



## MAY 2023

*Notable Quotes:* "Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole nature in its beauty." — *Albert Einstein*

## District Governor's Message



**DG Rod Leathers**

Hello District Lions,

The year is flying by. Hard to believe it is May already. I would like to take a moment and thank everyone that attended the District Convention. It was really a great time. Next year's convention will be hosted by Alpena - watch for dates and put it in your

calendar!

We are down to the final 2 months of our Lion Year. Our membership is treading water but our heads are still up. The District is holding on at a plus 5 members. Let's all work together these last two months and build our membership and finish the year positive. But even more important than new members is retaining our present members. We need to keep the members we already have excited. Excited members will lead to service and service will lead to new members. We should be planning exciting things for our next Lion Year to keep our members excited by keeping the year exciting. Listen to all your members and come up with something new for our next Lion Year. Let's get every Lion involved and excited. Excitement is contagious. Let's all try to bring in one new member per club per month for the last two months of our Lion Year.

"Together We Can",  
DG Rod

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## 2022-2023 DISTRICT OFFICERS REFERENCE LIST

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

**District 11-E2 Website:**  
**[lionsdistrict11e2.org](http://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 <a href="mailto:dennygocha@gmail.com">dennygocha@gmail.com</a>	Boyne Valley, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, East Jordan, Indian River, Mackinaw City, Petoskey	ZC Janice Kane Alpena lions Club	Alpena, Alpena Evening, Glennie, Hillman, Hubbard Lake, Mio
ZONE 2	CLUBS	ZONE 4	CLUBS
ZC Marie Leathers Central Lake Lions Club <a href="mailto:marie@centrallakerealty.com">marie@centrallakerealty.com</a>	Central Lake, Elk Rapids, Grayling, Houghton Lake, Lewiston/Lewiston Lioness Lions, Roscommon- Higgins Lake	ZC VACANT	Beaverton, Hale, Harrisville, Lincoln, Oscoda, Lake, Rose City

**VDG Steven Murch**

## Vice District Governor's Message

Greetings fellow Lions. Another year and another convention in the books. This was our second in-person convention following the pandemic and we saw an increase in numbers. The hope is to see better attendance every year as we try and make the district better connected.

As part of connecting the district, we are still looking for people who would like to help the district grow. We need Lions to step up in a number of positions, so there is an opportunity to serve the district.

Depending on what your interests are and how they fit in the missions of Lions, we can find a fit for you. If you have an interest but are afraid of the commitment, just reach out and ask. I'm sure we can find something that would interest you and fit into your schedule.

In this age of staying connected, it's easier now than ever before to communicate with other Lions and Lions clubs. Getting the word out is easy.

It all starts with a simple ask: What can I do to help?

Of course that might bring back a few questions to better gauge where you might fit. So be prepared to answer some questions yourself.

What do you like best about Lions?

Which of the Lions missions appeals to you the most? And, how can you help our clubs strive to improve their own service of those missions?

We also need people who want to help the district grow membership. As of May 2, there are 694 Lions in our district. If we are to serve the people of our district, then simply put we need more Lions. It will take a team effort, so anyone who is interested would be doing it alone.

In fact, no one who serves the district is alone. We are a team and we win together and We Serve Together.

So reach out and let me know if you have an interest. My email is [SteveMurch49707@gmail.com](mailto:SteveMurch49707@gmail.com). We have a district filled with great Lions, some are involved in the district, some aren't; some want to be involved but can't and some want to be involved but don't know how. And of course there are those who don't want to be, and that's fine too.

Together we can grow, but we need some Lions to help achieve it.

Thanks for all you do.



Lions Clubs International

## President's Message

### LEADERS SHOW THE WAY



Hello, Lions!

Learning how to lead is one of the perks of being a Lion. We invest in our Lions to ensure that you have all the opportunities you need to become effective leaders in service, in your communities, and in life.

But don't mistake having a title for being a leader. You could be president of the world and still not be an effective leader. Leaders show the way through their actions. They inspire others by being the type of person others can look up to. Real leaders show up. They recognize what needs to be done. And they do it.

Lions are leaders in their communities every day. In Turkey, in Ukraine, in communities around the world,

Lions are showing up.

So, while it's important to gain the skills needed for advanced leadership, don't forget that real leadership is in the *doing*. It's in the service. And it's what Lions do every day.

Make a great day,

*Brian E. Sheehan*

Brian E. Sheehan

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve



**Lions Clubs International**

## Dear Lion Leader,

As you may be aware, all charitable foundations, trusts or other Lions entities operating under a club, district or multiple district must be approved by the Legal Division of Lions Clubs International and are obligated to provide an annual update to the Legal Division.

In order for the Legal Division to ensure compliance with the association's Trademark Policy and confirming foundations are appropriately authorized for use of the Lions name and emblem, we are asking district and club leadership to provide information on any Lions foundation by completing this [Lions Foundation Annual Report Form](#).

that has not been previously reported, will ensure that Lions Clubs International has appropriate documentation as well as updated contact information for each foundation, allowing us to provide necessary information for the foundations to remain compliant with relevant association policy.

Please be advised that this initial communication is an effort to collect information on all foundations operating in good faith by districts and sub-districts and removing those foundations that are no longer operational. With this initial effort, we ask you to report any relevant service data not previously reported for the 2022-2023 year. Once this data is collected, annual mailings will be provided beginning in or about July 2023.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Legal Division directly at [legal@lionsclubs.org](mailto:legal@lionsclubs.org).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Legal Division  
Lions Clubs International  
[legal@lionsclubs.org](mailto:legal@lionsclubs.org)



A message from:  
**Jerome Thompson**  
 Past International Director,  
 GAT Constitutional Area 1 Leader



## The Lions Leadership Pipeline

Do you have the tools to lead?



GAT WEBINAR | May 22, 2023 | 7:00-8:00 PM CST

### Register Today!

Please join us for the next installment of our Global Action Team Webinar Series. I will be joined by GAT area leaders from across the United States as we follow the Lions leadership pipeline through clubs, zones, and districts. Learn what it takes to lead at each of these organizational levels.

[Register Here >](#)

As I continue to hear, "Where there is a need, there is a Lion," I am reminded of the fact that my grandson had to experience a "Live Shooter Drill" in his pre-school class. While society debates the legal resolution of this problem, more and more children are harmed at the hands of individuals, who themselves were at-risk children.

We the Lions, through our foundation - LCIF- has a premier tool that can equip our youth to make better choices, while dealing with the challenges of life. Lions Quest is a premier curriculum which is adaptable for use in the traditional K-12 classroom, to support the needs of our adjudicated youth, to build the self-esteem of our foster children; and to equip those students enrolled in the after-school programs.

In addition to learning more about Lions Quest, your club could:

- Adopt a classroom.
- Clean up around campus.
- Read to a Kindergarten Class.
- Vision Screening
- Donate Diabetic Survival Kits
- And much more.

We the Lions of Constitutional Area can make an impact by becoming Lion Leaders In Our Neighborhood Schools.

# About LCIcon

## New to LCIcon?

Get the details on the Lions Clubs International Convention

Every year, Lions and Leos from around the world gather in one place to celebrate the past, present and future of service. It's when we catch up with friends from around the world, see what's going on in the organization, and make decisions about the future.

## What goes on at LCIcon?

### Fellowship & Service

LCIcon is an opportunity for fellowship for Lions and Leos. It's the perfect place to reunite with friends and colleagues from around the world and experience service together.

### The Exhibit Hall

At every LCIcon, there's an Exhibit Hall. Walking around, you'll find a place to connect with Lions International staff, ask questions, learn about new resources. There are also opportunities to share your service stories, grab new gear in the Lions Shop, learn more about our digital products in the Tech Zone and see our foundation's impact and donate directly.

### Plenary Sessions

The Plenary Sessions are one of the main draws at LCIcon. During the three sessions, Lions hear from incredible keynote speakers, listen to leaders speak about what Lions have achieved — and what's coming next. And, of course, there's plenty of world-class entertainment to enjoy.

### The International Election

LCIcon is also the venue of the annual International Election, when certified delegates from clubs around the world cast their votes for the future leaders of the organization.

### The Parade of Nations

The convention isn't all business. We also celebrate our diversity with a parade where Lions and Leos can showcase their culture and pride as they march together through the streets of the host city.



**The 105th Lions Clubs International Convention will be in Boston on July 7-11, 2023. Celebrate service with your fellow Lions and Leos! Register at <https://bit.ly/3WPCA0M>. #LCIcon2023**





Lions Clubs International



Lions Clubs International

# There's still time to register

Celebrate service with Lions and Leos from around the world at the 105th Lions Clubs International Convention in Boston. See the work we've done throughout the world, hear from Lion leaders and exciting speakers, energize your club and your service, and experience so much more. Don't delay! LCIcon is almost here!

[Register now](#)

## Buy LCIcon gear, grab it at convention

Order your LCIcon commemoratives by **June 1** and pick them up at convention. LCIcon merchandise is limited, so buy it now while it's still available!

Use code: **BOSTONPICKUP**

[Shop now](#)



# LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

## *Spring Workbee*

May 13th, 2023

Registration 8:00 AM

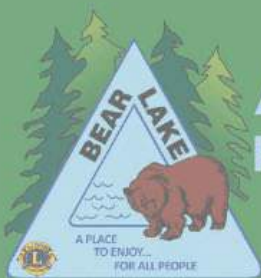
Cleanup 9:00 AM



## LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Easy, Medium, and  
Advanced Tasks available

Please bring your own gloves and tools



TO PRE-REGISTER & SIGN UP FOR YOUR FAVORITE  
TASK AHEAD OF TIME CONTACT TRACI OR JESSE

Lions Bear Lake Camp  
3409 N Five Lakes Rd  
Lapeer, MI 48446

[traci@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:traci@bearlakecamp.org)  
[jwalling@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:jwalling@bearlakecamp.org)



## Leader Dog Fast Facts

### — Leader Dog Overview

#### **Mission**

Our mission is empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

#### **Programs**

Every year, we match 200 people with Leader Dogs, provide 100 people with orientation and mobility training, teach 24 teens leadership and travel skills, pair 6 people who are both deaf and blind with Leader Dogs, and pass on \$0 of the cost of these services to our clients.

#### **Funding**

Leader Dog operates entirely on donated funds. The continued success of our programs depends on the generosity of our contributors and community funding sources around the world.

#### **History**

Leader Dog was founded in 1939 by three members of a Detroit-area Lions club who were unable to obtain a guide dog for a friend from any other source. The trio led the purchase of an old farmhouse in Rochester Hills, Michigan to house the training facilities. Since then, we have raised, trained and graduated more than 14,500 Leader Dogs.

#### **Affiliation**

We are a private, nonprofit agency. Though we are not affiliated with Lions clubs, Lions are a major part of our history and remain a significant part of our support and success.

### — Guide Dog Program

- There are currently over 1.1 million people who are blind and partially sighted in the U.S. alone who can become more independent if they receive mobility training.
- 200 Leader Dogs and clients are matched every year.
- Leader Dogs for the Blind was incorporated in 1939 and our first class consisted of four people.
- Today, Leader Dog runs 12 guide dog sessions per year with up to 24 clients in each class.
- Most guide dog clients attend our three-week on-campus program. Some clients receive home-delivered dogs and training to accommodate time and travel limitations.
- Dogs are trained for four months prior to being matched with a client. Dogs for clients who are both deaf and blind receive extended training.
- There are more than 14,500 graduates in 49 states, 7 provinces and 31 countries.
- Utilities to maintain the residential program cost about \$430,000 annually.
- The 65,000 square foot kennel space houses up to 315 dogs.
- The average inventory of dogs requires in excess of 122,000 pounds of dog food annually.
- The Leader Dog food service team prepares approximately 170 meals per day and uses 2,000 dozen eggs, 1,800 pounds of beef, 3,000 pounds of chicken and 1,200 loaves of bread annually.



## CHOOSING A WHITE CANE

### Summary

For people who are blind, choosing a white cane can be a daunting task when you don't know where to start. You may not know who to reach out to, where to buy it, type of shaft, what size to get, and even what cane tip. So, let's start there: what do all those even mean? Canes come in all shapes and sizes, but do the differences affect my travel? How do I select the best cane for my size, gait and environment? Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor at Leader Dogs for the Blind Brad Welling provides an overview of different types of canes and how to select them.



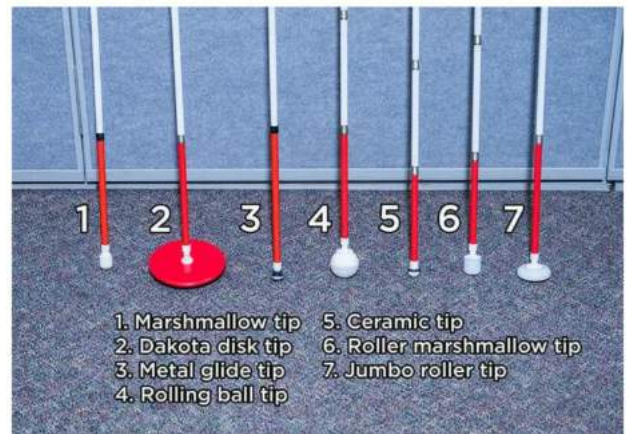
Choosing a cane can be a daunting task when you don't know where to start. I know when I had to get a cane for school, I had a hard time picking one out. I didn't know who to reach out to, where to buy it, type of shaft, what size to get, and even what cane tip. When I finally did get my cane, I just got what was in stock at the accessibility resource center. I ended up buying a 58" inch rigid cane with a fixed marshmallow tip. So, let's start there: what does that even mean? Canes come in all shapes and sizes, but do the differences affect my travel?

First, you have the material the cane is made of: some of these materials are graphite, aluminum and fiberglass. These differ with strength, flexibility and weight. When it comes to the cane shaft there are a couple options. The cane I bought is rigid, which means the shaft is one solid piece of material. Folding canes, as the name implies, will fold down to a smaller size for easier carrying and storage. They can have four, five or six segments. Lastly, we have collapsing canes, which are telescopic canes. Folding canes are handy; you can be using it and the moment you do not need it you can fold it up and hold on to it, put it in a bag or set it down somewhere. Rigid canes can be somewhat cumbersome due to their length, but they make up for it with their sensitivity to the environment. Collapsing canes can be portable, but they tend to collapse whenever encountering uneven terrain.



*My name is Brad Welling, and I am one of the certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS) here at Leader Dog. I'm originally from the Kalamazoo area in Michigan where I attended Western Michigan University. I graduated from WMU with an undergraduate degree along with a master's in orientation and mobility. While attending WMU I came to Leader Dog for one week to gain some real-world experience. As I went on to finish my degree, I remembered the great environment here at Leader Dog. After I graduated, when I saw that Leader Dog was hiring, I knew I had to go back.*

*knew I had to go back.*



Different types of cane tips

Canes can differ in their length. Cane length changes for everybody based on a lot of different variables, such as height, walking speed, preference, reaction time and use. With these in consideration, cane length tends to range from the height of a person's sternum up to the chin. Some people even use canes that are taller than they are! In school we were taught that the cane length should be at the top of the sternum and possibly a little longer if requested. However, I tend to lean more toward the longer cane size with it being two to four inches above the sternum. This depends on the person. If the person doesn't have the strength or mobility to move a longer/heavier cane, or the pace needed for a longer cane, then a short cane can be best. In my case I have a fast pace and a longer stride, so a longer cane works for me.



There are numerous cane manufacturers, but I want to focus on two big brands in the cane world: NFB (National Federation of the Blind) and Ambutech. NFB are primarily known for being one type, which are long rigid canes that are extremely light and flexible. They typically come with one tip option, the metal glide tip, which is fixed in place. Ambutech makes and sells many different types of canes. They tend to be a little heavier than NFB canes, but they make up for it with versatility. Many Ambutech canes have a bungee cord that goes through the center of the cane, this lets the cane have interchangeable cane tips. Ambutech canes come in both rigid (one solid piece) or folding.

The National Federation of the Blind has a program that gives out one free cane every six months for people that meet their requirements of being visually impaired. You can [view the National Federation of the Blind free cane program here](#). [Ambutech canes](#) can be purchased online through their website with a variety of pricing. Selecting the right cane brand, material, size and type is just half of the battle when finding the perfect match. Selecting the right cane tip is half the battle, and one that will be discussed at great length in an upcoming blog post.



Dear Barbara,

Angelina was only 13 years old when she scratched her cornea during a softball game. The resulting infection gave her a 50/50 chance of losing sight in her left eye.



Her saving grace came in the form of a cornea transplant.

Seventeen years after her transplant, Angelina's life has been transformed. She is now a mother to a beautiful baby girl. She is grateful every day for the cornea transplant that now allows her to watch her daughter grow.

Learn more about Angelina's story at [eversightvision.org/angelina](https://eversightvision.org/angelina).

YOU play an important role in making stories like Angelina's possible. Will you help someone see their future? Please [make a gift](#) today.

Thank you, again, for your support. Please contact me at (734) 780-2616 or [diane@eversightvision.org](mailto:diane@eversightvision.org) if we can ever be of service to you.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Diane Hollingsworth'.

Diane Hollingsworth  
President/CEO

P.S. Don't miss the chance to double the impact of your gift! Please visit [eversightvision.org/matching-gifts](https://eversightvision.org/matching-gifts) to learn more.



Eversight's mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness through the healing power of donation, transplantation and research. Our vision is a world without blindness.

@EversightVision | #YouChangeLives





Golf anywhere, anytime **May 25 - June 15** to raise awareness and charitable support for sight-saving transplants and vision research.

[Learn more & register today](#)

Register by **5 p.m. ET Friday, May 5** to receive your welcome package including instructions, scorecard, golf ball sleeve and exclusive Eversight golf gear.

**Sponsorships including golfer registrations are available!** Confirm your sponsorships no later than **5 p.m. ET Friday, May 5** for recognition benefits. Sponsorship at the Gift of Sight level covers Eversight's costs to provide a donated cornea for sight-saving surgery, and includes the course fee at an Eversight-featured course.

#### **Not a golfer?**

Bid to win during the Golf for Good! Online Silent Auction **June 9–17** to support Eversight charitable programs. Or, support Eversight with your [tax-deductible gift](#).

Join Eversight in person on **Saturday, June 17** at Washtenaw Golf Club to learn tournament winners, participate in a wine pull, and celebrate our Shared Vision awardees!

[Get your tickets today](#)

Thank you for supporting Eversight—and our work to restore sight and prevent blindness through the healing power of donation, transplantation and research.





## 2023 MD 11 Lions Convention

Fellow Lions-

We couldn't be more excited about this year's convention in Muskegon May 18-20!

The convention committee has lined up several great events for those attending, featuring 5 outstanding breakout sessions to choose from. Included in the mix is an exciting opportunity for the bird lover – a bird watching tour at the infamous Muskegon Wastewater Center, where opportunities for bird sightings abound on its vast tracks of open land adjacent to the Muskegon State Game area. American White Pelicans, Eagles, Northern Shovelers and warblers of all species awaits you!

Hear up to date information on the refugee efforts in Michigan and support of Ukrainians around the world from speakers, Lion Lana O'Lonergan of Muskegon, Ms. Anna Kovalenko, Leader of the Ukrainian Community of Grand Rapids; Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Detroit, Mr. Vasyl Perets, and Immediate Past International President, LCIF Chairperson Douglas Alexander. This will be powerful. See the attached list which details time, meeting room locations, breakout session topics and speakers.

We'd love to have you participate in the Saturday parade or to see you on the sidelines! Complete details for all-things convention are on our website, [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)

Rooms are filling quickly, and the deadline to reserve your hotel room at a reduced rate is April 28. Call 1-833-999-0181 and use code LIO.

Register online at: <https://www.lionsofmi.com/index.php/md11convention-23/md11-convention-register-pay-online> or simply mail a check.

This year's convention will prove the fact that Together We Can...Be Extraordinary!

Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director  
Lions Clubs of Michigan  
[wburns@lionsofmi.com](mailto:wburns@lionsofmi.com)  
517-887-6640 ext. 103  
[www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)



## 2023 MD 11 Lions Convention

**TOGETHER WE CAN...BE EXTRAORDINARY!**

**May 18-20, 2023 VanDyk Mortgage Center, Muskegon, MI**

**Call for reservations today: 1-833-999-0181 Code LIO (April 28<sup>th</sup> deadline to receive discounted price)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐Lion ☐Leo ☐Spouse ☐Guest

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐Lion ☐Leo ☐Spouse ☐Guest

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this your first MD Convention?** ☐Yes ☐No **How many years a Lion member?** \_\_\_\_\_

### QUANTITY

### AMOUNT

_____ <b>Thursday Picnic @ \$15.00</b> , May 18, 2023	\$ _____
_____ <b>Registration @ \$15.00</b> for each Lion/Leo	\$ _____
_____ <b>Registration @ \$15.00</b> for each Spouse/Guest	\$ _____
_____ <b>Friday Evening Buffet @ \$25.00</b> per person	\$ _____
_____ <b>Saturday Breakfast @ \$16.00</b> per person	\$ _____
_____ <b>Saturday Night Banquet @ \$35.00</b> per person	\$ _____
<b>Entrée Choice: Braised Short Ribs</b> _____ <b>Citrus Glazed Salmon</b> _____	
<b>Gluten Free</b> _____ <b>Vegetarian</b> _____	<b>Total:</b> \$ _____

**Please Note any special needs (i.e., deaf interpreters, dietary restrictions, food allergies, etc.)**

Everyone **MUST** pay the registration fee. No meal tickets may be purchased unless registration fee is paid. Deadline for pre-registration and purchase of tickets is **May 5, 2023**. No refunds after May 5, 2023. Tickets and registration packets will be distributed at the Lions Registration Desk at the Delta Marriott, Muskegon. They will not be mailed to you. The registration desk will be open Thursday at 5:00; Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Saturday Banquet tickets may be picked up Saturday evening at the Ballroom entrance.

**Mail to: Lions of Michigan, 5730 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911**

**or**

**Register and pay online at: [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com)**

## MD 11 CONVENTION: TOGETHER WE CAN...BE EXTRAORDINARY! SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Thursday May 18 Kick off Picnic 6:00 pm**

All aboard the USS LST 393! – *Sponsored by Muskegon Northside Lions Club; Food Service provided by Ravenna Lions Club*

### **Hospitality Suite 804 Friday/Saturday, May 19-20, 2023**

#### **Friday May 19**

Friday 9:00 am

Council of Governors Meeting A2

Exhibitor Hall Open – Silent Auction Van Dyke Foyer

Breakout Session I – Birdwatching (*meet in the Marriott lobby 9:00 am*)

**Friday: 1:30 – 2:20** Breakout Session Sponsors: *Pearl Beach Lions Club; District 11 E2*

District Governor Elect Training A2

Breakout Session II – Club Secretary Training A1

Breakout Session III – Club Treasurer Training A3

Breakout Session IV – KidSight Training Ballroom C

#### **Friday 2:30 – 4:00**

Breakout Session V – Ukrainian Focus Group – Section D Lower Level

**Friday 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm** *Welcome Party Sponsor: District 11 E1; On-Site Construction*  
Welcome Reception, Dinner, DJ, Lions Got Talent

#### **Hospitality Room 804 Open 9:30 p.m.**

Sponsored by PID Gary & Lion Cheryl Anderson

#### **Saturday, May 20 8:00 am**

Exhibitor Hall Open – Silent Auction Van Dyke Foyer

Awards Breakfast Ballroom B-C

Business Session Ballroom B-C

Voting End of Ballroom C

#### **Saturday May 20**

C1 District Convention 12:00-4:00 pm Section D Lower Level

#### **Saturday May 20 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

Lions on Parade through downtown Muskegon Line up 1:30 parade 2:00

**Sock Hop Service Project** 3:30-4:30 pm Ballroom A2

#### **Saturday May 20 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

Cocktail Reception; Awards Banquet featuring guest speaker IPIP Douglas

Alexander; SA Dodge Awards Ballroom B-C

Silent Auction Closeout

#### **Hospitality Room 804 Open 9:30 pm**

Hospitality Room Sponsor: PID Gary & Cheryl Anderson





*Lions MP II Convention*

*Together We Can... Be Extraordinary!*

VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center, 460 W Western Ave, Muskegon, MI 49440

**LIONS OF MICHIGAN INAUGURAL PARADE**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023**

Grab your club members, yellow vests, club shirts, banners, old cars, and community floats. Lions are going to roar into Muskegon with a parade like no other!

Take part in this inaugural event with fellow Lions from around the state. Now's the time to bring out your creativity, your humor, your talents, your time to shine and **BE EXTRAORDINARY!**

*Pre-Register your club/entry today!!*

The Lions of Michigan Inaugural Parade will be held Saturday, May 20th in downtown Muskegon. The parade route will span 5 blocks ending at the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center. You must pre-register by completing the registration form and sending it to [wburns@lionsofmi.com](mailto:wburns@lionsofmi.com); fax 517-887-6642; or mail to: Lions of MI, 5730 Executive Dr, Lansing 48911. Entries must be received by **May 1**.

-----  
 Club Name/District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many Club members participating? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Will you have a float or other vehicles? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size of float or vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form to [wburns@lionsofmi.com](mailto:wburns@lionsofmi.com); fax 517.887.6642 or mail to:  
 Lions of MI, 5730 Executive Dr., Lansing 48911**

## Have you entered your club in the parade?

Club Secretary's –

Please continue to help us promote all-things convention within your district/clubs!

Your participation is needed in our parade on Saturday May 20 through downtown Muskegon. Walk with club members, roller skate, dress as a clown, ride on a club float or just have some good fun as a spectator!

There are also a couple time slots left to show off your talent at the “Lion’s Got Talent!” show on Friday evening.

The MD 11 Convention committee has scheduled an action packed and educational event, highlighting our LCI guest speaker, IPIP Douglas Alexander. Let’s give him a great Michigander Welcome!

Here is the link to convention details – again, please share!

<https://www.lionsofmi.com/index.php/md11convention-23>

See you in Muskegon, where “Together We Can...Be Extraordinary!”

Lion Wendy Burns

From: Lions Leadership

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:18 PM

Subject: Countdown to Convention!

## ***LCIF CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE***

Bring your change to the MD 11 State Convention and support your District in the Challenge for Change LCIF Event.

District Governors have been challenged to decorate a Gallon Milk Jug for donations to LCIF. Clean out your counter tops and pockets for change you have laying around and donate it to your Governor’s collection jug.

The District raising the most money at the Convention will be awarded a Melvin Jones that they can present in their District to a well deserving Lion.

We make a difference Internationally through the funds and service we. Our donation will be presented to IPIP Douglas Alexander at the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, May 20. Let’s make a Difference!



## Convention Roundup

Our convention began with the District Cabinet Meeting on Friday afternoon. We then moved on to the fun stuff- the mixer and the service project, packing tool bags for Habitat for Humanity, and DG's Rod's haircut to benefit LCIF, which raised over \$5000!



Saturday morning began with officers' training and a session for all Lions, followed by the District Business meeting, state project presentations, followed by the luncheon and raffle, and honoring the Peace Poster winner.



The evening brought the District Awards Banquet, followed by a hospitality room hosted by the Alpena Lions.



On Sunday morning we honored our deceased Lions, and held elections.



So if you weren't there, make plans to come and join us next year!

District 11-E2  
Business Meeting Minutes  
April 30, 2023

Meeting Called to Order by DG Leathers at 10:04 AM.

Attendees: PID Blankenship, DG Leathers, VDG Murch, IPDG/GMT Gaines, CST Durflinger, GLT Zeller, GST/ZC Marie Leathers, ZC Dennis Gocha, ZC Jan Kane, PDG Gingerich, PDG Carolyn Blankenship, Lions Bob Nelden, Chuck Brew, Ginny Brew, Shirley Hill, Diane Skop, Sandy Egbers, Adam St. Onge, Brian Graff, Jean Manning, CarlaJean Gingerich, Linda Harris, Judy Dengate, Mike Dengate, John Novak, Art Woollard, Dean Deliyianides, Ron Morgan, Greg McGeorge, David Zimmer, Julie Haase, Bob LaBeau, Di LaBeau, Pam Kincaid, Elizabeth Chace, Brian Chace, BJ Sander, Linda Gocha, Faye Miller, Dan Miller, Brenda Chanda, Linda Chase, Tim Timmer, Bethany Hedgepath, Donna Paradis, Shelley Lewis and Mark Lewis

The invocation was given by VDG Murch, and the pledge was led by ZC Jan Kane. Guests PID BJ Blankenship and PDG Carolyn Blankenship were introduced.

**PID Comments-** PID Blankenship thanked us for our hospitality. He noted that he was honored to be here. He has been using the Michigan Membership Plan in Tennessee, so was happy to come to Michigan. He said our plan has changed lives around the world.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion by IPDG Gaines, supported by Lion Diane Skop to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2022 business meeting. Motion carried. There was no correspondence.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bank signatures and depository were discussed. A motion was made by Lion Diane Skop, supported by Lion Ginny Brew that we continue with current bank (Community Federal Credit Union) and to have the signatories be the incoming DG, CST Barb Durflinger, and the incoming 1<sup>st</sup> VDG on checks. Two signatures are required. Motion carried. (Note: After the Sunday 4/23 elections, the incoming DG is 1VDG Steve Murch, and the incoming 1<sup>st</sup> VDG is ZC Dennis Gocha).

**Rules-Convention** rules are printed in official convention booklet. It was moved by Lion Chuck Brew, supported by Lion Jean Manning that the rules be approved as published. Motion carried.

**Convention report-** PDG Gingerich thanked everyone for coming. He said as of right now 93 people have registered.

**Credentials:** Lion Bob Nelden reported that 13 clubs are in attendance, with 25 delegates and 5 alternates registered so far.

**Elections Report-** Lion Bob LaBeau reminded everyone that the elections will take place on Sunday morning at 10 AM.

**Nominations Report-** Lion Di LaBeau reported that there are candidates for 2 of the 4 open positions, 1VDG Murch running for DG, and DG Rod Leathers running for a two year term as Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee. The other vacancies will have to be filled from the floor or by appointment of the Honorary Committee.



**Upcoming District Conventions-** The Alpena Lions will host next year's convention.

**New Business- Matching grants for club projects-** The request from the Boyne Club for a matching grant led to a discussion of how to handle grants which only cover one, or a few clubs. After some discussion, a motion was made by Lion Chuck Brew, supported by Lion Adam St. Onge that the cabinet will review applications, and matching grants may be made of up to \$500. Motion carried. This policy will be written up and added to our district policy manual, which will be approved at the first board meeting of the new Lions' year. The grant request from the Boyne Valley Lions for a matching contribution for the "Safe Trails and Connected Communities" project will be addressed by the cabinet via email.

**Creation of Hunger Fund-** After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Lion Ron Morgan, supported by Lion Randy Booth that the proposal to align the district project funds and to add a new Hunger Fund previously submitted to all clubs and discussed at the cabinet meeting be adopted as proposed. (Proposal attached).

**Policy on Hearing Aids-** After some discussion it was moved by Lion Bethany Hedgepath, supported by PDG Dave Zeller, that clients be first required to go through the Lions of Michigan Foundation Affordable Hearing Aid program, and if that didn't work out for them, there would be a case by case decision as to whether district funds would be disbursed to assist with hearing aids. If the client goes through the LMF program, the district will disburse up to \$500 to assist with co-pays if needed after the client and sponsoring club provide funds. Motion carried. This policy does not affect how any individual club wants to handle hearing aids. It will only apply if the club asks for district funds.

**DG Presentations-** DG Leathers presented thank you certificates to his cabinet and to the committee chairs.

**Audience comments-** PDG Zeller asked everyone to save the date of 10/17/2026 for the Alpena Lions 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. International President Brian Sheehan has agreed to be the keynote speaker.

**VDG Comments-** VDG Murch commented that we really need candidates for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG in order that we have continuity in the district.

**DG Comments-** DG Leathers thanked everyone for their support.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

CST Barb Durflinger

## Lions District 11-E2 Elections Minutes, April 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order by DG Leathers at 10 AM.

Attendees: DG Leathers, PID Blankenship, VDG Murch, IPDG Gaines, CST Durflinger, ZC's Leathers, Kane and Gocha, GLT Zeller, PDG Carolyn Blankenship, PDG Gingerich, Lions Jean Manning, BJ Sander, Chuck Brew, Ginny Brew, Shirley Hill, John Novak, Kay Gaines, CarlaJean Gingerich, Wayne Nelson, Bill Chase, Linda Chase, Linda Gocha, Sandy Egbers, Diane Skop, Randy Booth, Missy Booth, Donna Paradis, Doug Kane, Adam St. Onge, Pam Kincaid, Di LaBeau, Bob LaBeau, Bob Nelden, Mark Lowis, Shelley Lowis, Brian Graff, Ed Klimczak

Invocation: VDG Steve Murch

Pledge: ZC Marie Leathers

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of Elections Meeting of May 1, 2022 by PDG Zeller, with support from Lion St. Onge. Motion carried.

Elections: Presiding Lion Bob LaBeau

Credentials: Lion Bob Nelden reported 10 registered clubs, with 29 delegates registered.

Nominations: Lion Di LaBeau reported 2 qualified nominees:

For District Governor- 1VDG Steve Murch

For 2 year term Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee- DG Rod Leathers

Nomination Speeches: For DG Rod Leathers running for Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustee- Nominated by Lion Mark Lowis, supported by GST Marie Leathers. For VDG Steve Murch running for District Governor- PDG Dave Zeller, supported by PDG Barb Durflinger.

Open Nominations for Vice District Governor- For First VDG- ZC Dennis Gocha, nominated by Lion Bill Chase, supported by Lion Linda Chase. For second VDG- GST/ZC Marie Leathers, nominated by DG Rod Leathers, supported by PDG Barb Durflinger

<u>Seating of Delegates:</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Delegates Allowed</u>	<u>Delegates Present</u>
	Alpena 6		5
	Central Lake 7		7
	East Jordan 4		4
	Elk Rapids 1		1
	Grayling 2		2
	Hillman 2		2
	Houghton Lake 1		1
	Mack City 3		2
	Mio 2		2
	Oscoda 6		3

Delegates seated - 29, 15 votes required for election

Ballots were passed out. The ballots were counted by Lion Bob LaBeau and Lion Bob Nelden. As no races were contested, once the ballot tallies reached 15, the officers were declared elected.

It was moved by PDG Gingerich, supported by Lion Chuck Brew to destroy ballots. Motion carried.

DG Leathers presented blazer crests to the DGE, 1VDGE and the 2VDGE.

DG Comments- DG Leathers commented that it has been a great honor to be DG this year. He noted that the people in this district make it a great job. He is proud of the incoming slate of officers. He thanked PID Blankenship and PDG Carolyn Blankenship for joining us at the convention.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by DG Leathers at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
PDG Barb Durflinger,  
Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer

# Calendar of Events

## MAY 2023

**Cinco De Mayo** — May 5

**Mother's Day** — May 14

**Memorial Day** — May 29

**2023 MD 11 Lions Convention** — May 18 - 20 — VanDyk Mortgage Center, Muskegon, MI

## JUNE 2023

**Father's Day** — June 18

**Summer Solstice** — June 21

## JULY 2023

**Independence Day** — July 4t

**Lions Clubs International Convention** — July 7-11 — Boston, MA



## PASSINGS REPORTED



NONE REPORTED

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

## New Members Reported — APRIL 2023

Alpena Lions:	MARK D BALKO — Joined: 04/04/2023 — Sponsor: GARY STEVENS
Indian River Lions:	KELSEY RUTKOWSKI — Joined: 04/18/2023 — Sponsor: LESLIE DRURY
Rose City Lions:	CURTIS W THOMPSON — Joined: 03/13/2023 — Sponsor: VIJAY KUMAR
	EILEEN M THOMPSON — Joined: 03/13/2023 — Sponsor: VIJAY KUMAR

*Total: 4 New Members*

## On the Mend Reported

NONE REPORTED\*

\*However, DG Rod Leathers was walking around the Convention with crutches, so we wish him a speedy recovery from whatever caused this condition! (Hope it wasn't a barbering accident...)



## Elk Rapids Lions

### APRIL 2023

Student Mazzie Schiller from Elk Rapids Club area won the district prize for the 2022 Peace Poster contest. The theme was "Lead With Compassion".

(Info from Lion Jean Hill)



## Boyne Valley Lions

### APRIL 2023

April 12: Lion Jim White donated 42 pairs of needle nose pliers to the Habitat for Humanity district project

a) The Lions are putting together 50 tool bags to hand out to the Habitat for Humanity.

Camp Daggett would like to know if the Lions are able to schedule a clean up day for our cabin.

a) The club has decided to find a time to clean the Lions cabin at Camp Daggett. Watch for sign up sheets.

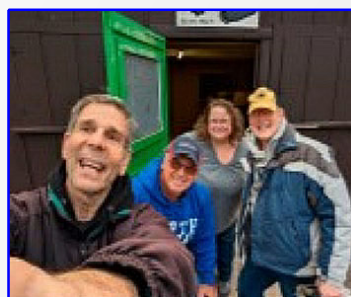


Lion Jim: Thank you for your donation to help create 50 tool kits for Habitat for Humanity. The tool kits were assembled at the Lions District Convention last weekend. You serve!.

Group photo for Charlevoix County Community Foundation



Lions Lisa, Mike, Peter, and Larry cleaned up the Lions cabin at Camp Daggett yesterday (April 25)



April 26: The Lions board met last Wednesday.

Summary of donations approved:

- (1) \$250 Lions Clubs International Foundation
- (2) \$500 Eversight
- (3) \$500 Leader Dogs for the Blind
- (4) \$500 Lions of Michigan Foundation
- (5) \$500 Lions Bear Lake Camp
- (6) \$250 Lions of Michigan All State Band
- (7) \$250 Michigan Butterfly Habitats — (Skylar MacNaughton was our speaker at the last club meeting)

Info From Meeting Notes



## East Jordan Lions

**APRIL 2023**

More than 100 kids took part in the activities on Saturday, April 8th at the Elementary School for the East Jordan Lions Easter Fun and Games event .

The East Jordan Lions had 12 games set up and gave away prizes and candy. They also gave away 2 bikes and fishing poles. The Easter bunny and a Lion showed up too!



*Left:* Lions Linda Gocha, Faye Miller and Linda Michael by the free prizes.

East Jordan Lions brought in new member, Janet Cronover. She was sponsored by Denny Gocha and is pictured with Lion Denny and King Lion Bill Chase. Welcome to our club Janet!

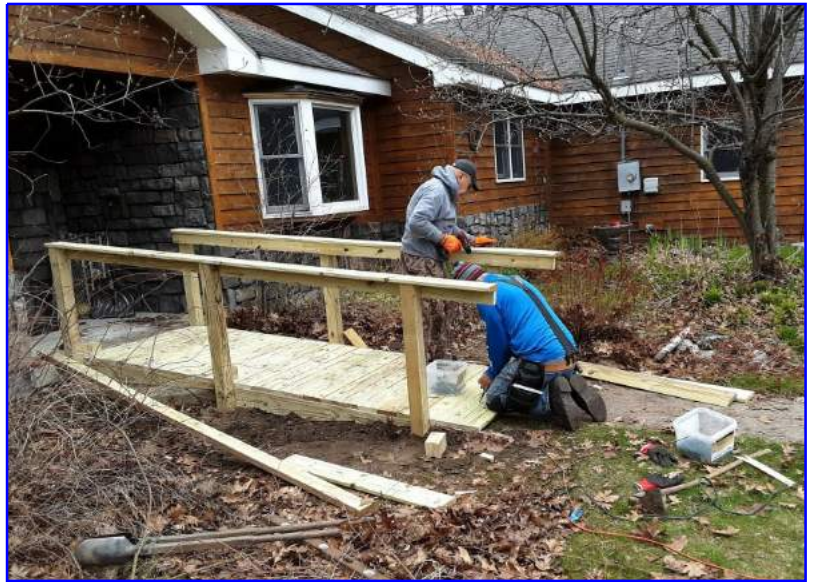


East Jordan Lions picked up 17 bags of trash for a 2 mile stretch of M-66 for Adopt-a-Highway. Thank you Lions Bill Chase, Adam St. Onge, Sherry Pursel, Tim Streufert and Lindsey Bassett. Thank you for a job well done!



**Oscoda Lions****APRIL 2023**

Oscoda Lions ramp building team of Lions John Tony. Bob and Ann built another ramp. First they removed the old ramp. Then built a new one 12 ft Long with post and rails.



We Serve.

## DISTRICT NEWS

comdac@comdac.com

Apr 28, 2023, 12:19 PM This is a reminder that the seller's drawing for the LMF Sight & Hearing tickets will take place next Saturday (5/6) in Lansing, so if you want to be in that drawing, please get your tickets to the State Office right away. You still have time to continue selling tickets until the final drawing on 5/20, but remember if they arrive after 5/20, the money will be returned, so don't waste your hard work by sending in the tickets late.

I will be going to the State Convention in Muskegon where the final drawing will be taking place, as will DG Rod (and probably a few others), so you can get your tickets turned in by getting them to one of us also. We will need them by 5/17 so we can enter them for you.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Barb

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATES – MAY 01, 2023**

This is a snapshot of the World, Nation, and State of Michigan statistics on or near **MAY 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 [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com), WHO, CDC, [covid19.place](https://covid19.place) & [michigan.gov](https://michigan.gov). & other health websites)

**World Statistics**

Cases: 764,474,387 ❖ Deaths: 6,915,286

Average 7-day New Cases: 457,973

**U. S. Statistics**

Cases: 106,678,503 ❖ Deaths: 1,161,164

Average 7-day New Cases: 29,423

**Michigan Statistics**

Cases: 3,101,014 ❖ Deaths: 42,749

Average 7-day New Cases: N/A

**UPDATE: State of COVID-19 In 2023****Current CDC Guidelines For COVID Infections**

How long after a positive COVID-19 test do you remain contagious?

People with COVID-19 can spread the virus to other people starting two days before they develop symptoms (or 2 days before the date of their positive test if they do not have symptoms) through 10 days after they develop symptoms (or 10 days after the date of their positive test if they do not have symptoms).

When does the CDC no longer require isolation?

Your symptoms are improving.

You may end isolation after day 5 if: You are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication).

**One of Many Statements on COVID-19 at the Present**

Although COVID-19 is still circulating around the world, the number of new coronavirus cases worldwide has decreased greatly since the start of 2023. Due to the the high number of people who have already been infected and high rates of vaccination in many countries, COVID-19 does not pose the same threat as it did from 2020 through 2022. Most countries have lifted all restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the disease and many are no longer keeping accurate counts of new cases. — [www.statista.com](https://www.statista.com)

**Trivia: Weather You Like It Or Not**

- Michigan has average annual precipitation of about 30–38 inches (760–965 mm). The wettest part of the state is in the southwest, with precipitation decreasing toward the northeast.
- The rainiest year of all in Michigan was 2011, which recorded the most rainfall between 1970–2020, receiving a total of 47.7 inches of rain. The following years came pretty close to 2011's total: 2018 recorded 43.81 inches of rain. 1990 recorded 42.64 inches of rain.
- The amount of precipitation that falls on Michigan in an average year: 54.2 trillion gallons.
- Michigan will be seeing hotter summer months than normal this year. However, the state will also be seeing more rainfall compared to previous years. The Climate Prediction Center recently issued an updated summer forecast for the months of June, July, and August on April 20.



## A TALE OF KINDNESS ON THE ROAD

On Saturday, March 25, 2023, an incident occurred that I had never encountered before. That Saturday was the day of the big snowstorm that covered most of Northern Michigan. My wife and I had gone to Petoskey in the morning to walk with our dog on the Bear River Park pathway before the snow began to fall. The snow had just begun before we started driving home on US 31, and we were just about to go through Bay View when the car ahead of us slowed down. Then it just stopped on the road, causing me to stop as well.

There was no shoulder on that part of the road. It was evident that something was wrong with that car, as it slowed down to stop with no brake lights on. I noticed that the license plate had the wheel chair logo, the sign that the driver may be physically impaired. So what do you do in that situation? I could drive around the stopped car and go on my way, or I could see if there was anything we could do to assist the driver. My wife said "I think we need to stay here and find out if the driver needs help," which was exactly what I had decided.

I turned on the safety flasher lights to alert drivers behind us that we were there and not moving. The other car had no lights on, a dangerous thing when cars in a 35 mph zone come up behind at 55 mph. Even before I could turn on the flasher lights cars behind us swerved out into the turn lane to get past the two immobile vehicles.

My wife got out of the car and went up to the passenger side of the stalled car to talk to the driver. The driver was a woman on her way home from having her car worked on, which obviously was not successful. The car just died, no lights or power.

I almost always take my phone with me when leaving home, but on this day I had accidentally left it on the kitchen counter in the hustle to get out and back before the snow arrived. My wife didn't have her mobile phone either, so we were unable to call any authorities, police or towing trucks, for help. Fortunately, the woman did have a phone and had called for a towing truck, and also called her daughter who lived close by. We stayed so the flasher lights could keep traffic alerted to the stopped cars until her daughter arrived about 10 or 15 minutes later.

Thankfully the traffic wasn't terribly heavy, and everything worked without harm. However, while my wife was talking to the driver a white pickup went past the car, and the man driving it yelled out "You can't park your car there!"-- which was totally unhelpful information for a situation he obviously didn't comprehend.

But helping someone did give us both good feelings.

The next morning we awoke to sunshine and a blanket of snow around a foot or so deep. After a quick snowblowing to clear the driveway, we decided to go snowshoeing with our dog to a favorite trail area a few miles away. The roads had been plowed, so we had no problems getting there.

However, when I turned into the parking area, it was not plowed at all. There were 3 or 4 cars parked, pickups and SUV's, vehicles that didn't scrape the bottom of the car in 12 inches of snow. Unfortunately, our Prius scraped a few inches into the snow as we entered. We stopped to park, and after seeing the situation decided to leave before we got stuck in this snow. I started to back out, but came to a sudden stop. Parts of the parking area were ice below the snow, and we were right over one. I couldn't move forward or backward, wheels just spinning on thick slippery ice. I tried rocking back and forth, pushing from behind, pushing from the front, all useless. We didn't move an inch.

Then a pickup turned into the trail parking lot and drove up behind our car. A man came out, and asked if we needed help. He said he was driving by, saw me trying to push the car, turned around, and drove back to the Nature Preserve to help us. He connected a towing strap to the back of our car, and backed out onto the road, bringing our car with him. So quick and easy I hardly had time to blink. We thanked him, and he drove on to his destination. Being helped by someone gave us both good feelings.

On one day we had helped a woman stay safe when her car died on the road. The next day we are rescued by a man who turned around to come back and pull us out of an icy, deeply snow covered parking lot. Two acts of Kindness, one given, one received. Both encouraging hope that there may more good people out there than we think, many of them are in northern Michigan, and many of them are Lions.

## PICTURES OF THE MONTH



### Life of Lions

Over the years, the population of lions has decreased by 43% and are officially classified as "vulnerable." Lions play a crucial role in keeping a healthy balance of numbers among other animals. If the population continues to decrease, this would negatively affect the environment to where an entire ecosystem could collapse. Many people believe that since lions are the "king of the jungle" or the "superior" animals, they never expect something like this to happen to them and don't think about the consequences of not protecting these amazing animals. We need to provide more information and awareness of this situation to help the lions and save the ecosystem. Contribute to this cause so they can have a bright future.

Kateln Vardhese, Hebron High School



**Left:** Lioness & Lion together (stock.)  
**Top:** Report displayed of a student about the ominous plight of decreasing lions (name hidden to protect student's privacy).  
**Right:** Student's illustration of a lion. (Note: pictures have glare from lights around the exhibit).



My wife and I drove to Dallas, Texas, for a business conference late last summer. While she was attending one of the presentations, I walked around the hotel lobby. I came upon a display of high school students' reports for environment-focused art and essays. It was all very interesting, and I was impressed by the knowledge and understanding of our planet's natural mechanisms, and the caring these young people demonstrated.

There was one exhibit that really drew my attention – a picture of a lion and a commentary on the dwindling numbers of this apex predator. The big cat from which we obtained the name of our organization is headed toward extinction unless we humans can do something to prevent it. Human activity has caused this by taking over much of lion habitats, hunting for trophies and poaching, and in some areas decimating the prey animals lions need to survive.

What would happen if all lions died? Without lions, the ecological balance of our African savannas would be severely altered. Lions provide for all the scavengers like hyena, jackal, and vultures who eat the lions' leftovers. So if lions are doing well, then the entire ecosystem is also doing well. 100 years ago, the lion population was approximately 200,000. According to National Geographic, "2,000 years ago more than a million lions roamed the Earth", over most of the land on the planet. In 2023 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates that between 23,000 to 39,000 lions remain in the wild. However, other data from recent years suggests that that number may be closer to 20,000, as three-quarters of their population is in decline.

As I contemplated about the decrease in lions in this world, I thought about the irony of decreasing numbers of lions in the clubs of our own organization. Just as our feline namesakes are victims of human activity, our human Lions clubs are declining due to changing human culture. Things aren't done the way they were 100 years ago.

**We can** save Lions if we have the will to find and act on ways to preserve habitats and end the killing.

**We can** continue to Serve others if we have the will to find and enact ways to replenish our memberships.

The world may be in a chaotic and difficult place now, but I believe there are enough people wanting to make the planet better for both animals and people – and willing to act upon their desire for a better future.

# You Make the News – We Publish It!

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

Send your information to: [dlzim47@gmail.com](mailto:dlzim47@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT!!**

**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

