

THE PULSE OF DISTRICT 11-C1

Lions of Michigan

www.lionsofmi11c1.org

“United We Serve”

May 2009



May is here and roughly 60 days to go for this District Governor. I personally am not looking forward to my term being over. We have started a lot of good things this year in the District and to complete them, we all will have to work hard on them for the next several years to see them completed. My Zone Chairs and Region Chairs have done a great job getting the clubs to do their reports and get them into International. We still have eight clubs in the District that are back in 2008 with their reporting. These clubs are: Belding, June of '08; Cedar Springs, August of '08; Hopkins, December of '08; Mona Shores, September of '08; Sparta, December of '08; Thornapple Valley, August of '08; and Walker, May of '08. I thought long and hard about listing these clubs for public viewing, but after ten months of stressing how important these reports to International are, and making phone calls asking that these reports get sent in in a timely manner, I am now asking that anyone in the District that knows someone or reads this letter, please get them to bring their reporting up to date.

We are doing a great job on membership, but we cannot let up. The Governor this year has brought in 6 new members. With the schedule I try to keep, this has been a real challenge. But if I am asking everyone in the District to sponsor at least one new member, I feel I should lead by example. Time is getting short for our year-end figures to be plus 1,250; right now they are just below at 1,245. We need every member in our District to put forward their best effort and to bring in at least one new member. We have 16 clubs below 20 members; we need to bring these clubs up to 20 plus members. I have had phone calls from a few of these clubs asking for help and our MERL team is working with them to boost their membership. Once again, I am offering the service of the MERL team to any club that would like to increase their membership. Please call me at 231-557-3262 or e-mail me at mj1482@hotmail.com.

Yours in Lionism,
District Governor Mike Johnson

PS: The District Recognition Dinner has been changed to Saturday, August 29, at the F.O.P. Lodge in Twin Lake, Michigan. Happy Hour starts at 4:30 p.m. with dinner and awards at 6:00 p.m. We will be getting a formal invitation out to all the clubs in the District. A lot has happened in our District this year and there will be a lot of hard working Lions from all the clubs being recognized, so please put this important date on your calendar.

Governor's Travels

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VISITATION/EVENT</u>
May 2	Blue Sky Liberty Garden
May 5	Otsego Visitation
May 12	Comstock Park Club Organization Mtg.
May 14	Ravenna Goldfest
May 15-17	Multiple District Convention – Lansing
May 19	Muskegon Northside Visitation
May 19-25	Fruitport Old Fashioned Days
May 27	Allegan Lioness Visitation
May 28-30	Fruitport Texas Hold-Em
June 2	Fruitport/Muskegon N-side Installation
June 13	Welcome Homes Golf Outing
June 21	Grand Haven Dawn Patrol Pancake Breakfast
June 27	Lions Night at 5/3 Ballpark – Whitecaps Game
July 2	Whitehall Installation of Officers
August 29	Governor's District Recognition Dinner

Club Secretaries/Program Chairpersons: DG Mike is still setting up his club visitations. Please contact him to set a visitation to your club. DG Mike and First Lady Sue are looking forward to meeting with your club this year.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – District Governor Mike Johnson's District Recognition Dinner will be Saturday, August 29, at the F.O.P Lodge in Twin Lake, Michigan.

Go to www.usacanadalionsforum.org and check out the USA/Canada Forum to be held in Memphis September 24-26. There is a lot of information regarding speakers, "what's happenin' ", and a special Friday night event. There is more to Memphis than just Elvis.

If you have never been to a Forum, this would be a good time to go – you can drive to Memphis.

There is a registration form on the USA/Canada Forum website so make plans now to go.

SEE YOU IN MEMPHIS!!

DISTRICT 11C-1 GOVERNOR

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VICE GOVERNOR

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CABINET SECRETARY

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CABINET TREASURER

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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
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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: treal1c1@gmail.com
And my new snail mail mailing address is: P. O. Box 64, Ferrysburg, MI 49409.

Fruitport Old Fashioned Days – Pamona Park, Fruitport, MI – May 19-25, 2009

All Week – Carnival Rides; Lions Club Ox Roast; Riverboat Rides; Musical Entertainment

Friday-Monday – Free Petting Zoo; Sensory Safari

Saturday – 5k & 10k Road Race; Children's Parade; Children's Games

Friday & Sunday – Fireworks at dusk (weather permitting – no rain date)

Sunday – Community Marketplace & Garage Sale; Corvette Car Rally; Community Pig Roast

Monday – The largest Memorial Day Parade in West Michigan – begins at noon and features the Scottville Clown Band.

Sponsored by the Fruitport Lions Club Charities, Inc. of Fruitport, Michigan. For more information on specific days & times, see our website: www.fruitportlions.com

FLOAT AVAILABLE: Summer parades and events are just around the corner. Imagine a 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.



FROM THE PR CORNER CHAIR

Well, I am pretty excited. Our DVD “Introduction to the Rockford Lions Club” was introduced to our club a week ago and is presently airing on our local public TV station. It may show up on your doorstep one of these days, as Larry Lindsley, our membership chair, is planning to use this in building new clubs throughout our district. It was a fun venture and I am so proud of the professional editing work of our local Rockford High School “Beyond the Rock” student production company.

One thing I learned, little old PR Chairs have no place on a promotional piece. Our beautiful president, Jan Strauss, was great. Next time, we will team her with one of our younger studs.

International President Al Brandel’s message in the May “Lion” caught my eye. He speaks of how the projects we choose are those that “interest us and capture our passion.” All good, but he cautions success requires one must “STAY THE COURSE. STAY TRUE TO YOUR PASSIONS.”

Staying the course – Isn’t that one of our major problems for both club and individual? It is so easy to get excited about a new project and, often, so difficult to maintain that enthusiasm to get it done – and keep it going. President Al is writing about Lions Parks and how they fall into disrepair – but the same thinking may be applied to any service project or fund raiser.

To me, maintaining that passion, maintaining that eagerness is an essential part of the PR Chair’s job description. People, our members, respond to recognition. Let your community know how your club members built a ramp – or sold “White Canes.” Recognition builds community interest in your club and spotlights the member’s contribution. Recognition builds responsibility. Responsible members stay passionate. Passionate members “STAY THE COURSE.”

“THE END RESULT IS A SUCCESSION OF MIRACLES THROUGH SERVICE: - that’s President Al Brandel’s summation – and isn’t that what we are all about?”

Yours in Lionism,
Stan Hone, District PR Chairperson

CLUB/PROJECT NEWS (aka Gran’s Gems)

Muskegon Host Lions have their 90th Anniversary Pins available for sale. The cost is only \$4.00. Contact Lion Jack Brewer (jdbrewer1@verizon.net or call (231) 798-3799) if you are interested in obtaining a pin.

Grand Rapids Lions: Held their Lions Student Recognition Day on May 5; the club honors two students each from ten high schools in the Grand Rapids area. Holding their “Annual Drive for Vision” Charity Golf Outing on June 15.

Grand Haven Host: Plans for their Dawn Patrol pancake breakfast are falling into place. This will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Grand Haven Municipal Airport.

Ravenna Lions: Holding their annual “Goldfest” on May 14. Call Lion Dave Ruble (616-307-8094) if you have questions or want to know more details.

Rockford Lions, along with Fruitport and Lakewood Lions, are in the process of planning “Project Night” for this fall. It will be held at English Hills Country Club on October 15th. A great night of good food and “parade of checks” for the various projects.

Marne Lions Club has gained six new members so far in 2009. They are proud to have them as Lions in their club and welcome them to Lions International.



New members from left to right are: Mary Uzanski, Julie May, Michele Hagg, Milissa Wells, Janet Cross & Kerry Cross.

Fennville Lions Club: The Fennville Lions Club, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, hosted their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m. at the Fennville elementary school playground.

3,000 eggs filled with tickets for prizes and gumdrops were distributed (in plain sight) for children from ages 2 to 14. It was accomplished without a broken yolk; however, Lions' member, and Chamber President, Jim Lytle did step on one egg, so there were only 2,999 for the children to find. 125 children attended the event; the weather was nippy and windy but not a child seemed to notice. The Easter Bunny was present and had his picture taken with dozens of kids.

The Lions Club of Fennville placed all of the eggs on the ground and cleaned up the even afterwards.



Sightseer Reaches Beijing: Through the magic of the Internet, The Sight Seer Radio Reading Service is now available not only in Beijing, but in Allegan, Ionia, and throughout our Lion District 11C-1.



Martin Lion Marcia Beare, who has been blind from birth, is here pictured showing her Allegan Area Support Group for the Blind the east of operating the Sight Seer's new Internet Radio. She had invited the Sight Seer to her meeting – and now both she and member, Willie Jean Moore, are listeners to the Sight Seer's 24/7 reading of their wide diversity of printed material. Never off the air, Marcia and Willie Jean, now have constant access to newspapers, novels, history, commentary, poetry – a mosaic of information for the mind's palette.

Lions played a part in making this happen. Blind, both Marcia and Willie Jean needed help hooking up for their Internet Radio. Using the installation instructions supplied, Tom and Shirley Hoffman of the Allegan Club took the radio to Willie Jean and easily set it up. The Martin Club's Roger and Betty Evans, did the same for Marcia.

We work with the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired in reaching these support groups. As both ABVI and The Sight Seer need help in finding those who can use our services, Lions can be the solution as they know the neighbor in need. Our nation's privacy laws forbid disclosure of this population; therefore, we can only reach those who come to us through someone's recommendation.

Working with ABVI, we have more support group meetings lined up for this Spring and Summer. Working with the Lions, we have more meetings lined up to introduce our new service. Are we on your calendar? Call me (Stan Hone) at 616-874-9615 and set a date.

Celebrating Independence Workshops

ABVI is pleased to announce the continuation of the Celebrate Independence Workshops on the 1st Friday of every month. All workshops take place at the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired at 456 Cherry Street in Grand Rapids. Workshops begin at 2:00 p.m. and last for one hour. Check the ABVI web site to find out about the next program and support group activities. <http://www.abvimichigan.org>

June 5, 2009: Sunglasses – glare control for indoors and outdoors.

Please contact Charis Austin, Client Advocate at ABVI if you have any questions. (616) 458-1187 or (800) 466-8084

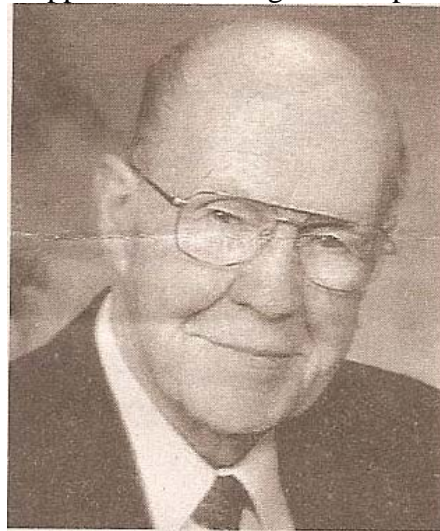
Lions Night at 5/3 Ballpark: The 2009 Lions Night at 5/3 ballpark is rapidly approaching, but the deadline for ordering your tickets is less than a month away. On Saturday, June 27, the West Michigan Whitecaps are hosting the Great Lake Loons. The game is at 7:00 p.m. Get there early, however, to see DG Mike Johnson throw out a “first pitch.”

This is a great evening of family entertainment, as there is always something going on between each half inning; the kids get to meet team mascots, and the evening concludes with a gigantic fireworks show.

This year you have two options for tickets. The cost of a ticket only is \$9.00. You may also order a ticket plus a hot dog and soda for \$11.50. Send your ticket order (form on page 8) and check to IPDG Gary Lacy, 15029 Reid Ct – Apt #109, Grand Haven, MI 49417. The deadline for ordering tickets is May 30th. Your tickets (and vouchers if ordered) will be mailed to you the first week of June.

Muskegon Host Lions Club

The Muskegon Host Lions Club has lost a long time member in Alfred (Al) Johnson. Al was a Past District Governor (1975-1976), past president of the club, and worked on the many, many pancake breakfast-suppers that Muskegon Host put on.



He is survived by his wife Doris, 3 sons, and 8 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marie and one daughter.

Attention Club Secretaries: If you are the Secretary Elect for 2009-2010 for your club, please keep this memo someplace where you will see it every day of you’re your as secretary.

As you well know, the District Convention concludes every year on Sunday morning with a Memorial Service in which we honor and remember all deceased Lions for the previous year. I send out two or three letters every year to all club secretaries, asking that you forward to me the bio and a photo of any deceased member. I have already started a file for the 2010 District Convention Memorial Service. Those of you who were attendance know that there were many Lions who were remembered with only their name and club, because we had no other information. It is only right that each and every Lion that we lose should be honored with a fitting memorial. So I ask you, PLEASE, don’t wait until convention time. As soon as your club loses a member to death, send me the bio and photo. Your Lion has dedicated his/her life to serving your community. Don’t let the passing go unnoticed.

E-mail me at pdggary11c1@hotmail.com

District 11C-1 & 11E-1 Combined Convention

This year's District Convention was held with District 11E-1 at the Holiday Inn in Big Rapids. The theme this year was "Knights of the Round Table". Friday night's entertainment consisted of Troy Hammond, a blind comedian and actor and also Chris Linn, a magician. Fruitport Lions Club also hosted their now famous hospitality room after the evening program (also on Saturday night). A good time was had by all and many "revelers" were dressed in medieval costumes.



Campus Club members with Cheryl Anderson (2nd from L), PCC Gary Anderson (middle back) and PDG Rod Prys (3rd from right)

PDG Rod Prys and his Court of Maidens in Waiting.

At the business meeting on Saturday, the following 2009-2010 district officers were elected: Robert Schalow was elected District Governor; Fran Osborne was elected First Vice District Governor; and Ken Frary was elected Second Vice District Governor. Region Chairs elected were: Region I – Harvey Beute; Region II – Casey Dutmer; Region III – Ardist Ferris; and Region IV – Carol Ruddy. Robert Babcock was elected to the Lions of Michigan Foundation Board of Trustees.

At the banquet on Saturday night, the following awards were given: Nancy DeVogel & Fran Osborne received Presidential Leadership Medals; PDG Rod Prys was awarded a Presidential Medal-International President's Award; and Oscar Anderson and Kyle Austin received Granville & Betty Cutler Awards. Congratulations to these very deserving Lions.



L-R: PID Dennis Cobler, Fran Osborne & PID Steve Sherer



R-L: PDG Rod Prys, Oscar Anderson & other Cutler Award recipients

The Memorial Service on Sunday recognized many Lions from our district that passed away during the last year. The chaplains from both districts did an excellent job.

Hope to see everyone at next year's convention. Plan on joining in on the fun!!

**MARNE
61st
Memorial Day Parade
Monday, May 25, 2009, 9:45 a.m.**

Decorate a bike, build a float, come up with a means to advertise your business, polish the classic car, gas up the old tractor, saddle your mount or just get your marching group together and join the Marne American Legion, Marne Lions Club, Wright/Tallmadge Fire Department, Kenowa Hills School Bands and other local Police, Fire and Emergency Units as part of the Marne Memorial Day parade. This year's theme is,
"WOMEN VETERANS SERVING PROUDLY"

Fairground gates will open at 8:00 a.m. Decorated bike judging will take place, 8:45 a.m. at the Berlin Fairgrounds. Ribbons and Cash prizes will be awarded.

All Parade Participants will line-up from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. at the Berlin Fair Grounds. The American Legion Ceremony will commence at 9:45 a.m. sharp, with parade to follow at 10:00 a.m.

The parade will exit the south gate of Berlin Fair grounds, proceed south on Berlin Fair Dr. to Hayes St., East on Hayes to 16th St., North on 16th St. to State St., West on State St. to Berlin Fair Dr., North on Berlin Fair Dr. to Main gate of Fairgrounds left back onto Fairgrounds.

If you have any questions you may contact, Lion Rodney Prys at 677-3282.

***WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE PARADE:
"Support and Honor our Veterans"***

