



MAY 2026

Notable Quotes: **“The Future is changed by those who show up.”** — Matt Barresi Air Force, Veteran

District Governor's Message



Dear Fellow Lions,

Thank you Lions for bringing your ROAR to our convention this year! Special thank you to the hard working convention committee that made it all happen, and the support of the clubs and Lions with their program ads, raffle ticket sales and prizes, pop tab collections and donations for the Honor Flight bags. The bags we packed will be distributed at the June 16-17 flight from Flint to Washington D.C.

Be a Part of the Planning

It's exciting to see our convention growing and getting better every year - let's keep the momentum going! We're already lining up great speakers for next year. We'll soon be forming a committee and every Lion in the district is welcome to be a part of it. Stay tuned for details.

Membership Matters

We are nearing the end of our Lions year with positive membership growth - congratulations! Let's continue to grow by offering our friends, coworkers and family members the opportunity to serve with us.

Hunger Grant

Thanks to Lions like YOU, we met our \$50,000 goal of matching funds to receive the \$150,000 LCIF grant! Groundbreaking is expected soon with a projected grand opening in 2027. Especially for Lions near Gaylord, this will open more opportunities for hands-on service once the facility is up and running.

Be a Leader

We've got some amazing leaders in our district, but we always need more. Think about your passions and talents and join a committee to serve throughout the district.

Pictured: 2025-26 District leadership with ID Liz Crooke.

As Helen Keller famously said, "Alone We can do so little, together we can do so much."

DG Marie



**District 11-E2 Website:
lionsdistrict11e2.org**

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2025-2026 DISTRICT OFFICERS REFERENCE LIST	
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VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR NA	GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM District Coordinator Dennis Gocha 231-350-1906 dennygocha@gmail.com
2 nd VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR Kris Roberts Central Lake Lions Club krobdi@gmail.com 701-409-9160	GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM District Coordinator BJ Sander bisander618@outlook.com 989-464-9885
CABINET SECRETARY/ TREASURER Barb Durflinger Hillman Lions Club lionbarb@comdac.com 989-742-2790	GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM District Coordinator Rod Leathers leathersrod@gmail.com 231-350-0567
GLOBAL EXTENSION TEAM COORDINATOR Steve Murch stevemurch49707@gmail.com / 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.



We Serve

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

Join Lions and Leos around the world to protect the earth during our Environment Week of Service in April. Plan your service project today!



**Lead to Serve,
Serve to Lead with
International President
A.P. Singh**

One of the greatest strengths of Lions is our global reach and support. As a Lion, you are part of an international network united by a shared commitment to service, with so many resources to support your service journey and help you make an even greater impact

.Being a Lion also opens up a world of opportunities to connect and serve with Lions around the globe in meaningful ways — by attending international events like convention and Lions Day at the United Nations (LDUN), exploring service travel opportunities, taking part in global initiatives such as our Weeks of Service and more.

We are here to help you lead, serve and thrive in your Lions journey — and when we work together, there is no limit to what Lions can achieve.

Together in service,

**A.P. Singh
International President**



Keep Serving, Keep Growing

Every day is a great day to invite new members, and they bring so much to our clubs. New members not only strengthen your club; they expand your capacity to serve. To learn how you and your club can help drive growth and reach our MISSION 1.5 goals this year, watch an inspiring new video featuring International President Singh and Past International Director Jatia.

If you're looking for tips on how to get started, visit our Recruitment Made Simple webpage to discover great tools and resources to support your club's efforts.



Dear Club Leader,

As your club continues to grow, now is the perfect time to begin identifying and encouraging potential leaders within your club to consider serving as club president. Strong leadership ensures stability, fresh ideas and continued service of your community.

When your club officers are discussing potential candidates, consider those who:

- Demonstrate reliability and enthusiasm for service
- Support club projects and initiatives consistently
- Show leadership potential or a desire to grow
- Bring new energy and perspective to the team

A personal invitation from you can make all the difference. Many members simply need encouragement and reassurance that they are capable and supported. Let them know they won't be alone. Discuss the training, resources and mentorship available to help them succeed. By actively developing future leaders today, you strengthen your club for tomorrow.

The 2025-2026 Club Excellence Award criteria have been revised. Clubs can now report their three aligned Weeks of Service projects and the one additional service project throughout the 2025-2026 Lion year.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership this year. Your commitment is what keeps your club strong and your community impact growing.

District & Club Administration Division

This message was sent to Club Presidents and Club First Vice Presidents.





The 108th Lions International Convention is nearing. Our records indicate that your club does not have a delegate assigned to vote during international convention. In order to vote, club delegates must

1. Be assigned as a voting delegate by their club secretary or other duly authorized officer in the Lion Portal.
2. Be registered for international convention. Register for the convention.
3. Provide their member identification number when registering for the convention.
4. Have a unique email address. Use the same email as registering for the international convention 2026.

All delegates must be assigned before July 1, 2026 at 23:59 PM CDT. You may assign a delegate in Lion Portal until the July 1 deadline. If you are assigning a delegate with your local system or through your council office, please check with your council chairperson for their submission deadlines, as it will likely be before July 1, 2026.

For more information, visit:

- [International Election webpage](#)
- [International Election Frequently Asked Questions](#)

If you think you have received this email in error, please contact memberservicecenter@lionsclubs.org and include your club number.

Thanks for your service and your leadership!

This email was sent to Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of clubs that have not assigned a voting delegate to the 108th Lions International Convention.





On this week's episode of Taking the Lead, we're joined by Monica, a team member who has been part of Leader Dogs for the Blind since 2019.

Monica began her journey as a guide dog mobility instructor, working hands-on with training dogs, matching them with clients, and supporting successful partnerships. In 2024, she transitioned into a new role as a data coordinator for the breeding department.

Now, she's helping lead the implementation of the Behavior Checklist, a system designed to track and support our dogs' behavior across their entire lifecycle, from puppy raising to on-campus training and breeding.

In this episode, you'll hear:

- How data is transforming the way we understand and support our dogs
- Why tracking behavior across the lifecycle matters
- The connection between data, training, and successful client matches

[Listen to the episode here.](#)

It's a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at how innovation and insight are shaping the future of our work.

- Christina

P.S. If you'd like to share this story with others, feel free to forward this email or direct them to our [podcast page](#).

Christina Hepner
Digital Marketing Manager
Leader Dogs for the Blind
christina.hepner@leaderdog.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind | 1039 S. Rochester Rd. | Rochester Hills, MI 48307 US

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LEADING THE WAY



Leader Dogs for the Blind & Lions Newsletter

May 2026



Leader Dogs for the Blind is proud to continue our Lions legacy with the support of clubs across North America and beyond. This month, we want to celebrate three clubs that are making a difference in their communities for people who are blind and low vision. Reach out to us at LionsSupport@leaderdog.org to share your own stories, or to learn how your club can get more involved with Leader Dog.

Magic City Lions Club Supports Their Neighbors

The Magic City Lions Club of Minot, North Dakota has been a steadfast Top Dog Club. They shared: "The Magic City Lions are proud to support Leader Dogs for the Blind because their mission reflects the heart of Lionism: helping people gain independence, confidence, and opportunity. The organization is especially meaningful to our club because it's close to home, impacting our own friends and neighbors. For more than two decades, our club has been honored to contribute to this life-changing work and to support the blind and low-vision community. We're grateful to be part of a global network of Lions helping make mobility and independence possible."



Donate to Leader Dog's Life-Changing Work

There may still be time to participate in Leader Dog's spring Matching Gift Challenge, with the opportunity to double your impact on the lives of our clients. Even when the Match is done, our work continues. **Every gift to Leader Dog, year-round, is a crucial benefit to someone who is blind or low vision.** Donate by mail or online at LeaderDog.org - [Donate](#). Include a note with your Lions Club so we can recognize your gift.

Mail to:

Leader Dogs for the Blind
Attn: Lions Department
1039 S Rochester Rd
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

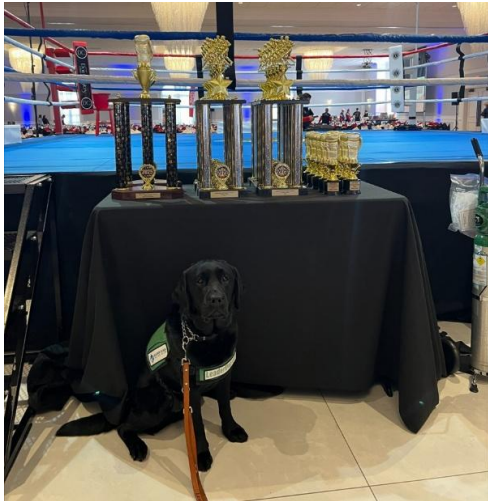


LeaderDog.org | LionsSupport@leaderdog.org



Lions International

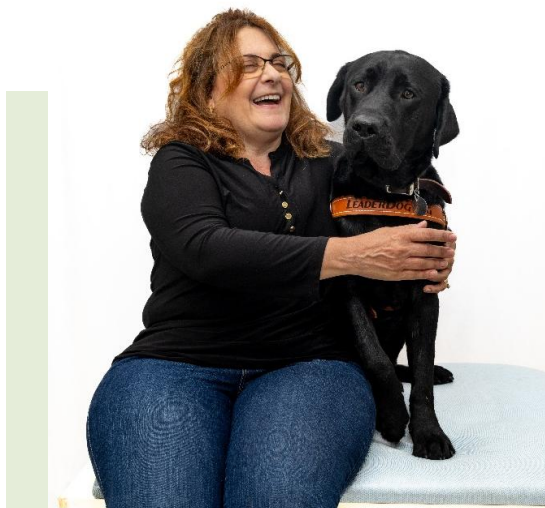
Shelby Township Lions Get the Community Together



The Shelby Township Lions Club of Michigan is one of the longest-serving Top Dog Clubs supporting Leader Dogs for the Blind. For many years, their unique fundraising events have helped raise thousands to support and bring awareness to our programs. At Vegas Night, Wine Tasting, and Fight Night, the Shelby Township Lions provide amazing experiences for community members and educate them on Leader Dog’s services and opportunities to support our work.

Missoula Lions Use Holiday Cheer to Support Independence

The Missoula Lions Club of Montana was chartered in 1927 and joined the ranks of Top Dog Clubs several years ago. Since 1945, their club has organized an ever-growing sale of Christmas trees to raise money for the causes they support. Their 25 members back their mission to provide people who are blind and low vision with accessible eye exams and glasses, and they have been a proud Leader Dog supporter for many years, empowering people to achieve independence.



Mission Moment

"Leader Dog Emmit is going to give me more independence, which is what I'm looking forward to.

I'll just feel better not being alone."

Sandra, Guide Dog client from Michigan with Leader Dog Emmit



LeaderDog.org | LionsSupport@leaderdog.org



Lions International



Lions Bear Lake Camp

Our Mission is to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and to provide a premier outdoor educational and recreational experiences year-round to all persons, regardless of ability.

Lions of Michigan – Lions Bear Lake Camper Sponsorship Challenge Challenge Dates: January 1, 2026 – May 1, 2026

Dear Lions Club Members, District Governors, and Chairs,

We are excited to launch the **Lions of Michigan – Lions Bear Lake Camp- Camper Sponsorship Challenge!** This is your club's opportunity to go above and beyond your annual giving and help make camp dreams come true for children across Michigan.

As a proud project of **Lions of Michigan MD11**, Lions Bear Lake Camp provides life-changing experiences to youth who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing, and we need **YOUR** help to send campers to camp in 2026. It costs \$995 for a weeklong residential camp for one child; families only pay \$100 per camper, thanks to Camper Sponsorships and donations from Lions Clubs across Michigan. For our 3-day Visually Impaired/Blind and Deaf/Hard of Hearing family camps, the cost is \$500, with families charged only \$100.



Here's the Challenge:

We're asking every club and district in Michigan to:

- Sponsor one or more campers at \$995 each or sponsor one family at \$500 each
- **Reach out to local vision and hearing centers, eye doctors, and audiologists to help find additional sponsors**
- Engage local businesses, civic groups, and individuals who would be willing to sponsor a child

Club & District Recognition:

To keep it fun and rewarding, we'll be recognizing:

-  The club that brings in the most camper and family sponsorships
-  The district with the highest percentage of club participation

Winners will be honored at the MD11 State Convention and featured in Lions Bear Lake Camp's communications and social media.



Let's show the power of Lions in action! Together, we can make sure no child is left behind from experiencing the leadership, independence, and joy that only camp can bring.

Thank you for your continued support of Lions Bear Lake Camp and our mission to serve all youth, regardless of ability.

In service,

Chrissy Andre

MD11 Lions Bear Lake Camp State Chair

 chrissy@bearlakecamp.org  www.bearlakecamp.org

3409 N. Five Lakes Road • Lapeer, MI 48446 • PH: (810) 245-0726 • FAX: (810) 245-0750



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

Sponsor a Camper for \$995

Sponsor a Family Weekend for \$500



The Mission of Bear Lake Camp is to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and to provide premier outdoor educational and recreational experiences year-round to all persons, regardless of ability.

**Sponsor a Child for a Weeklong Residential Camp or
Sponsor a Family for a Weekend Camp**

- Visually Impaired & Blind Family Camp \$500
July 3-5th, 2026
- Visually Impaired Youth Camp \$995
July 5th-11th, 2026
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth Camp \$995
July 12th-18th, 2026
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Camp \$500
July 24th-26th, 2026



Did a Lions Club refer you to this sponsorship?

- Yes – Club Name: _____ District: _____
- No

Organization Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Sponsorship Session(s): _____

Number of Sponsorships: _____

Total \$: _____



Lions Bear Lake Camp, 3409 N. Five Lakes Road, Lapeer, MI. 48446
(810) 245-0726 *** info@bearlakecamp.org *** www.bearlakecamp.org





Welcome to this Month's Newsletter

Summer is getting closer, and you can feel it.

Soon the cabins will be full again. The dining hall will be buzzing. Campers will arrive carrying nerves, excitement, and the hope of finding a place where they truly belong. Some will come unsure of themselves. Many will leave standing a little taller.

That is the power of Lions Bear Lake Camp.

Before those moments happen, there is work to do. Staff training is underway, volunteers are stepping forward, and our team is preparing every corner of camp for the season ahead. Every cleaned cabin, every fundraiser, every helping hand plays a part in what happens next.

Camp Updates

This month we celebrate two successful fundraisers that brought people together in a big way. The Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner welcomed nearly 300 supporters, while the District 11-C2 Camp Fundraiser raised more than \$3,000 through an evening of fellowship, bingo, auctions, and generosity.

LBLC Spotlights

We are proud to recognize Melissa Behnan, our Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program Coordinator, whose years of dedication continue to shape meaningful experiences for campers. We also welcome Aleta Cozart to the Board of Directors, bringing decades of Lions leadership and service to camp.

Campfire Chats

This month we highlight MASTA String Camps, a valued partner group that found a home at Bear Lake Camp, along with Camp Champion Rick Fleming, whose generosity and support have helped strengthen some of our biggest fundraising events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is a lot happening in the months ahead

- May 9, 2026 – Annual Workbee
- June 8, 2026 – Golf Classic
- June 12, 2026 – Baseball Fundraiser
- June 28, 2026 – Open House
- September 26, 2026 – Clay Shoot
- October 3, 2026 – Ultra Marathon
- January 30, 2027 – Ice Plung

Every event helps create summer memories for children and families who count on camp.

SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE NEARLY HERE

- Visually Impaired & Blind Family Camp | July 3–
- VIB Youth Camp | July 5–11
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth Camp | July 12–18
- DHH Family Camp | July 24–26

These are more than dates on a calendar. They are the start of friendships, confidence, laughter, and moments campers carry for years.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ Volunteer at Workbee or this summer
- ✓ Attend an event
- ✓ Share our programs with families and schools
- ✓ Sponsor a camper
- ✓ Donate or support camp wishlists

Sometimes changing a life looks simple. A meal served. A floor swept. A ticket purchased. A child encouraged.

Click below to read this month's newsletter. With gratitude,

The Bear Lake Camp Team

The season ahead will be filled with noise, joy, and memories. Thank you for helping make it possible

Lions of Michigan
District 11 E-2
Cabinet Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2026, Gaylord, MI

Cabinet Members in Attendance- DG Marie Leathers, IPDG Dennis Gocha, 2VDG Kris Roberts, CST Durlinger, GMT Rod Leathers, GET Murch, ZC Ron Morgan, ZC BJ Sander

Cabinet Members Absent – ZC Kay Gaines

Lions in Attendance –PDGs Bill Gaines and Dennis Richardson, Lions Dan Miller, Jennie Partin, Linda Gocha, Ray Kuiper, Larry Taylor, Julie Taylor, Brenda Chanda, Jean Manning, Heather Lambrecht, Brian Graff, Adam St. Onge, Bob Nelden and Kevin Clayton

Guests- ID Liz Crooke, PID Jenny Ware and Lion Jeff Ware

The meeting was called to order at 4 PM by DG Leathers. The invocation was offered by 2VDG Roberts. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by ZC Sander. DG Leathers introduced special guest ID Liz Crooke.

Secretary's Report - Minutes of the 1/31/26 cabinet meeting were presented by CST Durlinger. It was moved by GET Murch, supported by GMT Leathers that they be accepted as presented. Motion carried. Correspondence consisted of a thank you from the Michigan Forum for our contribution to the Forum service project.

Treasurer's Report- The 2025-26 YTD financial reports were presented, with a beginning balance in the admin account of \$35,100.40, income of \$18,193.78 and expenses of \$16,320.39, leaving an ending balance of \$36,973.79 as of 4/24/26. This consists of \$34,790.50 in admin and \$2,183.20 in convention funds. The projects account has a beginning balance of \$28,587.65, income of \$40,331.22 and expenses of \$10,197.50, leaving and ending balance of \$58,721.37. It was moved by 2VDG Roberts, supported by GET Murch that the report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business- Hunger Grant- DG Leathers reported that we have raised the funds for the match for the grant. Food Bank of Eastern Michigan CEO Kara Ross will be at the business meeting tomorrow to give us an update on the project.

New Business- DG Leathers reported that she is working on a humanitarian grant for Paddle Antrim of \$50,000 which will provide a wheelchair swing and accessible sidewalks. Several area clubs have already made pledges toward the match required. It was moved by 2VDG Roberts, supported by GMT Leathers that the district support this grant request. Motion carried.

GET Report- PDG Murch reported that the new Alcona Club is having their Charter Night on Sunday 5/31.t

GLT Report- GLT Gocha turned in a written report.

GMT Report- GMT Leathers turned in a written report.

GST Report- ZC Sanders reported that at 7 PM the district convention service project will take place. We are packing 80 bags for veterans for the next Honor Flight.

Zone Chair Reports- ZC Sander and ZC Morgan had no report. ZC Roberts and ZC Gaines turned in written reports.

Committee Reports- Written Reports were provided for **Bear Lake Camp-** Lion Ray Kuiper, **Constitution and By-Laws-** DG Leathers, **District Editor-** Lion Dave Zimmer, **International Convention-** DG Leathers, **LCIF-** PDG Bill Gaines, **Lions of Michigan Foundation-** PDG Dennis Richardson, **MD-11 Convention-** DG Leathers, **USA/Canada Forum-** DG Leathers, **Website/Information Technology-** DG Leathers, **White Cane-** Lion Shirley Hill. The following supplemented written reports- DG Leathers reported that we have one possible

district attendee to the International Convention in Hong Kong. PDG Richardson reminded everyone that Sight and Hearing raffle tickets need to be sent in as soon as possible. The seller drawing is on 5/2, so if you want your tickets in for that they need to be sent in soon. ID Croke noted that IP Singh is the guest speaker at the MD-11 convention, and he is a great speaker. The convention is in Bellaire this year, so right in our district- much closer than usual, so please try to attend. She also commented that the USA/Canada Forum is like "old home week" with many Lion friends from across the continent, and has great sessions. The USA/Canada Forum will be in Grand Rapids in 2028.

Oral Reports- All State Band- DG Leathers noted that Calista Hoeksema is participating in her third year in the band and will be going to Hong Kong in July with them. PID Jenny Ware said there are 40-45 students this year. **Convention Raffle-** Lions Bill and Linda Chase reported that as of right now ticket sales are about the same as last year. You can buy them at the registration table. There are a lot of great prizes. **District Convention-** DG Leathers and Lion Ray Kuiper requested that when going into town for dinner tonight, think about patronizing one of the businesses that placed an ad in our convention program. The line-up for tomorrow is exciting. There are about 80 people registered. **Eversight-** Lion Julie Taylor noted that in our district this year there have been 15 cornea donors and 4 recipients. **Peace Poster-** Lion Jean Manning reported that she has the kits and the special size paper for next year's contest, so stop by and see her tomorrow to pick up your supplies. Also take a look in the convention program for a picture of the winning poster. **PR/Social Media-** Lion Jennie Partin requested that attendees this weekend share their photos on the district Facebook page.

ID Comments- ID Croke thanked Lion Kevin Clayton for hosting and entertaining her. She is looking forward to the rest of the weekend.

VDG Comments- 2VDG Roberts thanked everyone who works to hard to keep the district going. He has had an interesting year this year.

DG Comments- DG Leathers thanked everyone for attending the convention this year. She hopes everyone will have a good time.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 PM. The next meeting will be announced when scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
PDG Barb Durflinger, Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer

From: Dennis Gocha [dennisgocha557@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 18:00
To: Barb
Subject: Cabinet GLT report

I've sent out an email to all District club secretaries to encourage their new incoming officers to use the MyLion Training Center. This will help prepare them for their new respective positions.

GLT Dennis Gocha

GMT Report 04-20-26

As of 04-20-26 the district membership is at 637 members. For the fiscal year we have a positive 7 members. We still have a quarter to go so let's try to keep it a positive number for our outgoing governor.

Congratulations to our new club, The Alcona Lions club. With 43 members they are already ranked 4th in the District. They are having their charter party Sunday May 31st at 2pm, Harrisville Harbor Pavilion, 1E Harbor Dr, Harrisville. RSVP to Lisa Kahler 586-212-4856. Mark the date on your calendar and give them our support.

GMT/ PDG Rod Leathers

Report for Zone 4

On February 17, 2026 it was my pleasure to attend the meeting of the newly formed Alcona Lions Club. Many members of this club were previous members of the Lincoln Lions Club so are quite familiar with club procedures and duties. The group is very enthusiastic and has a busy schedule planned which includes a charter party in May.

On March 14, 2026 I attended a meeting of the Lincoln Lions. This club also has a busy schedule and some interesting fund raising projects. One of their members teaches building trades and is involving students in building ramps.

The Oscoda Lions Club members are feeling the loss of long time member Jane Meyer. She was a true model of the Lions motto "We Serve". The club continues to sponsor Red Cross Blood drives on a regular basis and has just completed the annual Jane Meyer Bowling Tournament which helps benefit their many community projects.

Kay Gaines

Second Vice District Governor Report to the District Governor – 4/20/2026

Second Vice District Governor:

I have attended all scheduled VDG trainings this year (with the exception of the Leadership Institute) well as many Lions USA, Lions Area E, and several other LCI sponsored Zoom meetings. I served on the Lions of Michigan Forum planning committee and worked the Forum. I also served as secretary for our District 11E2 Convention planning committee.

The Lions of Michigan Forum was a wonderful success, with a Friday night service project for Little Heros Backpacks (we packed over 400), 16 Saturday break-out sessions, and Luncheon Keynote Speaker Kathleen Marcath telling us about American Sign Language, the story of a deaf child who learned her name for the first time at age 9, and the book she authored for deaf children.

Zone 2 Chair:

I am very much behind in visiting my Zone clubs in Grayling and Lewiston. I have made 1 visit with the Lewiston Lioness Lions, the Roscommon Higgins Lake Lions (at Ski for Light), Elk Rapids Lions, and the Grayling Lions as well as my home club Central Lake Lions this Lions Year. Although I have visited by phone with Lewiston Lions President Bob Sonner, I have not made a club visit there yet. I will be doing that prior to the State Convention in May. There have been no formal Zone meetings for Zone 2, and that is my failing. I will commit to schedule one in Grayling if it can be arranged with the Grayling Club.

Guiding Lion for Elk Rapids Club Re-Growth:

I have been in contact with all current club officers by phone or in person, and have attended 2 club meetings (the club doesn't meet January through March), and worked with the club for their December 2025 Community Dinner. I have also contacted LCI in response to a request from a long time club member to obtain a 50 year chevron that had not been received. As a result, I was able to present a 45, 50, and 55 year chevron to this member at their Christmas Party meeting. I will be working with Lion Jim Ribby on their May 10-11 MDOT Road Cleanup, and hopefully bring a few Central Lake Lions to help.

Central Lake Lion Gretchen VanOrmer has volunteered to help in re-building the Elk Rapids Club, as she has a fond history in Elk Rapids and wants to re-connect as much as possible. We are in the process of contacting past club members to collect information for a SWOT analysis to present to the club and determine whether, as a whole, the club wants to enter into a rebuilding program. If they do, then we will follow the LCI program on the Portal Learning publications.

I have yet to submit a quarterly or annual report to LCI as a Guiding Lion. To say it's been a busy Lion-year is a definite understatement. We serve!

2VDG Lion Kris Roberts
lionkrisroberts@gmail.com
701-400-9160



There's something about camp that's hard to explain until you see it.

It's the moment a kid tries something they didn't think they could do.

It's the first time they feel like they truly belong.

It's friendships that don't fade when the week ends.

That's what Lions Bear Lake Camp is all about.

This summer, we're offering programs designed for youth and families to grow, connect, and experience something bigger than themselves.

SUMMER SESSIONS

Visually Impaired & Blind Family Camp

☐ July 3–5, 2026

A weekend for families to unplug, connect, and experience camp together.

Visually Impaired & Blind Youth Camp (Ages 6–16)

☐ July 5–11, 2026

A full week of independence, friendships, and trying things they never thought possible.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth Camp (Ages 6–16)

☐ July 12–18, 2026

Focused on communication, confidence, and real connections through shared experiences.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Camp

☐ July 24–26, 2026

A chance for families to step away from the day-to-day and just be together.

Youth Leadership Development Program (Ages 15–17)

☐ During Youth Camp Sessions

For teens ready to step up, lead, and grow into something more.

International Convention - updates online at <https://lionscon.lionsclubs.org/>
Lions Clubs International Board of Directors has proposed an international dues adjustment resolution that will be voted on at our 2026 convention in Hong Kong and would begin in 2028. This small annual increase will ensure Lions International meets the needs of our members around the world. The proposed dues adjustment includes a \$2 increase per year to the current \$50 international dues, beginning on July 1, 2028 and spread out over five years.

USA/Canada Forum - Sept 3-5, 2026 <https://lionsforum.org/>

Constitution and ByLaws -

Effective this Lion year, a new policy prevents Lions from the same Lions club serving in the office of district governor, first or second vice district governor. An appointment will not be approved if two officers from the same club are elected to any of the above positions.

Website/IT - Zoom annual fee \$169.90 plus tax, will renew in May.

DG Marie Leathers

231-350-0286

lionmarieleathers@gmail.com

District 11- E2 Newsletter Editor Report: April 23, 2026 Cabinet Meeting

Lion Barb:

Clubs sharing information for February, March, & April Newsletter issues shown in the table below.

Club Newsletter Submission for February - April - 4 Clubs - 14%

Lions Club Name	Months Participated	Lions Club Name	Months Participated
<input type="checkbox"/> Boyne Valley	3		
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Lake	1		
<input type="checkbox"/> East Jordan	3		
<input type="checkbox"/> Oscoda	1		

There was less submissions as the Winter seasons have less activities for many clubs. Spring months usually have more activities as summer soon arrives.

Any District Lion that has something to share with a letter/note/or photos are welcome to send it to our Newsletter so that others may learn something or impress Lions to try something new that may help Serving the goals of the Lions Mission – helping others in need.

And any suggestions for Newsletter enhancement are also appreciated.

Thanks for your support. Stay Safe and Serve on.

Lion David J. Zimmer

Distirct 11-E2 Newsletter Editor

dlzim47@gmail.com

Barb,

My report. I continue to attend the LCIF area leader meetings when they are held. There has been only one MD-11 meeting which I was unable to attend. I have presented at several club meetings and look forward to requests from clubs to share information about LCIF. Our district has currently achieved its LCIF donation goals and there are several clubs which usually make 4th Quarter donations which are yet to come. Several clubs have specified the Disaster Relief Fund in their donations. Only donations to the Empowering Service Fund qualify for District Community Impact Grants so our District may not have enough qualifying donations to qualify for that this year. I continue to encourage clubs to donate to Empowering Service which allows the LCIF Board to channel those funds to the area of greatest need, including Disaster Relief.

Respectfully Submitted,
William Gaines LCIF Coordinator 11E2

The MD-11 convention is extra special for two reasons this year - it's in our district and it's a great honor to have the current Lions International President, A.P. Singh as our keynote speaker. Our district is a sponsor, and clubs should consider sponsoring a hospitality room, placing an ad in the convention program, and/or donating to the service project.

May 14-16, 2026 MD 11 Lions Convention
Shanty Creek Resort – Bellaire, MI (231) 533-3083
Room Rate: \$119/\$149 Studio/Parlor
Cutoff for reduced rate: April 15, 2026

Register at lionsofmi.com

Guest Speaker: Lions International President A.P. Singh and Sangeeta Jatia

Renaissance theme

Thursday Night, May 14: Service project to benefit Bellaire Youth Initiative. This organization provides after school and beyond experiences for students in the area. Some of the programs include Music, Archery, Lego Club, Martial Arts, Student Garden, Cooking and more. Contact me for a list of items to be donated or to make monetary donations.

Thursday Night Picnic: Cellar 1914, Central Lake. Charlevoix Lions Club will be providing a chicken dinner using their portable chicken grills.

Friday: Breakout sessions - schedule online at lionsofmi.com

Friday evening reception: DGs and District would be encouraged to create their "Coat of Arms" banner to bring into the banquet hall. Renaissance theme entertainment, renaissance costumes encouraged.
Hospitality room (need club(s) to sponsor)

Saturday: Awards breakfast, Breakout sessions, Awards banquet - schedule online
Hospitality room (need club(s) to sponsor)

Contact me with any questions.

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

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Contact me with any questions.

DG Marie Leathers
231-350-0286

lionmarieleathers@gmail.com

Barb

From: Shirley Hill [hirley@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 14:59
To; Barb
Subject: Re: Cabinet meeting reports White Cane

We received the Summary of events from July 2025 to April 2026. The next meeting is Friday April 24, 7:00, to discuss responsibilities of the committee, large print books, retinopathy screening and distribution of literature. Lulu would like us to summarize the good and not so good things for the next team.

Committee Chair
Shirley Hill

Lions of Michigan

District 11 E-2

Business Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2026, Gaylord, MI

Cabinet Members in Attendance- DG Marie Leathers, IPDG Dennis Gocha, 2VDG Kris Roberts, CST Durflinger, GMT Rod Leathers, GET Murch, ZC Ron Morgan, ZC BJ Sander

Cabinet Members Absent – ZC Kay Gaines

Lions in Attendance –PDGs Bill Gaines, Dave Zeller and Dennis Richardson, Lions Dan Miller, Jennie Partin, Linda Gocha, Ray Kuiper, Larry Taylor, Julie Taylor, Brenda Chanda, Jean Manning, Heather Lambrecht, Brian Graff, Adam St. Onge, Bob Nelden, Kevin Clayton, Richard Partin, Bill Chase, Linda Chase, Chuck Brew, Ginny Brew, Linda Harris, Carleen Klein, Pat Novak, John Novak, Nancy Howse, Richard Tracy, Norma Tracy, DiAnn Roberts, Faye Miller, Karen Wright, Kecia Freed, Julie Hasse, Nick and Hayley Larkowski, CarlaJean Gingerich, Joe Bonfoey, Leslie Drury, Mary Tessadri, Karen Wilding

Guests- ID Liz Crooke, PID Jenny Ware and Lion Jeff Ware, DG Aleta and PDG Carl Cozart, PDG's Jeff and Julie Mayuiers, Barry and Karen Casler (Eversight)

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM by DG Leathers. The invocation was offered by 2VDG Roberts. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by ZC Morgan. DG Leathers introduced special guest ID Liz Crooke, as well as our other guests.

Northern Michigan Expansion Project- Food Bank of Eastern Michigan CEO Kara Ross gave an update on the project. Their goal is groundbreaking on 6/1, with their Grand Opening in March, 2027. She thanked us for our participation in their expansion with our Hunger Grant. DG Marie announced that we had just received the final contribution we needed for our matching funds for the grant. PDG Barb Durflinger was presented with a Weir Fellowship by DG Leathers and CEO Ross for her leadership on the Hunger Grant project.

PID Jenny Ware spoke about the Lions Leadership Institute (which is located in our district at Roscommon). She encouraged everyone to attend their great training. Scholarships for the tuition may be available through your club or the district. Note- the district budgets funding two people to attend every year.

Secretary's Report – No minutes were presented as last year's meeting was a combined cabinet/business meeting. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report- CST Durflinger requested that we continue to bank at the Orsa Credit Union. Signatories on the account will be the cabinet treasurer and the District Governor (to be named later). It was moved by PDG Zeller, supported by IPDG Gocha that we continue to bank at Orsa. Motion carried.

Old Business- None.

New Business- Adoption of Convention Rules- It was moved by PDG Zeller, supported by IPDG Gocha that the rules as printed in the convention book be approved. Motion carried.

Discussion of Dues Increase Proposal- IPDG Gocha reminded us that the vote on the \$1 dues increase for the convention fund will be held this afternoon at the elections. Due to the increases in costs and the decrease in membership, the convention fund is decreasing alarmingly. He encouraged a yes vote on the proposal.

Delegate Report- Lion Larry Taylor reported that as of the time of this meeting, there were 31 delegates from 10 clubs

Convention Report- DG Leathers reported 81 registered for the convention, which is over 10% of our district members. Treetops has asked to host next year's convention as well, with room prices remaining at \$125. The convention committee will consider this, as well as other options.

Elections Report- Lions Chcuk and Ginny Brew reported that currently on the ballots for the elections are the dues increase and a nomination from the Central Lake Club for 2VDG Kris Roberts running for 1VDG. All other posts, DG, 2VDG and Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee will have to be nominated from the floor.

Award Presentations- DG Leathers presented certificates to this year's committee chairs, as well as gifts for the cabinet.

Announcement/Audience Comments- PDG Zeller reminded everyone to save the date for the Alpena Lions 100th anniversary celebration on October 16-17. Keynote speaker will be Past International President Brian Sheehan. More details will follow.

ID Comments- ID Crooke commented that it is great to be with us this weekend. She congratulated up on our Hunger Grant.

DG Comments- DG Leathers hopes that everyone is having a good time, and reminded us to stop by the display tables. Also be sure to stop to see Lion Jean Manning and pick up your Peace Poster kit and paper.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM. The next meeting will be at next year's convention.

Respectfully submitted,
PDG Barb Durflinger, Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer

District Dues Increase proposal

For the past few years, our district convention fund has decreased alarmingly due to ever increasing costs and declining membership. One dollar of the total district dues of \$8.50 per member is designated toward the convention account.

At the January 31 cabinet meeting, the cabinet approved a motion to request a dues increase of \$1/member designated for the convention fund, making total district dues \$9.50/member (billed semi-annually at \$4.75/member). At the district convention election this year, clubs will be asked to vote on this proposal.

If you would like to be sure that your club can vote at the Saturday afternoon elections on this proposal, be sure to select delegates and turn in the delegate forms that your club has been provided. If you have any questions, please contact DG Marie Leathers or CST Barb Durflinger.

Lions District 11-E2 Elections Minutes, April 25, 2026

The meeting was called to order by DG Gocha at 3:15 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of Elections Meeting of 4/26/25 by IPDG Gocha, with support from PDG Leathers. Motion carried.

Elections: Presiding Lions Chuck and Ginny Brew

Credentials: Lion Larry Taylor reported 13 registered clubs, with 34 delegates registered.

Nominations: Lion Larry Taylor reported 1 qualified nominee:

For First Vice District Governor- 2VDG Kris Roberts

Nomination Speeches: For 2VDG Kris Roberts running for First Vice District Governor- Lion Bob LaBeau, supported by PDG Richardson.

<u>Seating of Delegates:</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Delegates Allowed</u>	<u>Delegates Present</u>
	Alcona	4	2
	Alpena	5	4
	Boyne Valley	3	3
	Central Lake	7	6
	East Jordan	4	4
	Grayling	2	1
	Hillman	2	2
	Indian River	3	3
	Lewiston Lioness Lions		
		4	1
	Mack. City	2	2
	Mio	2	1
	Oscoda	6	4
	Petoskey	1	1

Delegates seated-34, 18 votes required for election

Voting for 1VDG- 2VDG Kris Roberts was elected.

The dues increase proposal (attached) was presented and discussed. It was moved by IPDG Gocha, supported by PDG Rod Leathers that the proposal be approved. After a written ballot the proposal was approved.

Open Nominations for District Governor- No nomination was made, so the Honorary Committee will meet later to fill this position.

Open Nominations for 2nd Vice District Governor- 2VDG Roberts, supported by ZC Ron Morgan, nominated ZC BJ Sander of the Alpena Club.

Open Nominations for Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee- PDG Durflinger, supported by PDG Zeller nominated PDG Murch of the Alpena Club.

Voting for the 2VDG and Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee was held and both were elected

Comments by winning candidates- 1DGE Kris Roberts thanked everyone for their support and noted that it had been an interesting year.

DG Leathers presented blazer crests to 1VDGE Kris Roberts and 2VDGE BJ Sander.

PDG Zeller, supported by Lion Larry Taylor moved to destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

DG Comments- DG Leathers commented that it has been a great honor to be DG this year. She enjoyed serving.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by DG Leathers at 3:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
PDG Barb Durflinger,
Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer



11-E2 DISTRICT NEWS





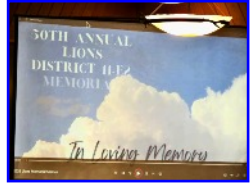
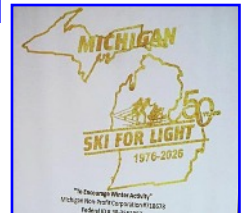
Retired US Air Force and Iraq War Veteran



Matt Barresi



Friday, April 24		
3-4 PM	Registration/certification	Birch
4 PM	Cabinet Meeting	Birch
7 PM	Honor Flight Service Project Roaring 20's Mixer	Aspen
Saturday, April 25		
7-9 AM	Registration/certification/Continental breakfast	Aspen
9 AM	District Business Meeting ID Lion Liz Crooke Q&A	Birch
10 AM	Presentations: Leader Dog Puppy Raiser Eversight Cornea Recipient Lions of MI Foundation President LCIF District Chair Ski for Light President	Birch
12:00 PM	Awards Luncheon Peace Poster Winner Speaker Retired Air Force veteran Matt Barresi	Oak
2:00 PM	Presentation: Freedom from Stress	Birch
2:30 PM	Memorial Service	Birch
3:00 PM	District elections	Birch
3:30 PM	Pop tab weigh in	Birch
4:00 PM	District Raffle	Birch
5:30 PM	Social Hour	Oak
6:30 PM	District Awards Banquet Speaker ID Liz Crooke	Oak
	Hospitality Room	Aspen
Sunday, April 26		
7-9 AM	Continental Breakfast	



- In loving memory of the District 11-E2 Lions April 2025 - April 2026*
- Alpena Lions: Pat Henthorn, Al Kessinger
 - Bassett Lions: John "Jack" Slayter
 - Bayou Valley Lions: Eleanor Hannah, Scottie Robert "Bob" Probble
 - Central Lake Lions: Al Barnett, Ross Brown, Robert "Bob" Mohr, Lynn Samuel
 - Charlevoix Lions: Robert Chapman, William Goodell, John Opatow
 - Chickasaw Lions: Sally Spring
 - East Jordan Lions: Jerry Hancock, James Shepard
 - Glennville Lions: Ira Sweeney
 - Grayling Lions: Kathleen Ruth "Kelli" Kroll
 - Lansing Lions: Richard E. Deke
 - Lansing Lions: Charlotte "Charlie" Greer, Nancy White, Bernice Webster
 - Lincoln Lions: Monty Knutson
 - Macquinn City Lions: Bob Glenn
 - Oshtemo Lions: Florence M. Karpinski, Jane C. Meyer

The 2026 District 11-E2 Lions Convention April 24-26 was the 50th Annual Convention. The event let us "learn, grow, and get inspired by uplifting speakers", "celebrate the accomplishments of clubs and members" — and Have Fun! Thanks to all the Lions who made it succeed. Very well done!





New Officer Training

Secretaries - please pass this on to your new officers.

As your Global Leadership Team chairperson, I'd like to encourage your incoming officers to use the Lions Training Center in Mylion.

It will help prepare them for 2026-2027 terms.

Thank you,
GLT Dennis Gocha

Ron Morgan

Greeting everyone!

I hope this note finds everyone well and hoping for a true spring! As some of you may have noticed, I have been all but nonexistent when it comes to zone visits through the winter and nasty spring weather. I developed a severe case of asthma that is triggered by cold and or damp air. Long story short I enjoyed a miserable winter in the breathing department. I hope that everyone that needed assistance was able to get in touch with someone that could assist them.

All that said, it is warming up and we are regrouping for another convention! I hope to see and meet you all in Gaylord next weekend! Feel free to reach out if there are any questions you need answers to or anything that I can assist with.

I look forward to visiting with you all soon.

Best Regards,

Lion Ron Morgan - President Indian River Lions
Zone Chair Zone 1

Marie Leathers

Dear District 11-E2 Lions,

Thank you for all the support for our District Convention. If you missed it I hope you'll be able to attend next year. Now it's time for the final call to attend the [2026 MD 11 Lions Convention](#), which is taking place up here in our district at Shanty Creek in Bellaire

I hope we have a great showing from our district, especially for the Saturday night banquet where Lions President A.P. Singh will be our keynote speaker. This is the first time we have had a seated Lions International President attend our state convention since 1979, so how fortunate we are to have it in our backyard! Take advantage now and register by Wednesday, May 6. Cost for the banquet is \$40 and if the banquet is the only thing you'll be attending then you can skip the registration fee.

[Register online](#) for the whole convention, or if you're just registering for Saturday night's Awards banquet you can pick up your tickets at the cocktail reception starting at 5:30 PM on Saturday, May 16.

Prepare to be Merry

[Click Here to Register](#)

DG Marie Leathers

231-350-0286

lionmarieleathers@gmail.com



Barb: Attachments May 5, 2026, 2:28 PM

I wanted to remind you of the Alcona Lions Charter Party on 5/31. It would be great if every club had a representative there to welcome them to our district. Please make your reservations by 5/15 (see attached) so that they can plan the food. Hope to see you all there!

CST Barb

Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2026 12:47

Subject: Alcona Lions Charter party

Attached is an invitation to the Charter Party for our new district Lions Club, Alcona. We would like to encourage every club to send a representative to the party if possible.

It is traditional for existing district clubs to make a contribution to the new club to help them get started. If you wish to make a contribution to their project account, it should come from your project account, and if you wish to help their administrative account it has to come from your administrative fund.

I hope to see you all there! Let me know if you have any questions.

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



The new Alcona Lions Club would like to invite you to their Charter Party!

Where: Harrisville Harbor Pavilion
1 E. Harbor Drive, Harrisville

When: Sunday, 5/31 at 2 PM

Cost: \$5/person (to defray food costs)

Please come and help celebrate our district's newest Lion's Club!

RSVP to Lion Lisa Kahler by 5/15

dl.kahler@att.net

586-212-4856

Calendar of Events

MAY 2026

Mother's Day - May 10, 2026 – Memorial Day - May 25, 2026



PASSINGS REPORTED



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

NO Passings Reported

New Members Reported — May, 2025 (or Earlier)

East Jordan Lions welcome new member, **Tom Goodenow** — sponsored by Lion Paul Michael.

New Members Reported

Total: 1 New Members

Information From Club Activities Sent In

On the Mend Reported

On the mend: **No Reports Received**

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

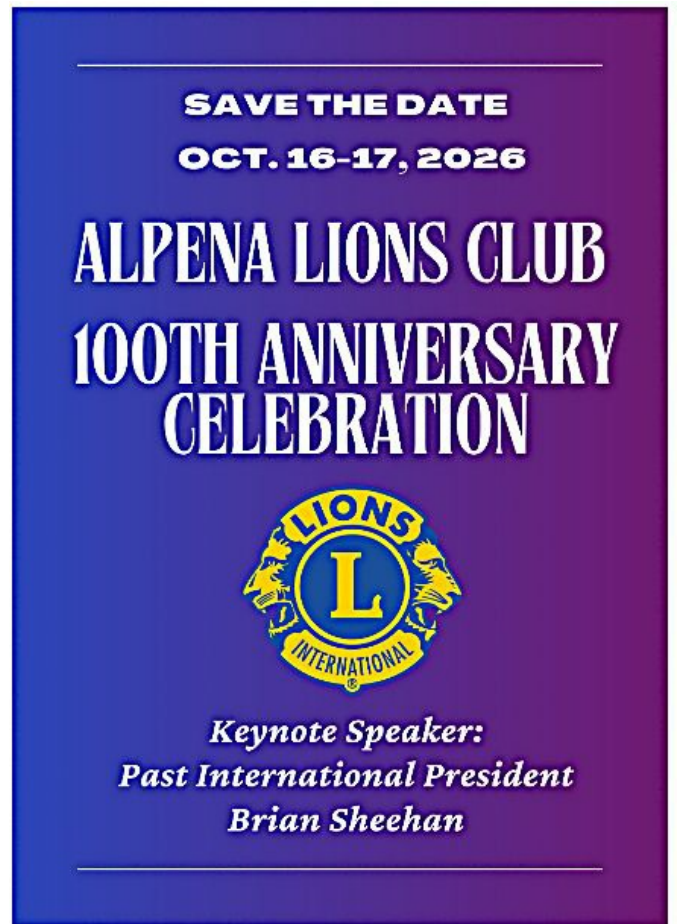
Alpena Lions**APRIL 2026**

Hello officers of District 11 E-2,

Please find attached a Save the Date card for our club's 100th anniversary celebration weekend in October. I am emailing two members from each club, in most cases the president and secretary. Where one or the other didn't have an email listed, I took the next highest ranking officer.

Please share the date with your club members, as we would love to have all of our friends from throughout the district take part in this celebration. The invitations, schedule of events and reservation details will be sent the first week of June.

Thanks for all you do,
PDG Steve Murch
100th Anniversary Committee Chair

**Boyne Valley Lions****APRIL 2026***(Meeting Notes for April 22, 2026)*

Lion Mike has sold all district convention tickets!

Upcoming Events:

- a) Lions District Convention starting this Friday thru Sunday The convention will again be held at the Tree Tops Resort in Gaylord
 - (1) 5 Lions Karen Wright, Julie Hasse, Larry Taylor, Kecia Freed and Julie Taylor will be representing our club.
- b) Lions cabin cleanup May 9th from 10am - 2pm
- c) The next club meeting is May 13 and Branden Wheeler from Leadership Little Traverse will be our speaker
- d) Working on a date in May for the Adopt-A-Highway Spring Cleanup
 - (1) Most likely Dates are May 16th or May 23rd. More to come
- e) Boyne City Senior Activity Day at the Veteran's Park May 21st.

Lions Board meeting last Wednesday:

- a) Lion Gow is working with the City to move the Lions drinking fountain in the Open Space closer to the sidewalk
- b) BVLC agreed to donate \$500 to Kiersten's Ride, our speaker from the last meeting
 - (1) Lions trailer will be there from 9:15am - 10:45am

Beaverton Lions

APRIL 2026

Lions of Michigan District Governor Marie Leathers, recently visited the Beaverton Lions Club to hear about the great community work being accomplished and projects supported by its members. In addition, the Governor was introduced to the work of the Beaverton Leo Club and members. The Leos are sponsored by the Beaverton Lions Club.

Shown in picture L to R: Leo Club Advisor Scott Govitz, Leo Club members Tarin Roberts, Saydie Woodruff, District Governor Marie Leathers and Lion President John Andrist



The Beaverton Leo Club recently hosted special guests from the Leader Dogs for the blind program located in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Members of the Club heard from Jess VandenBoom and learned about the impediments of blindness and the many programs and training offered, including puppy raising, training and use of dogs like special guest Emmit, a retired working dog.

Sponsored by the Beaverton Lions Club, the Leo Club has a number of annual projects. Leo Clubs are designed to help members grow as individuals and as a leader joining a global family of young people making their community and world a better place.



East Jordan Lions

APRIL 2026

East Jordan Lions would like to welcome new member, Tom Goodnow to their club. He was sponsored by Paul Michael.

Pictured is his sponsor Paul Michael, Tom Goodnow and King Lion Dan Miller.



Leadership Charlevoix visited the EJ Lions to speak about the greenhouse in Boyne City that provides fresh, locally grown food to families in need in Charlevoix County and across Northern Michigan.

At the Lions 11-E2 convention Linda Gocha received the John Noel Fellowship award for dedicated service. IPDG Dennis Gocha received a Melvin Jones Progressive Award and International Leadership Award metal.

Right: Lion Linda Gocha with District Governor Marie Leathers and IPDG Dennis Gocha.



Left: District Governor Marie Leathers, IPDG Dennis Gocha, and International Director Liz Crooke presenting his awards.

Oscoda Lions**APRIL 2026**

Today Wednesday April 22 Tony, John, Scott and Dan left the lumberyard around 8:15 am. Got to the site around 8:30 and finished a little after 2 pm.

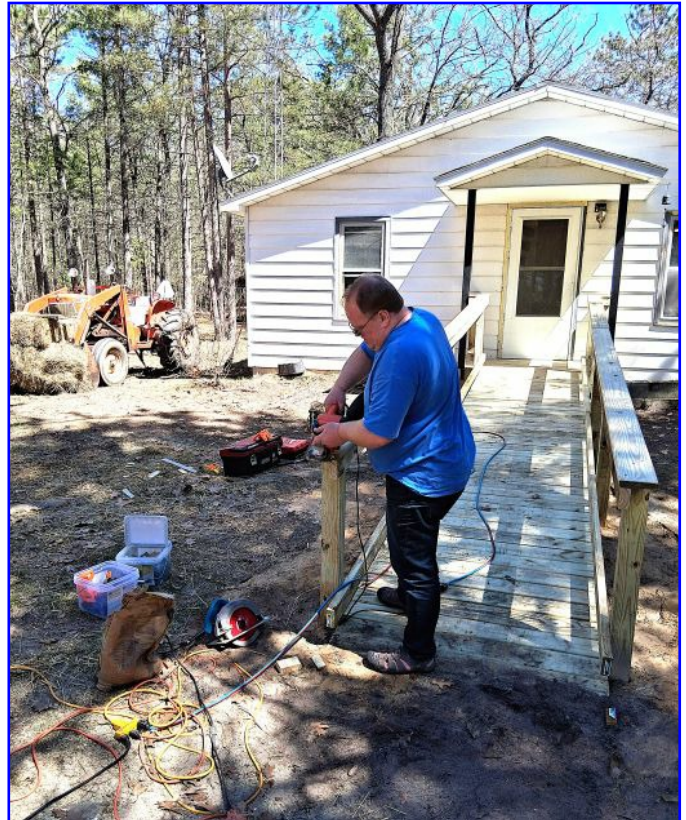
We built a 6x5 platform at the door and 20 ft ramp.

Man hours 24.

Materials were \$623.06

The ramp was built for a young man with a wife and young child. He was recently diagnosed with leukemia and recovering from chemo and other things to do with the disease. Using a walker during his recovery

We Serve. Thanks Tony





HOME GUEST SERVICES VOLUNTEER DONATIONS FOR EXHIBITORS ABOUT PC



New Date **Wednesday**
April 22, 2026

10:00 - 3:00

North Central Michigan College
Petoskey, MI



Above: DG Marie Leathers and PDG Rod Leathers at Booth

On April 22 the Project Connect event occurred at North Central Michigan College — “A day of service for those in need”. Among the 80+ other givers, Lions offered KidSight screening for young children. While many children were at school, there were preschool youngsters at the event, and !2 children were scanned. All came out with healthy eyes.

DG Marie, PDG Rod Leathers, and Petoskey Lion David Zimmer worked for the day.

MAY 2026 — Weather Water, Heat, Tock the Tick

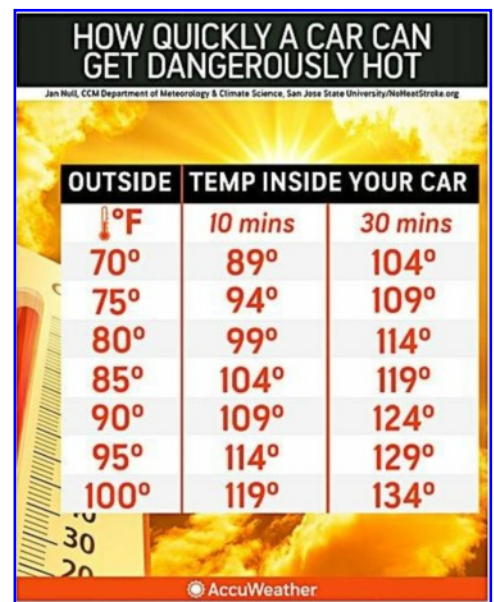
Last year Northern Michigan had the Ice Storm on March 31 and April 1-2, a disaster with thousands, or millions, of downed trees and weeks without electric power. This year we had another disastrous Spring storm in middle April. There was some ice, but this disaster was the days of heavy rain causing flooding damage across areas of Northern Michigan, with winds that downed many trees again, and caused electric power failures in some areas. Roads were closed because of water crossing low spots, and bridges were damaged or fell because the water washed the soil away. Is this damaging weather going to be an annual event every Spring? Maybe. The warming planet now has more powerful jet streams that can create stronger winds. It has kept the colder northern winds moving off the arctic, causing a colder Spring this year. We've seen southern and western states suffer under a hot, dry Spring. Changing jet streams could push damaging heat and dry weather creating northern wildfires. We will have to wait to see what Northern Michigan weather will be.

An appalling thing is happening, partially because of weather — the death of young children when left in a hot car. I saw something about this online, that 2 children in 2026 in southern states have died from heat in a parked car. What really shocked me was the chart shown here:

I had no idea that at 75 degrees outside a car can get up to 94 degrees in 10 minutes inside, or that at outside 80 degrees it can get up to 114 degrees inside in 30 minutes.

As of May 2026, the available national tracking data shows:

- Michigan (2026): No confirmed child hot-car deaths have been publicly reported yet in 2026. Michigan's governor's 2026 proclamation states there have been 11 total child vehicular heatstroke deaths in Michigan since 1998.
- Yearly U.S. average: About 37–38 children per year die in hot cars in the U.S.
- Since 1998, more than 1,000 U.S. children have died from vehicular heatstroke.
- Recent yearly totals included 39 deaths in 2024 and 31 deaths in 2025 according to NHTSA pages currently online.



Weather Info from AccuWeather

Heatstroke can happen fast, and cracking windows does not make a parked car safe. Hope to never see a child in a hot car, but if you do suspect heatstroke:

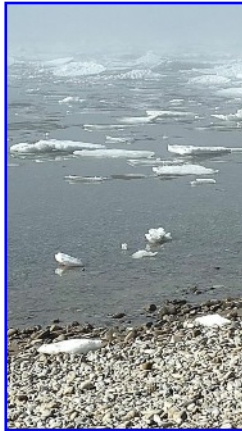
1. Call 911 immediately.
2. Move the child to shade or air conditioning.
3. Cool with water or cool cloths while waiting for help.

Never leave a child in a parked car — Not even “for a minute.”

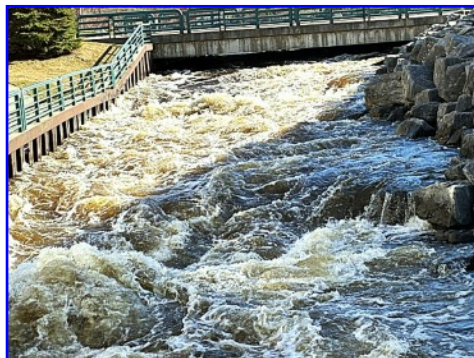
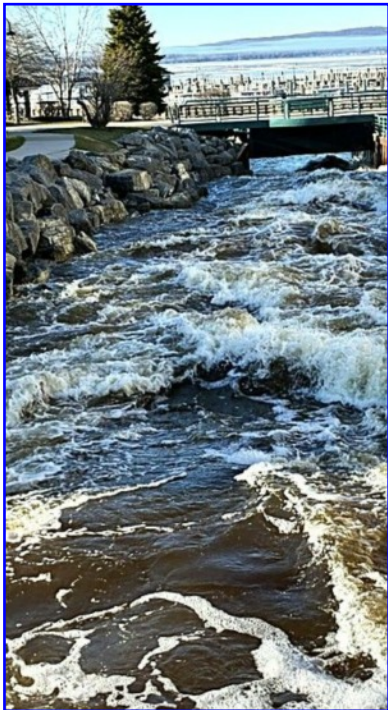
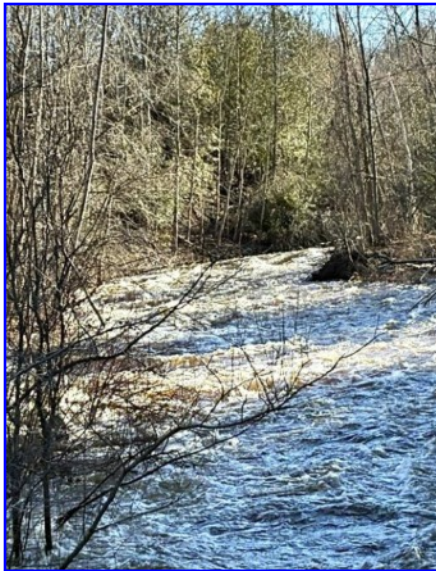
Summer is almost here, with the leaves of trees popping out, grass, dandelions, and other plants reaching for the sky, and bugs filling the air. Enjoy, and stay safe while Serving.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH

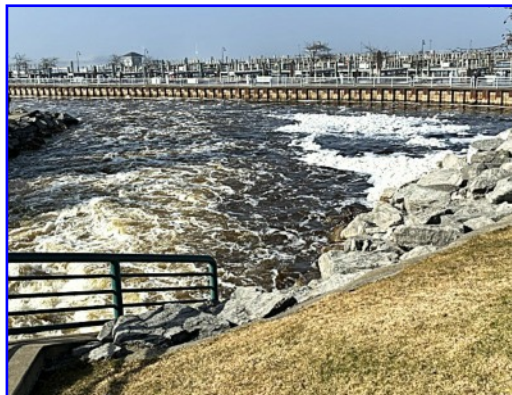
2026 SPRING PICTURES



Left and Middle top. As the ice melted on the Little Traverse bay, the cold created fog on the bay when the land air was warmer than the water



Left Middle row. The Bear River surges as the land tips lower, and the storm left an incredible amount water. *2nd row Middle:* River flow faster down to the bay. *2nd row Right:* TThe slim area where the river went over the ground. *3rd Right:* Water blasts over the low dam near the road. *3rd row Middle:* Water rushes very close to the bottom of the road bridge. *Bottom Left:* River flows under the walking/biking bridge. *Bottom Middle:* Bear River pushes its way into the bay next to the boating area. People have said they have never seen the river so high.



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

NOTE: Submissions received after the 4th 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!!

Racism has no place in our world.

Our organization depends on the incredible diversity of our members around the world because great things can only be achieved when we are united.

#kindnessmatters

