

## District Governor's Message



Dear Fellow Lions of District 11-E2,

We're back from the excitement and inspiration of the Lions International Convention in Orlando and now it's time to get to work!

We'll start out by thanking our Immediate Past District Governor Denny Gocha for his great leadership and service over the past year. Please use the [SignUp link](#) for his Appreciation Dinner on August 18 at Tourist Park in East Jordan or contact [Linda Gocha](#) at 231-350-0204.

Our first cabinet meeting on August 23 will include a motivational speaker to get us all inspired to continue our great service. We will have training to be certified KidSight screeners and also talk about ways to successfully approach your schools to schedule screenings. The cabinet meeting, which is open to ALL Lions, will help you learn more about our District and the great things the District has to offer your clubs and communities. It will be at St Francis Episcopal Church, 6441 W M-72 in Grayling. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and have a potluck lunch. RSVP is not necessary but if you use the [SignUp link](#) or [contact me](#) if you plan to attend it will help us to plan accordingly.

We've applied for and received a grant for Zone Chair training, which will take place on Sept 27 in Gaylord. While this is intended for current Zone Chairs, I would like to extend an invitation to any Lions that might consider future leadership roles to attend. Please [contact me](#) so that we will have enough materials prepared. Lunch and snacks will be provided at this free event.

Another great learning experience is the [Leadership Institute](#) training from November 7-9 at Higgins Lake. This is a great experience for new and emerging leaders at all levels. If you've already attended the Leadership Institute then consider signing up for the Graduate Institute.

Be sure to nominate one of your club's service projects for the [Kindness Matters Service Award](#). The [nomination form](#) explains the process and requirements. Please [email your nominations](#) prior to the August 23 cabinet meeting, or you can bring them with you to the cabinet meeting where you will have a chance to promote your club's nomination and vote on which project will move on to the state level.

If your club qualifies for the [2024-25 Club Excellence Award](#), the completed application must be submitted by August 31. Please note that the [2025-26 qualifications](#) are changing, and includes participation in the "[Weeks of Service](#)" initiative: Mental Health and Well Being October 4-12, Hunger January 3-11 and Environment April 18-26, so be sure to plan accordingly.

Last but not least, I'm so excited that our district is applying for a \$150,000 [LCIF Hunger Grant](#) to purchase equipment for the new Food Bank of Eastern Michigan facility coming to Gaylord. This facility will directly and indirectly impact every county in our district. We plan to have a representative at our cabinet meeting, so be sure to be there with all your questions!

Thank you for all you do!

*Marie Leathers*

District Governor, 11-E2

*"Alone we can do so little, Together we can do so much" - Helen Keller*

District 11-E2 Website:  
[lionsdistrict11e2.org](http://lionsdistrict11e2.org)

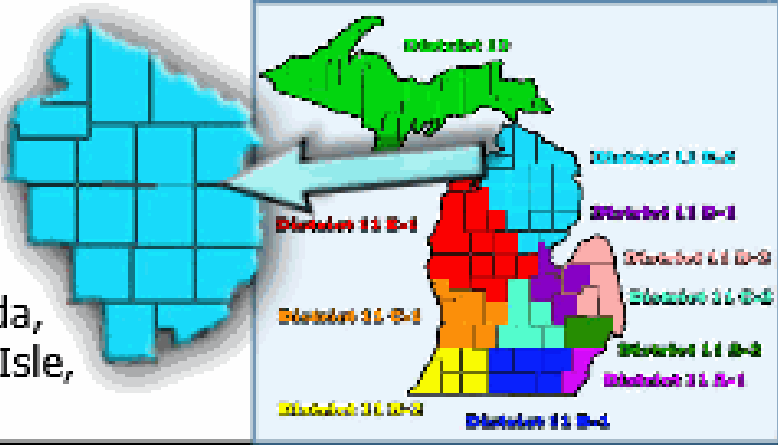
2025-2026 DISTRICT OFFICERS  
REFERENCE LIST

DISTRICT GOVERNOR Central Lake Lions Marie Leathers <a href="mailto:lionmarieleathers@gmail.com">lionmarieleathers@gmail.com</a> 231-350-0286	IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR East Jordan Lions Dennis Gocha 231-350-1906 <a href="mailto:dennygocha@gmail.com">dennygocha@gmail.com</a>
VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR NA	GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM District Coordinator NA
2 <sup>nd</sup> VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR Kris Roberts Central Lake Lions Club <a href="mailto:krobdi@gmail.com">krobdi@gmail.com</a> 701-409-9160	GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM District Coordinator BJ Sander <a href="mailto:bisander618@outlook.com">bisander618@outlook.com</a> 989-464-9885
CABINET SECRETARY/ TREASURER Barb Durlinger Hillman Lions Club <a href="mailto:lionbarb@comdac.com">lionbarb@comdac.com</a> 989-742-2790	GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM District Coordinator Rod Leathers <a href="mailto:leathersrod@gmail.com">leathersrod@gmail.com</a> 231-350-0567
GLOBAL EXTENSION TEAM COORDINATOR Steve Murch <a href="mailto:stevemurch49707@gmail.com">stevemurch49707@gmail.com</a> / 989-657-9277	

Note: This information is up to date at the time of this publication, but is subject to change as 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



ZONE 1	CLUBS	ZONE 3	CLUBS
ZC Ron Morgan Indian River Lions Club <a href="mailto:theshootist65@gmail.com">theshootist65@gmail.com</a> / 231-881-5091	Boyne Valley, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, East Jordan, Indian River, Mackinaw City, Petoskey	ZC BJ Sander Alpena Lions Club <a href="mailto:bjsander618@outlook.com">bjsander618@outlook.com</a> / 989-464-9885	Alpena, Alpena Evening, Glennie, Hillman, Hubbard Lake, Mio
ZONE 2	CLUBS	ZONE 4	CLUBS
ZC Kris Roberts Central Lake Lions Club <a href="mailto:krobdi@gmail.com">krobdi@gmail.com</a> 701-409-9160	Central Lake, Elk Rapids, Grayling, Houghton Lake, Lewiston/Lewiston Lioness Lions, Roscommon- Higgins Lake	ZC Kay Gaines Oscoda Lions Club <a href="mailto:kgaines143@yahoo.com">kgaines143@yahoo.com</a> 989-739-2779	Beaverton, Hale, Harrisville, Lincoln, Oscoda, Rose City



## Dear Lions and Leos,

Welcome to a new Lion year — a new chapter of service, kindness and global impact. I am honored to serve as chairperson of our global foundation, inspired by the generosity that helped us reach so many last year. Celebrating LCIF's success at the 107th Lions International Convention was a proud moment. With your support, we raised over US\$81 million for future service.

As we begin a new fiscal year, I look forward to trying new things and finding different ways to encourage support of our foundation. During the last fiscal year, I was proud to introduce the very first FVDG/DGE fundraising challenge that raised more than US\$1 million for LCIF. As you read this newsletter, I hope you too are inspired to support the foundation in new ways — by donating, applying for grants or sharing our impact. I look forward to the incredible LCIF-funded projects ahead and connecting with many of you this year.

At your service,

**Fabricio Oliveira, LCIF Chairperson**

## Thank You Donors

Your generosity enables Lions and Leos worldwide to serve more people whenever and wherever they need our help. Every donation, no matter the amount, enhances our impact and expands our reach.

[Learn More](#)





Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**

# Historic flooding devastates Central Texas.

LCIF grant funding will enable Lions to help victims recover and rebuild.

[LIONSCLUBS.ORG/DONATE](https://lionsclubs.org/donate) 

Photo by Brandon Bell/Getty Images

Heavy rainfall and catastrophic flash flooding devastated areas of Texas in the United States. More than 100 people were killed or remain missing, including dozens of children. The flooding displaced many people, destroying homes and severely damaging critical infrastructure, including roads and river crossings.

When a humanitarian crisis of this magnitude strikes, we, as Lions, are ready to help. Right beside us is Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), our global foundation. LCIF is mobilizing funds, including Emergency Grants and a US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant, to empower Lions in the impacted areas to help their communities recover.

**Your donation can make a difference.**

**HELP NOW** 

Your generous donation to LCIF's Disaster Relief Fund, specifically reserved for all disaster relief, helps Lions continue to serve!

To learn more about LCIF Disaster Relief grants, visit [lionsclubs.org/disastergrants](https://lionsclubs.org/disastergrants) or email [LCIFGlobalGrants@lionsclubs.org](mailto:LCIFGlobalGrants@lionsclubs.org).

*100% of donations benefit grants and programs and qualify for Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) or Progressive MJF credit.*

This email was sent to all Lions worldwide.





## MISSION 1.5 Bulletin

A bulletin from your international president and MISSION 1.5, sharing inspiring, life-changing stories.

### Lions Feeding the World

A meal feeds more than the body. It feeds the soul. That goes for the person receiving as well as the person providing it. Too often, hunger goes unnoticed in our communities. This is especially true for children. As Lions, it is our duty to serve the most vulnerable so they can reach their full potential.

### Webisode Five

Our guest is Lion Kehinde Orejoko of Nigeria. Clubs in her district are leading the way in providing for those who need it most. Listen to her stories of how much Lions have received by giving.

> [Watch now](#)



### Members Added

These members' lives will be forever changed, as yours has since becoming a Lion, and the lives impacted by these members will be countless. (Data is from 7/1/24-6/30/25)



### New Clubs Formed

Just as your club transforms your community, these groups unite to create lasting change in theirs. (Data is from 7/1/24-6/30/25)

This email was sent to all Lions worldwide.





# New Service Initiatives FOR 2025-2026

FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT A.P. SINGH

**MENTAL  
HEALTH &  
WELL-BEING**

**OCTOBER 4-12, 2025**



**OCTOBER 4-12, 20**

**HUNGER**



**January 3-11  
2026**

**ENVIRONMENT**



**APRIL 18-26, 2026**



2024-2025

CLUB EXCELLENCE AND 5 STAR EXCELLENCE AWARD APPLICATION

This application features criteria for the Club Excellence Award and 5 Star Excellence Award. As you go through the application, please check all qualification boxes that your club has met. At the end of the application are criteria for the 5 Star Excellence Award. Your club will be awarded either the Club Excellence Award or the 5 Star Excellence Award.

Club name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club number: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

2024-2025 club president name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. MEMBERSHIP

Achieved a net growth of two (2) members or 10% or more members (whichever is greater) or Chartered a new Lions club.

Name of Lions club: \_\_\_\_\_

2. SERVICE

Started a new service project. Consider one of our global causes! Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

List three service activities your club participated in that were reported to Lions International:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. LCIF

Contributed to LCIF an amount greater than or equal to the club's membership total multiplied by US\$10.

Year-end membership count \_\_\_\_\_ x US\$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

4. LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Club is in Good Standing: Not in Status Quo or Financial Suspension. District dues paid and no unpaid balance with Lions International greater than US\$50 outstanding 90 days or more.

Reported club officers to Lions International.

Key officers participate in club officer training.

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| District          | Webinars              |
| Multiple district | Lions Learning Center |
| International     |                       |

5. MARKETING

The club has publicized its service activities through local media or social media.

Provide a link to where they were publicized: \_\_\_\_\_

Learn more about [promoting your club and activities](#), and learn about the Marketing Award.

DOES YOUR CLUB QUALIFY FOR THE 5 STAR EXCELLENCE AWARD?

- Achieved the Club Excellence Award.
- Membership increase of 20% (minimum of five (5) members for small clubs).
- Minimum donations of US\$20 per member or US\$1,000 (whichever is less).
- Annual service and membership report submitted.

2024-2025 district governor signature\*: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

District governor member number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If sent from district governor's registered email, it qualifies as signature on applications submitted electronically.*

Due by: August 31, 2025  
Send to: [clubexcellenceaward@lionsclubs.org](mailto:clubexcellenceaward@lionsclubs.org)  
Awards mailed to: 2025-2026 district governors

Request to review award eligibility from a disqualified club will be considered only if received at Lions International Headquarters within 12 months after completion of the Lion year, provided that the original application form is already filed at Lions International.



**Lions International**

**District and Clubs Administration**

Lions International  
300 W. 22nd St.  
Oak Brook IL 60523-8842 USA  
[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

DA-CEA 4/2024 EN





Lions International

# Welcome 2025-2026 Club Officers

As your club officer term begins, you hold a unique position to empower your club and guide it to success. Familiarize yourself with the helpful tools and resources available to support you throughout the year.



**Club Officer Guide.** This guide provides tools and resources available to help you excel in your individual roles and responsibilities and as a leader of a unified and effective team of club members and officers. ► [Learn more](#)



**Best Practice for Financial Transparency.** This resource provides your club with general best practices in financial reporting, reimbursement procedures, bank account management, conducting audits and reviews and more. ► [Learn more](#)



**Weeks of Service Initiative.** Review the new Weeks of Service Initiative webpage to learn more about the upcoming weeks of service and get excited to make a difference in your community! ► [Learn more](#)

Congratulations on your term as a club officer.

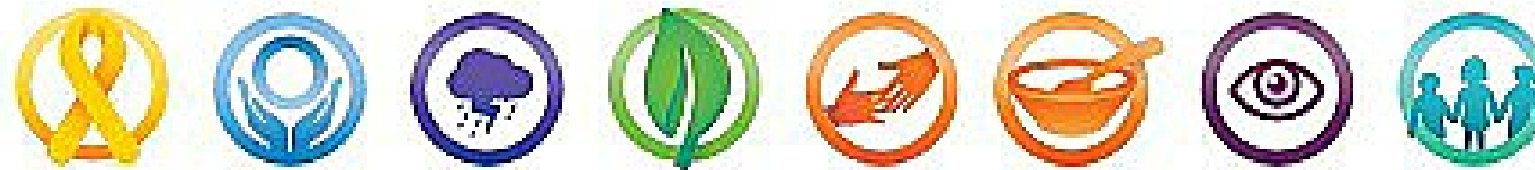
**Have questions or need support? Email us at [clubofficers@lionsclubs.org](mailto:clubofficers@lionsclubs.org).**

This message was sent to Club Presidents, Club First Vice Presidents, Club Secretaries, and Club Treasurers.



# Lions International

## KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND NOMINATION FORM



This service award is designed for clubs that create high-impact service projects within one of the Lions International global causes: childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, environment, hunger, humanitarian, vision or youth.

### Overall objectives include:

- Encouraging creativity and recognizing high-impact service projects
- Rewarding clubs for high-caliber service activities within each of the Lions International global causes

### Eligibility

A total of 30 nominations will be awarded at the club level with a minimum of three awards reserved for Leo clubs. Eligible nominations must:

- Remain in active status
- Report their project(s) in the previous Lion year via the Lion Portal by July 31
- Not have received the award within the previous three Lion years

### Criteria

Award consideration will be given to clubs performing service that:

- Addresses at least one of the Lions International global causes: childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, environment, humanitarian, hunger, vision or youth
- Demonstrates creativity and innovation
- Achieves impact of scale and long-term sustainability
- Uses Lions International's values to shape positive experiences and create engagement and connection with the Lions brand (this is also known as "elevating the Lions brand")

### HOW TO RATE NOMINATIONS

The following section will help the district and multiple district levels rate received nominations to determine which nominations advance to the next level.

**Please note:** It is recommended to assemble the district cabinet at the district level and the council of governors at the multiple district level to help determine which nominated service projects advance to the next level.

### Rating questions to consider when reviewing nominations

Ratings should be considered on a scale from 1-5 (1-lowest; 5-highest) for the following criteria on how well the nominated service project:

- Addresses needs within the Lions International global causes: childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, environment, humanitarian, hunger, vision or youth
- Demonstrates creativity
- Demonstrates innovation
- Achieves impact of scale
- Achieves long-term sustainability
- Elevates the Lions brand

### THE NOMINATION PROCESS

The nomination process starts at the **club level**, then moves to the **district** and then **multiple district**. Nominations must be sent via email to the next level with signatures to be considered complete.

Once the nomination is complete, and has received all appropriate signatures, the Multiple District Global Service Team (MD GST) coordinator is to email the completed nomination form to Lions International at [ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org](mailto:ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org) by **October 31** from their email address listed in the Lion Portal. Nominations that are not emailed directly from the MD GST coordinator to Lions International and are without signatures will not qualify.

### What about undistricted clubs and clubs in single districts?

**For single district clubs:** The nomination must be signed by the District Global Service Team (D GST) coordinator, and then sent to a GAT Area Leader for endorsement. Once a GAT Area Leader endorses the nomination, he/she should email it to Lions International at [ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org](mailto:ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org) from their email address listed in the Lion Portal.

**For undistricted clubs:** After the service project has been nominated at the club level, the Coordinating Lion is to send the nomination to the GAT Area Leader for approval. If there is no Coordinating Lion, nominations can be endorsed directly by a GAT Area Leader. Once a GAT Area Leader endorses the nomination, he/she should email it to Lions International at [ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org](mailto:ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org) from their email address listed in the Lion Portal.



## KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND NOMINATION FORM

### TIMELINE

The following timeline is a recommended guide for each step of the process for submitting a nomination to Lions International. Once all signature criteria have been completed, nominations may be sent to Lions International anytime between **July 1 – October 31**.

**\*July 31:** Clubs are to report their service projects from the previous Lion year via the Lion Portal by July 31.

#### Club



##### July 1 – August 1

The club service chairperson (or the Leo club president) nominates a single service project that their club completed in the previous Lion year. If there's no club service chairperson, a club cabinet member or officer can nominate a service project. Additionally, the club president (or Leo club advisor) must sign the nomination, and the club service chairperson (or the Leo club president) must send the signed nomination to the next level district Global Service Team (D GST) coordinator electronically.

#### District



##### August 1 – September 1

The D GST coordinator selects one Lion service project and one Leo service project from their district to move forward. If there's no D GST coordinator, then a district governor can endorse the project. The endorser should consult with the district cabinet about their Lion and Leo nominations. Signatures are required from the D GST coordinator to complete the nomination. The D GST coordinator must then send the nomination to the multiple district Global Service Team (MD GST) coordinator electronically.

#### Multiple District



##### September 1 – October 1

The MD GST coordinator selects a single Lion service project and a single Leo service project from their multiple district. If there's no MD GST coordinator, then the council chairperson can endorse the project. Signatures are required from the MD GST coordinator to complete the nomination.

##### October 1 – October 31 deadline

The MD GST coordinator is to email the nomination to Lions International at [ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org](mailto:ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org) from their email address listed in the Lion Portal. The final month is designated for the MD GST to verify the full nomination form and ensure all required information is accurate before sending it to Lions International. Nominations are **due October 31**.

#### Lions International Board of Directors Service Activities Committee

- January**  
Winning clubs are selected by the Lions International Board of Directors Service Activities Committee and notified of their award.
- March**  
Winning clubs receive their award from Lions International.

### WINNER RECOGNITION

Below are ways MD GSTs and district governors can help recognize and celebrate award winners:

- Winning clubs will be notified by January
- Recognize the winner in your local Lions or Leos publications and social media outlets. This will help promote your club and create community support of your service project!
  - Use our press release to announce the winner.
  - Include a picture of the club in action at their service project!
  - Note the specific successes of the project.
- Ensure that the award is presented to the winning club at a prestigious event by the highest-ranking officer.
  - Invite the media to attend this event!

Lions International may use the following mediums to celebrate and recognize award winners:

- Lions International Blog
- LION Magazine
- Lions International social media
- Lions International Convention booklet



# Lions International

KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD **NOMINATION FORM**

Submit nomination form to Lions International by October 31 to [serviceactivities@lionsclubs.org](mailto:serviceactivities@lionsclubs.org).

**NOMINATION FORM RULES**

- The nomination form must be submitted with all the sections complete, and all appropriate endorsements and signatures included. Nomination forms submitted without completed information and/or the proper endorsements and signatures will not be eligible.
- The service project description answers must have a minimum of 200 words per question, and a maximum of 2,000 words. An additional typewritten supplemental document in black ink may be submitted, if more space is needed.
- Any additional items like photos or videos are highly encouraged as supplemental documents but are not required.
- The remaining sections of the nomination form must be typewritten in black ink.
- All signatures must be electronically signed or typed.
- Multiple districts may submit one Lions club and one Leo club nomination per year.
- Lions club and Leo club nominations should be submitted separately.
- The service project must have been completed in the previous Lion year to be considered for the award.
- The service project must be reported in the Lion Portal by July 31.

**SECTION A: SERVICE PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

(Please indicate which type of club this nomination is for)

Lions ClubLeo Club

Lions/Leo Club Name

Lions Club/Leo Member Number

Name of Service Project

Service project start date

Service project end date

This project has been reported in the Lion Portal by July 31?

YesNo

Service activity ID number from the Lion Portal

Date reported in the Lion Portal

Number of people served (# reported in the Lion Portal)

Number of volunteer hours (# reported in the Lion Portal)

Number of volunteers (# reported in the Lion Portal)



KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD **NOMINATION FORM**

1. Please describe your service project in as much detail as you can.

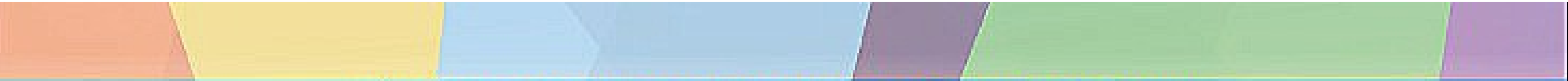
KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD **NOMINATION FORM**

2. What was unique, outstanding or innovative about this service project?



KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

3. Why is this service project important to your community?



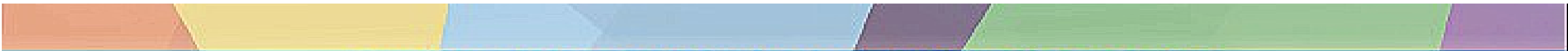
KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD **NOMINATION FORM**

4. Which local partnerships helped make this project possible, if any?

KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

5. How did this service project elevate the Lions brand?





KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD **NOMINATION FORM**

6. Were any resources from Lions International's service resources (Advocacy Toolkit, Service Toolkit, Service Project Planners, or program webpages) used to plan and execute this project? If yes, please explain.

7. Please link to or attach any additional items such as photos, videos, flyers, etc. These items are highly encouraged as supplemental attachments, however they are not required.

KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

SECTION B: CLUB SERVICE CHAIRPERSON NOMINATION

If your club does not have a current club service chairperson, a member of your club cabinet or club officer may nominate your club's service project. Please note the club cabinet or officer position on the nomination form, if this is the case.

I give consent for Lions International to use attached information and photographs of this club's service project for public recognition purposes. Yes No

Club service chairperson/Leo club president name (printed) Club service chairperson/Leo club president member number Club service chairperson/Leo club president email (printed)

Club service chairperson/Leo club president (signature) Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

SECTION C: LION CLUB PRESIDENT OR LEO CLUB ADVISOR ENDORSEMENT

Lions club president/Leo club advisor name (printed) Lions club president/Leo club advisor member number Lions club president/Leo club advisor email (printed)

Lions club president/Leo club advisor name (signature) Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

SECTION D: DISTRICT GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM (D GST) COORDINATOR ENDORSEMENT

If your club does not have a current D GST coordinator, your district governor may endorse your nomination. Please note this next to the endorsement if this is the case.

If your club is currently in an undistricted area, you may have your Coordinating Lion endorse and submit your nomination on your behalf to Lions International. Please note this next to the endorsement if this is the case.

I nominate the Lions/Leo (circle one) club of district for the Kindness Matters Service Award. My signature confirms that this nominee has been agreed upon by the district cabinet.

District GST coordinator name (printed) District GST coordinator member number District GST coordinator email (printed)

District GST coordinator (signature — hand or typewritten) Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

SECTION E: MULTIPLE DISTRICT GST (MD GST) COORDINATOR ENDORSEMENT

If your club does not have a current MD GST coordinator, your council chairperson may endorse your nomination. Please note this next to the endorsement if this is the case.

If your club is part of a single district, the nomination may be sent to a GAT Area Leader for endorsement. Please note this next to the endorsement if this is the case. Once a GAT Area Leader endorses the nomination, he/she should email it to Lions International at ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org from their email address listed in the Lion Portal.

If your club is undistricted, the Coordinating Lion is to send the nomination to the GAT Area Leader for endorsement. If there is no Coordinating Lion, the nomination may be endorsed directly by a GAT Area Leader. Once a GAT Area Leader endorses the nomination, he/she should email it to Lions International at ServiceActivities@lionsclubs.org from their email address listed in the Lion Portal. Please note this next to the endorsement, if this is the case.

I nominate the Lions/Leo (circle one) club of multiple district for the Kindness Matters Service Award. My signature confirms that this nominee has been agreed upon by the council of governors.

Multiple District GST coordinator name (printed) Multiple district GST coordinator member number Multiple District GST coordinator email (printed)

Multiple District GST coordinator (signature — hand or typewritten) Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



### FOLLOW THE LEADER



1039 S. Rochester Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
[LeaderDog.org](http://LeaderDog.org)

#### Vision

Every person who is blind or visually impaired travels safely and independently.

#### Mission

Empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

#### Values

- Do what is right
- Show respect and compassion
- Demonstrate passion for the work
- Deliver a superior experience
- Work as a team
- Seek innovation
- Practice safety



## Message from the President

Dear Leader Dog Community,

I am delighted to connect with you through this edition of our Faithful Friends newsletter. As we continue our journey at Leader Dogs for the Blind, I am constantly reminded of the incredible community that supports our mission. This community is built on the dedication and passion of our volunteers, who are the true heroes behind our success.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the incredible volunteers who support our mission. With just over 1,000 volunteers, their unwavering commitment and selfless contributions are the backbone of our organization. Each volunteer brings unique skills and a compassionate heart, making a profound impact on the lives of our clients and their Leader Dogs.

As you read through this edition, I hope you gain a deeper appreciation for the incredible work our volunteers do. Their dedication, passion and love are what make Leader Dogs for the Blind a beacon of hope and independence for so many. We are immensely grateful for their contributions and the positive impact they have on our community.

Thank you for being a part of our Leader Dog family. Your continued support and generosity make these incredible journeys possible. Together, we are transforming lives and creating opportunities for independence, confidence and companionship for visually impaired individuals.

Warm regards,

Melissa L. Weisse  
President and CEO







## 11-E2 DISTRICT NEWS



### Hunger Grant

District 11-E2 is in the process of applying for a Hunger Grant of \$150,000 to purchase equipment for the new Food Bank of Eastern Michigan facility being built in Gaylord. The grant requires a \$50,000 match from Lions Clubs, which would raise a total of \$200,000 for the FBEM project.

The new facility will directly serve most of the clubs in our district, with the exception of a few on the far west of the district. However, those clubs not directly serviced will receive a benefit from this facility also as the FBEM will be providing space and assistance to Feeding America of West Michigan at this facility, so that they may better serve their northern clients.

So far we have \$9,291.59 in LCIF Community Impact Grant funds which are eligible to be used as a match for this grant, \$6,535.87 from the district hunger fund, the Oscoda Lions have pledged \$2,000, the Central Lake Lions have pledged \$1,000 and the Hillman Lions have pledged \$1,000, for a total of \$19,827.46 toward the \$50,000 match. We are asking all of our 11-E2 clubs to pledge something toward this project. The grant request will be submitted in October, and will go to the LCI board in January 2026. The matching funds need to be collected by the time the grant goes to the board, so we have until the end of this calendar year to collect funds. The FBEM will be visiting the Council of Governor' meeting in August to explain the project, and we will be asking for support from other districts and clubs who will receive a benefit from the new facility. It will also be on the agenda at the 8/23 cabinet meeting and we may ask the FBEM to be there also for a presentation.

This project is a \$12 million facility which will greatly benefit food insecure people in Northern Michigan. It will make it possible for food collection from farmers, grocery stores, etc, that are not possible now from the Flint facility, and it will greatly reduce the FBEM' costs to deliver food to their northern clients. Hunger is one of the eight service areas supported by Lions International, and we would very much like our district to support this long-term project.

Please talk this over with your club members, and let DG Marie Leathers or CST Barb Durflinger know what your pledge amount will be, or you may just send a check made out to Lions District 11-E2 with the notation that it is for the Hunger Grant. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, you can contact DG Marie or CST Barb. The checks should be sent to CST Barb Durflinger, 14946 Royston Road, Hillman, MI 49746.

DG Marie Leathers  
lionmarieleathers@gmail.com  
231-350-0286

CST Barb Durflinger  
lionbarb@comdac.com  
989-742-2790



## 11-E2 DISTRICT NEWS



### PDG DENNIS GOCHA APPRECIATION DINNER

Monday, August 18th. Tourist Park Building, 218 N. Lake St., East Jordan.

Cocktails 5:30 pm, 6 pm Potluck dinner put on by the East Jordan Lions Club.

Space is limited, so please RSVP  
[dennygocha@gmail.com](mailto:dennygocha@gmail.com) by August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Below is the link to sign up to attend IPDG Denny's Appreciation dinner. Please share with your club members.

CST Barb

From: Marie Leathers:

Here's the link to SignUp for the Appreciation Dinner on August 18

<https://signup.com/go/WhnKmPY>



**We Serve**

# Calendar of Events

**CABINET MEETING** — August 23 — St Francis Episcopal Church, 6441 W M-72 in Grayling.  
We will start at 10:00 a.m. and will have a potluck lunch. Will include a training to be a certified KidSight screener, and will also include a special session with a motivational speaker. Open to ALL Lions.



## PASSINGS REPORTED



*Deceased:* **NONE REPORTED**

*We honor those who have passed; with sympathies & condolences to family & friends*

## New Members Reported — June, 2025 (or Earlier)

**Central Lake Lions:** 3 new members: Nick Leighton, Gavin Caverly, and Christine Andrasko.

**Hillman Lions:** 2 new members: Roxane Hillock (sponsor Mike Fochtman) and Carol Weber (sponsor Carleen Klein).

**Total: 5 New Members Reported**

Information From Club Activities Sent In

## On the Mend Reported

### On the mend:

**Boyne Valley Lions:** Lion Eleanor is not well and has been admitted to Charlevoix Hospital .  
Update: They have discovered she has a Staph infection so she’s been transferred to Munson in TC.

**We wish all unwell Lions a successful and rapid recovery from their ailments!**



**Alpena Lions****JULY 2025**

Brad Somers of the Boys and Girls Club accepts a donation from club President BJ Sanders. Proceeds were from the Bowl-A-Thon "Strike against Hunger."



Annie Hepburn of the Alpena Senior Center accepts a donation from Alpena Lions Club President BJ Sanders.



Christina Kihn of the Friendship Room is shown accepting a donation from BJ Sanders of the Alpena Lions Club



Mary Lappan stands with BJ Sanders as she receives a donation on behalf of Grace Lutheran "Little Food Pantry". The pantry is open 24/7 responding to the need of feeding the hungry in our community.



Ellen Eagan stands with BJ Sanders as she accepts a donation on behalf of Trinity Episcopal, Sunday Meals and Food Pantry. For almost 30 years the church has actively fought hunger in our community, the Alpena Lions Club supports their cause through this donation.



Kathy Shiemke accepts a donation from the Alpena Lions President BJ Sanders. The Baby Pantry provides clothing and diapers to those mothers in need. The proceeds from the recent Bowl-A-Thon will assist them in meeting the demands they encounter.



## Alpena Lions

### JULY 2025

The Alpena Lions Club conducted a KidSight event July 26.



The Alpena Lions Club held a Learning in the Park event July 27 at McRae Park. Kids built bird feeders, played the Great Migration Game, and the Alpena Bird Center released two baby robins that had been rehabilitated.



**Beaverton Lions****JULY 2025**

A picture of the Beaverton LEO club at year's end.

The Club did a number of community/school related activities including recently participating in the annual Beaverton Fourth of July parade.

**Boyne Valley Lions****JULY 2025****10. Speaker**

- a) Lion Dr. Nate Sleazak to talk about Meta glasses

**11. Upcoming Events**

- a) Lions board meeting next Wednesday, July 16th here in the library
- b) Next club meeting July 23rd here in the library
- c) Lions trailer at the airport drag races August 31st. More information to follow.



**Central Lake Lions****JULY 2025**

Central Lake Lions had a busy July - from the 4th of July parade and chicken dinner, to road cleanup, bell ringing, tent rentals, and sponsoring music at the local market, there wasn't a dull moment all month!



Above: Lion Kevin hands out candy during the 4th of July parade in Central Lake.

Below: Lions prepare for the Annual Chicken Dinner, a 4th of July tradition for many in the area.





**Central Lake Lions****JULY 2025**

Spending time in the community: Central Lake Lions sponsored the music for one of the weekly Eats and Beats farmer's markets - a fun community event with live music, food trucks, and vendors (above) and made sure Lions had a presence at the annual block party (below).





# Central Lake Lions

JULY 2025



Christmas in July - Central Lake Lions rang the bells for the Salvation Army at 2 locations in the area



DG Marie inducted 3 new members: Nick Leighton, Gavin Caverly, and Christine Andrasko



## East Jordan Lions

**JULY 2025**

East Jordan Lions welcomed new member Mike Brown!

He's pictured with King Lion Dan Miller and Past District Governor Dennis Gocha.



Lion Michael Burr helped immensely in obtaining sponsors for the Lions Dinner in the Dark event.



Brenda Chanda has helped organize for several years the White Cane event and other events. She is always stepping in to help where needed.

Thank you both for your service!



East Jordan Lions maintain the flower beds on Main Street and at the Community Park.



## East Jordan Lions

**JULY 2025**

PDG Dennis Gocha passed the gavel, district banner, and bell to Marie Leathers, the 2025-2026 11-E2 Governor, at a reception including Central Lake and East Jordan Lions.

Pictured are IPDG Dennis and Linda Gocha, DG Marie Leathers and PDG Rod Leathers at Tourist Park.



Once a year East Jordan Lions celebrate their great relationship with the Rotary Club with an annual picnic. This gives us a chance to celebrate our friendships and hear all about the good works each club is involved in.



What a fun evening!

East Jordan Lions had their annual South Arm Classic Car Show despite the rain. The proceeds we will be used for scholarships





## Hillman Lions

**JULY 2025**

The Hillman Area Club welcomed two new members at our July picnic on July 8, 2025: Roxane Hillock and Carol Weber.

From left to right- Roxane Hillock with sponsor Mike Fochtman, DG Marie Leathers, Carol Weber with sponsor Carleen Klein.



## Oscoda Lions

**JULY 2025**

The Oscoda Lions Club ramp crew was busy again today (July 24) building a ramp for an Oscoda homeowner with mobility issues. The homeowner was having difficulty navigating the steps into her home with her walker.

The crew built two ramp sections of 10' and 8' as well as a 4x4' platform. The project was completed in a little over four hours. The crew today consisted of Tony Priebe, John Novak, Scott Busich, Rick Stanley, and Chuck Andrina.

WE SERVE!

Photo:

Scott Busich,  
Rick Stanley,  
John Novak,  
Tony Priebe.

Next two are the  
homeowners.



Chuck Andrina took the picture.



**AUGUST: Summer 2025 — Fingerprints?**

August is the last full month in the Summer season. We are in the middle part of the Summer Season called the "Dog Days", the period between early July and early September, when Sirius, known as the "Dog Star", rises and sets with the sun. Ancient Romans were aware of Sirius rising and setting with the sun, and called this phenomenon *dies caniculares*. This Latin was translated as "dog days" in the first half of the 1500s.

Hot, sultry summer weather marked by people slowed down by lethargy, inactivity, idleness or inaction is usually expected during Dog Days. And boy, are we getting it this year. Every week of July had at least 2 days with temperatures in the 80s in northern Michigan. After a colder Spring this year, these Summer Dog Days have been brutally hotter than normal up here. For some of the "sweatbirds" who come up north to escape the 3 digit temperatures of the southern states the 80s are nothing new, something they're used to. But to many of us northern Michiganders the heat is difficult and curtails our outdoors activities.

Ironically, Superman gets his energy, strength and powers from our yellow sun, but for many of us the heat of the sun sucks the energy out of our bodies - the sun can be our kryptonite if we get too much of its ultraviolet radiation and heat that requires medical care.

The other thing that has made Summer less great this year is the air quality, which has often been less than good due to the wildfires in Canada and the U.S. Air quality, which has been a part of weather forecasts in recent years, tells us when ozone, pollen or pollutant particles small enough to enter our bloodstream from wildfires, smokestacks, or dust particles are in the air. People who are sensitive to particle pollution may experience respiratory symptoms while others aren't affected.

The U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool for communicating about outdoor air quality and health. The AQI is divided into six categories, with each category showing a different level of health concern. Each category also has a specific color, which makes it easy for people to quickly determine whether air quality is reaching unhealthy levels in their communities.

The AQI categories:

**Green:** 0 to 50 — Good, air quality is satisfactory.

**Yellow:** 51 to 100 — Moderate, air quality is acceptable, but may be a risk for some people.

**Orange:** 101 to 150 — Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, the general public is less likely to be affected.

**Red:** 151 to 200 — Unhealthy, members of the general public may experience health effects.

**Purple:** 201 to 300 — Very Unhealthy, health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.

**Maroon:** 301 and higher — Hazardous, health warning of emergency conditions: Everyone is more likely to be affected.

There have been many Good days this summer, but Moderate and Unhealthy for sensitive groups have been affected by the air quality several days when the winds carry the wildfire smoke into northern Michigan. The smoke gives the air a haze in the area that has been around for weeks. This pollution of the Environment is one problem that science, and we Lions, can't fix — yet.

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For something different: I came across an article on a website recently about fingerprints, and that several other mammals have fingerprints. They developed the "swirly microscopic grooves" that help grasp for climbing trees or getting fruits or leaves that they eat. Our close relatives that share our evolutionary tree, such as chimpanzees and gorillas, also developed fingerprints similar to ours. But there is one mammal that has fingerprints that are most identical to humans.

Which of these mammals have fingerprints that could be mistaken for a human fingerprint?

1. Baboon
2. Chimpanzee
3. Gorilla
4. Koala
5. Orangutan
6. Raccoon

*(Answer is on the last page)*



PICTURES OF THE MONTH

Summer Pictures 2025



This picture was taken at Viewlands on a day with a clear sky. The labyrinth overlooks the pond below



The photo above was taken on a day in July when the haze from the Canada wildfires was thick

Below is a picture of a hazeless sky reflected in the mirror of the pond in the Viewlands



The picture below was taken looking at the Petoskey waterfront with a sun on the way to set with a thick haze in the air. The camera wasn't able to show the actual color of the orange sun.



# 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](mailto:dlzim47@gmail.com)

**NOTE: Submissions received after the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month will be printed in the next month issue**

- **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.**

This District is complex, with a variety of things going on throughout. We can learn much from each other, and I'd like to see more communication among Clubs for the growth and benefit of all.

## Don't be left out!!

### ANSWER: 4. Koala

The Koala, not a primate and far away from our evolutionary tree, was discovered by researchers at the University of Adelaide in Australia in 1996 to have the prints most similar to our own. Koalas are arboreal marsupials, *Phascolarctos cinereus*, from Australia, far from primates and humans.

Koalas' survival depends on their ability to climb small branches of eucalyptus trees and grab their leaves, the only food they eat. Their development of fingerprints over millions of years helped them be able to get their food. Somehow, their prints are like ours, a coincidence of Nature indeed.

