

DISTRICT 11-E2 NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2019

Note: In lieu of the regular "District Governor's Message" this month, this letter was emailed to me for distribution by DG Zeller. Which makes this...a message...from our District Governor! Huh. — Lion David Zimmer, District Editor.

Notable Quote: "Experience is not what happens to you; it's what you do with what happens to you."

— Aldous Huxley

ATTENTION:

Your help is needed. Please share this information with club members and officers!

August 2019

Dear Club Presidents and Secretaries:

We are pleased to announce that the 20th annual Michigan Lions Leadership Institute will be held on November 8, 9, 10, 2019, at the MacMullan Training Center on beautiful Higgins Lake.

Experienced presenters will conduct group sessions in a relaxed, informal setting. Offerings include Personality Styles, Personal Effectiveness, The Essence of Leadership, Listening and Speaking Skills, Managing Change, Setting Goals, Team Building, and Conflict Resolution.

In addition to the traditional Leadership Institute, a Graduate Institute is offered for those who have already attended the Leadership Institute and want to enhance and better utilize their Lions skills, presentation skills and leadership skills.

Both the Leadership Institute and the Graduate Institute begin with lunch on Friday at 11:30 a.m., with the first instructional sessions starting at 12:20 p.m. Registration precedes lunch, between 10:00 and 11:15 a.m.

The MacMullan Center is a recognized training center set in a natural, wooded environment. Housing is in lodges with semi-private rooms, and shared bathrooms. The food is great!

All of this – informational sessions, two night's lodging, and six meals – for only \$225.00 per person. We ask you to share information on the Leadership Institute and the Graduate Institute with your club officers and members.

The deadline for applications is October 7, 2019. Two informational brochures (which include application forms) are enclosed for your convenience and may be duplicated. Please make checks payable to "Michigan Lions Leadership Institute."

Yours in Lionism,

**Bill Hansen, PID, Chairman
Leadership Institute Committee**

Enclosure

**BUILDING LION
LEADERS...**

**LIONS
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE**



5730 Executive Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911

PHONE:
(517) 887-6640

FAX:
(517) 887-6642

EMAIL:
lions@lionsofmi.com



2018 - 2019 DISTRICT OFFICERS REFERENCE LIST

DISTRICT GOVERNOR Dave Zeller Alpena Lions Club 989-657-4702 W 989-354-2175 dlzeller52@gmail.com	IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR Gordon Harris Jr. Central Lake Lions Club 231-599+2636 gvh4789@charter.net
VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR Rod Leathers Central Lake Lions Club 231-544-2423 rod@theleathers.net	GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR Dave Zeller Alpena Lions Club 989-657-4702 W 989-354-2175 dlzeller52@gmail.com
2nd VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR William Gaines Oscoda Lions Club 253-219-8590 wgaines1111@yahoo.com	DISTRICT GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM COORDINATOR VACANT
CABINET SECRETARY/ TREASURER Barb Durlinger Hillman Lions Club 989-742-2790 lionbarb@comdac.com	DISTRICT GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR Robert Tasior Oscoda Lions Club 989-569-6177 devontasior@gmail.com

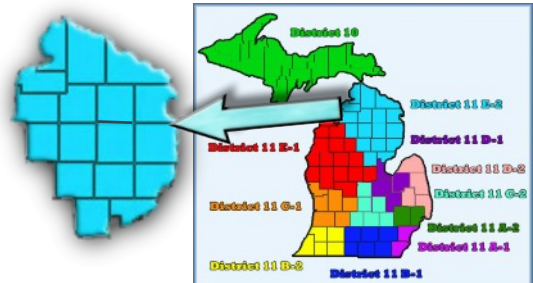
Note: This information is up to date at the time of this publication, but is subject to change as some adjustments are needed.

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Lions Of Michigan Multiple District 11-E2 Counties

Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Iosco, Kalkaska, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon



REGION 1, ZONE 1 ZC Charles Brew Mackinaw City Lions Club 231-499-6478 brewfire@upnorth.net Atlanta, Cheboygan/Cheboygan Lioness, Hillman, Indian River, Mackinaw City	REGION 2, ZONE 1 VACANT AuGres Lioness, Hale, Harrisville, Lincoln, Oscoda/Oscoda Lioness, Prescott-Skidway Lake, Rose City, Whitmore Lioness	REGION 3, ZONE 1 ZC William Smith, Central Lake Lions Club wsmithcentrallakelionsclub@gmail. com Bellaire Lioness, Central Lake/Central Lake Lioness, Elk Rapids, Ellsworth/Ellsworth Lioness
REGION 1, ZONE 2 ZC Steven Murch Alpena Lions Club 989-340-1544 stevenmurch49707@gmail.com Alpena Evening/Alpena Host, Fairview-Commings, Hubbard Lake, Mio	REGION 2, ZONE 2 VACANT Beaverton, Grayling, Houghton Lake, Lewiston/Lewiston Lioness Lions, Roscommon-Higgins Lake	REGION 3, ZONE 2 ZC Dennis Gocha East Jordan Lions Club 231-536-0837 dennisgocha@aol.com Boyne Valley, Charlevoix, East Jordan/East Jordan Lioness, Gaylord, Petoskey

President's Message

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi

Let All Our Lights Brighten the Darkness



Greetings Lions!

It is my great pleasure to address the Lion community for the first time as your International President.

As we enter a new Lion year I have high hopes for us. My focus during my presidency is on fostering diversity in service. After all, there are more than 1.4 million Lions around the world, and each of us is unique. And every one matters. This means that we have to do more than just recognize what makes us different. We have to embrace it.

There is a path I walk in my hometown of Busan, South Korea. I wake up early, before sunrise, and walk. It clears my head, and it's good for my spirit. I particularly enjoy watching the change from darkness to light. When I begin the day I am in the dark. As I walk, my mind clears and the sky brightens. Over the course of that walk, how I see the world is, literally, transformed.

It's always interesting to see something from another vantage point. Whether it's in a new light or from someone else's perspective. Often, you see things you couldn't see before. Let your fellow Lions and your community be the sun. Let them shine light on what you may not have seen. You may not agree with how they see things, but only by looking at things clearly in the light of day can we hope to find common ground.

And perhaps among all those points of view you'll be able to see solutions to issues your community faces that you hadn't been able to see before.

I truly believe that by embracing diversity we will grow - as Lions and as people.

Here's to the beginning of a new year of serving through diversity.

Sincerely,

Jung-Yul Choi

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We Serve Through Diversity with International President, Dr. Jung-Yul Choi



Dear Lion,

Your Lions are as unique as the people you serve. And that's what makes them so special. The same is true for Lions around the world.

Just look at us. We have more than 48,000 clubs around the world, and every one is different. We are 1.4 million members, and each is unique. Some members are young, and some are lifelong volunteers. We all bring different talents and experience to our service.

When we recognize the contributions of all members, we unlock our true potential. Because together we are stronger. And only together can we change the world.

Regards,

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi
International President

Info from LCI website

Dear Club Treasurer,

Membership dues are billed twice a year based on your club membership roster as of June 30 and December 31. Please note that credit will no longer be automatically issued for dropped members reported in July or January.

New members will be billed for dues according to their reported join dates, and their bills will include the US\$35 entrance fee as established by Lions' International Board of Directors and prorated dues in accordance with the months remaining in the billing period.

Your monthly statement will include charges related to club supplies, membership dues and other charges as well as club payments. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact the Accounts Receivable and Club Account Services Department via email at accountsreceivable@lionsclubs.org or by phone, (630) 203-3810.

Reinstated or transfer members will be billed for continued membership for up to 12 months after prior membership is discontinued. Reinstated or transferred members will be billed as a new member if their memberships are inactive for more than 12 months.

Your club's balance should be paid regularly and at least 15 days prior to participation in any local conventions (nonpayment may make your club ineligible to vote). Clubs can avoid Financial Suspension when balances are paid less than 120 days following billing. Unpaid balances can cause a club to be placed on Financial Suspension if they exceed US\$20 per member or more than US\$1,000 over 120 days. Cancellation will follow the following month if a payment is not received. Please contact us via email at membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org or by phone at (630) 203-3820 with any questions.

Thank you for your service!

Sincerely,

Your District & Club Administration Team

From LCI Email



Dear Club Leaders,

We're pleased to announce an exciting change to the Campaign 100 Model Club program. Effective in July 2019, the Model Club per-member average (PMA) is US\$500. This means more clubs can confidently commit to becoming *Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service* Model Clubs, ultimately empowering service to your community and Lions' efforts globally to help those who need us most.

To each club that committed to being a Model Club at the US\$750 level, we offer our sincerest thanks. Your extraordinary dedication is truly inspiring and exemplifies the tremendous power of Lions collectively striving toward a common goal. For your leadership, you'll forever be known as a VISIONARY Model Club.

Through the remainder of our campaign, Model Club levels and associated PMAs are:

Model Club – US\$500
VISIONARY Model Club – US\$750
200% Model Club – US\$1,000
300% Model Club – US\$1,500
400% Model Club – US\$2,000
500% Model Club – US\$2,500
600% Model Club – US\$3,000
PREMIER Model Club – US\$3,500+

We're excited and energized by this enhanced Model Club strategy, which was recently shared with Campaign 100 International Committee members, area leaders, and multiple district and district coordinators. If you have questions, please reach out to your area leader, your regional development manager, or to campaign100@lionsclubs.org. We also highly encourage you to visit and bookmark the [Model Club Frequently Asked Questions](#) page and to share it with your club members.

As always, we thank you for your participation and enthusiasm. Your club's donations to LCIF are critical to our campaign's success. More importantly, they help ensure you have resources needed to deliver hope and healing to hundreds of millions of people worldwide now and for generations to come.

In gratitude,

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada
Past International President
Chairperson, Campaign 100

J. Frank Moore III
Past International President
Vice Chairperson, Campaign 100



Greetings Fellow Lions,

As leaders in Lions Clubs International, the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum has been the ultimate education and earning experience for Lions members and Lions in leadership capacities.

In its 43rd year, the Forum offers leadership education and informational seminars that help you feel more comfortable in leading your club, district or multiple.

The premise of the Forum is developing the best leaders for the growth of our organization and fulfilling the needs for a better quality of life for each citizen in every community, town or city where a Lions Club is found. I'm sure that's why you became a member. You want give back...help for those in need.

I urge you to attend the 43rd Annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Spokane. It's in your region, it will be several more years before a Forum returns to western regions of North America.

For the investment, it's your future of becoming a great leader, learning new ideas for expansion of Lions Clubs, creating larger services within your community and meeting great Lions like yourself who have the passion of doing great things.

You'll love Spokane, a wonderful city, everything is so convenient from the hotels and the riverfront is quite impressive.

The Forum Planning Committee and Host Committee have put together a wonderful event. There are new additions and changes this year. So, come join us.

See you in Spokane,

PDG Paul Bledsoe, USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Chair 2019



We are aware that you are experiencing technical issues with the MyLion system and recognize the impact that this may be having on clubs reporting their service activities. We are working tirelessly to isolate the issues and fix this problem. The issues that are affecting MyLion are inconsistent, making it harder for our technicians to identify the root cause and provide a definitive timeline as to when the system will be back up.

We are committed to getting MyLion working again as quickly as possible and will update you when we have more information. Thank you for your patience as we work to resolve this!

This email was sent to Council Chairpersons, Multiple District GLT Coordinators, Multiple District GMT Coordinators, Multiple District GST Coordinators, District Governors, District GLT Coordinators, District GMT Coordinators, District GST Coordinators, Club Presidents, Club Secretaries.

Email sent from LCI on August 1

Dear Lion Leader,

We're happy to let you know that we have resolved the issue with MyLion, and service has been restored. Please let your Lions know that MyLion is now available. Thank you for your patience as we worked to get the system back up and running!

This email was sent to Council Chairpersons, Multiple District GLT Coordinators, Multiple District GMT Coordinators, Multiple District GST Coordinators, District Governors, District GLT Coordinators, District GMT Coordinators, District GST Coordinators, Club Presidents, Club Secretaries.



Email sent from LCI on August 2

NOTE: The new MyLion program experienced some difficulties with its website which, as the monthly reports are no longer available on the LCI website and must be accessed through the MyLion website, prevented any Lions Clubs who hadn't already done so from filing their monthly reports. I'm not sure when the website first failed, but I know that when I tried to file my reports on Sunday, July 28, I couldn't access the MyLion website. I don't know how many Clubs were affected by this but for those of us who were affected it was very frustrating. The new reporting MyLion website is completely different from the LCI webpage, more complicated to use and requiring statistical data input not previously asked for. As with any new process, there will be a learning curve for this, and as already demonstrated, a few bugs to work out. A certain amount of patience is required in life.

— Lion David Zimmer, D.E.



DIABETES Personal Action Toward Health

PATH

The Stanford Diabetes Self-Management Program

LIVING WITH DIABETES?

GET ON THE PATH TO HEALTHIER LIVING!

What is Diabetes PATH?

The Self-Management Resource Center (SMRC) evidence-based program originally developed at Stanford University, Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP), called Diabetes PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) in Michigan, is a workshop that empowers people to take an active role in managing diabetes.

Interactive education and weekly goal-setting activities help participants build healthy lifestyle skills.

Workshops meet for 6 weeks, in 2 ½ hour sessions each week. Workshops are offered in convenient, easily accessible community locations, and are offered for free, or at very low cost to participants.

Adults of all ages interested in diabetes may attend, including adults with pre-diabetes, Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, family members and caregivers.

YOU WILL LEARN:

- Ways to deal with difficult emotions and manage stress.
- How to develop a healthy eating and exercise plan.
- Goal setting, problem solving and decision making.
- The importance of using a variety of tools to manage diabetes, including monitoring blood sugar, managing medications, preventing/delaying complications, working with your doctor, and communicating with friends/family.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING
of Northwest Michigan

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Northwest Michigan Workshops

Meet once a week for 6 weeks

McLaren Northern Michigan

John & Marnie Demmer Wellness Pavilion
& Dialysis Center

820 Arlington Ave, Petoskey, MI 49770

Mondays, 5:30-8:00 pm

Sept 9, 16, 23, 30, & Oct 7, (skip 10/14), & 21, 2019

Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan

1609 Park Drive, Traverse City, MI 49696

Mondays, 1:30-4:00 pm

Sept 16, 23, 30, & Oct 7, 14, & 21, 2019

Munson Healthcare – Cadillac Hospital Mortimore Rm

400 Hobart St, Cadillac, MI 49601

Mondays, 2:00-4:30 pm

Oct 14, 21, 28, & Nov 4, 11, & 18, 2019

Munson Healthcare – Manistee Hospital Classroom 2

1465 E Parkdale Ave, Manistee, MI 49660

Wednesdays, 1:00-3:30 pm

Oct 16, 23, 30, & Nov 6, 13, & 20, 2019

Munson Healthcare – Charlevoix Hospital

Wellness Workshop

411 Bridge Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720

Mondays, 1:00-3:30 pm

March 16, 23, 30, & April 6, 13, & 20, 2020

No cost to attend. Space is limited (10-15 participants) and pre-registration is required.

Register with Sharon at **1-800-442-1713**

Or online at www.aaanm.org/workshop-registration

Funding provided by the
Lions of Michigan and the
Lions Clubs International
Foundation.



Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2019:

District 11-E2 Cabinet Meeting — Saturday, August 17, 2019, 10:00 a.m. — Mackinaw City Lions Clubhouse, Lion Dan Russell Building, 205 Cedar St., Mackinaw City. First Cabinet meeting of 2019-2020.

JUNE 2020:

LCI Convention — June 26, 2020 — Singapore

JUNE 2021:

LCI Convention — June 25, 2021 — Montreal, Quebec, Canada



PASSINGS



None Reported

NEW MEMBERS

APR-JUN

Bellaire Lioness: Michelle Jump, Bonnie Piche', Renee' Schonauer, Jill Kennedy-Spencer

JUL

Central Lake Lions: Mary Beth Mikulonis - Mike Ring - Richard Scheitler

On the Mend

July:

Oscoda Lions: Lion Rick Ferrebee is dealing with serious health issues. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers as decisions are made concerning his treatment and care.

Bellaire Lioness

April –June

Bellaire Lioness Club reported the following information:

Added 4 members

Dropped 3 members

Total Membership: 42

Fund Raisers Total: \$2,666.37

Donations Total: \$4,350.00

SERVICE PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES:

April – Board Meeting, April 1, 2019 and Blood Drive – Wednesday, April 3, 2019 – St. Luke's Catholic Church

May – Board Meeting, May 6, 2019

June – Board Meeting, June 3, 2019 and Golf Outing, Sunday, June 9th at Schuss Mountain Golf Club, 3PM Shotgun Start, followed by dinner and prizes

PROGRAMS:

April Club Dinner Meeting April 18, 2019 - Shanty Creek Resort
Program: "4way Lodge" presented by Dan Boone

May: Club Dinner Meeting May 16, 2019 - Shanty Creek Resort
Program: "Munson Hospital- The Next Chapter" presented by Foundation staff

June: Club Dinner Meeting June 20, 2019 – Shanty Creek Resort
Program: Installation of officers and directors 2019-2020 year

Boyne Valley Lions

July

White Cane Kick-Off

We kicked off the BVLC annual White Cane Fundraiser during Friday Stroll the Streets of Boyne Thunder weekend. Thanks to Lion John Cool who offered the use of the Charlevoix State Bank parking lot to set up our tent and table and all of those Lions who gave up a Friday Night to help out.

Boyne Valley Lions Continued

Although our fundraising wasn't as bountiful as hoped, we all had a great time chatting with friends and neighbors and taking turns strolling the streets to see the boats and hear the bands.

The annual White Cane Event is when we ask community members to donate funds to be used for programs that assist the blind and other visually impaired people in Michigan. Look for more opportunities to help out at 2019 White Cane Fundraising Events.



Some of the Lions' finest: Lions James, Gow, Clare, Lisa and Larry

Lions Plowing New Ground with the Flywheelers

Lions were happy to help out at the annual Flywheelers Antique and Fleamarket. We had eight spirited Lions willing to serve in different capacities. Lions Art and Johncie helped make salads, collect trays and clean tables, while Lion Gow cooked burgers. Lion Ralph did double duty cooking brats and then moving over to collect money at the food pavilion. Lions Larry and Clare helped facilitate orders by preparing buns, nachos and beans and Lions LeeAnn and Julie had dish duty and the hands to prove it.

This four day event is extremely busy and Lions were happy to help out in their food pavilion. They make breakfast, lunch and dinner for hundreds if not thousands of campers and visitors to the event. With so many to feed we were able to see and shamelessly steal good ideas for our own food trailer. BVLC will receive \$10 for each hour worked by a Lion and this will go into our general fund. So, thanks to all you Lions who volunteered 32 hours for the Flywheelers.

Central Lake Lions

July

Awards:



Stan Kimmel: Ken Lautzenheiser Fellowship Award winner, presented by Governor Gordon Harris.



Central Lake Lions new members: Mary Beth Mikulonis with sponsor Sara Goldberg; Mike Ring with sponsor Chris Vanlonkhuyzer and Richard Scheitler with sponsor Sarah Leathers



Awards night recipients: Kris Roberts: Melvin Jones Fellowship; Don Seifried: Sponsorship award; Bob LaBeau: Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship; Randy Miller: A. Charles Weir Fellow and Lion of the Year; Marie Leathers: A Charles Weir Fellow; Jim Broome: Lions President. Presented by Governor Gordon Harris.

Activities.

Cooked and served meals at the Richard Davis Pin Shoot.

July 4th Chicken BBQ dinner — White Cane Annual Barn Sale — Tent rentals

Road cleanup— Spaghetti dinner for scholarships
Upcoming Fundraiser: Golf Scramble September

Cheboygan Lions

July



Tom Smith gives a speech on his plans to refurbish Memorial Park. Lion Jerry Spray assists.



Lions Tamlyn & Beethem help keep the community clean with Highway cleanup week. Cheboygan Lion's cover 2 miles US-23 W from the city limits of Cheboygan.

Lewiston Lioness Lions

August

At the regular meeting of the Lewiston Lions Club, checks were presented to our 2019 Johannesburg-Lewiston High School scholarship recipients.

This year's recipients will be continuing their education at various colleges and universities. Best wishes to all.



Pictured (l-r) Scholarship Chairperson Jim Hilgendorf, Jersey Layman, Tyson Claeys, Isabelle Grace Head and King Lion Dave Engel.

Oscoda Lions

July

Fourth of July Picnic: The 7th annual Oscoda Lions and Rotary Community Picnic at Oscoda Beach Park was another great success. Community members and visitors enjoyed the great weather and the children had fun with all the games. Tattoo artists Lions Bobbi and Von were very busy all evening.



The hit of the event was definitely the food. The grill was ably manned by Lions Bill Shiflet and Dave Brick and their Rotary partners. Lions Jane, Ruth and Newana completed the Lions' food service crew. Thanks also to the Lions who donated pop and water and to Lions Bill and Kay who delivered it to the park.

(Oscoda Lions Continued)

Awards



Lion Bob – John S. Noel Fellowship Award



Lion Bill – Lion of the Year



Lion Wayne – Charles Weir Fellow Award



Lion Bobbi – Ken Lautzenheiser Fellow Award



PDGs Wayne, Lewis and Flo present Lion Bill with his District VP Patch

August

Paul Bunyan "Five K" Raffle

Our annual fall fundraiser is underway and will conclude at 5 p.m. on September 21st at the Paul Bunyan Festival at Furtaw Field. Community business partners and individuals have given donations to help get us started. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year with a goal of selling 3,000 tickets so everyone needs to get involved.

Organized ticket sales to date are 989 tickets sold for a total of \$4,717. The Rock Fest, two August weekends at Neiman's Market and a return to Family Fare on September 13th and 14th will complete the over-the-counter sales. It is important that all club members sell lots of tickets as well. If there are remaining tickets they will be sold at the festival on September 21st.



Tuesday, August 6th, 2019
American Legion Hall
Noon – 5:45 p.m.
Sponsored by the Lioness

Petoskey Lions

July

White Hot, White Cane

The Petoskey Lions held their annual White Cane Fundraiser on Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20. Locations were the Petoskey Post Office (Saturday only) and D&W Market. Earlier forecasts of rain never materialized; Friday was, however, the HOTTEST DAY OF THE YEAR (so far)! Saturday was much more pleasant.

Volunteering Lions Dave Carlson, Mike Farrimond, Julie Haase, Hubert Hayes, Ray Johnson, and David Zimmer survived the brutal heat and managed to solicit \$940.19 in donations. Thanks to these volunteers for taking the heat and delivering the goods!

August

Breakfast at Camp Daggett

Petoskey Lions volunteers got up before the crack of dawn on Wednesday, August 14, to serve a pancake breakfast for the vision impaired kids at Camp Transition Zone, held at nearby Camp Daggett.

The State-sponsored Camp offers several life lessons and coping skills classes for the visually challenged kids, as well as giving them a fun camping experience.

Lions fed 25 campers, as well as staff from the State and from Camp Daggett, approximately 38 servings.

Thanks to Lions Hubert Hayes, Ray Johnson, and David Zimmer for volunteering for this event.



(L) Lion Hubert Hayes, Guru of the Grill, the man who puts the “skill” in “skillet”, presides over his pancake concoctions with a steady hand and an unwavering commitment to (literally!) serve others.



(R) Lion Ray Johnson, our “go-to” guy for any summer service events (and who, sadly for us, “goes to” Florida for most of the year) puts the lid on the left-over pancake batter for consumption on another day.

You Make the News – We Publish It!

Didn't find any mention of YOUR Lions Club in this issue?

Send your information to: dlzim47@gmail.com

- **Activities: Service Projects, Fundraising Events, Club Events – What You DO!**
- **Club Milestones: Awards, Club Officers, New Memberships, Passings – What Is Happening With Your Members!**
- **Photos of Service Activities, Fundraising Events, Awards, etc.**

* **Photos:** Should be 300 pixels for good quality. Include names of individuals in photos, and/or describe what the photo is showing. **Text:** Include dates and names (if applicable) for all events submitted.
Text will be edited as needed for space, spelling, corrections, etc.

Don't be left out!

Editor's Notes

by Lion David J. Zimmer

We are now in the “Dog Days” of Summer, the time when the season is winding down, preparing for the shift to Autumn. The days are noticeably shorter, and some migrating birds are already flocking together to make their southward pilgrimage. While we can wistfully try to hold onto summer just a bit longer, savor the pleasant days at the beach or at the grill, we can certainly look forward to the lessening of traffic on our clogged roads!

Summer is also the season where most, if not all, Lions Clubs hold their annual White Cane Fundraiser. My Petoskey Lions Club's 2019 White Cane event was held on Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, dates not taken by other groups' fundraising events at D&W Market. For several days prior to the White Cane dates the weather was forecast to be rainy and/or stormy. However, on Friday the rain never materialized during the morning and afternoon shifts. Instead, it turned out to be the HOTTEST DAY OF THE SUMMER! It was brutal for volunteer Lions standing outside D&W, and the Post Office, sweltering in the sun for 2 hours with temperatures near or at 90 degrees and humidity in the 85% - 90% range. Although Saturday, July 20, turned out to offer much more favorable weather conditions, the temperature was still a bit uncomfortable. But we do our duty as Lions, come rain or shine (but not sharks or tornadoes!).

As a card-carrying introvert, begging in public for money is always a somewhat stressful activity for me, although I've gotten more used to it over the years. I try to focus on the people coming and going, guessing at their background or if they're visitors or are local residents, and whether they will donate or not.

As usual, the process of soliciting donations from the public was a clear demonstration of the various responses people have when offered the opportunity to contribute to a charitable cause. Many stare straight ahead, ignoring us, as if we aren't there, or as if we're muggers to be avoided. Others will acknowledge our presence but walk on by. Fortunately, some people do stop and donate, and you never really know which person will or won't. Scores of well-dressed people walk by without donating, and then a scruffy biker drops a \$5 bill in the collection cane. I may try to guess who will or won't, but I've learned not to judge people by their looks or demeanor.

Invariably, at least one person will ask “what does the Lions Club do?” Over 100 years of Lions Club service, over 75 years of service in Petoskey, and we still get that question. I've had someone ask what Lions do, listen to my short litany of causes we help, and then walk away without donating. Occasionally, someone will state that a family member - a father, a grandfather, an aunt - was a Lion, and give a donation. Some will relate that a family member was helped by the Lions in past years, and offer their gratitude as well as donating.

Donations came mostly in the form of \$1 bills and loose change, with a few \$5 bills, fewer \$10 bill, and rarely a \$20 bill or more. This year I had one mature lady donate a couple dollars, and then say with a smile “I only get \$700 a month, so that's all you get from me!” Another time, a young woman came up, dropped in a donation, and sincerely praised me and the Lions “for all you do.” Another thing I noticed this year was the lack of young children being given change or a paper bill to stuff in the cane. They seem to get a big kick out of doing that, and I always assumed it helped to train children to be generous. But this year not once did that happen.

In the end, some people are generous, some are not, and we can only be grateful for the opportunity to accept the generosity that comes our way.

In honor of the waning summer, a photo of a summer sunset at Round Lake (Emmet County)

