



FEBRUARY 2023

Notable Quotes:

To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own.

— Abraham Lincoln

District Governor's Message



DG Rod Leathers

Hello District Lions,

Another month has gone by and the cold weather is here. While it would be nice to just sit in front of the fire enjoying a glass of wine, a beer, or a cup of hot chocolate we still have people in our communities needing our help. Nobody does that better than our Lions. Where There is a Need There is a Lion and the Lions of 11-E2 does that better than anyone. From pop up food pantries, to providing eyeglasses and hearing aids, building handicap ramps, providing transportation for appointments, getting grants and providing manpower for the recovery from natural disasters in our district. However in order to be able to continue doing all these things we need to really concentrate on recruiting new members. It hasn't been too many years ago we were over 30 clubs and over 1000 members. Today we have 26 clubs and 691 members. That's up 2 since July. Let's make February a Lions recruiting month and everyone brings a guest to a meeting or Lions event. Hopefully it will bring your club 1 or more new members. With a little effort recruiting becomes contagious. Remember "Together We Can".

Just a reminder the District Convention is only a couple of months away. April 21st to the 23rd at the Ramada in Grayling. Let's all come together in Grayling and make it the best District Convention ever. Friday night mixer will be a barber shop theme. With your help your District Governor will have all his hair and beard cut off live at the event if we can raise \$10,000 for LCIF. Check out the District Website for all the information and registration on the convention at lionsdistrict11e2.org. See you there.

DG Rod



We Serve

2022-2023 DISTRICT OFFICERS REFERENCE LIST

DISTRICT GOVERNOR Rod Leathers Central Lake Lions Club 231-350-0567 leathersrod@gmail.com	IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR William Gaines Oscoda Lions Club 253-219-8590 wgaines1111@yahoo.com
VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR Steven Murch Alpena Lions Club stevenmurch49707@gmail.com	GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR Dave Zeller Alpena Lions Club 989-657-4702 W: 989-354-2175 dzeller52@gmail.com
2 nd VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR Jill Drury Boyne Valley Lions Club 231-920-9645 drury@cctransit.org	DISTRICT GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR Marie Leathers marie@centrallakerealty.com
CABINET SECRETARY/ TREASURER Barb Durflinger Hillman Lions Club 989-742-2790 lionbarb@comdac.com	DISTRICT GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR William Gaines Oscoda Lions Club 253-219+8590 wgaines1111@yahoo.com

District 11-E2 Website:
lionsdistrict11e2.org

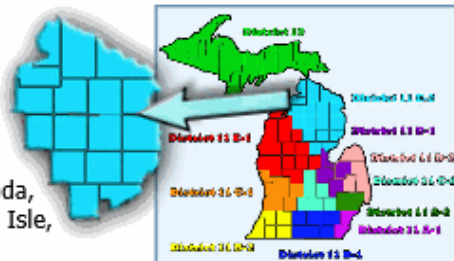
Note: This information is up to date at the time of this publication, but is subject to change as adjustments are needed.

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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 Dennis Gocha East Jordan Lions dennygocha@gmail.com	Boyne Valley, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, east Jordan, Indian River, Mackinaw City, Petoskey	ZC Janice Kane Alpena lions Club	Alpena, Alpena Evening, Atlanta, Glennie, Hillman, Hubbard Lake, Mio
ZONE 2	CLUBS	ZONE 4	CLUBS
ZC Marie Leathers Central Lake Lions Club marie@centrallakerealty.com	Central Lake, Elk Rapids, Grayling, Houghton Lake, Lewiston/Lewiston Lioness Lions, Roscommon- Higgins Lake	ZC VACANT	Beaverton, Hale, Harrisville, Lincoln, Oscoda, Prescott-Skidway Lake, Rose City

**VDG Steven Murch**

Vice District Governor's Message

Greetings fellow Lions. I hope everyone is well and your clubs are healthy and serving their communities.

As you continue to serve your community with your involvement in your club, please keep in mind that your district needs you as well. Our district, MD11 E-2 for those who don't know, needs Lions to help it keep functioning and helping the district's clubs

and Lions.

Those who are filling positions within the district are working hard to keep our district operating and being a resource and asset for the clubs. But those members need help, as we could use some of you Lions to join us.

Depending on how much you can and want to help, there is a position for you. If you want to step up into leadership, we can find a way for you to help. If you have a passion for one of the core Lions missions, we can find a way for you to help there, too.

Do you have a special skill or talent that might help the district and/or other clubs where they might be able to benefit? Can you share that special skill or talent? We are more than happy to use any help you are willing to provide.

As we all look forward to the upcoming Lions year, our clubs are looking at positions for members to fill. So too is the district. And as your next district governor, I'm here to help you get involved in the district if you so desire.

(Side note to club presidents and secretaries: When you are sent the monthly newsletter, if you haven't been please do so. Either forward the email that contains the newsletter or newsletter link to all your members.)

If you want to get more involved (or involved for the first time) with the district, please email me: SteveMurch49707@gmail.com. Let me know what you might be interested in and together we can find a fit that best fits you and your interests.

Another way to find out more about the district and all we can do to help your club and also any opportunities to help serve the district, make sure to consider attending this year's district convention.

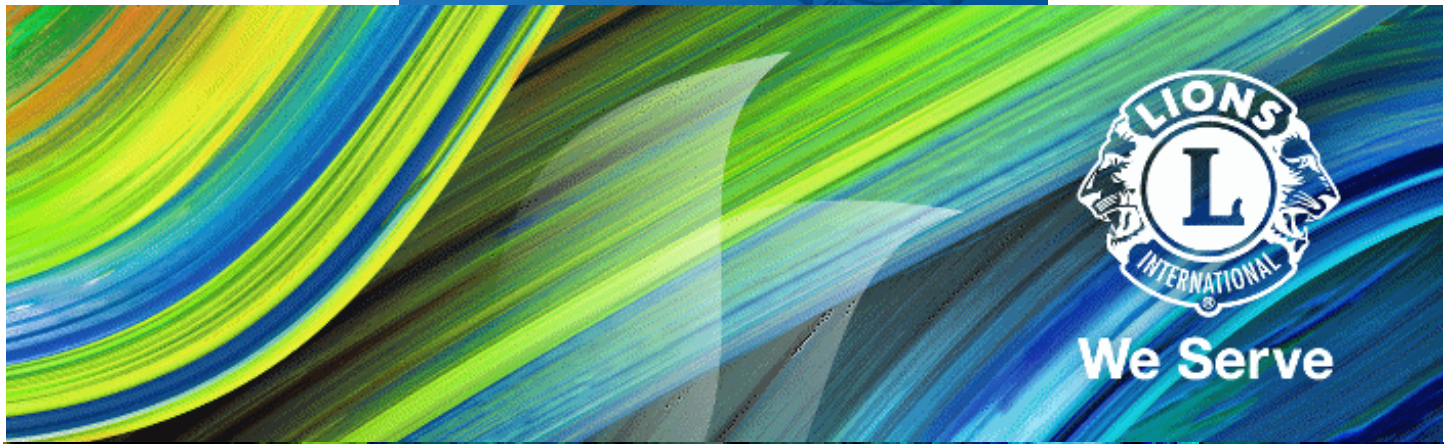
The district convention is April 21-23 in Grayling at the Ramada Inn and is a great opportunity to grow as a Lion. I look forward to seeing you there, and hope we can discuss Lions and Lionism in northern Michigan.

If you can attend the entire convention, great. If you can't be there for the entire convention, try to attend a portion of it. There is training, a service project, a mixer with entertainment, elections and more. So consider it.

Thanks for all you do.



Lions Clubs International



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Together we can with
International President,
Brian Sheehan**

Dear Lion,

When you love what you do with a team that you love, you can make every day a great day. That's what's so awesome about being a Lion. Because no matter how hard the work may be we always have a great time getting it done.

There's really nothing that compares to the fun and fellowship of being a Lion except for inviting more people to be a part of it. So give your community the opportunity to join our team and discover what we've found. And let's keep working together to make the projects we love even bigger, better and more fun for everyone.

Make a great day,

Brian Sheehan

International President



A message from:

Jerome Thompson

**Past International Director,
GAT Constitutional Area 1 Leader**



Dear Zone Chairs and Club Leaders:

I would like to thank each of you as you diligently work to mentor and encourage Lions. Mentoring, coaching, and assisting can be a challenge.

Recently, I ran across an article written by **Margot Machol Bisnow**, entitled, ["I talked to 70 parents who raised highly successful kids—here's the No. 1 parenting style they used"](#).

As I read the article, there were a few key points that we as Lion Leaders could take away to enhance our interaction with our members.

1. "Respectful Parenting" – Setting some firm guidelines while being respectful of children's choices.

There are a few guidelines which cannot be violated. Lions globally give back 100% of the money raised in the community to meet community needs. However, we must be respectful of a club's decision on how to put that money back into the community, while allowing all members to have input.

There are other examples, which each of us could articulate. However, the take away is that we must give the latitude necessary to allow each member to develop their own service personality which reflects their passion, purpose, and values.

2. Children Need Structure – Lions need structure

- Let Lion make their own choices, as long as expectations are met.
- Guide them through how things can be done better.
- Expect them to do things, even when it's hard.

3. Children Need Support – Lions need support

- Give Lions the right to their own point of view.
- Respect their privacy.
- Don't make constant corrections in their actions or speech.

4. Parents and Lion Leaders Must be Warm and Welcoming

- Let all Lions know they can turn to you for help.
- Spend quality time with them. Be more than a dinner guest.
- Engage in compassionate activities together. Roll up your sleeves and help them serve.

Together, we can help Lions International evolve into a better association that is putting smiles on the faces of those we serve, those who have joined to serve, and our service partners. However, the change needed to become more relevant in the communities where we serve, begins with each of us.

Sincerely,

PID Jerome Thompson, GAT CA 1 Leader



LIONS DAY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS



International President Brian Sheehan wants to see you at the UN Headquarters for LDUN New York



Join President Sheehan and your fellow Lions at Lions Day with the United Nations, where we'll be back in the United Nations headquarters in New York for the first time since 2019. Don't miss your chance to be part of this time-honored event and hear important discussions about hunger, nutrition and wellness.

REGISTER NOW

NEW YORK CITY, USA — MARCH 3, 2023



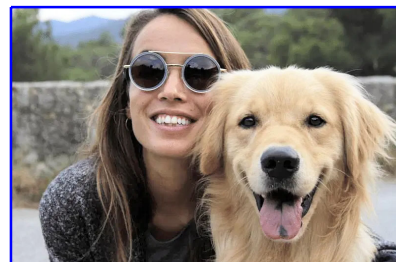
Leader Dogs for the Blind

Leader Dog News for Lions

February 2023



LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND



Specialty Meals Make Everyone Feel Welcomed

By Rachelle Kniffen from the December edition of IGDF's Vision newsletter

Every client who comes to the campus of Leader Dogs for the Blind for training is asked a simple question – How was your experience? Without fail, clients excitedly mention the tasty food and excellent service provided by our kitchen staff. Many add, "I was amazed at the effort they undertook to meet my dietary requirements."

"As far back as 40 years ago, we provided a special menu for our clients who were diabetic," shares Sharon Dougherty, manager of residential and food services. "Today we support a wide variety of diets to meet individual religious or health requirements." Our kitchen team accommodates a large variety of diets including diabetic, Kosher, Halal, gluten free and lactose free, often providing several in addition to a standard menu in each class.

But our kitchen staff don't stop there, they include fun activities centered around meals. There is fiesta night with mocktails (alcohol free drinks) like margaritas, and Michigan-centric products like apple cider and donuts (a Fall treat), barbecue dinners and ice cream drinks made with locally produced orange and ginger sodas.

Because LDB has been serving clients from Spain for several decades, some of their wonderful cultural traditions have influenced our menus, most notably the importance of including fresh fruit with every meal. We've been lucky that some clients have shared their treasured family recipes with us, allowing us to prepare traditional Spanish cuisine for the entire class to enjoy.

Welcoming diversity comes in many forms, treating individual meal requirements is just one of them. To quote English Poet William Cowper, "Variety is the very spice of life, That gives it all its flavor."

Next Article: Teen Summer Camp 2023 Registration is Open!

June 25 – July 1, 2023

Application Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2023, at 5 p.m. EST

Presented by AAA – The Auto Club Group AAA

This free program combines fun activities with exploring mobility options like guide dog travel, discovering leadership skills and building friendships with peers facing similar challenges. Campers receive a free HumanWare GPS to help increase their travel independence. They also have the opportunity to learn about living and working with a guide dog.

Teen Summer Camp is provided free of charge at Leader Dogs for the Blind's Rochester Hills, Michigan campus to those who are legally blind, 16 or 17 years of age, regardless of whether they plan to train with a guide dog. Public transportation to and from a client's home to the Leader Dog campus and accommodations and meals while training is also provided free of charge.



Lions Of Michigan Foundation
"Bridging The Gap To Service"

SAVE THE DATE LIONS OF MICHIGAN FORUM 2023

Together We Can...Make A Difference

February 24-25, 2023

Double Tree Hotel, Airport Grand Rapids

4747 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED WEEKEND! Friday Night includes a off-site Service Project at Kids' Food Basket in Grand Rapids. We will then head back to the Hotel/Conference Center and enjoy networking and fellowship at the Hospitality Suite. Saturday Morning registration begins at 7:00am, with a Welcome Message at 8:10am. We have 16 AMAZING breakout sessions for you to choose from throughout the day. Don't forget to stop by and visit all of the great exhibitors and projects. Our afternoon will conclude with a Luncheon featuring our White Cane Scholarship Recipients, and Keynote Speaker, Dustin Dale, author of Learn to Lead by Serving. There will be door prizes awarded at the end of the program.

GROUP SERVICE PROJECT

Join us on Friday night for a service project to be held at Kids' Food Basket, Grand Rapids. 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. KFB is located at 1300 Plymouth NE, Grand Rapids.

Kids' Food Basket supplies thousands of children in West Michigan with a Sack Supper to ensure they have increased access to healthy food each day. Once the packs are ready, volunteers from KFB will add a fresh vegetable and fruit in a decorative bag to turn it all into a Sack Supper, ready to be delivered to a child's school. Lions can help to supply and package the contents of these meals at the KFB location in Grand Rapids during our service project night on Friday, February 24, starting at 7:00 p.m. Watch for details on what your district is asked to donate. Whether you are attending the Michigan Lions Forum or just driving in to participate in this service opportunity, all are welcome!





KEYNOTE SPEAKER



The Lions Michigan Forum Committee announces DUSTIN DALE, motivational speaker - 2023 keynote address

Dustin Dale brings over 10+ years of motivating teams by focusing on inspiring a change in behavior. He delivers powerful, thought-provoking messages from his personal journey as a senior level leader inspired on creating a culture of excellence. Dustin has led over 1,000 teams through challenging and complex times where he focused on ensuring everyone was developed and inspired to become the best version of themselves. Dustin has developed his own training course and presentations that will build winning, trustworthy, and successful teams.

However, there is more to Dustin's story than meets the eye...

November 21st, 2021. Dustin's life would completely change when he was faced with the news of a life-threatening autoimmune disease.

Dustin found his true "why" during his recovery and has since then taken on a new journey of sharing his testimony, experience and focus on servant leadership. He has shared his knowledge with businesses, universities, non-profit organizations, and many more on how to understand their "why" and create a culture of excellence. Dustin has also helped thousands on understanding servant leadership with his series of books, *Learn to Lead by Serving*. Sold worldwide!

Dustin not only focuses his messages on helping organizations become stronger, authentic, and top performing teams. He also shares his personal story of his childhood, addiction, death, and spiritual journey as well. His message has been shared with youth across the country, where Dustin is passionate about reduce the suicide rate in youth and helping break generational curses.

Whether you are seeking a professional leadership speaker, or a spiritual speaker. Dustin will ensure everyone is ready to leave the room and take action!

"We have a limited time on Earth, and if we don't know our true "why," then what are we focused on?"

-Dustin Dale



The first 125 registrants will receive Mr. Dale's book "Learn to Lead by Serving" a \$10 value



District 11E2 Convention April 21-23, 2023

Have you registered for the District convention yet? Maybe you're wondering if the convention is for you? If you're receiving this email then the answer is YES! Even if you can't attend the whole convention consider coming for what you can. It's a great opportunity to learn more about Lions Clubs, meet and do service with other Lions, and celebrate the largest service club in the world! The convention is free to attend - the only costs are for meals and hotel rooms.

Register by January 15 for a chance to win a free meal at the convention! Online registration makes it easy to register. You can go directly to the online registration [here](#) or go to the district website lionsdistrict11e2.org for more information. After you submit your online registration you will be directed to an option to pay online or mail in a check for meals that require payment.

Room reservations can be made directly through the Grayling Ramada Inn at 989-348-7611. Ask for the Lions' Group Discount. A double room is \$94.00,

Queen \$99 and Pool Side \$109 plus taxes and fees. Reservation cut off is April 6, 2023. Breakfast is included with hotel reservation.

We hope to see everyone at the 2023 District Convention!

REGISTER HERE

District Website: lionsdistrict11e2.org - where you can also register



ADVERTISING ORDER FOR PROGRAM

District 11 E-2 Convention
 April 21,22,23 2023
 Grayling Ramada Inn, Grayling,MI



Individual or Club _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

SIZE OF AD BEING ORDERED:

Width x Height

5 x 8 (Full Page) \$119.00 _____

5 x 4 (Half Page) \$65.00 _____

2.5 x 4 (Quarter Page) \$45.00 _____

(Sizes shown include borders around the ad)

Customer Signature _____

ATTACH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (made payable to District 11-E2 Convention Fund) along with printer ready copy.

Please note that this year we are offering 100% full color.

Ad artwork can be emailed to edw@allegraalpena.com. FINAL

DEADLINE TO GET AN AD IS MARCH 21, 2023

MAIL TO:

VDG Steve Murch
 130 Tuttle St.
 Alpena, MI 49707

**If you have any questions,
 please contact**

Lion Ed Klimczak:

989-356-0834

989-464-4904

edw@allegraalpena.com

*Life is short, so forgive quickly.
 Believe slowly. Love truly.
 Laugh uncontrollably. Never regret
 anything that makes you happy.
 And have a wonderful journey!!*

Our Motto:



We Serve

**2022-2023 Lions District 11-E2 Elections****CERTIFICATION OF DELEGATES**

According to the Multiple District 11 Constitution and By-Laws, all Lions Clubs in good standing the Lions Clubs International, Multiple District 11 and District 11-E2 are entitled to One (1) vote for each Ten (10) members or major fraction thereof, as reported on their February 2022 membership report. The major fraction referred to is Five (5) or more.

PLEASE NOTE: Your delegates are determined by your February 2022 Membership Report and not the February 2023 Membership Report. Lions Clubs International policy requires that voting delegates be based on the number of Lions that have been members for at least One (1) year and One (1) day.

Select your delegates. You may also include alternates in case a delegate is not able to participate in the voting. Make a copy of the attached Delegate Form and place their names and email addresses in the table. Be sure to include the total number of Lions on your February 2022 Membership report in the space allotted. Also enter your President's or Secretary's name in the space provided.

Then mail your completed Club Delegate Form to:

Lion Bob Nelden

District 11-E2 Credentials Chair

102 Elm Street

Charlevoix, MI 49720

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**2023 CLUB DELEGATE FORM**

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ON YOUR FEBRUARY 2022 MEMBERSHIP REPORT IS _____.

NAME OF DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE:

EMAIL OF DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE:

I hereby certify that the delegates/alternates listed above are members in good standing of the

_____ Lions Club, District 11-E2, Multiple District 11, and
Lions Clubs International.

_____ or _____
Presidents Name Secretary's Name



District 11 E2 Membership Counts As of February 2022

**Clubs should use the information below to determine number of
delegates for the 2023 Convention**

Alpena-	56
Alpena Evening	5
Beaverton	31
Boyne Valley	34
Central Lake	71
Charlevoix	65
Cheboygan	7
East Jordan	36
Elk Rapids	11
Glennie	14
Grayling	17
Hale	19
Harrisville	29
Hillman	18
Hubbard Lake	15
Houghton Lake	13
Indian River	14
Lewiston	17
Lewiston Lioness Lions	31
Lincoln	42
Mackinaw City	31
Mio	22
Oscoda	58
Petoskey	10
Roscommon/Higgins Lake	13
Rose City	14



CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Complete one form for each person
OR register online
Registrations are due March 30, 2023

Registration forms and link to online
registration and payment available at
LionsDistrict11E2.org



NOTE: You can complete this form on-line! Use your smartphone camera on this QR code----->

Circle all that apply: Lion Spouse Leo Guest

Club Name: _____

Attendee Name: _____

Name you want on your badge: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ E-mail _____



Indicate which events you are attending (see itinerary for times and locations):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday Evening Mixer - Hors' D'Oeuvres - Entertainment - Service Project	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training (circle one) President Secretary Treasurer Session for all Lions	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business meeting	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	State project presentations	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday Lunch Program - Taco Bar	\$23.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special presentation with PID BJ and PDG Carolyn Blankenship	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday Awards Banquet - Turkey, Ham and sides	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality room	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday Memorial	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elections	Included
<input type="checkbox"/>	REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES AND TO VOTE!	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total:	

Room Reservations (Grayling Ramada Inn)

Reservations can be made directly thru the Grayling Ramada Inn at 989-348-7611. Ask for the Lions' Group Discount. A double room is \$94.00, Queen \$99 and Pool Side \$109 plus taxes and fees. Reservation cut off is April 6, 2023. Breakfast is included with hotel reservation.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Grayling Lions Convention Account

Mail to: Grayling Lions - Registration – 1923 Dansk Lane, Grayling, MI 48654

Enclosed is my check for meals as indicated above \$_____. Note:
One check can be written for two or more registration forms. Please place the check number in the following bracket of each form you are including. (Check#:_____)

Your convention hosts are: **The Grayling Lions Club**. For information or answers to questions please contact: PDG Bob Gingerich (989)348-5355, bob@danishlanding.com



Calendar of Events

February 2023

Groundhog Day — 6 more weeks of Winter? Or Not?

Valentine's Day — February 14, 2023

President's Day — February 20, 2023

Lions of Michigan Forum — February 24-25, 2023 — Double Tree Hotel, Airport Grand Rapids

March 2023

District Cabinet Meeting — March 11, 2023 — 10:00 am — St John Lutheran Church — Free!

Daylight Savings Begins — March 12, 2023

St. Patricks Day — March 17, 2023

April 2023

April Fools Day — April 1, 2023

District Cabinet Meeting — April 21, 2023 — 4:00 pm — Grayling Ramada — Free



PASSINGS REPORTED



Boyne Valley Lions Club: HARRY ALHBORN — 01/30/2023

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

11 New Members Reported — January 2023

Boyne Valley Lions: **JUDY SMITH** — Joined: 01/11/2023 — Sponsor: **JULIE HASSE**

Central Lake Lions: **HEIDI M. HIGBEE** — Joined: 01/19/2023 — Sponsor: **DESIREE HERRST**
DIANA POSTMUS — Joined January, 2023 — Sponsor: **JOANN NELL**
GREG SHOOKS — Joined January, 2023 — Sponsor: **ROD LEATHERS**

Charlevoix Lions: **KRISTIN L BARANASKI** — Joined: 01/23/2023 — Sponsor: **DUANE LAWTON**

East Jordan Lions: **LAURA A. CZAJA-ROBINSON** — Joined: 01/16/2023 — Sponsor: **DENNIS GOCHA**

Indian River Lions: **SHERRI E. HEATH** — Joined: 01/17/2023 — Sponsor: **MARY TESSADRI**
TRACY L. HEATH — Joined: 01/17/2023 — Sponsor: **JAMES TESSADRI**
RENE L WOOLLARD — Joined: 01/17/2023 — Sponsor: **SHEREE WOOLLARD**

Lincoln Lions: **DENNIS P SWANSON** — Joined: 01/18/2023 — Sponsor: **STEPHEN WEICHEL**

Oscoda Lions: **JENNIFER L PAVLOT** — Joined: 01/26/2023 — Sponsor: **WILLIAM SHIFLET**

On the Mend Reported

East Jordan Lions wish **Joe Krumholz** a quick recovery from his second motorcycle accident in 4 months.



Info from BV Lions emailed meeting notes

Boyne Valley Lions JANUARY 2023

Boyne Valley Lions inducted new Lion **Judy Smith**, sponsored by Lion Julie Hasse.

Pictured: Lion Julie Hasse, New Lion Judy Smith, King Lion Lisa Luebke



The Boyne Valley Lions gave a tribute, honoring club founding member Lion **Rex Judkins** with a Lifetime Achievement Award.
Congratulations Lion Rex!

Pictured: Lion Rex and King Lion Lisa Luebke



Central Lake Lions JANUARY 2023

Four new Lions were inducted to Central Lake Lions Club in December & January.

Left: JoAnn Nell, sponsor of Diana Postmus. Back: DG Rod Leathers, sponsor of Greg Shooks; Right: Lynn & Bob Samuel joined on December 15, sponsored by Ray Kuiper.





East Jordan Lions

JANUARY 2023

East Jordan King Lion (Bill Chase) welcomed 3 new members to their club. Kim Forester, Paul and Linda Michael will make great Lions! Lion Paul has already gotten the club involved in Toys for Tots.

(Paul & Linda Michael joined December 5, 2022, and Kim Forster joined January 1, 2023)



DISTRICT NEWS

LMF cookbooks

comdac@comdac.com

Jan 30, 2023, 4:42 PM

The district has a supply of cookbooks remaining from the last district convention. They are a great fundraiser for your club- sale price of \$15, cost of \$10. Or use them as a gift to your speakers. Contact DG Rod to order cookbooks (he would be happy to deliver them when he visits your club), or you may pick them up at the next cabinet meeting. When we run out, you can still order a supply directly from the Lions of Michigan Foundation. Let me know if you have any questions.

CST Barb

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATES FEBRUARY 01, 2023**

This is a snapshot of the World, Nation, and State of Michigan statistics on or near **FFEBRUARY 1, 2023**. Numbers may be different by the time you read this as the COVID-19 Variants continue to mutate and infect more, or less.

(Info from John Hopkins, nytimes.com, WHO, CDC & michigan.gov. & other health websites)

World Statistics Cases: 753,479,439 ❖ Deaths: 6,812,798

Average 7-day New Cases: 153,462

U. S. Statistics Cases: 102,171,644 ❖ Deaths: 1,103,615

Average 7-day New Cases: 295,140

Michigan Statistics Cases: 3,030,505 ❖ Deaths: 41,690

Average 7-day New Cases: 858

Vaccinations (1 or more doses) Summary:

World: 71.8% — United States: 81.0% — Michigan: 69.4%

(Statistics may vary monthly as new information and corrections are applied)

UPDATE: State of COVID-19 In 2023

The Good News — U.S.A. Weekly COVID Cases Dropping:

- United States Jan 12, 2022 5,488,396 — This date had the highest weekly numbers of the Pandemic.
- United States Jan 4, 2023 478,696 — 2023 started with weekly cases approaching half a million.
- United States Jan 25, 2023 295,140 — The weekly new cases rate so far is falling this year.

Not So Good News — "There are currently more than 46,920 cases reported in the United States per day, with test positivity of 12%. When test positivity is above 5%, transmission is considered uncontrolled. There are more than 548 deaths per day, a decrease of 1% over the past two weeks, and hospitalizations have declined by 25% over the last two weeks. Since many are using home tests that are not reported through public health or are not testing at all, the official case counts underestimate the actual prevalence of COVID-19." (January 26, 2023)

The Bad News — What COVID-19 variant are we on? A highly contagious version of the Omicron variant — known officially as **XBB.1.5** or by its subvariant nickname, **Kraken** — is quickly spreading in the U.S. Currently, the dominant XBB.1.5 variant nationwide causes 49% of cases, followed by BQ.1.1, with 27% of cases. The original omicron variant may be gone now, but currently subvariants of omicron are circulating, including XBB.1.5, BQ.1.1 and BQ.1. The new Kraken variant is causing concern among health care professionals, showing a rapid rise in hospitalization rates in certain parts of the United States.

What to know about the Kraken variant: The kraken variant appears to evolve differently from previous variants. The kraken variant is a descendent of the XBB variant, nicknamed gryphon. Gryphon caused large outbreaks in Asia this past fall. It was the first documented example of a SARS-CoV-2 variant that evolved from two viruses combining genetic information. Kraken is a highly mutated version of the virus that appears able to better evade immune defenses and invade cells, with some experts calling it the most transmissible variant yet. Scientists say it remains rare in much of the world, but expect it to spread quickly and globally.

What's unusual about XBB is that it was the product of two different forms of Omicron that both infected someone. As they were replicating inside that person, their genes were mixed together, and then we got a new hybrid, one very good at evading defenses from vaccines and infections. Experts say it looks like it's not more severe, which is good. But it's too early to know enough about what we're dealing with. Preliminary studies indicate if you've been boosted, it probably reduces your chances of getting infected, and it definitely is good for keeping you out of the hospital, especially if you're older.



The Power of Love: Humans and Animals

The month of February celebrates 3 important days: Groundhog Day, Presidents Day, and Valentine's Day. While Presidents Day is a national holiday, Valentine's Day is not – banks, schools and government offices are open on V Day. However, Valentine's Day, aka St. Valentine's Day, is a popular cultural holiday when lovers express their love with greetings and gifts, and has expanded to express affection between relatives and friends.

Besides the idea of romantic love, the word "love" and the meaning behind it can be used for many different things. There are all kinds of love that capture our feelings, make us happy, and enhance our lives. We can love children and other family members, love our friends, our work, vacations, a movie or TV show, a painting, shoes, favorite clothes, gardening, fishing, skiing, pickle ball, and so much more. Humans have evolved to develop the ability to feel and need love, and one of the most important connections to love humans have developed is with animals. The human hunger for love has developed a treasure trove of living creatures that we call pets, and bond with. Pets of all types, dogs and cats primarily, but also horses, rabbits, hamsters, pigs, birds, and even lizards and snakes have been cherished and cared-for pets by people worldwide. For many people, life without a pet is not a full life.

Dogs and cats, and perhaps other animals, seem capable of feeling a love response when bonded to their owner, something beyond just getting food and water. Until the 20th century most people believed animals couldn't think or have feelings, that only instinct drove their actions. Anyone who has ever had a dog or cat relationship knows that these animals do have feelings and can rationalize much more than once believed.

When I was a kid, dogs were mostly chained outside, or held in an outdoor fenced area, but over the years, indoor dogs have become the norm. Dogs we've had were always welcome inside. I have learned a lot from my dogs. (We also like cats, and had some very interesting feline friends – our last one died 2 years ago. I'm just focusing on dogs.)

Scientists agree dogs emerged from wolves to become the first domesticated animal. Wolf ancestors interacting with people, drawn by food garbage and carcasses left by human hunters, became tamer, and people found them useful for hunting and guard duty. Thousands of years in this human environment, wolves gradually evolved into the first dogs. A large DNA study, lining up with the fossil finds, suggests dogs originated in Europe some 19,000 to 32,000 years ago. DNA of modern dogs showed similarities to the genetic material from the ancient European specimens and modern-day European wolves, researchers reported. (*Info from cbsnews.com, 2013*)

My first awareness of dog intelligence was back in the 70's. We trained our dog Shadow, a German Shepard and Collie mix, to bring his food dish when it was time to feed him. He caught on; bring dish – get food! So he brought his dish to us several times a day, which shows how our thinking had unintended results. One day Shadow brought his empty water bowl. That was thinking, realizing he could get the same result - bring the water dish, get water.

Our recent dog was adopted in 2018 from the Charlevoix County Humane Society in Boyne City. He was a 5-year old Chocolate Lab Retriever named Rudy, who had about 5 years of life with someone, and now his life totally changed with us. We brought him home, and he walked and sniffed around, then laid down and watched us – getting data as to what we were like, what he needed to do to fit in. You could just see it in his eyes. It took some time for him to bond with us and feel at home – and for us to adjust to him. He was playful, loved to fetch anything, go hiking, run around in the woods, loved to be in the water, and travel in the car. Early on he growled at other dogs or children who came too close, but he learned and dropped that behavior, and wagged his tail to everyone. Our lives didn't revolve around him, just involved him in everything we did. A great dog and a happy companion.

On January 19, 2023, Rudy acted normally, out chasing the ejected snow from the snow blower, eating his supper in the evening, and later barking to go outside. Then he just collapsed and couldn't get up; I helped him up and out the door. He could walk wobbly, then came back in and laid down. He couldn't get up, or even move his back legs. Concern turned into understanding that this was his end. We kept him as comfortable as possible on his bed for the next 2 days. He died on Sunday morning, January 22. We were shell-shocked, he seemed so active and healthy at age 10 (almost 11) years. He went so fast - which was tragic, and yet a blessing at the same time that it wasn't a long drawn out episode. We've had several great dogs, every one of them a different personality in some way, and always loved. Every dog owner knows the pain of losing a dog. For us, this was the hardest – we're still not totally recovered. This is the cost of the loving bond we choose with a pet, but it is worth it. And there will be another dog.

We Lions are familiar with the great things Leader Dogs, therapy dogs and other service dogs are capable of - dogs trained to smell explosives, and in recent years to smell and find cancer, seizures, COVID-19, and other medical things. But just think of the millions of dogs in millions of loving homes, enhancing human lives. **Every Dog is a Service Dog.**



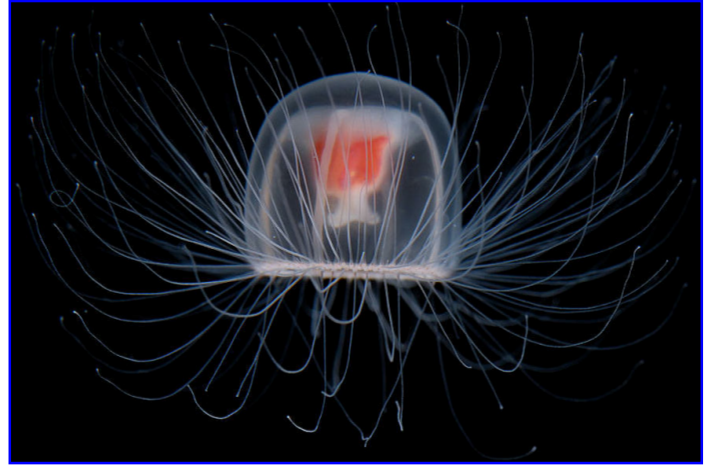
PICTURES OF THE MONTH

THE IMMORTAL JELLYFISH

© Takashi Murai/The New York Times Syndicate/Redux

The more science discovers unknown things about our planet, the weirder our world seems to be. In the 1990s a species of jellyfish was discovered able to hit a biological “reset button” to return to a younger stage of development under certain dire conditions.

The so-called "immortal jellyfish," *Turritopsis dohrnii*, is the only animal presently known to have the incredible ability to push a biological reset button and return to an earlier developmental stage when injured or otherwise threatened.



Turritopsis dohrnii, like all jellyfish, begins life as a larva, called a planula, which develops from a fertilized egg. It swims at first, then settles on the sea floor, growing into a cylindrical colony of polyps. These polyps ultimately spawn free-swimming genetically identical to a jellyfish—called a medusae—which grow to adulthood in a matter of weeks.

A fully grown *Turritopsis dohrnii* is only about 4.5 mm (0.18 inches) across, smaller than a pinky nail, with a bright-red stomach visible in the middle of its transparent bell-shaped body. Up to 90 white tentacles line the edges of the bell. In the case of damage or threats, even starvation, the jellyfish responds by taking a leap back in development by transforming back into a polyp.

These tiny, transparent jellyfish goes through a process that looks remarkably like immortality, becoming a born-again polyp colony that eventually buds and releases medusae that are genetically identical to the original adult.

A rare process known as transdifferentiation—the cellular mechanism behind reset—is particularly interesting to scientists for potential applications in medicine. Transdifferentiation takes an adult cell, one specialized for a particular tissue, and changes it to become an entirely different type of specialized cell. This efficient way of cell recycling is an important area of study in stem cell research that may help scientists replace cells that have been damaged by disease.

Many marine species hitch rides around the world in the ballasts of ships. The immortal jellyfish has recently been identified as an “excellent hitchhiker,” well-suited to surviving long trips on cargo ships.

Can the immortal jellyfish live forever? Potentially forever. It can be killed by predators, or getting beached on land, but otherwise it doesn’t die from old age. Considering these creatures have been floating through the oceans long before the dinosaurs went extinct (66 million years ago) – it’s biologically possible for a single immortal jellyfish to have been alive for this entire time.

Info from amnh.org (American Museum of Natural History)

TRIVIA:

- There are more than 2,000, different types of jellyfish around the world. However, scientists believe that there could be as many as 300,000 different species that are yet to be discovered. Of the 2,000-known species, only 70 can be harmful to human beings.
- The Lion’s Mane Jellyfish is probably the largest sized jellyfish species with tentacles extending up to a length of 120 ft..
- Another giant species is the Nomura’s jellyfish, with a bell diameter of 6 ft 7 in.



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



Lions Clubs
International



Lions Club International
FOUNDATION