

THE PULSE OF DISTRICT 11-C1

Lions of Michigan

www.lionsofmi11c1.org

“United We Serve”

November 2008



Good things to report for the month of October and the first part of November. I believe the district is taking the District Membership Drive seriously. We are showing a very good positive growth since September. By International's count, we are up 5 new members since September. This puts District 11-C1 at 1,152 as of October 31. What this report does not show is the 12 new Campus Club members, 2 new Fruitport members, 4 new Lyons-Muir members, 22 new Charter Members of the new Greater Muskegon Blue Sky Lions Club, 20 plus members of the new Portland Club, 20 plus members of the new Ionia Club, and any other club that has not submitted their MMR for the month of October. With the new members I just gave you and International's numbers, the district membership is at about 1,232. This is a gain of about 58 members since July 1 when I took office. Considering we have had 50 Lions resign for one reason or another since July 1, it is my feeling we are definitely on the move in 11-C1 and are going to reach the goal of 1,250 by December 31, 2008. That means if we bring in just 4.1 members a day until June 30, 2009, we will have reached our goal of 2,000 members in 11-C1 by the end of my term. I cannot stress to all our clubs how important it is to get your MMR's in on time. This is the only way we tell International where our membership is.

We had the Global Membership Team in last week. They were supposed to be here starting the 3rd of November and leaving on the 5th of November. We got started at the Lyons-Muir clubhouse with orientation and some Guiding Lions' training. We had targeted a new club in Portland and another one in Ionia. With their guidance, we headed to Portland and 2 days later we had enough charter applications filled out to have a first meeting of the new members on November 20th to fill out their charter. Next we headed to Ionia and started the same process over again; 2 days later we had, once again, enough charter applications filled out to have another first meeting to fill out charter papers on November 18. By the time we had all this done, our team had stayed an extra day to help us. In talking with them throughout the weekend, I had told them that Dennis Cobler and I had been working on a new club in Muskegon that was going to be formed to focus on helping the youth of Greater Muskegon. When I told them we had scheduled a first meeting to sign up charter members on that Friday, they volunteered to come to Muskegon and help us with the new club charter. I have been in Lions 25 plus years and I can say this was one of my most rewarding weeks in Lionism. Even in the hard times Michigan is facing, it proved to me that there are a lot of people still ready to step to the plate and make their community a better place to live. As far as Lions International goes, I cannot

thank them enough for putting together these teams to come out and educate us on how to bring in these new clubs.

We are now at a plus 3 new clubs in the district. We have 2 more clubs close to being formed: one in Comstock Park and another in Zeeland. The Zeeland Club has scheduled its first meeting November 12th and Comstock Park some time after the first of the year. I am also requesting from International to have Barb and Dick come back in December and help us with some new clubs in the south part of our district and the rebuilding of the Plainwell Club. I still believe we can have 16 new clubs by June 30. Let's show International how 11-C1 of Michigan handles their challenge to build our North American membership back up where it belongs. Let's be Number One in membership in North America.

Once again, do not hesitate to call me if you need help with membership or need help with your community projects and fundraisers. We have Lions in this district ready and willing to be there for you. Remember our motto this year is United We Serve.

Yours In Lionism, District Governor Mike Johnson

FROM THE PR CORNER CHAIR

Last month, we talked about evaluating our club and doing more. Now, from a PR angle, it's probably a good time to evaluate just where we are with our 2008-2009 goals and action plans.

By now, our plans should be unfolding and we can start looking at what works and what does not. What worked for me has been the better, wider use of our Lions' Flyers. Now placed in our city's information areas, they are readily available to visitors and new residents. Handed out with each "cane" sold during our "White Cane" sale, they were immediate answers to "Who gets the money?" and "What are the Lions?" Our pancake breakfast had them prominently displayed and each of our officers and board members now have a supply.

What hasn't worked is getting out our Public Service Announcements. We had talked about an interview with Lion President Jan Strauss for our community TV station. The radio station was interested in a series of PSA's identifying the collection points for used glasses and hearing aids – and here it is November. I had best get cooking.

Does all this ring a bell with you? Have you built a timing plan around your proposed 2008-2009 fund raisers? Do you know what works for you? Do you have a plan?

Maybe we had both get cooking!!

Yours in Lionism,
Stan Hone
District PR Chairperson

Governor's Travels

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>VISITATION/EVENT</u> |
|----------------|--|
| November 1 | Fall Conference |
| November 4 | Saugatuck/Douglas Visitation |
| November 12 | Zeeland 1 st Meeting |
| November 12-16 | Faculty Development Institute-Higgins Lake |
| November 18 | Ionia 1 st Meeting |
| November 20 | Portland 1 st Meeting |
| December 1 | Hastings Visitation |
| December 2 | Greater Muskegon Blue Sky Lions Club |
| December 2 | Dorr Visitation |
| December 6 | Dist. Exec. Board for Peace Posters |
| December 12-14 | Council of Governors - Lansing |

Club Secretaries/Program Chairpersons: I am in the process of setting up my club visitations. Please contact me to set a visitation to your club. First Lady Sue & I are looking forward to meeting with your club this year.

Also, if you are having any fundraisers, ie, spaghetti suppers, carnivals, pancake breakfasts, etc, please let me know as I hope to attend as many of these functions as I am able.

DG Mike

DISTRICT 11-C1 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

CHAIRPERSON, PDG Rodney Prys, reports that the Michigan delegation has a new headquarters hotel assigned for the International Convention in Minneapolis being held July 6-10, 2009. We will be housed at the Ramada Mall of America in Bloomington. It is 10 miles from the convention center and room rate is \$119 per night, plus tax.

The hotel is 2 blocks from the Mall of America and 2 miles from the airport. It has 248 rooms, free parking, complimentary high speed wireless internet, indoor and outdoor pools and a fitness room. There is an on-site café/pub that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The hotel provides complimentary 24-hour shuttle service. They also have shuttles to the Mall of America and access to the light rail train stations serving downtown Minneapolis. Hotel rooms feature hairdryers, coffee makers, irons, and in-room safes.

An online convention registration form is now available on Lions International's website.

DISTRICT 11C-1 GOVERNOR

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REGION 1 – Chair: Brian Werschem

ZONE 1: Jack Brewer
ZONE 2: Harvey Beute

REGION 2 – Chair: Kyle Austin PDG

ZONE 1: Nancee DeVogel
ZONE 2: Casey Dutmer

REGION 3 – Chair: Edwin Osborne

ZONE 1: Tom Hauck
ZONE 2: Ardist Ferris

REGION 4 – Chair: Carol Ruddy

ZONE 1: Lisa Evans
ZONE 2: Carmalita Way

Newsletter Editor
Sandy Harz
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FROM DISTRICT TREASURER, ROBERT BABCOCK

Regarding your district dues billings: I bill from the information that International sends to the State Office. International's information is gleaned from the MMR's they receive from your Club Secretary.

If you want to be billed the **correct** amount, please make sure that your MMR's are sent to International in a timely manner each month (by the 5th). If members are dropped during a month, make sure that by the 5th of the following month, you report them as "dropped".

If members are not dropped from your membership before June 30 or December 31, you will be billed for them as they are members of record. The District billings are for the periods of January 1-June 30 and July 1-December 31.

You are responsible for the dues of members not dropped by the semi-annual ending dates (June 30 and December 31).

Thank You

Robert A. Babcock, District Treasurer * * Please note my new email address: tre11c1@gmail.com
And my new snail mail mailing address is: P. O. Box 64, Ferrysburg, MI 49409.

FROM DISTRICT WEBMASTER, Cathy Koning

Subscribe to 11C1 News

Any Lion can subscribe or unsubscribe to the 11C1 mailing list (for sharing news) by sending mail to:
<members-subscribe@lionsofmi11c1.org> or <members-unsubscribe@lionsofmi11c1.org>

Instructions:

- 1) Create a new email message
- 2) In the address line (To) put members-subscribe@lionsofmi11c1.org
- 3) Leave the message/body part of the email blank
- 4) Send the message
- 5) You will receive a confirmation email to verify it was really you who sent the subscription request.
* * This is a good security feature.
- 6) You need to REPLY to the confirmation email.
Just press Reply and Send. Nothing more.

7) After that, you will receive information via the 11C1 mailing list.

Any questions, contact Webmaster Cathy at webmaster@lionsofmi11c1.org or 616-745-0119.

Share News with 11C1

- 1) Create a new email message
- 2) In the address line (To) put members@lionsofmi11c1.org
- 3) Type up your message or attach your flyer
- 4) Send the message

Everyone subscribed to the list will get the message.

* Many news items will also be placed on the website and/or in the district newsletter.

DISTRICT APPAREL – From Lion Sue Johnson – District Apparel Chairperson

Campaign SightFirst II was a great success and the funds from our District Apparel Fund helped us reach our goal as a District. Going forward, we have a new vision and goal to reach.

With PID Dennis Cobbler at the helm, we will be concentrating on forming 16 new clubs in our District through a new program initiated by Lions Clubs International. Each new club will need a banner and gavel as well as a sponsoring club and Guiding Lion. We have therefore renamed our District Apparel Account the “Extension Membership Growth Fund” and \$5.00 from each shirt sold will be put into this account to cover the cost involved in forming these new clubs.

We will be adding some new products to our apparel line in the near future. There will be two new front button, button-down collar shirts, one in a deep purple and one in white with our Lions logo and district on one side and the name of your club and your name on the opposite side. These will be added to the line of apparel after extensive testing has been completed to assure us the logos weather well through the washing and drying process. We also will be adding a wrap-around cooler-cover to keep cans and bottles cold. These will have the Lions logo, your name and club printed on them.

Also added to our apparel line for immediate sale are youth shirts in sizes xs, sm, med, and large with four different logos: 1) “My Daddy is a Lion”, 2) “My Mommy is a Lion”, 3) “My Grandpa is a Lion”, 4) “My Grandma is a Lion”. These items come in dark purple with the lettering in gold and are \$10.00 each. Watch for these new items on our website at <http://www.lionsofmi11c1.org> .

Our District apparel make wonderful gifts, and gives us a more versatile Lions wardrobe for events and functions.

Club Presidents & Secretaries: Because you are reading this, you have received the most current issue of the Pulse, our district newsletter. The Pulse has a lot of ideas for fundraisers for your club. Read what some of the other District clubs are doing and maybe there is a project or fundraiser that your club can try. If you have questions about a fundraiser, contact the club that put that particular fundraiser on and I’m sure they will give you tips and ideas about doing the same thing in your community.

The only thing is, if you don’t share this newsletter with your club, they won’t know about these great ideas. **PLEASE** share the newsletter with your club members. Make one copy and bring it to your next meeting. Let your club members know that they can also access the newsletter on our District website – www.lionsofmi11c1.org.

There is so much information about our district on the website and the State and International websites can also be accessed from our website. Also consider having a website created for your club. The District Webmaster is more than willing to put together a website for your club to “toot your own horn.” Let others in the district know what your club is all about.

Also, if your club has a monthly newsletter, please send a copy of it to me at: 13830 Oakwood Circle, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

CLUB NEWS (aka Gran's Gems)

Saugatuck/Douglas Lions: Received correspondence from ABVI thanking the club for their support and offering a tour of their facilities so the Club could learn first hand what ABVI does.

Grand Rapids – had speaker, retired Army Lt. Col. Denny Gillem speak to the club. He is the host of “*Frontlines of Freedom*” weekly talk-radio program on WOOD Radio that focuses on military-veteran issues. Inducted new members: Lion Don Jakel, Lion Kris Koorndyk and Lion Lorna Powell and the transfer of Lion Bob White into their club.

Muskegon Host – willing be placing flags on Seaway Drive for Veterans’ Day. Sold and delivered roses sold during Rose Day event.

The Wyoming Lions Club is sponsoring a trip to Little River Casino on Saturday, November 15. We are meeting for breakfast at Tommy Brann’s, 4157 S. Division, and will board the bus to Little River at 8:30. The bus will return to Tommy Brann’s at approximately 6:00 p.m. The price is \$45.00/person which includes your breakfast, admission to the casino, and chips. If you are visually impaired and will need a sighted guide, you must provide the guide.

To make reservations, contact Lion Stacy at (616) 538-9365. All reservations & money must be received by November 1. Reservations will not be complete until payment has been received. There will be NO refunds.

Saugatuck/Douglas Lions Club held their 11th annual Peace Poster Contest Awards Night on November 4 honoring the three top contestants out of 23 entries for this year’s theme “Peace Begins With Me”. District Governor Mike Johnson assisted the club’s President, Chris Herrell in presenting the top prize of \$50 to Art’om Goumeniouk and second runner-up prizes of \$25 to Makaih Eveland and Brianna Skiver, all of Saugatuck Middle School. Their parents were also in attendance and a brief history of the club was given; also an explanation about what the Lions are and do by District Governor Johnson.



Celebrating Independence Workshops

Date: First Friday Each Month
Time: 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Place: Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
456 Cherry Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI

Information programs open to the community – Blind, Visually Impaired, or Sighted.

For upcoming seminars, check the ABVI web page at www.abvimichigan.org.

The Celebrate Independence Workshop for November was entitled “*Adjusting to Vision Loss: A Family Affair*”. Please contact ABVI each month for the workshop topic for the current month. They can be reached at: 1-800-466-8084

START PLANNING NOW: The next USA/Canada Forum will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, September 24-26, 2009. There is soooo much to do in Memphis!! Remember, there’s more to Memphis than just Elvis. You can obtain information about the forum at the USA/Canada website: usacanadalionsforum.org Get a group together and travel to Memphis.

ANNOUNCING A RESOURCE FOR THOSE WHO LIVE WITH VISION LOSS SPANISH SPEAKING

Do you know anyone who is blind or visually impaired? Each day family members and friends who live with vision loss face unique challenges in a world oriented to visual prompts and signals. Now, support and help are available in your community.

A new **Spanish speaking** monthly peer support group for persons who live with vision loss, their families, and friends invites you to participate.

Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at:

**Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
456 Cherry Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

Please contact Rosemary Ramos (Group Facilitator) at (616) 458-1187 or (800) 466-8084, Ext 314 for more information. For information about our other support groups, visit the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired web site: www.abvimichigan.org/programs.

FLOAT AVAILABLE: Imagine this majestic Lion being pulled 9 ft 6 in above the streets of your club’s home town. He is the focal point of a 26 ft long float now available for rent at the low price of \$50 from the Grand Haven Lions Club. There is room for people to sit and ride the float and room to put your own decorations on it for your parade or project. The float is 26 ft long, 8 ft wide, and 9 ft 8 in at the highest point. What a wonderful way to spread the news of what we as Lions do and what we stand for. Interested? – give Lion Vicky a call at 616-842-0299 and rent this float for your next parade or project.



The Delton Lions Club held their annual Pumpkin sales starting the 2nd week in October and finished on Halloween night. There is a mini-spook house for the younger children, where they are given glo-bracelets before they go in the spook house and get candy when they leave. There is a live witch, ghost, or some other person handing out the candy. Pictured below is a family of six children picking out their pumpkins:



The Rockford Lions Club welcomed State Representative Tom Pearce to their regular October 23rd meeting to update us on his work on behalf of Camp Tuhsemeheta – A Rockford Lions funded activity.

Camp “T” serves the vision impaired through giving them the skills and self-confidence to operate in the world outside their front door. Tom Pearce has made it one of his missions to help solve the camp’s operating problems by legislatively severing their relations with the state and helping them stand on their own two feet. The club applauds Tom’s efforts and thank him for his mission to allow Camp “T” the freedom to achieve their goals. Pictured below is Club President Jan Strauss thanking Rep. Tom Pearce:



The Sparta Lions Club is looking back at 54 years as “Knights of the Blind”. PDG Oscar Anderson reflected on places he has traveled and mission trips to El Salvador and Guatemala. On one trip, the mission team gave out 3,300 pairs of glasses in 5 days. But, the Sparta Lions are also “Knights of the Blind” in their community also. In the last 50 years, they have offered more than visual freedom to those who would otherwise have a difficult time seeing. They have helped countless organizations and events including Boy State, Santa Claus Girls, Sparta Town & Country Days, and the Salvation Army.



Charter members Front: Merlin Kraft & Keith Goodfellow & other members of the club (L-R) Wendell Beuschel, Patrick Goodfellow, Dave Hornbrook, Todd Johnson, John Momber, Oscar Anderson and Dave Long

The Sparta Club has also recently perfected their ability to barbecue chicken. We’re very good at it, said Anderson, describing the 20 ft trailer that can grill 300 halves of chicken at one time.



L-R: Josh Goodfellow, Todd Johnson, Dave Hornbrook, Clary Crossen, and Oscar Anderson

The Fruitport Lions Club celebrated their 60th Anniversary on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at the Fruitport Auditorium. There were 101 Lions and guests in attendance for this memorable occasion. District Governor Mike Johnson and Past District Governor Dan Leaver were the head speakers with PDG Dan Leaver giving us a history of the Fruitport Lions Club dating back to 1948. Lion Jim Kauppila presented a slide show taking us down memory lane from 1948 – 2008 with many pictures of Lions and Lions events that made the Fruitport Lions Club what it is today. They had four honored guests and their spouses from the community that received Melvin Jones awards for the many years of dedication and support to the Lions Club and their projects. There was a string quartet that provided dinner music, a poem composed and read by Lion Morrie Dadd for the occasion, and a raffle and door prizes. PDG Rodney Prys inducted two new members into the club.

Melvin Jones Awardees:



Dr. Robert Pierce (on right)



Neil Panches



Terri Draeger



Sarah Williams



New Members: Chris Sima & Shelly Bessinger
and their sponsors

LIONS & DIABETES AWARENESS

DID YOU KNOW...

that every 10 seconds two people in the world develop diabetes?

Diabetes is a growing global epidemic affecting 246 million and **diabetic retinopathy** is the leading cause of vision loss in adults of working age in industrialized countries.

In November, Lions have two special opportunities to promote diabetes awareness:

- November is Lions Diabetes Awareness Month
- November 14th is World Diabetes Day

Diabetes prevention is proven, possible, and powerful. Eating healthier and getting 30 minutes of physical activity 5 days a week are two simple lifestyle changes that can delay or prevent diabetes (source: National Diabetes Education Program, 2008).

For more information about activities to commemorate Lions Diabetes Awareness month and the Strides...Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness Program, click onto (or paste into your web browser): http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_diab_strides_walk.shtml You will find educational materials that you can download.

Find out more about World Diabetes Day at www.worlddiabetesday.org