

MAKE PEOPLE  
SMILE

Gerald Whitney

District Governor II D-1

January, 2026



Phyllis Pross, Newsletter Editor • 16424 Whitehead Dr., Linden, MI 48451  
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From District Governor Gerald Whitney



#### DISTRICT GOVERNOR

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Happy new year

January, 2026 is now here. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas with family and friends.

December was a cold month, but it was a busy month with club visits, governor meetings and just getting ready for Christmas.

Montrose Lions club helped me with the Santa Store which was the seventeenth year that we have been doing this for children in need for Christmas in Montrose. We put out boxes throughout Montrose to collect new and gentle used toys to hand out to kids in Montrose. We invaded the Montrose orchard for a week from the owner Lion Dan Hill to setup

a store of all items we collected. Then on Saturday before Christmas we open store to parents who have passes from the Montrose Lions Club to shop. This year we provided items for Christmas for 90 kids this year, ages from one to seventeen years old.

The Winter Cabinet Meeting for 11D1 will be Saturday January 1, 2026 at 1:00 PM at Otisville Lions Den in Otisville. I hope everyone coming will sign up for the meeting by January 5th 2026.

The Michigan Forum will take place on Friday-Saturday February 27-28 2026 at Delta Hotel in Kalamazoo.



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

### Region I Zone 2 Chair

Tony Szczygiel  
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1200 E. Sanilac Rd. Caro 48723  
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tonylroof@gmail.com

### Region II Chair

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C 989-798-8940  
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### Region II Zone 1 Chair

Duane Comerford  
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lionsband11d1@aol.com

### Region II Zone 2 Chair

Carol Graham-Banes  
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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



Make People Smile

From 1st Vice District Governor Tobias Webber



## A New Year of Service and Opportunity

As the Holidays come to a close, many of us are asking: What's next? There is always the New Years Resolution ?

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Season and were generous in spirit to those near you. With the celebrations behind us, I am turning my attention to visiting clubs and at the same time, planning and education for next year are already intensifying.

Many key positions have been filled, and I'm grateful for the strong group of Lions who have stepped up. Still, there is more to do. I am hopeful that the team we are building will make a lasting impact on our district for years to come.

### Your Role Matters

In the next couple of months, if you are asked to take on a role, please know that it is an opportunity to help us move the District forward. Running a District takes many hands, and any position you volunteer for is deeply appreciated and an investment in our Future, the Lions Future !

### A Vision for Our District

LIONS LEAD THE WAY

*Yours in Service,  
Lion Toby Webber  
First Vice-District Governor 11 D 1*

I have a vision for our District—one where we grow in service and deepen our commitment to a bright, impactful future. A future where we make a difference right here in our own backyards while helping communities around the globe. I hope you'll join me in envisioning the change we can create in a world that needs us now more than ever.

### Membership: Grow, Support, Mentor

In order to grow we need to invite someone to join us—invite them knowing that what we do truly makes a difference.

Support a member who may be struggling to fit in and help them feel at home.

### Mentor someone in your club.

Small actions like these strengthen retention and build a stronger, more vibrant Lions community.

Together, we will continue to serve, inspire, and build a stronger District.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Otisville Lions  
**Winter Cabinet Meeting**  
January 11, Otisville

**Michigan Forum**  
February 27-28, Kalamazoo

**District Convention**  
April 18-19, Mt. Pleasant



## ZOOM account

The district has a Zoom account which is available for any club or committee meeting. Send a request to this email: [district11d1@gmail.com](mailto:district11d1@gmail.com) to request a zoom meeting or call PDG Steven VanTol at 989-430-9500. Zoom meetings are scheduled on a first-come basis and is available to any club or district officer for Leo or Lions business.

## ARE your Members Receiving District Newsletter?

The district newsletters are only being sent by email. The signup page can be found on our website [www.lions11d1.com](http://www.lions11d1.com). Please encourage your club members to get the information direct.

Have you signed up for the newsletter and feel you are not receiving the email? Check your trash and spam folder. Also, add [district11d1@gmail.com](mailto:district11d1@gmail.com) to your email contact list.

*Make People Smile*

From 2nd Vice Governor Bart Blegen



## Club Visits

### Recognizing the Many contributions of Our district's Clubs

As I look forward to the coming months, my hope is to visit many more Lions Clubs across our district. This journey is not just about travel -- it is about connecting with dedicated individuals who embody the true spirit of service. Each club I visit offers a unique opportunity to witness firsthand the remarkable work being done in our communities.

From organizing local service projects to supporting essential community initiatives, our Lions Clubs consistently demonstrate compassion, leadership and a commitment to making a difference. I am continually impressed by the creativity and dedication of our members, who go above and beyond to address pressing needs and uplift those

around them.

My visits are an expression of gratitude and an opportunity to get to know more about your clubs. I want each club to know how much their efforts are appreciated -- not only by myself, but by the many individuals whose lives are touched by their generosity. The impact of our clubs reverberates throughout the district, inspiring others and strengthening the bonds that make our organization so special.

Thank you to all the Lions who give their time, energy, and hearts to serve others. I look forward to meeting many of you, learning from your experiences, and celebrating the extraordinary legacy we are building together.

Wishing all of you the very best in 2026!

*Bart Blegen 2nd Vice District Govern*

## Congratulations to Nicole Arsenault

Nominated for the 2025 Unified Champion Special Olympics School Leader! Nicole was celebrated at the 2025 Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids. Nicole has been a huge asset to Unified Champion Schools at the middle school level.



Nicole Arsenault is a valuable member of the Bay City Lions Club as a LEO advisor for the Handy Leos. She spreads her time thinner by supporting Special Olympics Unified at Handy Middle School. What does this mean? She teams a student with special needs with a general ed student. Together, they compete in a Special Olympics sport. Thank you, Nicole, for your time and dedication to Lions and for the support you show to Special Olympics!!!

SAVE THE DATE

April 18 and 19

11D1 District Convention

Comfort Inn

Mt. Pleasant

Early Birds Welcome on the 17th

Look for the registration form page 5

**PURCHASE ADVERTISEMENT**

in the 49th annual Lions District 11D1 convention booklet.  
Covering Saginaw, Tuscola, Bay and Genesee counties.

Convention to be held  
April 18-19, 2026 at the Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn.

**Deadline for purchase of the ads March 15, 2026**

Full page	\$100.00
Half page	\$50.00
Quarter page	\$25.00

Make checks payable to: Lions District 11 D 1 Convention  
Mail to 4571 Bittersweet Lane, Saginaw, MI 48604  
Email ad copy in pdf format to [pdpross@charter.net](mailto:pdpross@charter.net)  
Questions to : Toby Webber 989 225 5362 or [tobywebber@yahoo.com](mailto:tobywebber@yahoo.com)

# 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

# MICHIGAN LIONS FORUM



LEAD TO SERVE, SERVE TO LEAD!

February 27–28, 2026

Featuring Keynote Speaker Kathleen Marcath

## REGISTER EARLY

To help us plan, prepare materials and guarantee lunch!

### Delta Marriott Kalamazoo

2747 S 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Room Reservations call 269-375-6000

CODE: LIONS MI FORUM

Cost: \$119.00 Cutoff date: 2/1/26

Alternate Hotel:

**BEST WESTERN SUITES KALAMAZOO**

269-350-5522 Room Rate: \$112.00

Registration Cost: \$60.00/person

Please complete the registration form and send it along with a check to:

Lions of Michigan

5730 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone 517-887-6640 or Fax 517-887-6642

-OR-

Register online at [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Registrants

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Early Registration Deadline: February 14, 2026

# \_\_\_\_\_ Registrants at \$60.00/person\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Registration includes lunch, Forum, and proceedings booklet.

List food allergies or dietary requirements:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### FRIDAY EVENTS: Registration open 6:30 pm

- 7:00 p.m. Service Project Forget Me Not Little Heroes
- Hospitality – Mingle at Lift inside the Hotel

### SATURDAY SESSIONS:

7:00 a.m. Registration Delta Marriott Conference Center

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions - Lunch to follow

#### Session 1 Breakout Session - 8:30 a.m. (Check One)

- Leadership Challenge
- Managing Your Club on the Web
- Officer Training; President
- LCIF / LMF

#### Session 2 Breakout Session - 9:30 a.m. (Check One)

- Building Membership through Specialty Clubs
- Cybersecurity
- Club Secretary / Service Reporting
- Leader Dog / Puppy Raisers

#### Session 3 Breakout Session - 10:30 a.m. (Check One)

- Serving Together: Partners in Service
- Flipping for Fundraisers / LCI Legal Rules
- Officer Training; Treasurer
- Elder Law & Estate Planning

#### Session 4 Breakout Session - 11:30 a.m. (Check One)

- Attracting Younger Members
- Service Carnival
- Tail Twister / Ice Breakers
- Eversight

12:45 p.m. Luncheon, Scholarships, Keynote Address by Author Kathleen Marcath, Raffle Drawings

## **LIONS MICHIGAN FORUM SERVICE PROJECT HIGHLIGHT**

**Forget Me Not Little Heroes** is an organization dedicated to supplying backpacks full of essential items to fostered, sheltered, and underprivileged children ages 3-12 years old. They have been selected as our Forum Service Project this year.

### **Why Backpacks?**

Most children arrive at foster homes and shelters with nothing but a garbage bag. When the organizers heard of this, they stepped up to make a change. Items are designed to fit in a backpack. It makes them feel special, keeps them organized and teaches them to care about their belongings.

### **What Can You Do to Help?**

Our goal is to fill 300 backpacks with color coordinated items in their very own backpack. **The cost for one backpack is \$40.00.** Through districts, clubs and grants, our goal is to raise \$12,000.00. Each club is being asked to donate as much as they can afford as part of a club service project, enabling us to provide many more of these special items for special kids. Please consider donating to this worthy cause!

Checks can be written and mailed to Three Rivers Lions Club:

Three Rivers Lions Club  
PO Box 134  
Three Rivers, MI 49093  
Attn: Forum Service Project

Contact PDG Julie Mayuiers, Michigan Lions Forum Chair, with any questions you may have. 269-254-1938 or jumayuiers@gmail.com.

Thank you.



Merry Christmas ! We have a GREAT service opportunity for your club! Has your club ever sponsored a KidSight screening?? 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 and trailer are scheduled for can be found on the district calendar located on the district webpage - <http://www.lions11d1.com>. Please 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](mailto:jkisch01@yahoo.com) or phone 810-624-7090 or please contact Lion Steve Vantol at [lionstevenvantol@gmail.com](mailto:lionstevenvantol@gmail.com) or phone 989-430-9500 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*

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## Guiding Lion Training

As the GLT for 5 years in the district I have been talking about Guiding Lion training. I received the following from ID Dave Wineman just recently. As I am unable to train lions in our district at this time, I feel the need to share this opportunity with our lions.

*From ID Dave Wineman*

*Ever desire to help guide a new or struggling club to success? Here is where you start! Certified Guiding Lion Training.*

*This is a great opportunity to attend a training event hosted by Lion Julia Kozicki. The training is being offered January 24th from 1 to 4 PM. It is being held via Zoom in the comfort of your own home. Registration is necessary. See the attached PDF or use the link below to capture your opportunity. Feel free to share.*

To register:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/PVkwJaf2SUWDrqDm9Ywrqw#/registration>

**See flyer next page**



# Certified Guiding Lion Training:

**Be the Leader Your Community Needs!**

## **What is a Guiding Lion?**

**A Guiding Lion is a trained leader who helps guide and mentor Lions Clubs (new and existing) to ensure their success and community impact.**

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**January 24, 2026**

**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Held on Zoom-register via QR**



Who should attend?

- Experienced Lions who want to take on a leadership role
- Those who are passionate about helping others grow and make a difference
- Anyone looking to contribute to the success of new and existing Lions Clubs.

Questions? Contact PCC Julia Kozicki at 317-294-8064 or [julia@thekozickis.org](mailto:julia@thekozickis.org)



## **Scholarship Deadline Approaching! Happy New Year, Lions!**

As the year comes to a close, we wanted to share a reminder that the Grace Lange Memorial Scholarship (also known as White Cane Scholarship) application deadline is December 30, 2025.

For those who may need a refresher, the Grace Lange Scholarship is funded through the Grace Lange Memorial Fund, created to support blind and visually impaired students as they pursue higher education.

To be eligible, applicants must:

Be a United States Citizen or hold an F1 Visa

Be attending or accepted by an accredited trade or business school, college, or university

Have a minimum GPA of 2.5

Be legally blind and provide verification

If you know a student who may benefit from this opportunity, we encourage you to please share this information with them. Your outreach helps ensure the Grace Lange Scholarship reaches those it was created to support!

Thank you for helping share this with those who may qualify for this \$3,000 scholarship!

Yours in Lionism,  
Lion Wendy

Wendy Burns, Executive Director  
Lions Clubs of Michigan  
5730 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911  
517-887-6640 ext. 103 517-887-6642 (fax)

## 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  
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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

# DISTRICT GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM COORDINATOR

LION VAUGHN BEGICK

This is a good time to get Club Service Reporting done at the beginning of the year. Whoever does the reporting for your Club, whether it is the President, Secretary or a designated Service Reporting Chair; getting caught up on the activities that your Club does is the time right now. And in the next section, it tells you how to do it.

The Service Reporting is to be done through the Lions Club International portal and it is a new portal. If you are having a problem with accessing the new portal, please contact me at [vaughnpac@aol.com](mailto:vaughnpac@aol.com) or call me at 989 295-0209. You can also contact Lions International for help at the Member Service Center by calling +1 630-468-6900 or emailing [lionssupport@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionssupport@lionsclubs.org). Support hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30pm CST.

Once you are on the portal, you need to sign in with a user name and password. If you are a President or Secretary, you should already have

been given access to reporting on the portal. The task bar at the top of the page will have Service as one of the items. Click on that and “My Activities” will appear. Click on that and it will take you to a page that has a blue box in the upper left corner that states “Create Service Activity.” Click on that and it will take you to a page that asks for your club’s name or number. Enter that and it will take you to the page that needs to be completed. Boxes with red asterisks need to be completed. Check the report complete box at the top right area. If it does not check, then more information is needed. I am willing to help walk you through the process. I have listed my e-mail and phone number above.

Thank you in advance for reporting your Service. 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.

## Lions of Michigan Foundation (LMF) Report

by IPDG Jonathan VanTol

The LMF is now accepting nomination for lions for the 2025 Hall of Fame. To get an application go to the LMF website <https://lmsf.net/> under the tab for Hall of Fame you will find the nomination form. The district can nominate one living and one deceased lion each year to the Hall of Fame. Your nominations should go to the District Secretary who will present the nominees to the District voting cabinet members for their selection of one living and one deceased lion which will then be sent to the LMF for consideration.

Please share the hearing scholarship application (located in this newsletter please contact me if you need a copy) to the high schools in your area. The application deadline is March 15, 2025. The Lions of Michigan Foundation awards 4 each year.

If you have any questions or need assistance with grant applications for emergency assistance, vision or military aid you can contact either PDG Lion Steven VanTol email [lionstevvantol@gmail.com](mailto:lionstevvantol@gmail.com) or phone 989-430-9500, or IPDG Lion Jonathan VanTol email [jvantol@svsu.edu](mailto:jvantol@svsu.edu) or phone 989-225-2047.

January 2026

# LEADING THE WAY



Leader Dogs for the Blind – Lions Newsletter



Happy new year, Lions! Whether your resolution is to travel more, explore new shops and stops in your community, or recruit more members for your Lions Club, we support you and wish you an amazing year.

## Share Teen Programs With Your Community

At Leader Dog, we're already preparing for our summer programs for teens aged 16-17. High school-aged teens and their parents are beginning to plan for the summer, and we are ready to fill our halls. **Each summer, we offer two programs for teenagers who are blind, both free of charge including travel, room and board:**

**Teen Summer Camp** is a 1-week program in June. Up to 24 teenagers from across North America will come together for **a week of fun, leadership development, and community**. For many teens, our summer camp is their first opportunity to build friendships with other teenagers who are blind. While at Leader Dog, they will rock-climb at our local Lions Bear Lake Camp, practice safe night travel, enjoy bonfires, and even practice archery.

Applications for Teen Summer Camp are open now and will be accepted until April 3, 2026. Visit [LeaderDog.org](https://LeaderDog.org) and click 'Client Programs' to learn more and apply.



**Teen Orientation & Mobility** is a 1-week program offered in three sessions over the summer. **Teens will work one-on-one with a certified orientation and mobility specialist (COMS)** to learn the skills they need to map out walking routes in their community, independently cross the street, and thoughtfully problem-solve when they come across obstacles or route changes. **Each teen brings a support person, usually a parent, who spends the week learning how to best support their teen** and how to help them advocate for themselves as they grow into independent young adults.

Applications for Teen Orientation & Mobility are open now. Visit [LeaderDog.org](https://LeaderDog.org) and click 'Client Programs' to learn more and apply.



[LeaderDog.org](https://LeaderDog.org) | [LionsSupport@leaderdog.org](mailto:LionsSupport@leaderdog.org)



Lions International

# Lion Mike: From Leader Dog Employee to President's Award



After twelve years as an employee in Leader Dog's philanthropy department, Lion Mike retired. Soon after, he realized just how much he missed being on the Leader Dog campus. So, what did he do? Signed up to volunteer, of course!

In December, **Lion Melissa Weiss, President & CEO, recognized Lion Mike with the Leader Dog President's Award.** This award is given to one Lion each year in recognition of acts of service supporting the cause of Vision with Leader Dog.

Mike, an active Lions Club member, now serves in our client services department, fielding phone calls from prospective and current clients. He helps with frequently asked questions, applications and other logistics questions or concerns. He also supports Lions events on campus, including Lions Tour Experiences and Summer Visits.

**"There is a common thread that runs through everyone who volunteers or donates to Leader Dog. It is an undeniable passion to empower people who are blind or visually impaired to travel safely and independently. If you share this passion, I encourage you to volunteer, donate or, better yet, do both."**

**- Lion Mike Dengate**



## A Fact & A Quote

**Fact |** In 2025, Leader Dog launched the Alumni Board. This powerful initiative builds a dynamic and inclusive client community by fostering meaningful connections among Leader Dog graduates. The Alumni Board ensures that the client's voice and perspective are actively represented.

**Quote |** "We are doing our work for the clients. If it wasn't for the clients, Leader Dog wouldn't be here. So being able to listen, collaborate and learn from each other, that's the

best part of being involved." (Alumni Board Chair Juanita Lillie, pictured with Leader Dog Resi)



## What is the George E Daly Award



George E Daly was a Past District Governor and served as a director for the International Association of Lions Clubs. He received numerous awards as a Lion and in Scouting. He was a community leader. This award was created to honor him and to recognize excellence in individual's who excel as Lions and in their communities. One of the stipulations is perfect attendance for 3 years. Questions have come up about the concept of that requirement. That requirement maybe a combination of regularly attended meetings and regular participation in group service projects. Snowbirds may attend club meetings and or functions where they winter. The idea is there are other means to perfect attendance.

The club knows who is worthy. Please take the time as an individual or Club to nominate a Lion for the George E. Daly Award. When someone is noticed for their service it is a honor but, also motivational for other Lions in their own service.

### George E. Daly Award

A George E. Daly Award has been established which is administered by a committee consisting of two (2) Past District Governors who are in their second and third years out of office District Governor and three (3) non-Lion members of the community selected by the two Lion members and approved by the District Cabinet each year on or before the midwinter cabinet meeting. The Past District Governors on this committee will act in an advisory capacity only and will have no vote in the selection of the candidate to receive the award. The non-Lion members shall have one vote each for the selection of the candidate. The Past District Governor serving the one-year term shall act as Chairman of tis committee. In the event a Past District Governor of the second or third year out of office cannot serve they shall be replaced by a Past District Governor the next higher year out of office.

The committee will select a candidate for this award who must have:

- a. Been a Lion at least three years
- b. Had perfect attendance for the past three years
- c. Been a member in good standing of a Club in good standing in this District
- d. A Lion of high moral character.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- a. Offices and / or chairmanships in the Club
- b. Lions' projects participated in
- c. Accomplishments of this Lion in service to the community
- d. Accomplishments of this Lion in service to Lionism

Any Club that wishes to nominate a candidate for this award shall do so by submitting a form signed by the Club Secretary or President to the chairman of this committee listing the candidates' qualifications by deed and year occurred. The form for this award will be provided by the District.

The Chairman of this committee will receive the nomination forms and remove the nominee's name, town and Club. He will then assign a number to the form. The voting members of this committee will vote on their choices. First, second and third choice with three (3) points for first choice, two (2) points for second choice and one (1) point for third choice. Nominees receiving zero points along with the nominee receiving the least number of points in each round dropped from consideration until only one nominee remains.

The District Governor and the voting members of his cabinet shall not be eligible for this award during their terms of office. No Past District Governor shall be eligible for this Award.

This Award will not be given if, in the estimation of the Committee, no one is worthy of the award that year.

No other award will be established in the District with any direct or indirect link to this award. The prestige of this award will be continually protected.

**APPLICATION FOR GEORGE E. DALY AWARD**

CANDIDATE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR LAST THREE YEARS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL YEARS PERFECT ATTENDANCE: \_\_\_\_\_

A. OFFICES AND/OR CHAIRMANSHIPS HELD IN THE LIONS CLUB: Offices Held:  
Committee Chairmanships:

B. LIONS PROJECTS PARTICIPATED IN:

C. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS LION IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS LION IN SERVICE TO LIONISM:

CLUB PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

The submission deadline is February 28, 2025.

The applications should be submitted to by mail or email to:

PDG Jack Frost  
309 Main St., Essexville 48732  
lionfrost84@gmail.com

PDG Bill Bauder  
7920 Mielke Rd., Freeland 48623  
bauder\_william2005@yahoo.com

## Lions of Michigan All State

**Band update:** We will now refer to band as the Lions of Michigan Marching band.

In November, Lions Deb Davis, Jason Russell, Cory Knuth, Christy Dodge, Tom MacNaughtn, and myself, Duane Comerford as well as my wife, JoAnne and son, Justin were all participating in a recruiting and information event at Ford Field in Detroit.

The event was the Michigan Competing Band Association Championships. Every year this championship competition begins early in the morning and continues until almost midnight. Thousands of fans and participants converge at Ford Field.

We were able to talk to students and parents about the band, travels, and about the Lions We Serve motto. For most, they had never heard of the band, so it was good for our band to be represented.

We sponsored one of the trophies at the event and the Lions band was announced to all attendees as we presented a trophy to a band in each division.

Looking forward to 2026, our band director, Jason Russell will be appearing on TV12 in Flint on MLK (Martin Luther King) day. So, tune in about 9AM for his interview.

As the band members look forward to representing all Michigan Lions Club members in Hong Kong, they are busy with school and raising the necessary funds to go to the convention.

Please give what you can (as a club or individually) to help these kids have an experience of a lifetime while in Hong Kong. They will perform at the convention and participate in the Parade of Nations. They will also visit and perform at an orphanage.

Our band members have been working on their music skills for at least 3 years while most of them have at least 5 + years of music education. These young musicians represent the best of Lions.

Youth is one of the 8 pillars of Lions Clubs and youth is also the future of Lion Clubs and the future of our country. Please support them.

## Peace Poster Contest For District 11D1

The Peace Poster Contest for our District is complete and the District winner is from a Bay City area school. There will probably be pictures available after the award luncheon in Essexville this month.

Interest in the Peace Poster contest is growing, and several Lions Clubs have inquired about how to conduct the contest. More information will be coming in future newsletters.

The Peace Poster contest is a great way for your club to be an asset to your community by working with your local middle school and middle school art teacher.

As you set your annual budget I would suggest about \$75 (\$50 and \$25 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place) in total awards and you may or may not do a luncheon. Possibly invite the winners and the winners' family to a Lions Club meeting.

Shields Lions Club has a display of winning posters from 3 Saginaw area schools on display until the first of the year at Zauel library on Center Rd in Saginaw Twp.

Bay City also has a group of Peace Poster on display at another local library in Bay City.

Families like the contest, art teachers like the contest, and most importantly the kids like the contest.

Get on board the Peace Poster train and get involved with your local middle school.



**2025-2026 Lions Year Calendar Important Dates**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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

# Convention travel made easy

With its rich culture and bustling energy, Hong Kong is a convention destination you don't want to miss. And with no visa required for over 150 countries and territories, it's easy to join us in celebrating our service impact — and our incredible host city!

Register 



## See what's in store in Hong Kong

Ready to experience Hong Kong like a local? Check out our blog and learn about the array of electrifying markets you can explore to make the most of your trip.

# Lions Around the District

## Buena Vista Lions Club

would like to thank everyone for their continued support over these past few months, Especially the condolences expressed for our Lioness Mattie Thompson, Duane Farris and Marshall Thomas....all pillars of the community. We give a special thanks to Top Ladies of Distinction and Women of Color for sponsoring families during this holiday season; for promoting sickle cell awareness, responding to the desperate need for blood donations, and providing winter coats, hats and gloves to hundreds of students. Your support is greatly appreciated and has put smiles on many faces during Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the upcoming new year. May God bless us all with the desire to continue to serve!



## Caro Lions

along with the Rotary Club, Caro Arbor Cleaners, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Tuscola



behavioral Health and the Tuscola County Senior connections were among the 45 volunteers for the Pop Up Pantry Food Distribution held at the Nazarene Church in Caro on December 29th in near blizzard conditions.

When it was over, the leftover food went to the Caro Senior Commons, Family Promise and the Moose Lodge of Caro. The Lion Members who volunteered are Jared Bush, Steve Brinkman, Eugene Esckelson, President Tony Szczygiel, Tim Wood, Bob Wright, Tim and Becky

*Caro continued*

Bates, Charlie Witkovsky and Holly Russel. Diane Michalski who is not a member, but helps the Caro Lions regularly also took part. It was a great community collaboration!

## Frankenmuth Lions Club

held their annual holiday party at the Bavarian Inn, and it was a big success!

Money was donated to the area's 1% Veterans Food Pantry. Funds raised from the party gift raffle along with FLC donations went to



Emmaus House, a Saginaw effort for transitioning women and Mya's Angels, a District 11D-1 Ready Response Nonprofit for displaced individuals and

families. Photos include party organizers, Cassie Cirisan and Amy Smock, and Judy Adams as she receives a check from FLC President Jeff Trudell. Gifts



were purchased by members for two families from the Veterans 1%, an effort organized by FLC Administrator Lion Gloria Snidersich. Members had a delightful evening of socializing and giving to those in need.

## Goodrich Lions Club's 2025 Annual Hanging of

# Lions Around the District

Holiday Lights Downtown  
Tree Ornament Fundraising

Adopt A Highway-29 bags  
bundled with the help of  
Boy Scouts and Goodrich  
HS National Honor Society-  
Thanks for your continued  
support

Breaking down the last several  
months, went by so quickly.  
This one is an update to our



**Linden Lions Club** served hot cocoa and cookies at  
the Linden Community Center. A couple of our



members were at the tree lot and a couple were in  
the Frosty Parade.



Thank you to our amazing sponsors, teams,  
supporters, and all of YOU who helped us raise  
\$13,200 to benefit our beloved Goodrich. Also  
thank you to Lion [Gregg Mulholland](#) owner of  
[Neighborhood Sandwich Shack](#) for the amazing  
photography!

♥ A round of applause for our sponsors:  
[Two Mike's Plumbing & Heating LLC](#) – Mallard  
Sponsor (\$1,500)  
[Country Home Creations](#) – Duckling Sponsor  
(\$750)  
[Dort Financial](#) – Duckling Sponsor (\$750)  
[Tracy Butcher Realtor](#) – Duckling Sponsor (\$750)

✨ And our amazing teams:  
Team Drippy Duck – Two Mikes Plumbing &  
Heating  
Team Duck, Duck-GO! – Country Home Creations  
Team Duck, Duck, Sold! – Tracy Butcher  
Team Quack to the Future – [Goodrich Area  
Schools Admin Staff](#)  
Team Duck Around & Find Out – Attorney Jay  
Clothier  
Team Dort Duckies – Dort Financial Credit Union  
Team Hoppy Quackers – [Top Hops Farm](#)  
Team Valley Tent Rental - Valley Tent  
Team Atlas Mallards & DJ Ducky – Atlas Real  
Estate & DJ Sirignano  
TBC Ducklings – [TBC Topsoil and Supply](#)  
Team Paddle Power – GEAR: [Goodrich Enrichment  
Activities & Revitalization](#)

Duck Race in August  
2025. Final tally and  
winner of new added  
category. The Stuck  
Duck, thanks, to Lion  
Sandie Goodrich

October 2025  
Goodrich  
Homecoming  
Parade passing out  
candy & promoting  
memberships!



Annual  
Food Drive-Hosted 29 Families

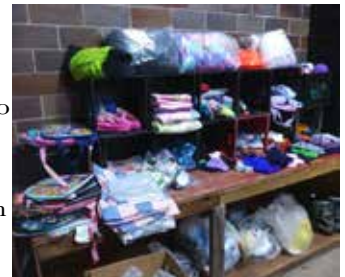
Thanks to our local Boy Scouts  
who helped with separating and  
boxing of the food. Special Thanks  
to our local schools and city  
offices for collecting the food. Our  
community is so generous.



We jazzed up the float this year with new  
decorations donated by Bordine's Nursery. Even  
though it was downright chilly that night, all the  
parade participants and spectators had a good time!

**Montrose Lions Club:** This is the seventeenth year  
that the Montrose Lions Club has been running the  
Santa Store for kids in need getting them a Merry  
Christmas.

Starting in November  
boxes are placed  
throughout Montrose to  
collect toys, games and  
other items for kids.



I have big wood shop in  
which I have over the  
years kids and adults  
in the fall come in and  
help make wooden  
toys, barns, doll bed,  
doll cribs, cars trucks,  
and dozens of different  
games.



I go to the school, and  
the staff help find the  
families that are in  
need. I then make up passes for families. We all help  
kids ages one to seventeen for Christmas. Dan Hill,  
a club member has an orchard in Montrose. He lets  
me set up the SANTA Store in the orchard. Parents  
with passes can shop for a Christmas for their kids.  
This year the Santa Store helped ninety kids have a  
Merry Christmas.