoli & carrots), salad bar, desserts (cookies, brownies, and carrot cake) and beverages (Tea, coffee, soft drink).

All of the meals have been discounted for a total savings of \$18.82 to make it more affordable for Lions to attend those events.

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

Seminars: There will be two time periods for seminars this year, one between 9:30 – 10:15am and the other between 10:30 – 11:15am. If you're interested in attending one of these please make a selection below so the Seminar Committee will have an idea of how many Lions to expect at each one. Seminars will be in meeting rooms D and E.

9:30-10:15am (Name 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Club President Training
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Recruitment Training
9:30-10:15am (Name 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Club President Training
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Recruitment Training
10:30-11:15am (Name 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Club Secretary Training
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden Key Camp for Kids
10:30-11:15am (Name 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Club Secretary Training
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden Key Camp for Kids

Seminar Description:

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

Membership Recruitment: Methods discussed to recruit new members along with methods to retain existing members.

Golden Key Camp for Kids: Golden Key Camp is a Michigan 501c3 nonprofit with a goal and mission and purpose of giving kids with cancer some time in nature with their families.

District Service Projects will be on Friday evening from 7-9pm and Saturday morning from 9:30-11:15am. Both will be in meeting room A. Friday's service project will be making toys for pets and Saturday's service project will be comfort bags for Golden Key Camp for children with cancer.

Lodging: Rooms are given below plus taxes (8% which includes the 6% sales & 2% local). Rooms are for single or double occupancy (\$5 fee for each additional person beyond double occupancy). To reserve a room, call 1-989-386-1562 and request a room in the "**Lions 11-E1**" block of rooms. The Doherty Hotel requires the first night's room and taxes (only) to be paid in full or guaranteed on a credit/debit card. Guests will be charged for any cancellations within seventy-two (72) hours of scheduled arrival.

<u>Room Type</u>	<u>Discounted Rates</u>
King or Double Queen	\$132+Taxes
Double Queen Fireside	\$152+Taxes
Jacuzzi Suite	\$177+Taxes

Room Reservations must be made by March 25, 2025 to receive the discounted rate.

Mobility Assistance: Contact Access Mobility of Midland at 989-284-0844 and ask for Phil Schempp if you need assistance with mobility requirements (mobility scooters, etc.).



2025 Tidbits



Grab an Oar and Let's Start Rowing District 11-E1 Spring Convention

Personal Tidbits Ad Fund-Raiser

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

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

Email: jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Cell Phone/Text: 812-325-3130

Honoring: _____

Why? _____

Anything Else to Include? _____

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



District Service Coordinator Ann Roeseler

Convention Service Projects

Are you registered for the District Convention in Clare on April 25 & 26? The \$15 registration fee goes up to \$25 on April 2, so don't wait too long!

I have planned **two service projects** for the convention this year. **Friday night** we will make **Toys for Pets** to be given to animal shelters in our district. Projects for dogs need **socks** and **old t-shirts**, with **tennis balls** and **empty plastic water bottles** for filling. Cat toys also use **thin socks** for making octopi and feathers and **corks** for another project! The more colorful the socks and t-shirts are, the more fun!

Our project **Saturday morning** will involve assembling care bags for **Children with Cancer**. These will be given to Lisa Kujawa who will present a session Saturday morning on Golden Key Camp in Gladwin. Clubs and individuals are generously donating items for these bags! We already have commitments for backpacks, lotion, lip balm, soft socks, coloring & activity books, suckers and beanie babies. Some items we still hope to get are **crayons, colored pencils** or **markers, soft hats, friendship bracelets, stickers, play doh, stress toys** other quiet games. My goal is to have 30 bags ready for kids. Can you help? Please let me know. Ann.roeseler@gmail.com

Entering Club Service

Please remember to enter your club's service on the LCI Portal. It's quick and easy to do and best done soon after the activity when it's fresh in your mind. Call or email me for help: 989-615-3959 or ann.roeseler@gmail.com

Most clubs have entered at least one activity. The more we enter, the more data Lions International has for soliciting donations from large corporations. I can help! In fact, I have already entered service for several clubs that have poor internet access.

Let's reach 100% of our district clubs entering service this year.



Bear Lake Camp March 2025 Update (Lapeer Michigan) **Steve Glazier District 11E1 Bear Lake Camp Chairperson**

Bear Lake Lions Camp was recently delivered a much-needed new John Deere tractor. This was made possible with the support of multiple Lions Clubs, businesses and individuals and we are incredible grateful for everyone's commitment to the camp. Especially Lions.

We are forever grateful to the Mount Clemens Lions Club for the donation of a zero-turn lawn mower, improving the ability to maintain the grounds efficiently and keeping them safe for campers and visitors.

In January the Bear Lake Team focused on thorough cleaning and essential maintenance to prepare for a busy anticipated record attendance year ahead. Special attention was given to the kitchen, which was deep cleaned, sanitized and reorganized to meet the highest standards for safety and efficiency.

The camp truck and snowplow have been heavily used this winter to manage the exceptional snowy conditions and keep the grounds clear and accessible as the camp is open year-round. The Team also worked on equipment, inspections and repairs to ensure everything is in excellent condition for the upcoming season.

In addition to the Bear Lake Deaf and Hard of hearing youth camp July 13 - 19th the Deaf and Hard of Hearing "FAMILY" Camp will again be offered in August for a weekend of fun for impacted families.

On May 10, 2025, LIONS THROUGH OUT MICHIGAN and Lapeer local community members are welcomed for the ANNUAL Bear Lake Camp "WORK BEE." This event is a chance to prepare the camp for summer while exploring the facilities and connecting with others. For those who haven't visited or visited recently it's an opportunity to see all the updates and improvements that have been made. I know several of you already advised me of your plan on attending and assisting at this event. There's a job for everyone. It's both indoor and outdoor tasks that need to get done. around the camp. Painting, dusting, prepping the grounds and outdoor sports equipment, cleaning 10 cabins, clearing trails, sprucing up and organizing areas and spaces. This is a one-day event with lunch provided. Certainly, no worries about any special dietary needs as they've got that covered

after working with 1100 kids last summer. Volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves, outdoor and garden tools (rakes, power trimmers, etc.) and plenty of energy.

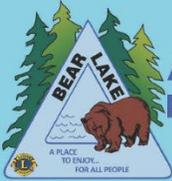
NOTE: Traci Tribley (Camp Director) has approved “FREE” Lodging for all Lions from our District 11E1 on Friday. Housing is in modern dorm style two floor cottages at Bear Lake Camp. Ten lakeside cottages. Each cottage accommodates 16 people (8 per floor). Please bring your own pillows, sheets and blankets (all are single sized mattresses). Contact the Bear Lake Camp in advance with your arrival time on Friday to ensure someone is on site to greet you and assign your cottage to you. Clean up starts at 9AM Saturday. Phone 810-245-0728 traci@bearlakecamp.org

For more information go to: bearlakecamp.com and while on their website sign up for the Bear Lake Camp Monthly Newsletter.

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP
Spring Workbee
May 10th, 2025
Registration 8:00 AM
Cleanup 9:00 AM



LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
Easy, Medium, and Advanced Tasks available
Please bring your own gloves and tools



PLEASE RSVP TO:
traci@bearlakecamp.org
jwalling@bearlakecamp.org

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



**2025 District 11-E1
Certified Guiding Lion Course**

March 15, 2025

Location: Isabella Commission on Aging
2200 S Lincoln St., Mount Pleasant, MI

The event will be from 9am – 2pm and will include morning refreshments and lunch at no cost to the attendees.

Guiding Lions are needed in the district to help work with new or existing clubs or serve (or plan to serve) in a leadership position. The Guiding Lion Program is designed to assist clubs that are newly chartered, established or are rebuilding. Guiding Lions are assigned for a 2-year term by the District Governor in consultation with the sponsoring or established club president.

Even if you are an experienced Guiding Lion, you will benefit from this course because it provides the most comprehensive overview available of the roles and responsibilities of a Guiding Lion.

The Certified Guiding Lion Course will help you:

1. Understand your role as a Guiding Lion
2. Help you develop a plan to guide the club to become self-sufficient and strong
3. Provide tools to help the club officers manage their club
4. Establish a system to track development over the course of your term

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Club: _____

**Please return this form PCC Jeff Schafer, 975 Outback Ridge, Midland, MI 48640
or email: jeff.schafer1@comcast.net**



Club Officer Training

Programs planned during the training:

Awards Available (District, State, International)

Projects (District, State)

Dues & Financial Responsibilities

MyLion & Accessing Lionsclub.org

Officer Training (President/VP, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)



Upcoming Dates & Locations

April 26	District Convention, The Doherty Hotel, 9:30-10:15am & 10:30-11:15am (Pres/Sec Only)
May 8	Thursday 5-7pm, Kaleva Lions Club (14369 9 Mile Rd, Kaleva)
June 7	Saturday 9-11am, 1 st Congregational Church (126 E Cass St., Greenville)
June 28	Saturday 9-11am, Isabella Commission on Aging (2200 S Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant)

Note: Only need to attend one event. The training at the District Convention (The Doherty Hotel, 604 N McEwan St., Clare) will only be for the President and Secretary.

If you have any questions or to RSVP please contact PCC Jeff Schafer, jeff.schafer1@comcast.net or call/text 812-325-3130.

Step Up and Lead: Your Lions Club and District Needs You!

The strength of Lions Clubs lies in the passion and dedication of our members. As we continue our mission of service, we need strong leaders to guide us into the future. Leadership isn't just about holding a title, it's about making a difference, inspiring others, and ensuring the continued success of our clubs and district.

Why Step into Leadership? Becoming a club or district leader is an opportunity to:

***Expand Your Impact** – Help shape the direction of your club or district and its service projects.

***Grow Personally and Professionally** – Enhance your leadership, communication, and organizational skills.

***Inspire Others** – Motivate and mentor fellow Lions to achieve greater service goals.

***Be Part of Something Bigger** – Contribute to the larger mission of Lions.

Opportunities Available. We are looking for dedicated members to step into key roles, including:

◆ **Club Officers** (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)

◆ **Committee Chairs** (Membership, Fundraising, Service Projects)

◆ **District Leadership** (Zone Chair, 1st & 2nd Vice District Governors, District Committee Chairs, and more)

Whether you have experience in leadership or are stepping up for the first time, support and training will be available to help you succeed. New Club Officer training dates and locations flyer is included in this newsletter!

How to Get Involved.

If you are interested in taking on a leadership role (within our District) or want to learn more, please reach out to **PCC Jeff Schafer** (812-325-3130, jeff.schafer1@comcast.net) or **IPDG Jim Patterson** (231-250-0925, pattersonjv@comcast.net). We encourage all members to consider how they can contribute to shaping the future of our clubs and district.

Strong leadership ensures that we can continue making a lasting impact in our communities.

Will you step up and lead?

Yours in Service,

PCC Jeff Schafer
Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator
District 11-E1



Lions of Michigan - Youth Camps & Exchange Program

Lion Elvie Marfil, State Chairperson 2024-2025

818-800-1060 epmarfil5@gmail.com

Do you know a young person who would like to embark on a life-changing adventure?

The YCE program allows youths aged 15 to 21 the opportunity to travel to a foreign country where they will experience another culture up close and personal in a family environment.

********Deadline to apply: March 30, 2025********

Would you be willing to be a host family and open your home to a youth from another country?

*Hosting Dates: July 26 – August 16, 2025; Camp Dates: August 3-9, 2025, at D-Bar-A Scouting Ranch
We are actively seeking host families for incoming youth exchange participants.*

********Deadline to apply: June 30, 2025********

Join in on the adventure of a lifetime!



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.

Club Chronicles

Luther

Last chance to mark your calendars for Sat. March 15th, and jig on down to the Luther Lions Club for our St. Patrick's Dinner and Entertainment. Cost is just \$15.00 and includes a full Irish meal, punch, coffee, and desserts. Try your hand at buying a raffle ticket for our 50/50 raffle and St. Pat's raffle basket. Doors open at 5pm with the coffee on. Dinner begins at approx. 5:45 pm and the entertainment starts at 6:30. Stay after for a free Irish dance lesson!

Join us April 6th for our all you can eat breakfast for only \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6-12 yrs old. Under 6 are FREE! April 10th, our Feed America truck will be in the Luther Lions parking lot around 3 + or - on time. Food Handed out until gone. April 12th is our Spring Craft Show and Bake Sale. Come on down and pick up some great items for your Easter kiddies or a Mother's Day present! Open and runs from 10:00 am until 4:00pm. We would love to see all the area Lions shining faces at our events! Take care!

Stanwood

Stanwood Lions was privileged to have District Governor Tom MacNaughton who gave an informative presentation at their January 20th meeting. DG MacNaughton also presented Lion Steve Cole a certificate for 25 years' service with Stanwood Lions.

