

District Governor Amy Thackston

Home Club:  
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South Haven, MI  
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# The B2 Beacon

*"May the beacon of hope always shine bright"*

Lion Wes Garman - Editor

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LIONS OF DISTRICT 11B2 ————— AUGUST NEWS ————— "TOGETHER WE SERVE"

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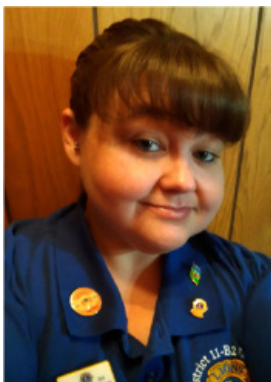
### Z6 Chair Josh Bohm

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## FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK



We Serve



### Happy New Lion Year!

Thank you PDG Julie for your excellent leadership in the 2022-2023 Lion year!

Let me start by saying how excited I am for the opportunity to be your District Governor for the 2023-2024 Lion year. Please call or email me to set up a club visit and don't hesitate to reach out with anything I can do to help your club.

My theme this year is "Share It" I'm going to be encouraging clubs to share leadership positions so we can find new leaders, share your knowledge to help other members and clubs grow, and share Lionism with everyone around you to continue to grow our lion family.... Share everything to help "change the world." Change the world is International President Patti Hill's theme this year and you can read about it here: [Presidential Theme | Lions Clubs International](#).

My pin this year is a sunflower with blue and yellow petals. Many of you may not know that I am half Ukrainian, 3rd generation born in the USA. While I am not aware of any close family in Ukraine, what is going on there is terrible, and I show my support through my DG Pin.

Please reach out for a club visit and to share your upcoming events so I can come out and see as many of you as possible.



DG Amy Thackston  
thackstona@gmail.com  
616-307-0027

### Changing the World with International President Dr. Patti Hill

Click below to watch President Hill's biography video





## GOVERNOR AMY'S CALENDAR

### AUGUST 2023

Aug 4-5 Council of Governors – *Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant*  
Aug 12 (9 – 11 am) Cabinet Meeting – *Paw Paw Lions Club*

### SEPTEMBER 2023

Sept 14 (6 – 8 pm) Presidents Dinner – *Paw Paw Lions Club*  
Sept. 21-23 USA/Canada Leadership Forum, *Reno, Nevada, USA*

### OCTOBER 2023

Oct. 6-7 Council of Governors – *Tree Tops Resort, Gaylord*  
Oct 21 (9 – 11 am) Cabinet Meeting – *Paw Paw Lions Club*

### NOVEMBER 2023

Nov 2 - 5 Leadership Institute – *Higgins Lake*  
Nov. 13 (6 – 8 pm) Project Night – *Antwerp Township Hall, Mattawan*  
*Peace Posters due, voting by Cabinet at Projects Night*

### DECEMBER 2023

Dec 1 - 2 Council of Governors – *Hilton Garden Inn West, Lansing*

For a complete look of what's going on in District 11B-2. click on the "Calendar" on the district's website:

<https://www.e-district.org/sites/11b2/calendar.php>



## IPDG/GLT JULIE MAYUIERS



The District held Officer training on July 22nd attended by 26 Lions for Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Zone Chairs on July 22nd. This was offered to all current officers, as well as anyone interested in learning more about the offices and to consider holding one of these offices in the future.

This is a great time for refresher even if you have held one of these offices previously.....yes, some things do change over time. We need new Lions (and I am not necessarily referring to new members) stepping up to fill these offices. It's not healthy for a club or district to have the same Lions holding the same offices for more than a couple of years. We had many both "seasoned" and new leaders attend and most everyone was providing input. Lots of candid conversations about what club did, shared ideas, and building trust through relationships. This is also a great time to learn from others on how they may organize things or create calendars for reminders for things.

One of the topics that came up was the increase in International dues that took place on July 1st, raising the dues from \$43 to \$46. So naturally the question arose of District dues also being raised. This would have to be proposed and voted on by the current seated District Governor's at one of their Council of Governor's meetings and then presented to the districts to all vote on at their annual conventions. So, in short, as of now the district dues remain the same at \$24.50. This does not include any additional dues that each club may charge.

We were able to preview the new Lions International website in Boston, however the new website will not be up and running until sometime after September 14th. We viewed several of the drop-down menus in the various short seminars that were offered, but until we actually have access to the new website, we can't share those details with you. Once the new website is rolled out we may offer some training on maneuvering the site whether in person or via Zoom so stay tuned. We also were told to go to this QR code and view new items....try giving it a click and if it doesn't work, email me and I can email it directly to you.



We also heard from Lion Cub Zoey about a special crayon recycling project she and District Governor Amy are doing. I've included a copy of her letter so you can read all the details. This would be another opportunity for both Lions Clubs and Leo Clubs to get involved in a good cause. Many restaurants offer crayons to children to occupy them while their meal is being prepared. I'm assuming most of those crayons end up in the trash so why not create a crayon recycling box and ask the restaurants to save crayons for your club. This could also count towards service for environmental cause.

We were introduced to two of our Youth Exchange students from Italy staying in our district for the next couple of weeks. Angela who is being hosted by Lion Ginger Smietana from Paw Paw Lions and Frances-



We Serve

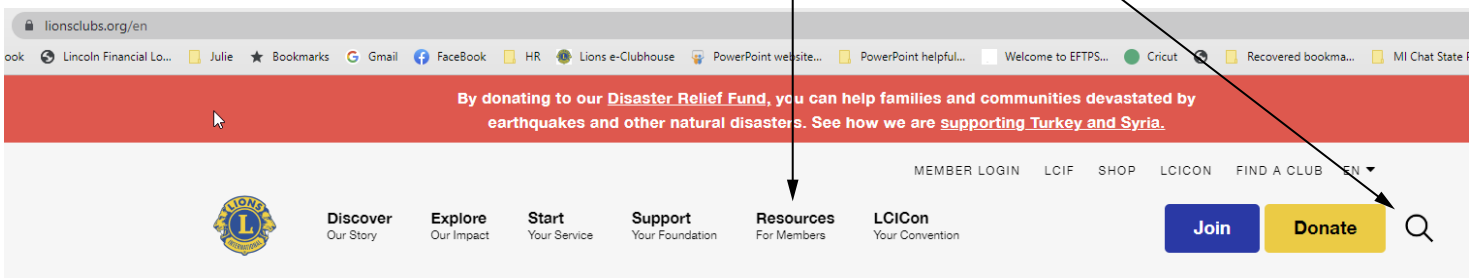


Lion Youth Exchange students Angela & Francesco

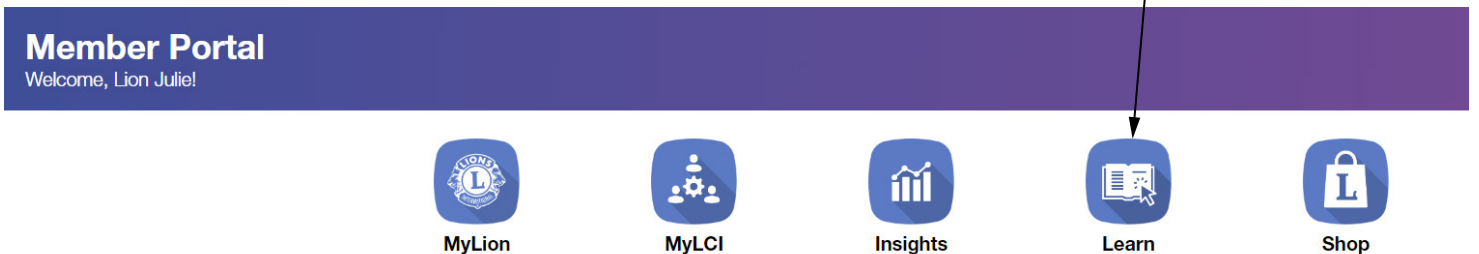
co hosted by Lions Janet and Alan Wartman from the Mattawan Lions Club. DG Amy and I had the pleasure of presenting Angela and Francesco with Youth Exchange t-shirts, friendship banners and a couple other items.

We are still trying to fill the voids for 1st and 2nd VDG's. So please encourage all your club members to consider stepping up to help your club and our district with Leadership!! We know these Lions are out there and if you are waiting for someone to ask you to step up to Leadership....so consider this your ask and please contact either DG Amy or myself if you are interested or want to learn more about what is involved.

If you missed the training and still want to learn more about the various offices or just Lions in general I encourage you to go to lionsclubs.org and click on "Resources" or go to here and type to search.



The E-Books are an excellent resource as well as also logging in and clicking "learn" button. There are some short tests you can take after reviewing the information also.

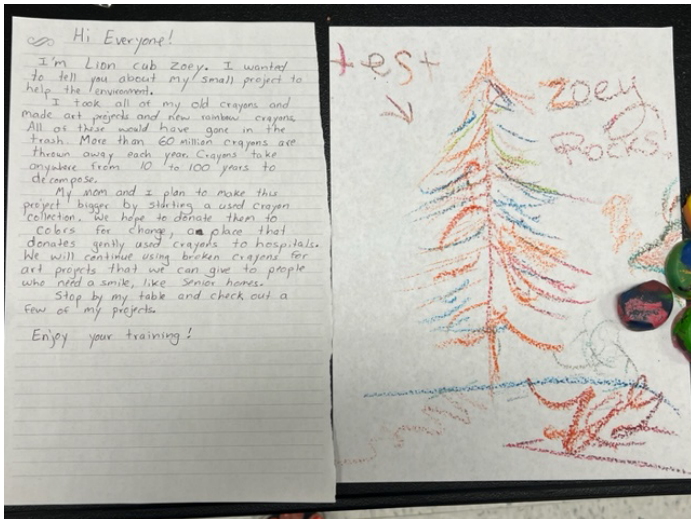


Thanks for all you do!!!

IPDG /GLT Julie Mayuiers  
269-254-1938  
jumayuiers@gmail.com



## OFFICERS TRAINING SEMINAR



*Lion Cub Zoey's Crayon Recycling Project Letter*



*DG Amy & Zoey selling raffle tickets*



*Zone Chair Training with PDG Lion Fran*



*President Training with PCC Lion Jeff Mayuiers*



*Treasurer Training by CT Lion Carol*



*Secretary 2 Training with CS Lion Tammie*



## PDG/GST KAROL CHOPP

### PDG/GST KAROL CHOPP



Hello fellow lions and welcome to another year in lionism from PDG Karol.

As your current GST (Global Service Team) this year, my goal will be to give each club service ideas and encourage each club to let me know what they are doing in the district

so that I can pass it on at the state level.

**Service is why we are all here-right?** It's our motto – "We Serve" so let's keep the communications going throughout the year and share your ideas!

You will see that Cub Zoey is on track to start out the year strong with her recycling crayons and

making them into new ones. What an inspiration.

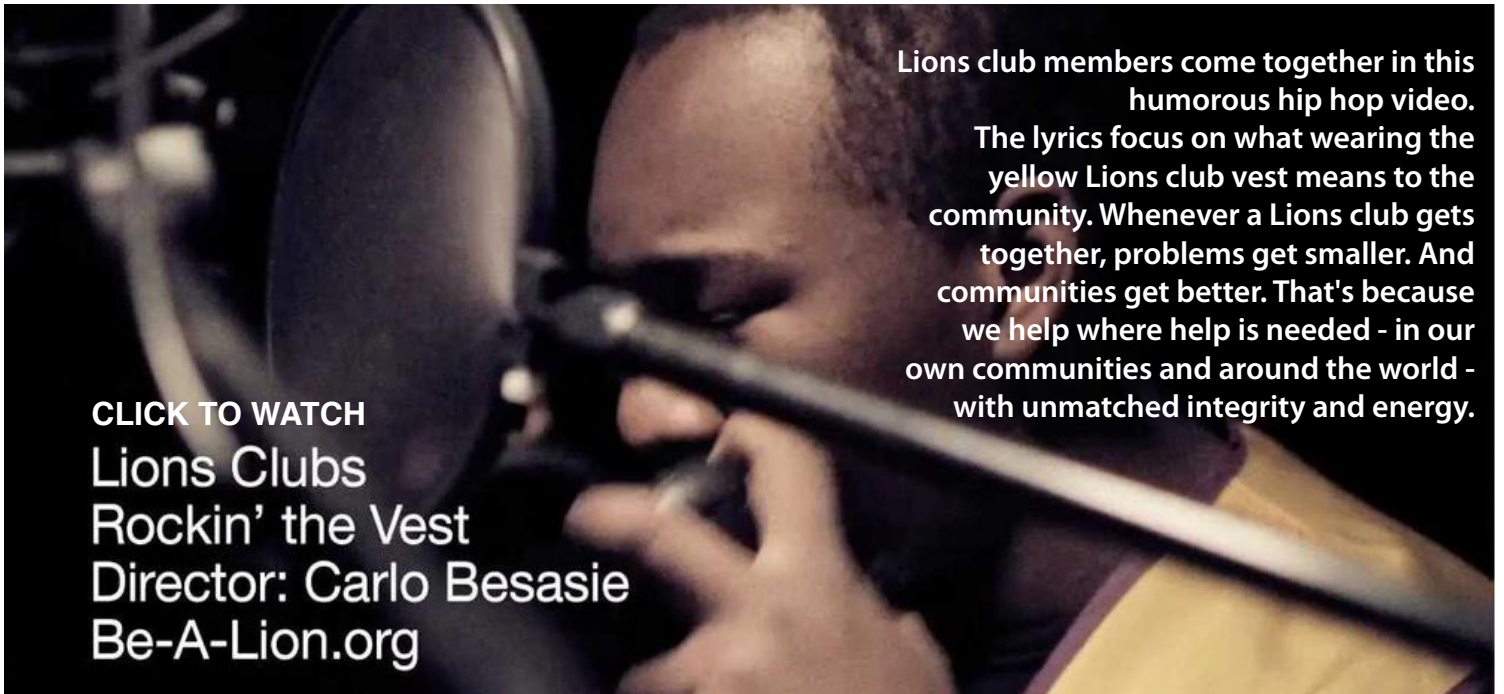
**August-** Back to school time, try and get involved in helping kids who need school supplies! Make up backpacks with supplies in them and donate to your local school.

**September-** Pediatric cancer awareness month- collect gift cards to donate at projects night! Have a fundraiser and use that money to purchase them or ask your community to donate them.

**October-**Peace poster contest – promote to the youth in your community.

The ideas are flowing for me, let's see what you can do! More to come.

GST Karol Chopp  
[karolchopp@yahoo.com](mailto:karolchopp@yahoo.com)



Lions club members come together in this humorous hip hop video. The lyrics focus on what wearing the yellow Lions club vest means to the community. Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller. And communities get better. That's because we help where help is needed - in our own communities and around the world - with unmatched integrity and energy.

CLICK TO WATCH  
Lions Clubs  
Rockin' the Vest  
Director: Carlo Besasie  
Be-A-Lion.org



JOIN THE LIONS CLUBS OF  
CENTREVILLE AND STURGIS FOR THE

# LARRY FRISBIE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

6 AUGUST,  
2023  
1PM SHOTGUN  
START

**The Ayres Group**

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

Thank you to Ayres Insurance  
for Underwriting the  
event and prizes!  
All proceeds to go to the  
Sturgis and  
Centreville Lions Clubs!

Hole in 1 on #5  
pays \$10k!  
Putting contest grand  
prize of \$50k!

TEAM PRIZES ARE  
1ST PLACE—\$400 GIFT CERT,  
2ND PLACE—\$200 GIFT CERT,  
3RD PLACE—\$100 GIFT CERT.

**REGISTER NOW**

St. Joe Valley Golf club

Call Don @ 269-467-6275 to register

4-PERSON Scramble, No Divisions

Men under 60 use White Tees, Men 60-74 use Red Tees,

Men over 75 & Lady golfers use LIONS Tees.

Checks Payable to the Centreville Lions Club,

P.O. Box 441, Centreville, MI 49032

Entry Fee is

**\$75/person or \$300/4-person team.**

**Includes Golf, Cart, Food, Prizes  
and Door prizes!**



*Buchanan-Galien Lions Club's*

**4TH ANNUAL**

***Kickball  
Tournament***

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH**

**BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL  
SOFTBALL FIELD**

**KICK-OFF @ 10AM**

**LUNCH INCLUDED**

**\$25**

**CO-ED 18YRS & OLDER**

**SIGN  
UP**





# CLUB PRESIDENTS

Your presence is requested at the  
**Governor's & President's Advisory  
Council Dinner!**



**Thursday, Sept 14, 2023**

**Taco Bar Dinner: 6:00 PM**

**Presentation/Activities: 6:30 - 8:00 PM**

**at the Paw Paw Lions Club**

59050 County Road 665, Paw Paw

RSVP to CS Tammie at [cheftammie@gmail.com](mailto:cheftammie@gmail.com) or  
269-303-0731 by Sept. 10, 2023.



**BUCHANAN-GALIEN  
LIONS CLUB**

# **CORN & SAUSAGE**

**ROAST**



PRE SALE  
**\$10**

**AUGUST 26TH - 4PM-6PM**

PICK UP @ BUCHANAN COMMON  
PRIOR TO FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT



TICKETS AVAILABLE @ EDWARD JONES &  
BUCHANAN AREA SENIOR CENTER OR ASK A LION

**SOUTH HAVEN  
BLACK RIVER LIONS CLUB**

**PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**B-B-Q ON THE BLUFF**



**Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023**

**4:00 - 10:00 PM**

**American Legion Post #49**

**129 Michigan Ave.**

**South Haven**

**FOOD, FUN**

**4:00-8:00 pm**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**4:00-8:00 pm**

**50/50 DRAWINGS**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**TICKETS**

**\$10.00 PRE-BUY**

**\$15.00 AT THE DOOR DAY OF THE EVENT**

**5 YEARS AND UNDER FREE**

**\$5.00 CHRG FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY W/O MEAL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PRE-BUY TICKETS**

**CALL CAROL BLACKSTON 269-906-5297**

**WHERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:**

**WOLVERINE ACE HARDWARE**

**SOUTH HAVEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST #49, SOUTH HAVEN**

# **HALLOWEEN MONSTER MASH**



**OCTOBER 21, 2023**

**RAMONA PARK**

**8600 SOUTH SPRINKLE RD.**

**PORTAGE, MI 49002**

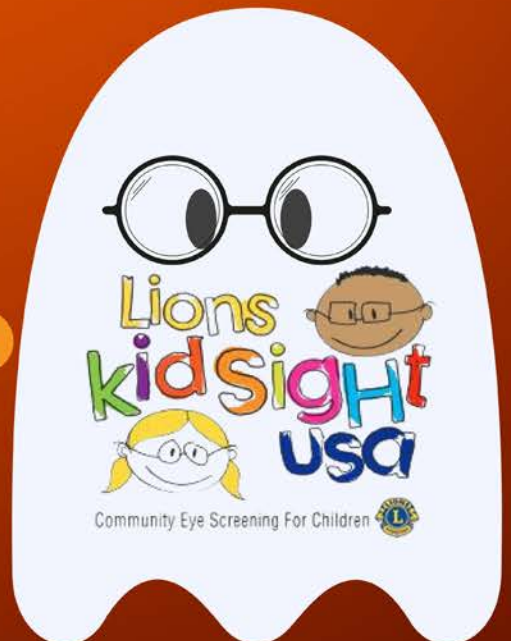
**3:00PM-7:00PM**

**IT'S SCARING TIME AT PORTAGE MONSTER MASH! THIS THEMED EVENT WILL INCLUDE TRICK-OR-TREATING, INFLATABLES, A SPOOKY HAYRIDE THROUGH THE FOREST, MERRY NOT SCARY SHOWS, ON-SITE PUMPKIN CARVING DEMONSTRATIONS, AND MUCH MORE. DON'T FORGET TO STICK AROUND FOR A "DRIVE-IN" STYLE MOVIE VIEWING OF MONSTERS, INC. IN THE PARK, BEGINNING AT DUSK. PARKING FOR THE MOVIE WILL BEGIN AT 5:30 PM AND WILL BE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.**

**STOP BY  
PORTAGE LIONS CLUB  
TENT FOR  
FREE VISION SCREENING  
& CANDY**



**PORTAGE LIONS CLUB**





LIONS INTERNATIONAL

# PEACE POSTER

2023-2024

LIONS INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE POSTER CONTEST

## Dare to Dream

BRINGING PEACE TO THE WORLD, THROUGH ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Congratulations! Your son or daughter is creating a work of art that depicts what peace is by participating in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

The **Portage Lions Club**

\_\_\_\_\_

Lions Club is sponsoring the contest at

**Portage District Library; 300 Libray Ln, Portage 49002**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(school or youth group name)

By entering this contest, your child is joining more than 600,000 children from around the world in sharing his or her vision of world peace. The contest is open to children who will be 11, 12 or 13 on November 15, 2023. Contestants are asked to create a poster that visually communicates the contest's theme, "Dare to Dream." This event offers an opportunity for you and others to discuss what peace looks like from the eyes of your child.

### FANTASTIC AWARDS!

One international grand prize winner will receive US\$5,000 (or local equivalent) and an award. In addition, the grand prize winner, two family members (one being a parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring club president are invited to attend an award ceremony. The 23 merit award winners will each receive US\$500 (or local equivalent) and a certificate of achievement.

### WHO ARE WE?

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with 1.4 million members in more than 48,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. In addition to our efforts toward conquering blindness, we have also made a strong commitment to community service and helping youth throughout the world.

### NEED MORE INFO?

To view the finalist posters or to download a video, visit the Lions Clubs International website at [lionsclubs.org/peaceposter](https://lionsclubs.org/peaceposter). Share your child's artwork on social media with #peaceposter.

PPC-3 EN 9/22

**DEADLINE -  
SATURDAY, NOV. 4 TH, 2023**



**CHECK OUT OUR  
PAST WINNERS**

For more information please contact Lion Joey at  
(269) 816-1266 or email [joeyellen.hamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:joeyellen.hamilton@yahoo.com)





LIONS INTERNATIONAL

# PEACE POSTER

Dare to Dream

2023-2024

LIONS INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE POSTER CONTEST

## CONTEST RULES & CONDITIONS

Entries not meeting the rules and conditions listed below will be disqualified:

- The contest's theme is "Dare to Dream."
- Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest in a local school or organized, sponsored youth group, such as YMCA programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Scouts, etc. **Note:** The contest cannot be held in youth groups that a Lions club sponsors, such as a Leo club or Scout unit. However, individual members of those groups (such as Leos or Scouts) may participate if the contest is held at their schools or other organized youth groups.
- The contest is open to students who will be 11, 12 or 13 years of age on November 15, 2023. Eligible birth dates are November 16, 2009 through November 15, 2012.
- Artwork must be no smaller than 13 inches by 20 inches (33 centimeters by 50 centimeters) and no larger than 20 inches by 24 inches (50 centimeters by 60 centimeters). Do not mat or frame artwork.
- Only one entry per student per year, and each entry must be the work of only one student.
- All artwork must be the individual student's original creation. Duplications are not accepted.
- All media are accepted. **Note:** Chalk, charcoal and pastel entries should be sealed with a fixative spray to prevent smearing. Do not laminate entries.
- Three-dimensional entries will not be accepted. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the artwork in any way.
- The use of lettering or numbering on the front of the poster, in any language, is not allowed. All artist signatures or initials should be written on the back of the poster.
- Artwork should be done on a flexible material so it can be rolled for shipping in a mailing tube. Do not fold poster.

**DEADLINE - SATURDAY, NOV. 4 TH, 2023**

## #PeacePoster on Social



Congratulations to 11 year old Trinity Hogan of Fort Reason for winning the 2022-23 Merit Award for the @Lionsclubs Peace Poster Contest. Trinity's poster was ranked in the top 23 of over 800,000 global...



Congratulations to the 7th graders who won the local Invet Lions Club International Peace Poster competition.

1st place: Kara O'Brien  
Alternates: Bella Jones, Ivy Bacon, Ryanna...



Congratulations to Rayne Martin for her winning artwork for the '22-'23 North Raleigh Lions Club Peace Poster contest. Thank you to Jane Watson and Lions Club President, David Fish @TheQueenHQ SH...



Congratulations! PCMS Art club participated in the annual Lions Club International Peace Poster contest. The theme was "Lead with Compassion." Plainfield Lions Club celebrated the winner at the annual Night of Giving. ...



For more information please contact Lion Joey at (269) 816-1266 or email [joeyellen.hamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:joeyellen.hamilton@yahoo.com)





## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### BUCHANAN-GALIEN

Buchanan-Galien Lions, spouses, friends and volunteers hosted a Beer Garden at the Buchanan Thrill on the Hill event on July 14th -15th.



The clubs 6th Annual Kayak Poker Run scheduled for Sunday July 16th was cancelled due to a potential health risk condition of the St Joe River. (Watch for a reschedule flier)

Lion Ralph McDonald recently installed a new information sign (donated by the Lions Club) at the Lion's shelter at Buchanan McCoy Creek Park.



## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### LAKESHORE

The Lakeshore Lions proudly announce Madelynn Isbrecht as this year's scholarship winner. Madelynn will be attending the University of Michigan to study neuroscience. She is the daughter of Rachael Ickes and is a graduate of Lakeshore High School.



The Lakeshore Lions have been awarding scholarships to a graduating senior from the Stevensville area for over 40 years. The amount of the scholarship is currently \$2,400 and is awarded in four equal parts based on academic standing. The three eligible scholarship recipients have been renewed: Hailey Hentz, Abigail Baker and Chiara Thrum.

### MATTAWAN



The Mattawan Lions Club is gearing up for their annual Newman's Fly In Breakfast on August 26. This is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year. We are also going to be working on our calendar for the year at our next business meeting on August 9. For those who visit our club, we are moving our business meeting time to 6:30pm with the hope it helps attendance. We will also be having two of the Youth Exchange students visit our club on August 9 and are very excited to meet them.







## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### PAW PAW

Our district currently has two Lion Youth Exchange students, one hosted by Paw Paw Lion 2VP Ginger Smietana and one hosted by Mat-tawan Lion Janet Wartman (former Paw Paw Lion). Francesco and Angela are both from Italy and presented Paw Paw President Vickie Lietzau with an Italian flag and Friendship Banners from their local Italian Lions Clubs. These young people have been a joy to have around.



Paw Paw welcomed new Lion Brittany Gossett, who is sponsored by her mom, Lion Deb Gossett. Welcome to the Paw Paw pride Lion Brittany.



### PORTAGE

#### Youth Camps and Exchange

Lion Elvie Marfil  
District Chairperson

*“To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples’ of the world”*

The program was officially introduced in 1961. Since then, thousands of young people (ages 15-21) have experienced life in a different culture to Lions youth exchanges.

This year we were fortunate to host Francesco Tarroni and Angela Bambace both age 15 from Italy sponsored by Russi Lions Club, District 108A. Lions Janet Wartman and Ginger Smietana of the Paw Paw Lions Club hosted our students and opened their doors to the world of Youth Exchange!



## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### PORTAGE (cont)

On July 22 at the District 11-B2 Officers Training, we had an opportunity to meet with them. IPDG Julie Mayuires and DG Amy Thackston presented our students with T-shirts, pins, and pens.



*IPDG Julie Mayuires and DG Amy Thackston presented our YES banner, T-shirt, Pins and pen to Angela and Francesco.*

Members and families of the Portage Lions Club welcome our Youth Exchange Students, Francesco Tarroni and Angela Bambace, from Italy. Lions Noemi and Ed Kudzia took our youth to the Air Zoo Aerospace and Science Museum which has hands-on exhibits and a restoration program for WWII planes rescued from the bottom of Lake Michigan. The group headed out to Lion Holly MacEwan's for lunch.

Lions Jarrod Permenter, Laura Berry, Amy Blankshain and Elvie Marfil met up with the rest of the group.

After lunch, Lion Elvie took the students to Airway Fun Center for a game of bowling, mini golf, go-karts and much more!

Our young ones went back to Lion Holly's place for a movie and s'mores.



*Lion Ed Kudzia took our youth to the Air Zoo.*



*Our young families posed with our YES students.*



## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### PORTAGE (cont)



*Pres. Jarrod Permenter and Lion Elvie Marfil posed with our students.*



*Members and families of Portage Lions Club posed with our students.*



*Lion Elvie Marfil took our youth to Airway.*

### Bracelets Fundraiser



Crystal Beads Bracelet \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00

Additional charms are sold at \$1.00 each

Contact: Lions Elvie or Alyssa Marfil @ 818-800-1060 or email: [epmarfil5@gmail.com](mailto:epmarfil5@gmail.com)

Portage Lions Club of Michigan embarked a new fundraising event to support:

**Visually impaired**

**Environment**

**Childhood Cancer**

**Disaster Relief**

**Diabetes**

**Humanitarian Relief**

**Hunger**

**Youth**

The Portage Lions Club of Michigan has been serving the community for more than 60 years. Our members are involved in projects such as collecting used eyeglasses and pill bottles. We support our local community, schools, and provide assistance for those impacted by natural disasters.



*Lion Holly MacEwan hosted lunch and dinner for our YES.*



## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### PORTAGE (cont)



Hi, my name is Angela Bambace.

This trip allowed me to learn a lot of things like new types of animals, new things about relationships with other people. I've learned Tai Chi and Tibetan bowls and a lot of things about myself.

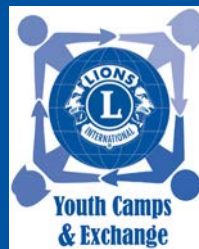
The landscape is beautiful, and the people are nice. I thank Ginger Smietana for hosting me and took me to her home.

Thank you to all the Lions that took the time to get to know me and for me to know you.

Hi, my name is Francesco Torroni an exchange student from Italy (Ravenna). I would like to tell you something about my experiences in Michigan.

I arrived on the 17th of July, and from the first moment Janet and Ginger received me with a lot of love. On the first day we had a walk to discover Paw Paw, and in the afternoon, we organized our schedule that is full of many beautiful experiences. The ones that I have like the most were visiting Lake Michigan, meeting Paw Paw Lions, Portage Lions, Mattawan Lions, Vicksburg Lions and going to Air Zoo (I am also excited to visit Gilmore Car Museum this Saturday).

I wanted to thank you Lions and of course Janet and Ginger for the great opportunity and for all the kindness. Best Regards!



Youth Camps and Exchange (YCE) has programs all around the world and is designed for young people between the ages of 15 and 22 to create and foster a spirit of understanding among peoples of the world.

By providing an avenue for global fellowship, the YCE program aims to help youth initiate, grow and maintain international relationships promoting cultural education and international peace

For more information about the YCE program, click on the icon.





## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### PORTAGE (cont)

Excellent job, Portage Lions!

We received many thanks from the tired, thirsty & hungry volunteer bicyclists as well as other Make-a-Wish volunteers for supporting their needs at the last rest stop for them for the day (96 miles under their belts with 4 more to go!).

Special thanks to Lions Pam and Amy for doing the Lion's share of the planning and procurement of food and stuff to make this a successful project and to Lions Laura, Ron, and Ed for participating in this service project.

Left-over food and beverages were donated to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission by Pam and Amy.



*A biker stopped for some refreshment. (L-R) Lions Ed Kudzia, a biker, Pam Glines, IPCC Ron Gibson and Amy Blankshain*



*IPCC Ron Gibson and Lion Laura Berry*



*Some of the many bikers the Portage Lions served!*

# JOIN THE PORTAGE LIONS CLUB OF MICHIGAN



Childhood Cancer



Diabetes



Environment



Hunger



Vision



Disaster Relief



Humanitarian Relief



Youth

Lions Club International is the BEST KEPT SECRET and LARGEST SERVICE ORGANIZATION the world over! Lions Clubs International members meet the needs of their local communities and impact the world at large. Our 1.4 million members—who perform community service in more than 200 countries and geographic areas — are different in many ways, but share a core belief:

**Community is what we make it!**

The Portage Lions Club of Michigan has been serving the community for more than 60 years. Our members are involved in projects such as collecting eyeglasses and pill bottles for missionaries, fundraising for charitable giving, supporting local community needs and providing extensive assistance to those impacted by natural disasters.

**Ask yourself these questions:**

- ▶ Are you interested in serving your community?
- ▶ Are you interested in having the opportunity to network with key people in your community?
- ▶ Are you interested in meeting people and having fun?

**The Portage Lions want to expand our service projects, *and we would like you to be a part of our team!***

**We would like to personally invite you to join us at:**

*City Gate Church  
308 W. Milham  
Portage, MI 49024*

Our Next OPEN Meetings are scheduled for:  
**Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**For More information please contact: Elvie Marfil at 818-800-1060**

Regular Monthly Meetings are scheduled as follows:  
1st Wednesday of every month 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
3rd Saturday of every month 10:00 am- 12:00 pm (noon)





## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### ST. JOE

#### SW Michigan Lion's Camp Leo Receives a Huge Gift!

Since 1984, the St. Joseph Lions and all the Lions Clubs of SW Michigan have made a commitment to support Camp Leo, a residential summer camp program for children with developmental disabilities from the five regions of Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph counties. The pandemic caused Camp Leo to go on hiatus but they are back in full swing this summer and will host campers from July 30-August 2nd and bring much joy to the children who will attend and their families.

On Thursday, July 29th, the Saint Joseph Lions Club received a huge show of support for their Camp Leo project from Robert Wolf and his colleagues at Wolf Financial Advisory. They presented a check for \$10,000 in support of Camp Leo and in memory of its founder Lion Larry Wagner. Lion Wagner and Mr. Wolf were longtime friends; and when Mr. Wagner passed away in 2022, his friend Rob wanted to make a gift in his memory that he believed would make a difference in the lives of others. Mr. Wolf would like to see the Camp continue and even be expanded in the future to include older campers. That vision is shared by Camp Director Beth Helm who was also at the meeting and accepted the gift along with the Lions. Mr. Wolf went further and announced his commitment to continue the gift for the next 5 years to see that Camp Leo would thrive and grow.

The Lions Clubs of the SW Michigan area and the St. Joseph Club in particular have been an integral part of the Camp from its beginnings, giving not only financial support but also hundreds of volunteer hours working with the campers. They want to



*St. Joseph Lions accept a \$10,000 gift and commitment to their Camp Leo Program.*

*L-R; Lion Gordon Schreiber (Club President), Debbie Gleason, Lion Vern Brueker, Mr. Rob Wolf (donor and head of Wolf Financial Advisory), Susie Wagner (wife of former Lion Larry Wagner, now deceased.) and Beth Helmet (Director of Camp Leo)*

see word of the camp spread to all families of special needs children in the region who could benefit from its program. For further information about Camp Leo and its programs visit their website at <https://www.campleoswmi.com>.

At our July 6 meeting, Lions Ed Heiden and Larry Kramp shared their experiences with Talons Out Honor Flights. Honor Flight Network was created in 2005 by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse with a simple, yet powerful, mission – honoring our nation's veterans by bringing them to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice. While initially focused on America's World War II veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those



## 11B-2 CLUB NEWS

### ST. JOE (cont)

who served during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

Transporting approximately 22,000 veterans annually, Honor Flight Network has flown nearly 275,000 veterans to Washington, D.C. since its inception.



Lion Kramp participated in Flight 2 acting as a guide for his father. This was followed up with Flight 20 as a veteran. Lion Heiden's participation was also as a veteran. It is a long day, leaving at 4:00 a.m. and returning some 16 hours later. The trip evolves a visit to the various military monuments and includes a trip to Arlington National Cemetery.

More information can be found at [talonsouthonorflight.org](http://talonsouthonorflight.org).

On July 20, Lion Dave Koch introduced Robin Lydic, Director of Animal Care and Sierra Lifferth, Canine Kennel Technician of the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan (HSSM). Robin and Sierra, two of the eleven staff, were accompanied by two Jack Russel Terrier puppies. Their mission is "The HSSM exists to provide



shelter and care for sick, homeless, abused, and unwanted animals, with utmost importance on adoption services for the animals in our care." HSSM is a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity with facilities located at 5400 Niles Road. They operate with a \$500,000 annual budget received from grants and donations.

The HSSM has a capacity of 50 dogs and 100 cats and in 2022 they were able to facilitate 540 animal adoptions. They have a "Pets of Patriot's" program which allows veterans to adopt animals at no cost. The volunteer program allows anyone to spend bonding time with animals and they are also partnering with Meals on Wheels to provide pet food for needy patrons.





We Serve

Dear Lion's Leaders of Michigan!!!

Here is a Save the Date for our Lions of Michigan Leadership Institute 2023!! Please share in your newsletters, social media pages, with all of your clubs and any other communication you have with the Lions of your District!!!!

Please note that this year's institute consists of the Leadership Institute (RLLI - Regional Lions Leadership Institute) and Faculty Development Institute (FDI).

Next year we will again hold the three levels of the Institute - Leadership (RLLI), Graduate and Master's levels. Our team has chosen to try this alternating curriculum and will evaluate annually how we would like to proceed.

Any questions, please let me know!!!

Yours in Service,  
Lion Jenny

Jennifer Ware, Past International Director  
LCIF Board of Trustees 2022-25  
District Governor Elect Group Leader 2022-23  
9249 CR 513 T Rd.  
Rapid River, MI 49878  
906-399-8214

## Save the Date

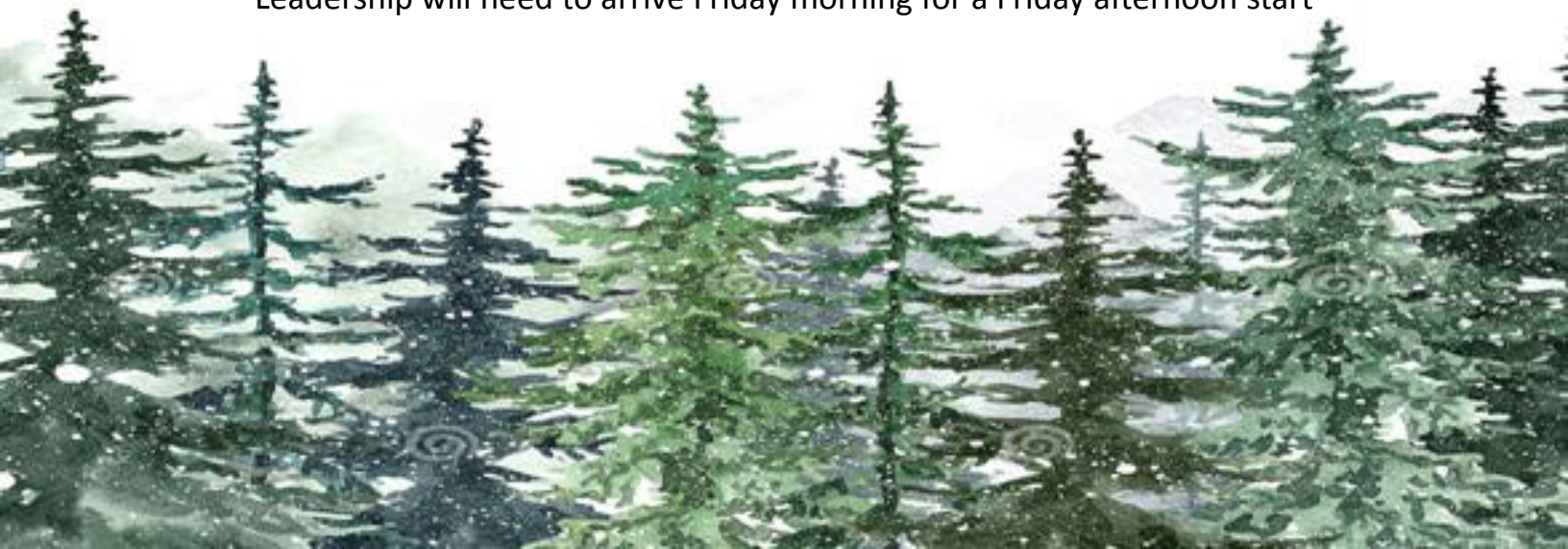
**Lions of Michigan Leadership Institute will be November 2 - 5, 2023**

**Location RAM Center, Higgins Lake**

**Two tracks will be offered: Leadership and Faculty Development Institute (FDI)**

**Cost: Leadership \$250.00 FDI \$350.00**

FDI will need to arrive Thursday night for a Friday morning start  
Leadership will need to arrive Friday morning for a Friday afternoon start





## IMPORTANT NEWS!

### New Membership Dues Billing and Fees --Effective July 1, 2023, \$46.00

Billing for a new member begins the first of the month in which the member enters a club at the average rate of \$3.84 per month and billed through the end of that semi-annual period. Billing is issued semi-annually thereafter. Below is a schedule of the new member dues throughout the year:

Member accepted by club in the month of...	Billing date for new members	Semi-annual dues billed for each new member	New member entrance fee (not pro-rated)	Total dues & fees billed
July	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$ 23.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 58.00
August	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	19.16	35.00	54.16
September	September 1 <sup>st</sup>	15.34	35.00	50.34
October	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.50	35.00	46.50
November	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.68	35.00	42.68
December	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	3.84	35.00	38.84
January	January 1 <sup>st</sup>	23.00	35.00	58.00
February	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	19.16	35.00	54.16
March	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	15.34	35.00	50.34
April	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.50	35.00	46.50
May	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.68	35.00	42.68
June	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	3.84	35.00	38.84

Billing for a new Family or Student member begins the first of the month in which the member enters a club at the average rate of \$1.92 per month and billed through the end of that semi-annual period. Billing is issued semi-annually thereafter. Below is a schedule of the new member dues throughout the year:

Member accepted by club in the month of...	Billing date for new members	Semi-annual dues billed for qualifying family member	New member entrance fee (not pro-rated)	Total qualifying family member dues & fees billed	Student member pro-rated dues with entrance fee waived.
July	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$ 11.50	\$ 35.00	\$ 46.50	\$ 11.50
August	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.58	35.00	44.58	9.58
September	September 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.67	35.00	42.67	7.67
October	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	5.75	35.00	40.75	5.75
November	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	3.84	35.00	38.84	3.84
December	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	1.92	35.00	36.92	1.92
January	January 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.50	35.00	46.50	11.50
February	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.58	35.00	44.58	9.58
March	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.67	35.00	42.67	7.67
April	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	5.75	35.00	40.75	5.75
May	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	3.84	35.00	38.84	3.84
June	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	1.92	35.00	36.92	1.92

NOTE: INTERNATIONAL DUES DO NOT INCLUDE DISTRICT OR MULTIPLE DISTRICT DUES.



## IMPORTANT NEWS!



## Important year-end notice

**We're hard at work getting ready to launch the new Lion Portal. For now, use existing tools to:**

- Report all service activities in MyLion.
- Make sure all member rosters are up-to-date in MyLCI.
- Finalize all 2022-23 reporting by July 15, 2023

**An exact date for the new Lion Portal launch will be coming soon.**

**LEARN MORE**

## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION KITS



We wanted to make all Club Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers aware that they may order New Member Induction Kits – SKU - NM10EN – FREE through the [lionsclubs.org](https://lionsclubs.org) website “shop”. It is suggested each club order them in increments of 10 at a time. Do keep in mind that LCI will not ship large quantities to clubs, especially if clubs are not adding new members to their rosters.

Kit is designed for presentation to new members which includes the Welcome Booklet, Membership Certificate, Sponsorship Certificate, Sponsor Pin, Decal, Coupon, Pen and Lapel emblem.

Shoppers logged in as an authorized officer (Club President, Secretary and Treasurer) may order Kits at no charge in all languages. Orders with only New Member Kits will have an option for free shipping at checkout.



## IMPORTANT NEWS!



Watervliet	August 5, 1953	70 Years
Niles	August 19, 1926	97 Years
Edwardsburg	August 21, 1946	77 Years
Lawton	August 25, 1953	70 Years

**Congratulations to these 11B-2 clubs for 314 combined years of service to their communities & the world!**



### *The Twin County Bicycle Program keeps rolling on.....*

Well as the Summer wears on, our bicycle program becomes more and more important to our residents that are in need of some sort of transportation to get to their jobs. To all of you that have donated bicycles to this program I can only say thank you for truly making a difference in a person that is trying hard to turn their life around. I have also began an off shoot of our bicycle program by allowing residents to gain community service by spending time fixing bikes that might be in need of repair and restoring them to useful service. I never thought I'd be in the bicycle repair business, but you know me....in for a penny, in for a pound! I bought tools for them to use, totes and storage bins for bicycle parts.

So that's my update and remember if you have a bike you'd like to donate please don't hesitate to give me a call. Jeff Mayuiers 269-254-1936.

Thanks again!



## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR / WEBMASTER



*Hello fellow Lions...*

### **On The Value of Service**

Service is a concept that holds immense value in society, transcending cultural, geographical, and temporal boundaries. At its core, service refers to the act of *selflessly* assisting or aiding others without expecting anything in return. Whether it's volunteering at a local charity, helping a neighbor in need, or devoting one's life to a noble cause, service plays a vital role in shaping individuals and communities alike. The intrinsic value of service lies not only in the positive impact it has on those receiving assistance but also in the transformative effect it has on the ones rendering help.

First and foremost, service is the essence of compassion and empathy. It allows us to connect with our fellow human beings on a profound level, fostering a sense of solidarity and unity. When we engage in acts of service, we acknowledge the interconnectedness of our lives and recognize that we all share a responsibility to support each other in times of need. This deepened sense of empathy can lead to a more compassionate society, where individuals are not merely bystanders but active participants in the welfare of others.

Moreover, service cultivates humility and gratitude. As we offer our time, skills, and resources to others, we become aware of the privileges we possess and the opportunities we have to make a difference in the lives of others. Recognizing this privilege instills a sense of gratitude for what we have and encourages us to use our resources in a manner that benefits the greater good. This transformative aspect of service can foster personal growth and lead

to a more enlightened and empathetic individual.

Service also plays a vital role in building strong and resilient communities. When individuals come together to work towards a common goal, whether it be to tackle social issues, support those in distress, or create positive change, they form bonds that go beyond mere acquaintanceship. These bonds create a network of support and unity, making communities more robust and better equipped to face challenges collectively.

Furthermore, service has the power to inspire others and create a ripple effect of kindness and altruism. When people witness acts of service, they are often inspired to follow suit and contribute to the well-being of others. This chain reaction can lead to a groundswell of positive action, creating a significant impact on both a local and global scale.

To sum up, the value of service lies in its ability to transform individuals and communities alike. It nurtures compassion, humility, and gratitude, fostering a deeper connection with our fellow human beings. By building strong communities and inspiring others, service becomes a catalyst for positive change in the world. Embracing the value of service empowers us to shape a more compassionate, caring, and harmonious society where the well-being of all is a shared priority.

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**District 11b-2 Facebook page**

**Lions of Michigan**  
<http://lionsofmi.com/>

**Lions of Michigan Service Foundation**  
<https://www.lmsf.net/>

**District Web Page**  
<https://www.e-district.org/sites/11b2>