

MAKE PEOPLE
SMILE

Gerald Whitney
District Governor II D-I
April, 2026



Phyllis Pross, Newsletter Editor • 16424 Whitehead Dr., Linden, MI 48451
Phone: 810-735-4288 • e-mail: pdpross@charter.net

From District Governor Gerald Whitney



DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Gerald Whitney
11182 Wilson Rd. Montrose 48457
810-250-1131
tiny11194@yahoo.com

FIRST VICE GOVERNOR

Tobias Webber
1132 Sue St. Saginaw 48609
989-225-5362
tobywebber@yahoo.com

SECOND VICE GOVERNOR

Bart Blegen
204 Franconian Dr.W. Frankenmuth 48734
989-280-4818
muthman76@yahoo.com

CABINET SECRETARY

Alison Reed
2513 Michelle Place Saginaw 48601
702-467-8728
jalison460@gmail.com

CABINET TREASURER

Sandy VanTol
3433 Fairway Dr. Bay City 48706
989-225-4583
slvantol23@gmail.com

**IMMEDIATE PAST
DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

Jonathan VanTol
3433 Fairway Dr. Bay City 48706
989-225-5047
jvantol@svsu.edu



April is here, and the spring convention is only a couple weeks away (April 17-19). It will take place at the Comfort Inn in Mt Pleasant. It is going to be a good convention. We will be having a guest speaker, ID Melissa Washburn, from New Mexico. She will be with us for the weekend.

The Parade of Checks will be taking place on Saturday, so please come with a handful of checks for your club's pick of charities that your club

will support.

Your Lions clubs help support people with all kinds of problems that come in their lives.

There will be breakout sections on Saturday covering new information that clubs need to know.

REGISTATIONS: Any Lion member who wants to attend meetings at convention can register at the door. The cost per person will be \$25.00.

DG Jerry

MAKE PEOPLE SMILE



REGION/ZONE CHAIRS

Region I Chair

Ken Krause
Auburn Williams
307 Hackney Trail Auburn 48611
989-798-0001
kenneth.krause@yahoo.com

Region I Zone 1 Chair

Rick Nelsen
Bay City
5624 Spring Knoll Bay City 48706
989-906-4653
nelsenricky@gmail.com

Region I Zone 2 Chair

Tony Szczygiel
Caro
1200 E. Sanilac Rd. Caro 48723
989-385-3907
tonylroof@gmail.com

Region II Chair

Dan Houston
Buena Vista
2317 Whittier St. Saginaw 48601
C 989-798-8940
dhoustonsr1@gmail.com

Region II Zone 1 Chair

Duane Comerford
Shields
1080 Poplar Dr. Saginaw 48609
989-751-4233 989-781-0634
lionsband11d1@aol.com

Region II Zone 2 Chair

Carol Graham-Banes
Frankenmuth
520 Cass St. Frankenmuth 48734
810-210-0613
cmgt2010@gmail.com

Region III Chair

Dan Embury
Linden
8115 Lahring Rd. Gaines 48436
810-955-8927
jkisch01@yahoo.com

Region III Zone 1 Chair

Position open

Region III Zone 2 Chair

Position open



From 1st Vice District Governor Tobias Webber



Spring is here and Easter is being celebrated early. March was rather blustery, but now we begin to enjoy a glimpse of spring weather. Let's make the most of it and plan and execute all those service projects. One thing in need of improvement is our service reporting. As a district we will be monitoring and urging clubs to report their service on a regular basis. Presidents and Secretaries have an obligation to report. If you need help just ask! Serving and helping one another go hand in hand.

One of the changes we will be working on is asking the clubs, what can we do as district to help you thrive. Not only asking but participating in finding answers for you and your clubs in your communities. We all need to work together to serve and look for ways to be of help to one another.

We need to think outside the box to serve and to grow as Lions. Grow in service, grow in membership and ideas that fit our changing communities and our country.

We are going to begin a campaign to get members to sign up for the newsletter so you can stay informed and have conversations about what's going on in your club as well the district.

The District Convention is April 18-19. I hope to have more participation. Attending District functions can help us to better understand what we are beyond our clubs.

There are so many opportunities to learn. My wish is more members would take advantage of the trainings offered.

We will be conducting a roundtable at the District Convention this year to try and increase the awareness of the need and attract Zone Chairs. The Roundtable will take place right after lunch Saturday during the convention. Listen for the announcement.

Good Zone Chairs can make all the difference. If you have been a President and want to enhance a club's experience and to grow as a person and a leader, stop by to see us.

This summer I will be attending the Lions International Convention in Hong Kong to be sworn in as your District Governor. At the International Convention, 750 Governors from around the world will be sworn in together. After two years of training I am ready to take on the experience and privilege of being your Governor for the next year. We have a great team in place that will be reaching out to train, to listen and enhance your clubs experience. My team and I intend to lead with a vision for the future to include all the great service we will bring to our communities and beyond.

Recently we lost PDG Steve VanTol. I will miss him and want to thank his wife Debra for sharing him with us. He was a mentor for me, he lead with heart and soul, his leadership will be missed!

Lions take great pride in service. We must take that pride and wear it on our sleeves to show our neighbors, our friends and community's. When we show our pride we become better messengers of who and what we do! This will bring in new members who we can teach and who we can learn



from in spreading service with pride.
We must all participate in turning the corner in membership growth. We must welcome new members

with new ideas and take the opportunity to ask people to join in our commitment to make a difference.

*Lion Toby Webber
First Vice-District Governor*



Lions District 11D-1: Kindness in Action Across Our Clubs

Celebrating Members, Service, and the Power of Generosity

As I reflect on my many visits to the clubs of Lions District 11D-1, one message resonates above all: kindness truly matters. Every stop along the way has reinforced how acts of compassion and service ripple outward, inspiring hope and positive change within our communities.

It has been a privilege to meet so many incredible Lions members—each one bringing unique talents, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to our shared mission. Their warmth, dedication, and camaraderie have made every visit memorable, and reminds me why our organization thrives. Together, we build bridges and foster connections that go far beyond the boundaries of our club meetings.

The sheer scale of service projects being completed across

District 11D-1 is nothing short of impressive. From food drives and vision screenings to environmental cleanups and youth programs, these initiatives are made possible through the generous giving of time by our members. Their willingness to volunteer, organize, and lead by example is what powers our impact and strengthens our legacy of service.

As we continue to move forward, let us celebrate the kindness at the heart of every project and every member. It is this spirit that defines Lions District 11D-1, and it is through our collective efforts that we will continue to make a difference—one act of kindness at a time.

Thank you for choosing to be a Lion!

Bart Blegen, 2nd VDG



Lions of Michigan Foundation (LMF) Report

by IPDG Jonathan VanTol

Remember the Sweepstakes tickets need to be returned by May 1.

The LMF Hall of fame will be August 1: Lions of MI Foundation Hall of Fame Dinner 6:00 pm at Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn. Deadline to receive discount: July 13. Call for Reservations at 989-772-4000.

As many of you know, PDG Steve VanTol passed on March 7, 2026. I and the rest of the family would like to share our appreciation for all your prayers and the MANY Lions from around the District that were able to be a part of the Lion ceremony at the funeral home. Lion Steve worked tirelessly on behalf of the Lions, his church, and his community. In addition to being a PDG, Lion Steve was also the President of the Lions of MI Service Foundation twice. We lost a fine Lion and mentor.

Lion Steve's term as a LMSF trustee would have expired this year and due to his health, he was in the process of relinquishing positions he held in many organizations. At the District Convention this month we will elect his successor. PDG Alice Zajac is a nominee and when elected, she will become the President of the LMSE.

The Lions of Michigan Foundation will assist clubs to help children receive the needed eye care.

If you have any questions or need assistance with grant applications for emergency assistance, vision or military aid you can contact IPDG Jonathan VanTol email jvantol@svsu.edu or phone 989-225-5047 or the incoming Foundation President PDG Lion Alice Zajac email akzmsu@gmail.com or phone 989-683-2497.

SCAM ALERTS



PDGs, Club Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Voting Cabinet. Once again the scammers are on the move. Several of you have contacted DG Jerry Whitney and / or me about an e-mail you received with DG Jerry

as the sender.

The best way to verify if it is a valid Lion e-mail is to hover near the name and verify that the e-mail address is the same one in the Roster book. If not, delete & block the sender.

The District does not use PayPal, Venmo or any other cashless application at this time. I will never ask you to purchase a bunch of gift cards for the District unless we discuss it at a cabinet meeting for a particular project. There are plenty of District funds for me to purchase gift cards, if needed.

Also, a non-Lion contacted me regarding a message she received supposedly from me that I had won \$50,000. That is not valid either. If you receive anything suspicious and have further questions, please let me know.

SERVING WITH HONOR,
Lion Sandy VanTol, Cabinet Treasurer
989-225-4583

“IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Never trust wiring instructions sent via email. Cyber criminals are hacking email accounts and sending emails with fake wiring instructions. These emails are convincing and sophisticated. **ALWAYS** independently confirm wiring instructions in person or via a telephone call to a trusted and verified phone number. **NEVER** wire money without double checking that the wiring instructions are correct.”

Global Service Team

District Coordinators

GET

Global Extention Team
Coordinator Meatha Winbush
Buena Vista

GLT

Global Leadership Team
Coordinator Ashley Kozlowski
Montrose
1065 Desander Dr. Montrose 48457
810-730-9092
ashwhit2006@yahoo.com

GMT

Global Membership Team
Coordiantor Alice Zajac PDG
Kingston
6545 Legg Rd. Kingston 48741
C 989-683-2497
akzmsu@gmail.com

GST

Global Service Team
Coordinator Vaughn Begick PCS
Bay City
5353 Lorraine Ct. Bay City 48706
C 989-295-0209 H 989-686-0578

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Convention
April 18-19, Mt. Pleasant

MD11 Convention
May 14-16, Shanty Creek
Bellaire

Chesaning Lions
Easter Egg Hunt
April 4, Chesaning

Freeland Lions
Walleye Festival
April 23-26, Freeland

During the upcoming year to help us collaborate and communicate as a team between ourselves and the District we will be serving, I wanted to let you know of some the options we can utilize to help.

Besides the usual personal and shared communications we share, we can all utilize the District email. We can place articles in the newsletter, and we can use the District Zoom. I encourage you to use the newsletter to convey a message, send some pictures of an event or announce a date. The articles for the newsletter must be in with Phyllis Pross by the last day of the month.

Zoom or district emails can be used through Terri Charbonneau. Also ideas or information can be placed on the web page. I would also encourage you to use the 11D-1 Facebook page.

Please communicate and collaborate often with ideas and activities. Try to attend as many functions as you can. Visit the clubs. If you have questions, call. Utilize the portal and the roster book as sources of information. We have a great team and we need to be as focused as we can for the next year.

Lion Toby Webber FVDG

The Club Health Assessment Report through February 2026 noted that only 16 of the 33 Lions Clubs in the District had reported any Service Activity since July 1, 2025. That means 17 of the 33 had not reported any Service Activity. Hopefully those 17 clubs have done some activity that could be reported. Even a committee meeting or monthly club meeting can be reported along with any other service or fundraiser activity.

The first step in reporting is to sign in to the Lion Portal. It was previously named MyLion and other names in the past but this is the combined site for all Lion related things. Here is the link to the site. <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/digital-products/portal-updates>

If you have not registered for the portal, here is the site to sign up. <https://lionsinternational.my.site.com/s/>

After logging in, navigate to the Service section found on the top task bar, and select Create Service Activities. From there you can fill in the boxes and then click on report. If more information is needed, you will receive a notice highlighted in red. It takes a little practice to fill in the required boxes.

If you need help with any of these steps, please contact me at vaughnpac@aol.com or call me at 989 295-0209. Lion Ashley Koslowski who is the Secretary of the Montrose Lions Club has also volunteered to help with reporting service to the Lions Portal. Her e-mail address is ashwhit2006@yahoo.com.

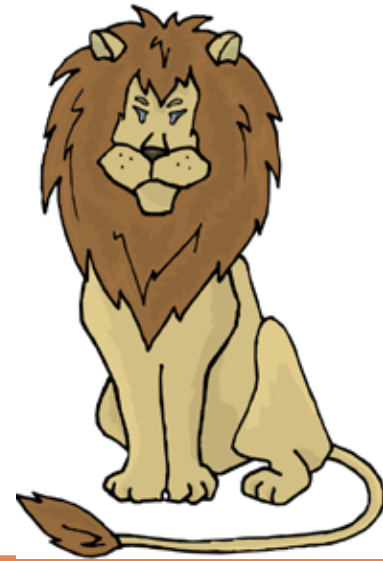
Thank you in advance for reporting on your service activities. By doing so, we can keep track of our service to our community and see how effective our Club is in doing that. We can also show our community what we do with the funds they donate to our Clubs.

Lion Vaughn Begick
District Global Service Team Chair
page 5

Lions of District 11D1,

Thank you for the love and friendship given to Lion Steve and myself. Thank you for the beautiful Memorial Tribute. Steven truly loved Lionism and loved you. He knows you will keep "Moving Forward" as you serve those in need.

In Christ,
Lion Deb VanTol



Each year Lions are given the opportunity to serve in a number of ways through on of the 4 GAT positions or one of the 21 State chairperson positions.

MD 11 GAT applications are now being accepted. Positions are open for Global Service, Global Membership, Global Leadership and Global Extension Team Chairpersons.

Information on these positions can be found on LCI's website:



Please provide a letter of interest, resume and Lions history to:
wburns@lionsofmi.com
Lions of Michigan
5730 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911

In addition to GAT positions, Lions may send a letter of interest for any of the following positions: Committee State Chair, State Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. Positions are for a 1-3 year term.

Email Executive Director Wendy Burns by April 20:
wburns@lionsofmi.com

Special Needs Vision Clinic

PROGRESSIVE RAFFLE
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM



Location: Club 24 Sports Bar & Grill
1354 Mertz Rd, Caro

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

is excited to announce our newest fundraiser, **The Ace of Diamonds**. This is a card progressive raffle with weekly drawings that began on March 4, 2026 and will continue through March 10, 2027. The Drawings are held Wednesday evenings at 7pm at **Club 24 Sports Bar & Grill (1354 Mertz Road, Caro)**. One winner is drawn each week with the prize being determined by the card chosen. (Ace of Diamonds pay 50% of all ticket sales minus any consolation prizes paid within the current deck, an Ace of any other suit pays \$75, Jokers pay \$100 and all other cards pay \$50.) The Jackpot grows each week until the Ace of Diamonds is uncovered. Consolation prizes also grow when the Jackpot reaches \$5K, \$10K, \$15 and \$20K. Tickets are \$5 and available



at Club 24, at the Special Needs Vision Clinic or by contacting RG Barnum, Dolores Kowalski, Alice Zajac, or Joe Gwizdala. You need not be present to win! The actual drawing and winners are posted on the Special Needs Vision Clinic Facebook Page. We invite everyone to join us on Wednesdays to support the Special Needs Vision Clinic. **Special 'shout out' to Lion Jerry Darling from the Shields Lions Club for his assistance in launching this fundraiser!!**



2026 11D1 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

It may be the beginning of a new year, but it is time to get ready for the Lions' 11D1 convention to be held April 18-19, 2026. We will be at the Comfort Inn at Mt Pleasant. To make room reservations contact the hotel no later than March 25th to reserve a room for \$110.00 per night plus tax using the following information: -Lions District 11 D1 4.17.26, hotel phone number-989-772-4000. This is a day and a half long event, but if you are planning to arrive Friday night the same room rate applies and check-in starts at 4:00 p.m. Over night guests of the hotel have a hot breakfast bar available.

Club Name _____

Lion attending _____

Spouse or guest attending _____ Lion? _____

no. of people

Registration fee \$20.00/person X _____ = _____

Late registration (received after March 15) \$25.00/person

No registration fee for first time attendees

April 18 Lunch Slider Buffet

\$23.00/person X _____ = _____

Dinner \$31.00/person X _____ = _____

Dinner choices: Roast Chicken w/ mashed potatoes TOTAL _____

and wax beans&carrots

Teriyaki pork loin w/ rice pilaf and stir fried veg.

both meals-tossed salad and assorted cheesecake

Meal Choices for persons listed above: Chicken _____ or Pork _____

Alternate meal? Type of meal? Vegetarian, gluten free, other. _____

Return with payment to: PCC Richard DeLong, 4571 Bittersweet Ln., Saginaw, MI 48604

Payable to: Lions District 11D1

2026 MD 11 CONVENTION MAY 14-16, 2026

**WELCOME LCI
PRESIDENT
A.P. SINGH
INVITED GUEST
SPEAKER**



MAY 14-16, 2026

MD 11 LIONS CONVENTION

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

**THURSDAY PICNIC AT CELLAR 1914
FRIDAY RENAISSANCE WELCOME PARTY
SATURDAY BUSINESS SESSION
S.A. DODGE AWARDS BANQUET
SHANTY CREEK, BELLAIRE, MICHIGAN**

PREPARE TO BE MERRY



Has your club ever sponsored a KidSight screening?? We have a GREAT service opportunity for your club! The hardest part is finding a location. Where to look: Local daycares, Pre-schools, Fairs or Schools, Parks and Recs

locations. This is a project that all Lions can get out to do and do what LIONS do best! SERVE

We have three Welsh-Allen cameras in the district available for KidSight screenings. The dates the KidSight cameras (Welsh-Allen), the Titmus Screening Camera and trailer are scheduled for, can be found on the district calendar located on the district webpage - <http://www.lions11d1.com>. NOTE: Calendar has been updated recently – Please verify your Screening date(s) and camera(s) on the calendar.

You will need to coordinate use of the cameras with Lion Julia Embury (Region3), DG Gerald Whitney (Region 2) and Sandy Sting (Region 1). The Region KidSight Coordinators will work with you for you to pick up the camera and additional event material.

The KidSight trailer is for screening where an indoor location is not possible. It is important that you have someone from your club able to pickup and drop off the trailer when your event is completed. Pickup and drop off will be in Linden or it might depend on the location of the last club using trailer. Please coordinate your trailer needs by contacting Lion Julia Embury.

District 11-D1 has purchased a new camera, a Titmus Kaleidos Vision Screener (<https://youtu.be/GsKPdpUqDU4>). The camera can be used at events where the lighting cannot be dimmed or controlled. If you are interested in using the Titmus Kaleidos Camera, please contact Lion Julia Embury to get it on the calendar.

If you or members of your club would like to be certified KidSight screeners, please contact Lion Julia Embury at jkisch01@yahoo.com or phone 810-624-7090 to set up a special training session for clubs near each other. Let's get as many screenings set up as possible to help children see !! Help make Project KidSight a big success !!

Project KidSight District Coordinator Julia Embury

Tony Szczygiel

Caro Lions Club President & Zone Chair Region 1 / Zone 2

I am asking for your support at our upcoming District convention. I am seeking the position of 2nd Vice District Governor.

My experience encompasses 15 years of sales, marketing and management with two large international companies and 25 years as the owner of TLS Enterprises. In addition, I started and am the President of the Caro chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace where we build and deliver beds throughout three Michigan counties.

I became a Lion because I enjoy helping others and doing good in my community. I want to share my talents and expertise throughout our district and see all Lions clubs not only thrive but grow to become a more effective and service-oriented organization. With my years of experience as Sales Manager and President and owner of three organizations, I have learned quality techniques on how to find new people to bring on board, train and work alongside with to accomplish my goals.

I have been meeting with every club throughout our district already so that you may get to know me better. Together, we will find opportunities to work side by side to strengthen and grow your club and our District.

Help me help you. We're Lions, that's what we do!



From All State Band and Peace Poster

Submitted by: Lion Duane Comerford

April showers bring May flowers! Let's hope only good things headed our way.

The Lions of Michigan All State Band has had their first rehearsal for the kids headed to the Lions International Convention. We have about 47 kids signed up.

Michigan Lions are unique in that we have a marching band that represents our state at all Lions International conventions. Only one, or sometimes two other states have a band.

Youth is the future of the United States and the future of Lions Clubs. Your club's work in providing service to help youth has the potential of assuring a bright future for our Michigan kids.

At Parade Of Checks please give generously to your Michigan Lions Band and help these kids get to Hong Kong. These kids and their families, each must raise \$5000 to represent us at the convention.

If you're not familiar with the band there are several videos on YouTube featuring the band at other conventions.

Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Lions clubs, now is the time to begin contacting your school districts' art teachers to introduce them to the International Lions Peace Poster Contest. Commitments now to conduct the contest in the fall. Here is the link to learn about the contest and something you can send to your local art teacher.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/marketing-events/events-programs/international-peace-contests/peace-poster-contest>

I suggest offering a cash prize for 1st and 2nd place. Maybe talk to a couple of local artists to see they would be interested in judging your contest. If you need any additional information please contact me: Duane Comerford: lionsband11d1@aol.com

At Parade of Checks please consider a small donation of \$10-\$20 for the account.

See you at the convention!



Welcome to this Month's Newsletter

Dear Lions, Supporters, and Camp Family,

Somewhere right now, there is a child who hasn't experienced camp yet. They don't know what it feels like to stand at the climbing tower and wonder if they're brave enough. They don't know what it's like to sit at a table where people believe in them before they believe in themselves.

What they will never fully see is how many people make that moment possible.

And that's where you come in.

Here's a quick look at what's inside this month's newsletter:

Camp Updates

Convention season is underway, helping us connect with Lions across Michigan and share the impact of camp. We are also celebrating Paighton Argue, who received the Grace Lange Memorial Scholarship for her growth and dedication.

LBLC Spotlights

This month we recognize Board Member Jay Caldwell for his steady leadership and support, along with Gabrielle Allers, who continues to guide and inspire campers through the VIB program.


Campfire Chats

From the creativity of the Crazy Crafters to the ongoing support of Greater Lapeer Transportation Agency, this month highlights the people and partnerships that keep camp moving forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There's a lot happening at camp, and every event plays a role in making summer possible:

- **April 11, 2026** – Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner
- **May 9, 2026** – Annual Workbee
- **June 8, 2026** – Golf Classic
- **June 12, 2026** – Baseball Fundraiser
- **June 28, 2026** – Open House
- **September 26, 2026** – Clay Shoot

 These are more than events. They are opportunities to be part of something that changes lives.

SUMMER IS COMING

Our 2026 programs are right around the corner:

- Visually Impaired & Blind Family Camp | July 3–5
- VIB Youth Camp | July 5–11
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth Camp | July 12–18
- DHH Family Camp | July 24–26

Each week brings new campers, new stories, and moments that stay with them long after they leave.

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF IT

There is always a place for you here.

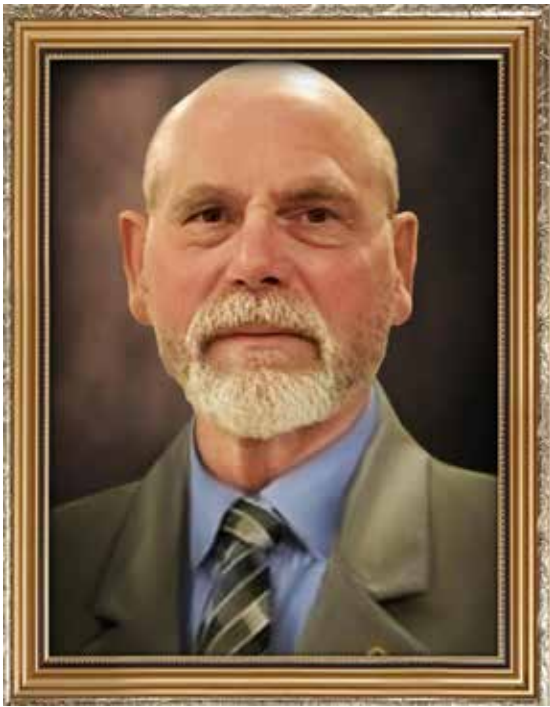
- ✓ Volunteer for Workbee or summer prep
- ✓ Attend an event
- ✓ Share the story of camp
- ✓ Sponsor a camper or family

A swept floor. A shared post. A single conversation.
It all matters more than you think.

Click below to read this month's newsletter.

**With gratitude,
The Bear Lake Camp Team**

Even in the quiet seasons, the mission keeps moving. Thank you for being part of it.



IN HONOR OF STEVEN M. VAN TOL: A LION OF GREAT SERVICE

By Lion Robin Devereaux, President, Auburn Williams Lions

I come from a family of teachers, so I hope you will indulge me a very brief history lesson with maybe a little bit of zoology thrown in:

King Richard, who ruled Great Britain in the 12th century was known as “Coeur de Lion” – Richard the Lion Hearted. After that, the medieval term “lion hearted” was bestowed upon a person who was proud, brave, fierce and protective. The term implies not only raw courage, but also nobility, chivalry and as poet Criss Jami wrote “a heart of a lion in tune with a strong mind”. I would guess that anyone who knew Steven VanTol would definitely say he was “strong minded”. And not afraid to share his thoughts, which made all of us giggle at times.

According to scientists who study the social interactions of animals, lions live in one of the most highly socialized groups called prides. The pride offers safety, security, community and protection. Each lion in the group serves that community, working together for the

good of the whole.

Following this example of nature, Lions Clubs International was founded upon this same sort of “lion-heartedness”: its core values and principles including a commitment to service, dedication to excellence and high ethical standards. Lions Pride not only means a feeling of deep satisfaction in a club’s achievements, but harkens as well, back to the original term lion’s pride – a group that is dedicated to its members, its family, its community.

Steve VanTol believed whole heartedly in these values, and I believe that is why he loved the Lions so dearly, why the club and organization as a whole was so important to him, and as a leader, he nurtured it, grew it, mentored so many of us and was a touchstone for all we do in our community and beyond.

Our “pride” here at Auburn Williams was blessed with his knowledge, care and sense of giving to our community. He helped us be better people with his slightly gruff, yet humorous demeanor, and as a club, we all cared for him deeply. He will be sorely missed.

Steve served our club in many capacities, and trained all of us to serve proudly. His experience with Lions International extended well beyond our small community of Auburn, and I will not take up the time now to repeat his list of accomplishments that were published in his obituary, but I will tell you a story about a reluctant Lion (me) – because I did everything I could to avoid joining any sort of club- much less the Lions Club. But his expertise and dedication - and tenacity – because you know he asked me at least 40 times to join the club - the dedication he showed me by example to community – that’s what finally won me over. And my experience taught me something about Steve: if he didn’t ask you to join our club every time he saw you – well, I’m sorry to tell you but he probably didn’t like you very much. And about right now I am wondering if he’s asked Saint Peter to join our club yet.

I was fortunate enough to work with him in my job with the City of Auburn as well as our club connection, and I must tell you with all my heart that he was the finest mentor I ever had. I grew to love this plain-spoken, no BS businessman and engineer, and I grew so much under his tutelage.

As Lions we say “We serve”, and Steve VanTol was the very epitome of that. If I had to describe Steve in one word, that word would probably be generous – because that was what he was. With his time, his knowledge, care, humor, and most importantly, his service. Rest well and fly high, my friend.

LIONS Youth Exchange presents....



Young Adults Available to Host Summer of 2026

Julia Peel / 18 yrs. old / Belgium

Hobbies : hiking, traveling, hockey & animals

School Classes: Science, technology, engineering, & math

Julia enjoys being immersed in other cultures.

Career: Veteranarian

Swim: Yes

Vegetarian: NO

Rusne Vingraite / 16 yrs. old / Lithuania

Hobbies: Gym, bike riding, cooking, video games with brothers

Pets: Horse and dog Career: Equestrian

Swim: Yes Allergies: cats and some fruits

Rusne likes to help people & keeps her room neat

Tergel Tserentat / 16 yrs. old / Mongolia

Hobbies: read, yoga, hiking, volleyball, table tennis

Career: Teacher - chemistry, math, physics, english

Swim: No

Ewelina Macczynska / 16 Yrs. old / Poland

Hobbies: Gym, pilates, music, chemistry, animals, skiing

Swim: yes Career: Medicine

Elewina enjoys, playing the piano and traveling. She speaks english, german, and spanish.



**Contact Lion Debra VanTol @ 989-430-1824
or liondebravantol@gmail.com for more
information.**



LIONs Youth Exchange Camp presents....



Fun & Exciting Opportunities for Young Adults in the Summer of 2026

Foreign Young Adults Stay with an American Host Family

Ages 14-22 • 1 Week Michigan Lions Camp & 2 week MI home stay
A \$250 stipend to the American host family to defray at home expenses.

The host family picks the guest from the application & biography.

A private bedroom is not required. A personal bed is required.

Option #1 The host family does not need to be a Lion.
The guest comes with spending money. Hosting: July 16- Aug 3

American Young Adults Stay in a Foreign Country

Ages 14-22 • Lions Camp and/or Family Stay
3 week stay • Apply ASAP

The camp & family have been vetted by Lions.

The traveling young adult does not need to be a Lion.

Command of the language is not required.

Attend the Michigan Camp with LYCE Guests from other Countries

Option #3 5 days with Americans and Foreigners as camp mates.
2 LEOs per LEO club will have the \$250 camp fee paid.
Non-Leos may attend • Camp Date: July 27-31, 2026

Ages 15-18



Contact Lion Debra VanTol @ 989-430-1824

or

liondebravantol@gmail.com





26th Annual Shields Lions Club Golf Scramble

Saturday, June 13, 2026 @ Swan Valley Golf Course
8521 Highland Green Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

\$75 Registration Fee per Golfer

\$65 if Full Team Registered & Paid by June 5th

8:00 am Registration - 9:00 am Shot Gun Start

Cash Prizes: Best Score, Longest Drive, and Closest to Pin & Skins

Included with Registration

18 Holes Scramble

Hot Dog at the Turn

Dinner and Cash Awards

Also Available for Purchase

50/50 Raffle

Raffle Prizes

Skin Pots

HELP US SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING CLUB PROJECTS

SWAN VALLEY H.S. SCHOLARSHIPS

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

DOGS ALL STATE BAND

THOMAS TAY FUND & INC.

RECALLY IMPAIRED YOUTH CAMP

PAWS FOR A CAUSE

SWAN VALLEY SPECIAL NEEDS VEHICLE

EVERDAWN EYE CARE

Team Captain: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Golfer #1: _____

Golfer #2: _____

Golfer #4: _____

SEND REGISTRATION TO:

Shields Lions Club, 7808 Sahara Dr., Saginaw, MI 48609-4238

JUNE 5, 2026, DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING \$65 REGISTRATION FEE PER GOLFER. NO EXCEPTIONS. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MAIL DELIVERY.

The Freeland Lions Club Presents

The 40th Annual Freeland Walleye Festival

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is set to take place April 23rd, 24th 25th & 26th. The Freeland Walleye Festival is known statewide and brings in thousands of visitors to our little town. If you have never been, take some time to visit and check out a few of our events.

Events This Year Include: **Community Wide Rummage Sales**

Comedy Night on Friday

Car Show, Casino Games, Carnival Rides, Kid's Trout Pond, Parade, DJs, Live Music, Beer Tent, Bingo and a Fishing Tournament.

Disc Golf, Texas Hold'em & Beer Pong Tournaments



For more information, please visit www.freelandwalleyefestival.com

You may also be interested in one of our many other events that we host throughout the year.

- Wild Game Dinner
- Las Vegas Night Casino
- Christmas Party
- Golf Outing

2025-2026 Lions Year Calendar Important Dates

Date & Time	Purpose	Location	Notes
Monday, July 21, 2025 6:30 pm	Mini Cabinet Meeting & Banner Exchange	Montrose Train Depot 154 W. State Street Montrose 48457	RSVP via text or e-mail to Lion Sandy VanTol by July 7, 2025
Friday, August 8, 2025 6:00 pm	Governor's Appreciation	American Legion Post 18 700 Adams Street Bay City, MI 48708	RSVP via text or e-mail to Lion Sandy VanTol by July 25, 2025
Monday, August 25, 2025 6:30 pm	Summer Cabinet Meeting	Clio Senior Center 2136 W. Vienna Road Clio 48420	RSVP via text or e-mail to Lion Sandy VanTol by August 11, 2025
Thursday - Saturday September 18-20, 2025	USA / Canada Forum	Atlantic City, NJ	see Lion's Pride for details
Saturday, October 11, 2025 1 pm	Fall Conference	Montrose Baptist Church 300 E. State Street Montrose 48457	RSVP via text or e-mail to Lion Sandy VanTol by September 26, 2025
Thursday - Sunday November 6-9, 2025	Michigan Leadership Institute	MacMullen Center 104 Conservation Dr. Roscommon, MI 48653 989-821-6200	see Lion's Pride for details
Sunday, January 11, 2026 1 pm	Winter Cabinet Meeting	Otisville Lion's Den 9496 M57 Otisville 48463	RSVP via text or e-mail to Lion Sandy d VanTol by December 29, 2026
Friday - Saturday February 27-28, 2026	Michigan Forum	Delta Marriott Conference Center Kalamazoo, MI	2747 S. 11th St. Kalamazoo, MI 49009 1-269-375-6000 see Lion's Pride for details
Saturday - Sunday April 18-19, 2026 1 pm	District Convention	tbd	see Newsletter for details
Thursday - Saturday May 14-16, 2026	MD Convention	Shanty Creek Resorts Bellaire	5780 Shanty Creek Road Bellaire, MI 49615 See Lion's Pride for details
Friday - Tuesday July 3-7, 2026	International Convention	Hong Kong, China	see Lion's Pride for details

Lions Around the District

Bay City Lions Club had an active and impactful month of March, with successful events, strong community engagement, and continued preparation for upcoming service efforts.

The club was proud to participate in the Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade, showcasing Lionism within the community. This year's parade was especially meaningful as Lion Rachelle Ovalle served as Parade Marshall—an honor that reflects her dedication and service. The day was made even more special as it coincided with her birthday, allowing members to celebrate both her leadership and this recognition.



In preparation for parade season, the club's float received a complete refresh. Third Vice President Lion Elizabeth Sturm, with the support of the marketing committee, led the effort to fully update and enhance the float.

The redesigned float incorporated creative and meaningful elements, including a rearview mirror display featuring a Lion checking his reflection while wearing sunglasses, hanging dice, and a visible "tag" to represent Tag Days. In addition, new banners were created to highlight the various initiatives and causes supported by the Bay City Lions Club within the community.



There are many Lions to thank who dedicated countless hours to bring this project to life. The improvements were well received and provided an

elevated visual representation of the Bay City Lions Club and its presence within the community.

The club hosted its annual corned beef dinner, which was well attended by the community. Through careful planning and coordination, the event successfully served all attendees, with food quantities aligning closely with turnout. The dinner continues to be a valued opportunity for fellowship and community engagement.

In addition to service and fundraising efforts, the club has prioritized member education and awareness over the past two months by hosting a variety of guest speakers and presentations. Topics have included:

- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)
- Sepsis awareness and education
- Bay County Library System
- Bay Veterans Foundation
- Bay County Historical Society
- Superintendent of Bay City Public Schools

These presentations have provided valuable insight into community needs, resources, and opportunities for service, helping to strengthen connections and inform future initiatives.

Throughout the month, weekly Wednesday luncheon meetings have focused heavily on organizing and preparing for Tag Days, the club's primary annual fundraiser. Efforts have included volunteer recruitment, location coordination, and logistical planning for both street and storefront collections.



Tag Days play a critical role in supporting the Bay City Lions Club's service initiatives, and member participation has been strong as the event approaches.

Lions Around the District

Bay City continued

Looking Ahead

With Tag Days approaching in April, the club remains focused on final preparations and volunteer coordination. Continued member involvement will be key to ensuring another successful year of fundraising and community impact.

Chesaning Lions Club - Easter Egg Hunt see flyer

Fenton Lions Club On March 21st, hosted the **Spring Into the Meadows Dueling Pianos fundraiser** at Spring Meadows Country Club, bringing together more than 100 attendees for an evening of music, community, and charitable giving.



Guests enjoyed an energetic and interactive dueling piano performance that kept the crowd engaged throughout the night. The event was especially meaningful as it welcomed **Leader Dogs**, highlighting the Lions Club's ongoing commitment to supporting programs that improve independence and quality of life for individuals with vision loss.



The evening was filled with great conversation, laughter, and generosity from community members who came together to support the Fenton Lions Club's charitable initiatives. Events like this help fund vital programs including Leader Dog services, local community support efforts, and other Lions Club initiatives focused on making a positive impact.

The Fenton Lions Club would like to thank all attendees, sponsors, and volunteers who helped make the event a success. With strong community support, we look forward to continuing our mission of serving those in need.

Frankenmuth Lions Club In March, welcomed the leadership of The Clothesline Thrift Store based in Frankenmuth. Established in 2004, the store helps those with limited incomes purchase modern, attractive clothes at very reasonable prices. Staffed by volunteers from churches and others from around the area, the non-profit has donated over



\$1,160,000 to charities in the area. Pictured are President Lori Whiting, Administrator Corinne Welman along with Lions Debbie Baker and Nancy Lyon. Lion Nancy is also a dedicated volunteer at the store! It was a pleasure to hear their story!

Freeland Lions Club presents its 40th annual walleye festival. See flyer.

Kingston Lions Club -Conducted a reading session with the 2 third grade classes. The book was **LONG TALL LINCOLN** and presented by Kingston Lions Sue Nemeth, Jan Grieve, and Caro Lions Eugene Eskelson aka as Abe Lincoln, and Jean Brinkman. The teachers are beside Abe in the photo. The club has also been selling Easter candy.

