

Lions District 11-C2 Newsletter

Editor: Lion Doug Klein dougklein@usa.net



August 2025



2024-2025 District Officers

Governor: Lion Aleta Cozart 1st Vice Gov.: Lion Kenny Kinsey 2nd Vice Gov.: Lion Chuck Vasilion Secretary: Lion Denise Temple Treasurer: Lion Robert Phillips IPDG: Lion Carl Cozart

2024-2025 Zone Chairs

R1-Z1: Lion David Grimes R1-Z2: Lion Jody Sivyer

R2-Z1: Lion Blaine Lafler

R2-Z2: Lion Curtis Sonnenberg

R3-Z1: TBA

R3-Z2: Lion Eileen Delaney

R4-Z1: Lion Chrissy Andre

From the desk of the Governor



DG Aleta Cozart 989-277-2833 gonehunting35@yahoo.com

What a fantastic high to return home from the 107th Lions International Convention. This was our (Carl and I) second convention but it was so much different than the first one. I am sure nerves of being in a different country last year played a role, but also, we knew more of what to expect. Going to an international convention gives you a new perspective on the saying "We are the World's Largest Service Organization."

You tend to see how much more important that saying is worldwide, not just on our communities. You see and hear what Lions do in countries all over the world to help their own communities; and how they too struggle to get young members and retain the ones they have; or even how they have problems with nay-sayers in their clubs (much the same struggles we have). It makes one realize that while we are stretched world-wide, we are all connected by very common goals.

There were many moments from our time in Florida that stand out that I would like to mention, but I will say listening to our new International President A.P. Singh speak was very inspiring. I recommend going to the Lions portal and under the featured videos section you can play a video biography introducing him. He is a good communicator, and very humble. Furthermore, A.P. Encourages all Lions members to wear their Lions pin (not his Presidents' pin), but our original Lions pin. His theme for this year is "LEAD TO SERVE, SERVE TO LEAD."

Finally, I would like to mention about the special service areas he would like everyone to concentrate on this year: Mental Health in October, Hunger in January, and Environment in April. Look for more about some exciting projects our clubs can share throughout our district during these special cause months to help us in "Planting Seeds of Kindness."

Contents:

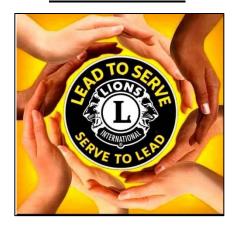
- Lions Club News from Around the District
- Upcoming Lions **Events and Programs**
- Cabinet Meeting in St. Johns on August 23
- Lions USA Information
- Conversations at Community Events
- and much more!

Places of Interest:

Lion PRIDE State Magazine District Web Site **Past District Newsletters** Lions of Michigan Foundation Lions of Michigan Lions Clubs International

Lions of Michigan YouTube Channel

Bit of Wisdom





District 11-C2 Cabinet Meeting

Don't miss our first District Cabinet meeting of the 2025-2026 year! It will be held on Saturday, August 23, at 10 AM. There will be a breakfast served, with a cost yet to be determined. It will be at the Main Street Cafe, 205 N. Clinton Ave., in downtown St. Johns. RSVP ASAP to Cabinet Secretary Lion Denise Temple at tsjellyboo@aol.com.



Laingsburg Lions Club

Incoming president Lion Nick Holtman presented Lion Cindy Arthur with the Lion of the Year award for her dedicated service to the Laingsburg Lions Club in 2024/25.



Around the District



Holt Lions Club

The Holt Lions had their annual Summer Picnic on July 17th, this vear at Valhalla Park in Holt. The normal site was closed because of construction at the Township Fire Department. It was a very pleasant evening with a break in the heat from the day before. There were box lunches from the **Delhi Cafe Family Restaurant** and baklava for dessert. They did a little business, Lion Chris Kloecker was presented his Melvin Jones Fellowship award by Lion Ray Robins, PDG. Ray did explain that it was announced at the last meeting in June, but the plaque didn't show up till the very next day. Lots of talk during the meeting about summer and fall plans.

Charlotte Lions Club

Past President Larry Swift presented a check for \$400 to the Charlotte Community Library on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Addison Kimmer, Librarian from the Library accepted the check. The Charlotte Lions are grateful for the use of the Library for holding their monthly meetings as well as the dynamic programming they conduct for youth and adults in the community.





Laingsburg Lions Club

Lion Dave Pursel presented the club's Larry "Sparky" Sparkes award to Lion Lori Leonard. Lori is the daughter of the late Larry Sparkes.









St. Johns Lions Club

SAVE THE DATE: St. Johns Lions Club will hold a fundraiser at Applebee's on October 15. Please make sure to put this on your calendar and invite your family and friends to participate. A flyer (above) will be posted on social media as we get closer to the date.





St. Johns Lions Club

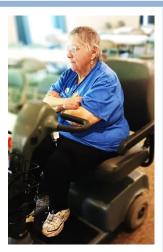
Great meeting of the St.
Johns Lions Club at Main
Street Cafe with 18
members and four guests.
They welcomed new
member George Weburg
who transferred from the
Ithaca Lions Club which has
disbanded to St. Johns.
Welcome, Lion George.
Guest Kathy Campbell,



a former St. Johns Lions Club member who now resides in Colorado, presented club president Dean Hartenburg with a donation to support the new food trailer as a memorial to her late husband Lion George Campbell. He was instrumental in establishing the original food trailer. Her daughter and grandson were there to witness the presentation.







District 11-C2 Lions

Lions were doing KidSight vision screening at Lansing Potter Park Zoo Days on July 8 & 9. Thanks to Lions Kay Olson, Ted Hamilton, Don Yuan, Kim Spalsbury and all the others who helped!

Around the District



Eaton Rapids and Dimondale Lions Clubs Golf Outing

Congratulations go to Nick White on your Hole In One! Nick wins a \$1,000 credit to Revo.com.

Around the District



Laingsburg Lions Club

Lion Cindy Arthur was presented with a Treasurer appreciation plaque for her years of dedicated service to the Laingsburg Lions Club by Lion Terry Fraidenburg.



Charlotte Lions Club

On June 11, 2025, the Charlotte Lions Club presented three Melvin Jones awards for their outstanding volunteerism with the club. Lion Robert Phillips provided a synopsis to the members listing many of the service activities Dianne Barmes and Connie O'Neill have been involved in over their years with the Club. Julie Kimmer, Executive Director of the Courthouse Square, provided a summary of the numerous service activities Jan Phillips has provided to Courthouse Square in addition to her helping the Lions Club with many fundraisers over the years. Zone Chair, Chuck Vasilion, Olivet, presented the awards.



Owosso Lions Club

Club Secretary Lion Donna presented two Lions with perfect attendance for the '24-'25 Lion year with a commemorative pin. Congratulations Lion Carol Anne and Lion Jody for your dedication to the success of the Club!



St. Johns Lions Club

Despite persistent rain, Wilson Thicket put on a great concert at the city park. The Lions Club food trailer was there with a small team serving pulled pork sandwiches, hotdogs, and other items from inside the trailer. Thanks to Lions Gloria Carnicom, Cheryl Hickey, and Nancy Presocki, and volunteer Robin Scheffler for their help. Thanks also to Lion Jeff Cannell who shows up every Wednesday to handle trailer towing and setup. He got a little wet.



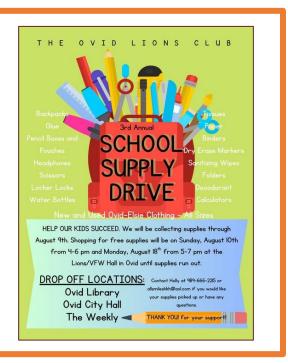
Grand Ledge Lions Club

Big thanks to the Grand Ledge Lions Club for getting everything set up and ready to serve at the Car Show at Fitzgerald Park! The community came on out, checked out some incredible rides, and grabbed a bite—these Lions were there to keep everyone fueled up and having fun.

Around the District

Ovid Lions Club

The Ovid Lions are excited to be holding their third annual back to school supply drive and community giveaway. Donations can be taken to the Ovid Public Library, Ovid City Hall or The Weekly. This year they are also collecting Ovid-Elsie clothing. All sizes are appreciated. They will be working with local schools for distribution and will also have clothing available at their back-to-school shopping giveaway.





DeWitt Lions Club

At a recent meeting, Lion Tom Doyle introduced Keaton Madar from SAFE CENTER who informed the den on the programs offered for women's domestic and sexual violence. They have a five-bedroom home to house women and children.

while they find other living places. They also provide legal help. They will be having a golf scramble August 14 to raise funds. President Tom Doyle thanked him with a DeWitt Breakfast Lions Coffee Mug. MD-11 Council Chair Becky Hamilton officially inducted Ruth Ann Millingam into the den. Her sponsor is Lion Mae Luchetti.





St. Johns Lions Club

The St. Johns Lions Club had a great meeting at Main Street Café on June 12. Lions Duane and Marilyn Witter made a couple of BIG announcements regarding fundraising for the club. The Ithaca Lions Club decided to dissolve and recently met to disperse several thousand dollars remaining in their project account, including \$7,000 donated to St. Johns to help offset the cost of the new food trailer. The Witters invited special guest and long-time friend Lion George Weburg of the Ithaca Lions Club to join them for this announcement. As a bonus, Lion George said he intends to transfer to our club and Lion Sylvia Flegel may transfer as well.



Around the District

Lion Cheryl Hickey uses an umbrella to try to stay cool but she said it didn't help much.





Lions Dean Hartenburg,
Nancy Presocki, Pam Drury,
Bonnie Smith, Gloria
Carnicom, John & Sue
Triantaflos, and Cheryl
Hickey pose beneath the
canopy provided by the 4-H
Fair organizers.

St. Johns Lions Club

Several St. Johns Lions Club members braved 90+ degree heat and high humidity to work in the food trailer at the Clinton County 4-H & Youth Fair "Truck & Tractor Pull." The crowd was not as large as they had hoped due to the heat advisory but food and beverage orders were steady throughout the afternoon and evening, especially cold water, ice cream, and popsicles. Thanks go to **Zem-Tek LLC**, one of the event sponsors, for supplying our club with coolers of cold water to sell to customers. Also, thanks to the Clinton County 4-H fair organizers for providing a canopy to block the sun. Finally, special thanks to Aaron Robins, the late Lion Roger Dershem's grandson, for towing and setting up the food trailer at the fairgrounds for us and supplying the generators.





District 11-C2 Cabinet

A mini Lions District 11-C2 Cabinet meeting was held at District Secretary **Denise Temple**'s Bancroft, MI home on July 27... great fun, great people Lions all, and much accomplished as we enter our fiscal year 2025-26. Ate together, planned together & laughed together. Global Team Leader **Brent Beracy**'s two Lions exchange students were introduced as well -- Philip from Poland & Aansa from Mongolia. They are MI Lions host Brent's 11th & 12th exchange students!

Around the District





St. Johns Lions Club

Five members of the St. Johns Lions Club completed the summer Adopt-A-Highway roadside cleanup in record time on the north end of town. Well, the guys were done by 9:00 but the ladies were a little too ambitious and went far beyond the normal stopping point and completed their section a half hour later. In the photo are Lions Dean Hartenburg, Kim Chapko, Gloria Carnicom, Lannie Fisher (project leader), and Jeff Cannell.



Eaton Rapids Lions Club

Great job ER Lions keeping our roads clean!

Around the District





Lions International Convention parade's Michigan delegation and All-State Band!

READ ALL ABOUT IT - ONLINE!

Please be aware that starting with the June 2025 issue of the State Magazine *Lion Pride* availability (paid for by part of your State dues) is now by online access only. It will not be printed, mailed or e-mailed. This decision has been made due to the rising cost of publishing and postage. For your full color .pdf version, please access the *Pride* online through the www.lionsofmi.com website.

However, our Lions of Michigan District 11-C2 plans to continue to e-mail its monthly newsletter to all Lions in the district with a valid e-mail address. For additions or corrections to e-mail addresses, e-mail our editor at dougklein@usa.net. The district newsletter is also available online at District Newsletters or http://www.e-district.org/sites/11c2/page-6.php.

UPCOMING LIONS OF MICHIGAN EVENTS

August 1-2, 2025
1st Council of Governors Meeting
LMF Hall of Fame Dinner

September 18-20, 2025 Strides Walk USA/Canada Forum Atlantic City, NJ

October 3-4, 2025 2nd Council of Governors Meeting

November 6-9, 2025 – NEW! Emerging Lions Institute MacMullen Center, Roscommon December 5-6, 2025 3rd Council of Governors Meeting
Mount Pleasant, MI
February 27-28, 2026
Lions Michigan Forum
Kalamazoo Delta Hotel

May 14-16, 2026 MD11 Lions Convention, Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire

> July 3-7, 2026 LCI Convention Hong Kong China

September 3 - 5, 2026 USA/Canada Forum Memphis, TN

Check Lions of Michigan website for updates & additional information:

www.lionsofmi.com



FROM LIONS INTERNATIONAL:

Hello Lion Douglas,

On behalf of the Lions Clubs International, I want to extend a huge thank you for your outstanding presentation at the 2025 Lions International Convention! Your insights were truly valuable and well received by everyone. We've heard fantastic feedback about your presentation.

We'd love to make your valuable content accessible to all Lions who might benefit from it, especially those who couldn't attend your presentation or wish to review the information. Thanks again for contributing to the success of our convention. We truly appreciate your time, effort, and dedication to the Lions mission.

Kind regards, Sheila Adams Event Project Specialist Convention Division Lions Clubs International



FROM CABINET SECRETARY DENISE TEMPLE:

I have a few more things to fix before I send the roster book out. The governor and her cabinet made the decision that we would not be providing the physical version of the roster book this year, but I will be sending out the electronic version. We will take orders for a printed version for the cost of \$10 each. As you all know the cost of everything has gone up. Making this change will save the District around \$1000.00!! I also want you to know that IPDG Carl Cozart's appreciation dinner will be held on September 28 at the Dutch Hollow golf course. I will get a flyer out asap, but save the date please!



Friday, September 26, 2025 6:00 PM Main Street Cafe St. Johns

- ★ Join us for a "FUN" draiser to help Kenny K. with 1VDG expenses
- ★ Activities include a 50/50, pizza buffet, and auction
- ★ More details will be announced later—we just wanted you to save the date for this special event

FROM THE LIONS GLOBAL ACTION TEAM:

The first Week of Service is coming October 4–12, and it's focused on mental health and well-being. This is an opportunity for Lions Clubs everywhere to amplify our global impact and lead visible, meaningful service that meets a real and rising need in our communities.

If your club hasn't started planning, now's the time. We've created tools to make it easy, available to download at https://bit.ly/3DYsMxz

- Mental Health and Well-Being Service Resource
- Serving Your Cause Project Planner
- Club and Community Needs Assessment
- Lions Quest for youth engagement
- Advocacy Toolkit for education and awareness events

#LionsForMentalHealth

FROM LION SALLY SPRY:

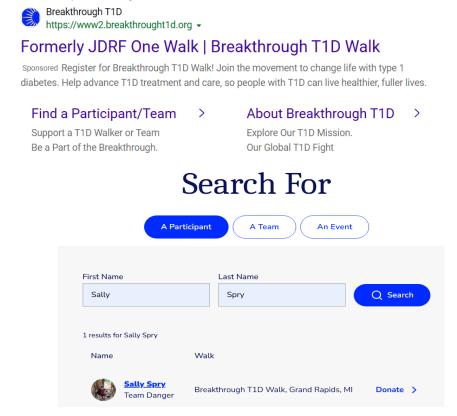
Carter is my grandson. Carter was diagnosed with T1Diabetes when he was 5 years old. Carter also deals with two other autoimmune conditions and has been diagnosed as a high function autistic.

Carter turned 16 this year and will be in 12th grade this coming school year. Carter has worked very hard on his education as we home school together and will graduate a year early. Most of his courses through Michigan Virtual Academy are comparable to Advance Placement classes in public schools.



Carter has completed his drivers training and will be an official licensed Michigan driver. Carter will be a team member of the Grand Rapids Griffins Youth Hockey Association again this year.

Team Danger is walking again this year as it is a cause that we especially believe in. We also hope that it shows Carter he is never alone in dealing with his obstacles and bumps in this journey we call life.



Or mail your donation made out to

Breakthrough T1D

to:

District 11C2
Bretton Woods
Lion Sally Ann Spry
916 Alderman Street
Belding, MI 48809

Carter and I Thank You for your support



LionsUSA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a vibrant and inclusive network of Lions Clubs across Constitutional Area 1 (United States and our Affiliates). Our mission is centered on sustaining and growing membership, empowering leadership, and enabling impactful humanitarian services.

Inspiring Lions to serve and lead with integrity, conviction and compassion.

Encourage fun, camaraderie, fellowship and family as we grow and serve.

Every Lion member in the U.S. and affiliates is a LionsUSA member at no cost.

Organizational Overview

• Legal structure: 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Short-Term Goals (1-3 Years):

- 1. Increase membership by 10% annually across all clubs in Constitutional Area 1.
- 2. Launch three new leadership development programs targeting emerging leaders.
- 3. Facilitate at least 100 new humanitarian service projects within the next three years.
- 4. Establish robust communication channels to enhance member engagement and collaboration.

Long-Term Goals (5-10 Years):

- 1. Double the membership base across all clubs.
- 2. Develop a comprehensive LionsUSA service framework to address key community needs.
- 3. Secure sustainable funding streams to support long-term projects and initiatives.
- 4. Foster a culture of innovation and adaptability among Lions leaders.

"United in Service, Empowering Communities - LionsUSA"

info@LionsUSA.org

Facebook: LionsUSA

www.lionsvirtual.org AND YouTube: LionsVirtual



SAVE THE DATE!



DISTRICT 11-C2 **EVERSIGHT TOUR**

October 11, 2025

Time: 10am

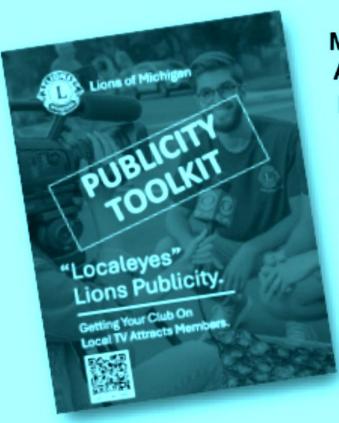
3985 Research Park Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48108

More information to come

RSVP to PDG Kurt Stromlund stromlund@comcast.net or 810-923-4252







Michigan Lions –
Assemble your own
publicity toolkit to
help put more of
your club's service
on local TV.



https://rb.gy/2djy85

We're getting you started with "Localeyes" folders and files on Google Drive. Go to https://rb.gy/2djy85 or scan the QR code and then get ready to download a lot of great publicity resources. Add more of your own files in the future by clipping new resources you find useful and putting them in your toolkit.

Here's what you have on the "Localeyes" Google Drive already:

- Introduction, overview, and info on how to organize your toolkit
- Media lists for Michigan television stations, e-mails, and more
- . How to use talking points and examples for many Lions services
- . News release templates, service project copy, and actual examples
- Samples of actual TV news spots, social media, and other materials
- Public relations and marketing articles on a wide variety of topics
- Miscellaneous resources from Lions Clubs International and more
- Lions graphics and Al photos keep your memes and logos here



It's summer camp season and thanks to your support, 22 teens who are blind or low vision came together on Leader Dog's campus for an unforgettable week of growth, adventure and connection.

Campers flew in from across North America, many traveling solo for the first time. They arrived nervous but excited — by week's end, they were kayaking, climbing a 40-foot rock wall, testing GPS skills on night walks, and even braving a zombie scavenger hunt.



Riley, a returning camper, said it best, "Leader Dog has changed my life and the lives of so many others. Anyone who can help them continue offering this life-changing support for free will be appreciated by so many."

This life-changing experience was made possible by generous donors, dedicated volunteers and our incredible partners, who have supported us since our founding in 1939.

From all of us at Leader Dog, thank you for being a cherished part of our community. You're helping young



people discover that they are stronger and more capable than they ever imagined.

With gratitude, Danielle Richards Director of Philanthropy - Annual Giving Leader Dogs for the Blind

District 11-C2 Celebration of Service

March 13th-14th 2026

> Comstock Inn 300 E Main St. Owosso, MI 48867 989-725-0999

"District 11-C2" Discounted Room Rates: \$109

Deadline to Reserve Room at the discounted price is 02/13/2026 If requesting a handicap room please reserve early.

TERNATIC



www.lionsforum.org/register

There's a new app for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. Download it today for all things Forum. Click the link here to access! https://usacanadalionsforum.teamapp.com/

July/August 2025 | Vol 02 Issue 6



NEWSLETTER

Connecting our community with the latest stories, updates, and events from Lions Bear Lake Camp. Stay informed and inspired as we continue our journey together yearround.

LBLC SPOTLIGHTS: CELEBRATING OUR CAMP COMMUNITY

Kurt Stromlund Board Member

Kurt Stromlund has been serving with heart since the day he became a Lion back in December of 2008. He started with the Howell Lions Club, but it wasn't long before he helped charter the Hartland Lions Club in March 2009, where he still proudly serves today as Club President. Over the years, Kurt has worn many hats. One of his favorite roles was serving as District Governor for 11C2 during the 2020 to 2021 year. He continues to stay active in just about every corner of the district, holding positions like Eversight Chair, Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee, Kidsight Committee member, Forum Committee Chair, and serving on the Eversight Lions Advisory Board. We are also lucky to have him on the Lions Bear Lake Camp Board of Directors. Kurt brings quiet strength, genuine care, and a whole lot of experience to everything he does. His dedication doesn't go unnoticed and we are thankful to have him as part of the team helping shape the future of Bear Lak-Camp.



Bear Lake Ultra Marathon

SPONSORSHIP

opportunity



SATURDAY OCTOBER 4TH, 2025

3409 N FIVE LAKES RD LAPEER, MI 48446



SPONSORSHIP Benefits/ Levels

Aid Station Sponsor \$1,000

- 4ft X 2ft Color banner hanging in the aid station (banner will be supplied by BLU and given to the sponsor after the race)
 - Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 - 1 entry to the current year's race.
 - · Company logo on the back of the event hoodie.
 - 1 event Hoodie (sizes S-XL).

Gold Level Sponsor - \$750.00

- · Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 - · 1 entry to the current year's race.
 - Company logo on the back of the event hoodie.
 2 event Hoodies (sizes S-XL).

Silver Level Sponsor - \$500-749.00

- · Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 - Company logo on the back of the event hoodie.
 - 1 entry to current year's race.

Bronze Level Sponsor - \$250-\$499

- Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 Company logo on the back of the event hoodie
 - company togo on the back of the event hoodie

Jr. Gold Sponsor - \$100-\$249

All sponsorship levels include:

• Company logo on a "Mile sponsor sign" located on the course.
• Sponsor literature in racers packet (supplied by sponsor 3 week prior to the race)

To Sponsor please contact:

Robert Lykins, Race Director and Ultra Marathon Runner www.Cutcorob@yahoo.com 586.531.4684



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$100 SHOOTING STATION SPONSOR

- Your business name displayed at one of the shooting stations
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements

\$500 BREAKFAST SPONSOR

- Your business name prominently displayed during breakfast
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements
- Special shout-out at the start of the day

\$500 LUNCH SPONSOR

- Your business name prominently displayed during lunch.
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements
- Special shout-out before awards ceremony



EXPLORE, EDUCATE, ENJOY

Dinner, Breakfast, & Lunch Provided. Lodging available at no cost.

SEPTEMBER 26-27TH, 2025

WHO IS INVITED:

District Governors, VDG's, 2VDG's, LBLC District Committee Chairs, Board Members, MD 11 GAT Team, New Lions, ALL LIONS Friday Welcome 6:00PM Dinner 6:30 PM Saturday Wrap Up 2:00 PM

Tours, Teambuilding, Education, Fellowship

Enjoy spending time with fellow lions and learning more about your state project Lions Bear Lake Camp.



RSVP ONLINE
SCAN QR CODE OR EMAIL
TRACI@BEARLAKECAMP.ORG



3409 Five Lakes Rd Lapeer, MI 48446 bearlakecamp.org



@lionsbearlakecamp

ARRIVE WHEN YOU CAN, LEAVE WHEN YOU NEED

BEAR LAKE CRAFTING & CAMPING FOR A CURE WEEKEND

Three days of working on your favorite craft as early or as late as you wish!

We have so much fun and we can't wait to see everyone again!

Friday, September 12, 2025 1:00 pm until _Sunday, September 14, 2025 12:00 pm

> Lions Bear Lake Camp 3409 N. Five Lakes Road Lapeer, MI 48446



Cost is \$180 and includes: pizza Friday evening; brunch and dinner on Saturday; and breakfast on Sunday. Also includes accommodations for both nights. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due immediately with full payment due by August 12th. First come first serve basis.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING YOU ASK?

- Your own beverages
- · A pillow
- · A twin-sized sheet
- Blanket or Sleeping Bag
- Towels
- Toiletries
- Comfortable Clothing
- Your Crafting Supplies
- An extension cord / surge protector

We have fun giveaways planned for this weekend and we can't wait to share it with you all!

There will also be raffles, a 50/50 drawing and lots of the fun quarter raffles!

Proceeds benefit our participation in the 3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer

Please send registration to:

Beth Northman 103 S. Highland St, Mt Clemens, MI 48043 beth3833@gmail.com or Donna Keeton 28506 Dino Circle, Chesterfield, MI 48047 keetoncorp@aol.com

Name	Phone
Sitting With	No. in Group
Address	
E-Mail Address_ (used for notifications, directions - will r	not be shared)
Anything Else We Need to Know?	ALCOHOL ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT (SORRY)***

Conversations at Community Events

by Lion Doug Klein, APR, CTA

The vitality of any service organization lies in its ability to welcome new members and infuse fresh energy into its mission. For our Lions Clubs, with our motto "We Serve," attracting passionate individuals is not just beneficial—it is essential for sustaining impactful projects and expanding outreach to benefit your community.

One of the most effective methods to draw in prospective members is through active participation in community events, especially at engaging and informative booth shows. These shows are more than just tables with flyers; they are vibrant gateways to the heart of your club's purpose, values, and community spirit.

Community events—such as fairs, festivals, farmers' markets, charity runs, and cultural celebrations—attract diverse crowds and offer unparalleled opportunities for visibility. A well-planned booth show allows your Lions Club to:

- Reach a wide spectrum of community members, including those who may not be familiar with your work.
- Demonstrate your club's commitment and involvement in local causes.
- Create opportunities for face-to-face interaction, which is far more persuasive than any other form of outreach.
- Collect contact information from interested individuals for follow-up and volunteering at future events.

Choose events that align with your mission and attract your target audience. Look for occasions that are popular in the community and where your presence will feel natural and welcomed.

Transform your booth into a welcoming and interactive space, inspire curiosity and foster genuine connections—key ingredients in the recipe for recruitment success. The appearance and atmosphere of your booth can make the difference between a passerby and a future Lion. Consider these strategies:

- Eye-catching visuals: Use the Lions Club's signature colors and symbols. Banners, posters, and a well-branded tablecover establish credibility and draw attention.
- Interactive displays: Feature hands-on activities, such as a vision screening demonstration, a children's craft table, or a "spin the wheel" trivia game about Lions causes or community service projects.
- Showcase success stories: Display photos, testimonials, and news clippings from recent club initiatives. Short video loops on tablets or monitors can also bring your impact to life.
- Takeaway materials: Provide brochures, membership applications, event calendars, and branded giveaways like pens or buttons. Make it easy for attendees to remember your club. If children are present, consider giving out small appropriate toys that relate to your causes, like bouncing eyeballs or magnifying glasses.
- Welcoming team: Staff your booth with friendly, knowledgeable members who are passionate about sharing the Lions Club story and answering questions. Don't just sit behind a table. Get up and converse.

A compelling booth sets the stage, but genuine, enthusiastic conversations seal the deal. Make sure you:

• Greet every visitor with a smile and an open question, such as "Do you have any old eyeglasses around your house?" or "Do you know any children who go to the middle school who would be interested in our Leo Club's community service projects?"

(continued)

- Listen attentively to each person's interests and experiences. Ask what kinds of community service they are interested in finding out more about. Tailor your message to what matters to them, whether it's leadership opportunities, social connections, or making a tangible impact.
- Share personal stories about why you joined the Lions Club and what you've gained from membership.
- Offer a clear and simple path to getting involved, such as attending an upcoming meeting or volunteering at the next event.

Remember, recruitment isn't about a hard sell; it's about quality conversations -- creating an environment where people feel valued and inspired to take the next step. Consider asking them to leave their contact information with you. Make sure to give them your business card.

It's easy for great conversations to fade from memory as the energy of the event ebbs. Every booth worker should be responsible for post-event follow-up with those people that they spoke to at the event. A personal email or phone call within a week can turn initial curiosity into lasting commitment. Invite prospective members to a club meeting or service project to meet other Lions in your club.

To ensure the club's future, it is crucial to appeal to younger members. Here's how:

- Emphasize flexible involvement, leadership development, and the chance to work on causes they're passionate about.
- Highlight opportunities for students, young professionals, and families to get involved on their own terms.
- Feature younger members at the booth to serve as relatable ambassadors.
- Host youth-focused activities or invite local Leos Club members to participate and share their experiences.

A community event booth show is more than an outreach opportunity—it is a living embodiment of your Lions Club's spirit and service. By thoughtfully preparing, engaging authentically, leveraging technology, and following up with care, you plant the seeds for your club's growth and longevity.

Each new member brings fresh perspectives and hands to serve, ensuring that your Lions Club's proud traditions will endure. Let your booth be a beacon at your next community event, welcoming all who share a heart for service and a vision for a stronger community.



Lion Doug Klein regularly passes along tips (aided by AI) to help your Lions Club sharpen its public relations and marketing efforts. He has been a member of the Mason, Michigan Lions Club since he retired in 2018 as a Lansing Community College adjunct professor of public relations, communication, business, and marketing. He is currently serving as Mason Lions Club Secretary, District 11-C2 Public Relations Chair, and MD11 State PR / Information and Marketing Chair. A member of the Public Relations Society of America since 1983, he has held their prestigious APR designation (Accreditation in Public Relations) since 1996. He was inducted into the American Marketing Association's national honorary Alpha Mu Alpha in 2012. Contact him with any public relations or marketing questions at (517) 775-8601 or at dougklein@usa.net by email.