



DISTRICT GOVERNOR JIM PATTERSON'S MESSAGE

Fellow Lions,

Our district faces a very significant challenge: a lack of future leaders. Because of circumstances outside of their Lions life, both our second and first vice district governors have resigned. This leaves the district with a huge leadership vacuum to fill.

I simply don't know what the impact would be if we start next year without leadership. But I'm sure the damage to our district and our clubs would be considerable and possibly fatal.

There are only three qualifications for district office:

1. Be a Lion in **good standing**.
2. Serve as a **club president** at least once.
3. Serve in the **district cabinet for at least half a term**. This includes any voting member of the cabinet: secretary, treasurer, zone chair, GST, GLT and GMT chairs.

There is only one prohibition: as of July 1, 2022, you can't have already been a district governor. Our district thrives on the commitment, enthusiasm, and diverse skills of its members. It is the dedication of ordinary Lions, like you, that forms the foundation of our district's success. I encourage you to reflect on the immense potential you hold and the positive influence you can wield by assuming leadership roles within our district.

Here are compelling reasons why your involvement in leadership is pivotal:

1. Each member brings a unique perspective, and by assuming leadership roles, you contribute to a more comprehensive and innovative approach to our district's initiatives.
2. Leadership challenges you to grow personally and professionally. It's a journey of self-discovery and skill development that extends beyond our district, enriching your capabilities for the benefit of our shared goals.
3. Your willingness to lead serves as an inspiration to fellow Lions within our district. By demonstrating active participation and commitment, you foster a culture of engagement and dedication to our shared mission.
4. Leadership positions empower you to shape and direct the planning and execution of projects, ensuring a more organized and impactful approach to serving our communities. Your leadership can help address district needs more effectively.

What's in it for you? I can honestly say it will change your life forever. You will never be the same again and that's a good thing. You will grow in ways you've never considered. You will become a different, stronger, better human being and Lion. And along your way, the district will have been made better by your efforts.

Our District is a collective effort, and the strength of our impact lies in the active involvement of every member. I encourage you to take on a leadership role and steer our district toward even greater heights. Together, we can continue making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.



Fellow Lions,

It is with a great deal of pride that I announce that at last weekend's Council of Governor's meeting our very own PDG Pam Schroeder was awarded the Multiple District 11's highest honor, the S.A. Dodge Award. Those of us who know PDG Pam would agree that the award is long overdue. For those of you who have never had the privilege of knowing or working with Pam I can say, with total honesty, that she is the "complete" Lion; investing her time and talents to move our district forward for 26 years. I am proud to call her my friend and fellow Lion.

The actual awards ceremony will occur at the 104th MD-11 Annual Convention May 16-18, 2024 at the Sheraton by Marriott in Grand Rapids. Plan on attending to honor one of our district's best.

DG Jim



Fellow Lions,

●Lions of District 11E1 are mourning the death of **Lion Jim Hodges**, President of the Vestaburg Lions. It is with great sadness that I report the passing of a dedicated Lion. President Jim Hodges, the only remaining charter member of the Vestaburg Lions Club, passed on Christmas Eve day. I first met Lion Jim when I visited the Vestaburg Lions as a Vice DG. He was a gentle man with a big heart and a sly sense of humor. You can read his obituary here:

<https://www.clarkfuneralchapel.com/memorials/james-jim-hodges/5349502/index.php>

Please join me in sending condolences to the family and the club.

●I have just learned that a great Lion and good friend, **PDG Stan Preshaw**, Central Montcalm Lions Club, passed away last evening (6 January 2024). Naturally, arrangements are still pending. I will keep you informed as I learn the details.

DG Jim

News from your District Service Coordinator COLLABORATION

Several Lions Clubs in our District have written newsletter articles about projects they have worked on with other organizations. Can your club find ways to collaborate on a project? It might be with a nearby Lions Club or it could be with another service club such as Rotary, or perhaps with a church or community center. Collaboration means more ideas, more manpower and probably more funds to work with, in other words more impact!

After my article came out in the District newsletter last month regarding state service projects, specifically about tying blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the organization that makes beds for children who don't have one, I was contacted by Lion Karla Kasten (Kaleva Lions) who works at the Bay Area Recycling Center (BARC). They recently had been given new twin bed sheets and pillowcases that a hotel didn't want, and she wondered if they could be donated to our Sleep in Heavenly Peace project! I now have them ready to donate! Thank you Lion Karla and BARC!

Think how much more impact we have when we collaborate!

Do you have a story to share about how your club has collaborated? Send it to the District Newsletter so other District clubs might use your ideas!

Come to the Forum on February 22, 2024 in Kalamazoo and join in the fun as we tie fleece blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace? **Lion Ann Roeseler, District Service Coordinator**



MICHIGAN LIONS FORUM

2024: MICHIGAN LIONS CHANGING THE WORLD

February 23-24, 2024

**NEW Location: Delta Marriott Kalamazoo
2747 S 11th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009**

Register online and pay by credit/debit card at www.lionsofmi.com or use the forms in your December Lion Pride Publication and pay by check.

White Cane supplies order form is also in the Lion Pride and available for pickup at the Forum!

This is where we will be making the blankets for the Sleep In Heavenly Peace project.

Register early!

Fellow Lions,

Spring District Convention will be April 19 & 20, 2024, at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant.

[Room reservation info will be coming at a later date.]

The theme will be "Back to the '70s" - you know, all about Saturday Night Fever.

Why am I telling you this now?

The amount of money it costs the district to put on a convention seems to go up every year. So we need your help!!!

How can you help?

- By providing items for the silent auction.
- By purchasing ads in the Tid Bits Convention booklet at \$25.00 for a full page ad.
[Ad info will be coming at a later date so get your ad ready!]
- By registering and attending the convention.

All the money collected goes to help pay for this year's convention. Any leftover funds help pay for next year's.

What's in it for you and your club?

- A chance to meet and learn from other clubs in the district.
- A forum for forming collaborations with other clubs.
- New things to learn to make you a better Lion and make your club better.
- Fun!

Please help out by contributing. Thanks in advance, **DG Jim**

Fellow Lions,

Back last fall, I emailed all club presidents and secretaries informing them of the availability of a District and Club Community Impact Grant. Through the District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) program, 15 percent of your club's or district's unrestricted contributions to LCIF can be transformed into grants that fund local projects. I urge you to come up with a great project that this grant can be used for. The application process seems to be rather simple by comparison to other LCIF grants.

ONE FURTHER NOTE: In addition to what a club can get from this kind of grant, our district can apply for up to \$3,459.64 this year in the form of one of these grants. So feel free to come up with a big idea.

There is a 4-minute video available to see how the program can make an impact in your community. View the video here. (Be warned: video is on YouTube so expect to see advertisements)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSe1YscWg5M>

Happy New Year! DG Jim



Lions Clubs of Michigan

SD10 and MD11, Lions International
CHANGING THE WORLD

The Lions of Michigan MD 11 Convention Committee is please to offer the opportunity for corporate and personal sponsorships for the 2024 Multiple District 11 Lions Convention May 16-18, 2024 * SHERATON by MARRIOTT, GRAND RAPIDS, MI

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000

Speaking opportunity during the Saturday Awards Banquet (up to 10 minutes); Advertisement in the Lion Pride publication; advertisement in convention proceedings booklet; complimentary exhibitor table; your banner on display throughout event; insert included in welcome packet

Gold Sponsor - \$500

Speaking opportunity at Friday's Welcome Reception/Dinner **or** Saturday Awards Breakfast (up to 10 minutes); advertisement in convention proceedings booklet; complimentary exhibitor table; your banner on display throughout event

Silver Sponsor - \$400

Advertisement in proceedings booklet; complimentary exhibitor table; banner on display throughout the event; insert included in welcome packet

Bronze Sponsor - \$300

Our highly popular Kick-off Picnic, Hospitality Room or Coffee Break sponsor; advertisement in proceedings booklet; complimentary exhibitor table; your banner on display; insert included in welcome packet

Heart of a Lion - \$150 Club Special!

Breakout Session or Coffee Break sponsor; advertisement in proceedings booklet; banner on display

All sponsors who commit by April 1, 2024, will be listed on promotional materials, in the Lion Pride publication, on the Lions of Michigan website and Face Book page. Checks should be made out to Lions of Michigan and mailed to: Lions of MI, 5730 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911. Contact wburns@lionsofmi.com or call 517-887-6640 for further details.

5730 Executive Drive • Lansing, MI 48911
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email: lions@lionsofmi.com • website: www.lionsofmi.com

CLUB NEWS

COLEMAN LIONS



The Coleman Lions Club completed a KidSight Screening event during the Sanford Santa Express 2023. During the 4 day event spread over 2 weeks they screened a total of 183 children with 11 referrals (6%). Seven members contributed a total of 61.5 hours during this event. After the children were screened they were able to select a free book to take home with them. Pictured in the photo are PDG Al Roeseler (sitting) and Lion Jason Perkins.



PCC Jeff and PDG Sheryl Schafer made a trip to Southeastern Guide Dog located in Palmetto, Florida to return their 12th guide dog puppy (Tina, yellow Lab) and to pick up their 13th puppy (Captain, Golden/Lab mix).

Pictured are photos of Tina being returned during the Freshman Orientation and Captain being picked up in front of their Puppy Development building.



Lions Wendy and Billie Jo delivered gifts to Coleman Elementary School. Coleman Lions adopted a family of five, buying gifts for all, including a turkey for Christmas dinner. Two Coleman Girl Scouts and two Lions wrapped the presents!

Lion Catrina, dressed in a Lion costume, rode in the back of a white convertible in the Coleman Christmas Parade.



WEIDMAN LIONS

Weidman Lions Club recently participated in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest with the sixth grade class from Beal City's St. Joseph the Worker School. Picture features, from left, Bernie Baldwin from the Lions Club, Amanda Brickner (the winner), Holly Gottleber (runner up), and their teacher Jason Lipton.



GREENVILLE LIONS

Greenville Lions, family members, and friends gathered to shop for toys.



Greenville Lions distributed toys for over 300 children at the fairgrounds on December 16.



Greenville Lions have been providing toys for children in families needing help for over 75 years. This year the club provided over \$1,300 worth of toys for over 300 children in the Greenville school district. Funding for the project came from Meijer and generous support from members of the community. We also received assistance in the shopping and distribution of toys from members of three area biker clubs. It was a heart-warming experience for all who helped with the project.

Greenville Lions also provided 70 poinsettias for distribution at Christmas to local care facilities, and shut-ins in the community.

Greenville Lions are also providing sleds for the elementary schools in the school district so that children can enjoy winter sports during recess. "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!"

HART LIONS

Hart Lions Club celebrated the Christmas season with a party on December 7th. It was held at the OCCA building in Hart. We had 47 attendees. The Christmas party was a wonderful event. We had 35 of our summer volunteers from our Bratwurst Stand at the Oceana County Fair. The John Merchant Band played music during the dinner which was catered by Kristy's Pour House.



Lions Cathy and Bruce.



EDMORE LIONS

The Edmore Lions Club has had a busy holiday season! First of all, following up on a \$400 donation from the Edmore Lions, and with the construction experience of Lion Tom Dobbrastine, an access ramp was installed at the home of a local resident who needed help accessing his home.



Next, our Club conducted our Annual Christmas ham sales project. A total of 150 spiral cut hams were sold in the community, netting approximately \$1,000 profit for our project account.

And lastly, our Club donated \$1,500 to Christian Endeavor, who coordinated their annual food distribution program that included bags of groceries, clothing, and blankets to families in need. Approximately 100 local area families benefited from this program. Several Edmore Lions participated in the event by helping to coordinate traffic and loading the boxes of food into vehicles.

HARRISON LIONS



At our December 20 meeting the Lions Club of Harrison had a wonderful dinner of baked salmon and chicken and lots of fixens! We followed that with a lively White Elephant Gift Exchange. Everyone went home with a great gift and a full tummy. A wonderful close to a great year! See you all in 2024!



LUTHER LIONS

Luther Lions Club 'All You Can Eat Breakfast' is Sunday, January 7th at 8:30-10:30am. Cost is \$10. Menu will be waffles, French toast, biscuits & gravy, country potatoes, scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, coffee, and orange drink.

December was a busy month. December 3rd was our breakfast. Our Christmas Social was in mid-December with a DJ, dancing, and hors d'oeuvres. It was a festive event for the community and members. Sorry if you missed it! Maybe next year! On the 19th, the Ladies visited Autumnwood's Nursing Home in McBain, we provided a craft class to make ornaments for their rooms. Lots of cookies and candy were consumed by the residents. On December 21st we hosted Feed America. [January 11th will be the next Feed America at the Luther Lions Hall and line up starts at 2 pm.]

Every Thursday we play Corn Hole in our Hall. It starts at 6pm (\$5 admission); everyone is invited.

From our Lions Club to yours, a very blessed Happy New Year!

MANISTEE LIONS

Richard Veine, president of the Manistee LIONS, presented Lion Virginia Szymanski with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, named for the founder of LIONS International, at the annual Manistee Lions' Christmas party held at T. J.'s Pub. She was instrumental in the success of many Lions' Fish Boils, the annual sock collection for individuals in need, and supplied gifts for the annual LIONS Christmas Party. As well as many other local and state LIONS projects. She has served as a Zone Chair and faithfully as the treasurer of the Manistee LIONS for many years. The award is the highest honor given to members of local Lions Clubs.



CENTRAL MONTCALM LIONS



The Central Montcalm Lions have had a busy holiday season. We put together and delivered 48 gift bags to various members around the community who may be alone or who may have recently lost a loved one. The highlight of these bags is the homemade Christmas cards that the fourth graders at Central Montcalm Upper Elementary make for us.

We also donated to the Sheridan Hospital Community Tree Lighting ceremony. Lastly, we volunteered at the Stanton Tree Lighting ceremony by passing out cookies to those waiting to get a glimpse of Santa!!

We hope everyone has a safe and blessed New Year!!!!

MIDLAND LIONS

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING SERVICE PROJECT—The Midland Lions rang the bell December 1st at Walmart. We collected \$857.88 during the 2 Fridays Midland Lions worked. Last year we collected \$482.13. Salvation Army Liaison, Lion Ann Frazer

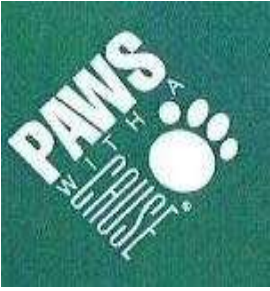


CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SERVICE PROJECT—Our Lions Annual Christmas Party for special kids was December 5. It is an evening of watching happy “Santa believers” enjoying lots of cookies, laughing with Jewls the clown and singing with Santa. The Midland Country Club does a great job with providing kid friendly food. There were 14 Lions helping the kids check in, get their food, and have fun!



SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS DINNER SERVICE PROJECT— December 13, Trailside Senior Center held their Christmas dinner at which the Midland Lions assisted and also supported financially. Lions Eldon & Mary Dean, Mark Freed, Al Ducham, Ollie Juengel, Elaine Sabrie, Roger Frazer, Pat Dunlap, and Jim Warheit served and helped with prizes. Everyone had a great time. WE SERVE!

District *Projects*



I would like to come and visit your club for a presentation. Please contact me through Lions Mike and Tina Hoy at hoym@charter.net or 989-832-8354.

Cowboy Hoy, Hearing/Assistance Dog



Here is the website link: <https://www.leaderdog.org/lions-club/resources/>

Each month, a newsletter page will be uploaded to our website.

Lion Beth, Director of Lions Engagement

Leader Dogs for the Blind

1039 S. Rochester Rd. • Rochester Hills, MI 48307-3115

Direct (248) 218 6421 or Toll Free (888) 777-5332

Lions of Michigan Foundation

Donations are greatly appreciated. There are more requests for disaster relief and individual help than we have seen in some time. We help many people all around our district, so if you missed the Parade of Checks, you can still send your checks to the foundation. The foundation helps many people, but we cannot do it without your club donations.

The foundation is ready to send out the Sight and Hearing Tickets, encourage clubs to use them as a fundraiser. For every ticket you sell you can receive money back to use in your clubs, the more you sell the more you get for your club.

There are still cookbooks for sale. You can get them from Chad for \$10 each and sell them for what you would like, also a fundraiser for your club.

Lions Clubs International Foundation

Each of your clubs should have a club coordinator for LCIF. Please forward their name and address information to PDG Pam Schroeder. My address and phone info are in the Roster Book.

It is not too late to make your yearly donation. Your donation can go toward a Melvin Jones, and when you have \$1,000 into LCIF, you can present a Melvin Jones Fellowship to someone for their dedication to Lionism. Many clubs have the funds into LCIF for a Melvin Jones that can be presented. If you need more info contact PDG Pam.

Donations are used to help clubs around the world. Some donations have also come back to Michigan to help with disasters. Grants can also be applied for, if your club has donated to LCIF.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL PIN TRADER SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are due to Michigan Pin Traders by March 1, 2024. Lions International Trading Pin Club offers a scholarship intended for children/grandchildren of Lions, Lioness, and/or Leo Clubs. The applicant must be a graduating senior who has been accepted for admission to an accredited college or institution of higher learning. The application can be found on the Lion International Trading Pin Club website. Completed application is to be sent to the Michigan Lions Pin Trading Club for regional selection. The regional application will be sent to the International Committee for possible selection. Scholarship amount awarded is \$2,500. Check is issued in the name of the student at completion of their first semester.

Send completed application to: PDG Peggy Walls, President, Michigan Lions Pin Trading Club, 13500 215th Ave., Big Rapids, Michigan, 49307.

If questions, please call: 231- 796- 2861 or 231- 679- 7911.

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING CAMP FUNDRAISERS:

●“Sub Zero Hero” POLAR PLUNGE and DINNER on February 10th. For the adventurer, warm blooded or current 11E1 Governor or Vice Governors. (Or my suggestion is to donate and designate a fellow LION TO DIVE IN FOR YOU:))

●11A2 BEAR LAKE KICK OFF DINNER February 21, 2024. Sponsored by the Shelby Lions

●BUFFALO AND WILD BOAR GAME DINNER, Saturday April 27, 2024, hosted at the Metamora Lions Club Hall. Metamora, Michigan.

●NEW DATE for the ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC will be May 19, 2024.

Please go to the Bear Lake Lions Camp Website and Facebook page for the fundraiser fliers and pictures.

FUNDRAISER SPONSORSHIPS AND CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Thank you for all you do for Lions and the Bear Lake Camp. Steve Glazier

Service Stories and submissions to “LIONS CONNECTIONS”

We post club service stories and/or news under the “*Club News*” section of the District 11E1 newsletter. Has your story been shared? Our District 11E1 newsletter is forwarded to Lions of Michigan for consideration in the LION PRIDE MAGAZINE.

Please submit articles in Word [Please no PDF files] and pictures in jpeg format as an attachment for the February 2024 Newsletter by January 23 to Lions Mike and Tina Hoy at hoym@charter.net or call 989-832-8354. Any District 11E1 Lion can submit articles and/or pictures for the newsletter.

Lions of District 11E1,

We are happy to announce that Lion Paula Rigling, Arcadia Lions Club, has expressed interest in taking over the responsibility of editing the District newsletter—“LIONS CONNECTIONS”. We are ‘retiring’ as the editors with the June 2024 issue. We welcome Lion Paula and thank her for wanting to take this on. She has the experience; her undergraduate degree is in Journalism and she has edited quarterly newsletters in the past.

Lions Mike & Tina Hoy

Editors

“LIONS CONNECTIONS” District 11E1 Newsletter