



**94th ANNUAL  
2014 MD-11 STATE CONVENTION**

There were a total of eighteen (18) Exhibitor's at the MD 11 Convention in Battle Creek, MI, up from twelve (12) Exhibitor's in 2013. Advertisements were sold for inclusion in the Convention Proceedings booklet this year, resulting in eleven (11) ads helping to off-set the publication costs.

**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014**

A **Pre-Convention** event was again held this year, based upon the success of this new addition to the convention activities in 2013. A picnic was planned for those arriving early to the convention, and was held at Cornwell's Turkeyville. 106 tickets were sold in advance.

**FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014**

The 2013-2014 **Council of Governors** held their final Council meeting under the guidance of Council Chair, Brian Shepard. Special guest speakers in attendance included Lions Bill & Sondra Sasse, LCI District Ambassador's speaking on LCI-Con, Toronto, and LCI New Club Development reps, PDG Barbara Toosley & PDG Dick Silveria.

Registration began and Exhibitor's opened their booths at 12:00 p.m.

The **District Governor-Elects**, along with Council Chair-Elect Jim Pettinato, held their planning meeting following lunch. Selection of State Chairs for twenty-four (24) committees. Council Goals were established, along with selection of the following:

Vice-Council Chair, DGE Marsha Brown  
Tail Twister, DGE Tom Hill  
District Chaplain, DGE Peter Conarty

The DGE's voted on locations for the 2013-2014 Council meetings, to be held at the following locations:

August 1-2, 2014	Best Western Plus, Lansing
November 21-22, 2014	Northern MI site TBD
March 6-7, 2015	TBD
May 15, 2015	DoubleTree Hotel, Holland

Wendy will provide updated proposals for consideration at the August meeting.

The **District Editor's** held a meeting to discuss current operations of the Lion Pride Magazine, and to review the practices and discuss new opportunities for future issues. They will meet in early August, and Chair Lion Deb Kreitner and Publication Advisory Chair, Lion Bruce Bronson, will provide a report to

present to the District Governors at their first Council meeting of the year in Lansing.

A **Welcome Reception** kicked off the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention on Friday night. With a 'nod' to LCI guest speaker IPIP Wayne Madden's Indiana roots, a racing theme set the tone to the night, with the theme of "Race to Your Dream." DG's Boes and Dasho presided over the evenings events.

The theme was carried throughout the evening by way of table top decorations, themed clothing worn by Lions and guests, and the country sounds of the **Douglas James Band**.

Immediately following the Welcome Receptions, Lions were invited to continue the fun in the Hospitality Room, hosted by the MD 11 Convention Planning Committee. Snacks and soft drinks were provided.

### **SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014**

The "Breakfast of Champions" **Awards Breakfast** was co-hosted by DG's Allen and Wagester. Special International Guest Lion Linda Madden shared stories of her experiences during the past year with husband, Immediate Past International President Wayne Madden.

Awards were handed out to the following deserving Lions:

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the **MD 11 State Convention Planning Committee** by State Chair, PDG Bob Sturgis

A1 Charlie Cone	C2 Dick Foust
A2 Connie Shelton	D2 Brenda Hacker
A2 Tony Capozzo	E1 Laura Johnson
A2 Bob Jenkins	
B1 Margie Horsch	
B2 Don Brown	
C1 Shirley Hoffman	

Chairman Sturgis was also recognized for his tireless work and dedication as committee chair for the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention. A Michigan Flag and certificate from State Representative Kevin Daley was presented to PDG Sturgis as a show of appreciation during the Saturday night Awards Banquet.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the **District Editors** of MD 11.

A1 Rena Harper	C2 Noreen Boes
A2 James Leach, Sr.	D1 Shari Johnson
B1 Steve Britten	D2 Bruce Bronson
B2 Donna Romanak	E1 Deb Kreitner, Chair
C1 Sue Ferris	E2 Mitch Smith

This years' award for **Outstanding District Editor** went to Lion Mitch Smith, 11 E2. Lion Mitch was recognized for his work in providing quality articles of interest from within the District to the Lion Pride Editor throughout the year. A plaque was presented, along with an LCI portfolio. Lion Noreen Boes, the 2013 ODE, presented this award.

The **Michigan Forum** Committee was recognized for the outstanding work they do in organizing this popular Lions event. Committee Chair, Lion Kimberly Thiede, presented recognition certificates to the following:

A1	Linda Tate	A2	Nancy Maxwell
A2	Paul Hemeryck	B1	Connie Neese
A2	Bill Klingensmith	B2	Jim Farrell
A2	Jim Pettinato	C1	Cheri Travis
A2	Dick Maxwell	C1	Charis Austin
A2	Frank Cunningham	C2	Karen Routson
A2	Bob Jenkins	D1	Frank Rivette
E1	Richard Perrin	E2	Dave Zeller

**The District Net Growth** award was presented to PDG Dick Dettling, MD 11 B1. This traveling award is in recognition of the District showing the largest net-growth, and was presented to:

DG James Williams MD 11-A1 2008-2009  
DG John Daoud MD 11-A1 2009-2010  
DG Linda Tate MD 11- A1 2010-2011  
DG Dick Dettling MD 11 B1 2012-2013

**The Business Session** of the 2014 MD 11 Convention was called to order at 10:30 a.m. DG Gus Malmberg acted as Moderator for the morning. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer, followed by introductions of dignitaries and special guests.

A motion was made by DG Malmburg to accept the Rules of the Convention, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Horvath. Motion carried.

PDG Tony Capozzo, **Credentials Committee**, reported the following: 187 Lions and guests were pre-registered. This includes: 7 spouses/guests; 129 delegates have been certified as of 10:45 am on May 17, 2014. This represents 71 Lion Clubs.

Reports were presented by the following MD 11 State Project Directors/Representatives:

Leader Dogs for the Blind, Sue Daniels, President & CEO  
Lions Bear Lake Camp –Director Dennis Tomkins  
Michigan Eye Bank, Allison Wright, Community Relations

Lions of Michigan Foundation – Chad McCann, Executive Director

All State Project leaders gave informative and updated reports on the past year and highlights of their programs and services offered. All expressed gratitude for support from Lions throughout the state.

**State Treasurer, Paul Hemeryck**, gave his annual financial report to the assembly. His thorough and expert accounting skills are greatly appreciated by the Council of Governors and the State Office, as he is always helpful and knowledgeable when asked to explain very complex accounting actions in a manner in which it is easily understood. Complete financial packets were provided to each attendee and reviewed in its' entirety by Treasurer Hemeryck.

A **State of the Lions** report was provided by Council Chair Brian Shepard. CC Shepard acknowledged the success of the Michigan Lions Forum, which has shown an increase in attendance every year and offers high-quality, informative breakout sessions led by leaders from our state.

The Lions Leadership Institute began fifteen (15) years ago, graduating over 1,000 students. The Leadership Institute has built a reputation as the number one (1) training program in the country, and praised by LCI. New for 2013 was the addition of the Master's Program, with a maximum 12 participants, proving this to be another successful piece of the LI. The dedication of Co-Chairs Paul Hemeryck, PCC and PID Bill Hansen and the LI Team have contributed greatly to the success of this program.

In the area of membership, CC Shepard highlighted the four (4) new clubs which were chartered this year, and emphasized the value of Leos in the state. We currently have 21 Leo Clubs in MD 11.

Membership numbers continue to be a concern. Lions are a business and our "sales" come from members. 700 members have been reinstated to date, up 30% over last year. CC Shepard encouraged Lions to continue to "Just Ask," and promote membership in our state.

**Constitution and By Laws** Chair, Lion Ed Weessies, reported no new changes to the Constitution and By Laws at this time, and there were no nominations being considered for elections.

Lion Bill Sasse, District Ambassadors to **LCI-Convention, Toronto** provided an overview and history of LCI Convention, pointing out the first convention held outside the U.S. was in Toronto in 1931. It has been 50-years since an International Convention was held in Canada, and they are proud to host Lions from around the world for the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual LCI Convention in Toronto, July 4-8, 2014. Lion Sasse will be on-hand to answer convention and travel questions

during the “Travel Tips to Toronto” session in the afternoon. Lions and guests are encouraged to attend.

International Guest Speaker IPIP Wayne Madden addressed those assembled. He praised the State Projects on the excellent service they provide throughout the state. Praise was also given for the Lions Leadership Institute and the quality training they provide. IPIP Madden closed with a message to continue to work on membership, to “go out and ASK” and continue to serve the Lions of Michigan and the world.

Hearing no requests to bring up new business or discuss old, a motion was made by PCC Don Brown to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. Motion carried.

A special **Governor’s luncheon** was held for the District Governors and included IPIP Wayne and Lion Linda Madden. Held at the historic United Methodist Church downtown and catered by Schuler’s Restaurant, this was an opportunity to spend one-on-one time with IPIP Madden.

Two (2) **Power Sessions** were offered to Lions and guests. *Tools to Becoming an Extraordinary Lion!* was led by DG Tim Anderson and Lion Laura Hunt. *LCI Convention Elections: What’s it all about?* This session gave an overview of the LCI election process and was led by Council Chair Brian Shepard.

An information session on Toronto Travel Tips was held in an effort to answer any questions those travelling to the International Convention may have. Small American flags were given to attendees to pass out along the parade route. International Convention Chair, PDG Dennis Lautzenheiser led this session, and Lion Bill Sass was also available for Q&A.

The 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet was held in the Branson Ballroom with an attendance of 210 Lions and guests present. Special arrangements were made in advance with the All State Band CEO, Caro Uhlemann-Short, to hold rehearsal in Battle Creek. This allowed for the band to perform for the assembly prior to dinner. Many of the band members’ parents were in attendance to hear the performance, and everyone agreed they were impressive. Next stop, Toronto!

Immediately following dinner and introductions, we heard from guest speaker, IPIP Wayne Madden. Lions and guests were shown an extensive slide presentation highlighting IPIP Madden’s year as International President. Much of the year was spent traveling to many countries, visiting with Lions and witnessing first-hand the impact felt throughout the world by Lions International and local Lion’s efforts.

Following IPIP Madden’s key note speech, awards were presented to the following Lions:

**2014 S.A. Dodge Award Recipients:**

Council Chair Brian Shepard-District 11 C2  
PDG Alice Zajac- District 11 D1

**2014 Presidential Award Recipients:**

PCC Jennifer Ware SD 10  
PDG Gerald C. Babcock-District 11 B1  
Lion Cheryl Anderson-District 11 C1  
PDG Keith Cregar -District 11 D1  
Lion Connie L. McMorris-District 11 E1

**2014 Leadership Award Recipients:**

Lion Bruce LaBelle- SD 10  
1<sup>st</sup> VDG Peggy Allen- District 11 B1  
Lion Amy Anderson-District 11 B2  
Lions Richard Carlson-District 11 C1  
Lion Joseph Gwizdala III- District 11 D1

**2014 A. Charles Weir Sight Conservation Fellowship, awarded by the Michigan Eye Bank, was presented to:**

PDG Robert Sturgis-District 11 D1

PDG Sturgis was also recognized for his tireless work and dedication as committee chair for the 94th Annual State Convention. A Michigan Flag and certificate from State Representative Kevin Daley was presented to PDG Sturgis as a show of appreciation during the Saturday night Awards Banquet.

The evening ended with fellowship in the Hospitality Room, which was sponsored by the MD 11 State Convention Committee. Many thanks to the committee, Chairman Bob Sturgis, and all who helped contribute to the success of this year's convention.

*Respectfully Submitted by: Wendy Burns, Executive Director*

