

Lions International

Multiple District 11

(Lower Michigan)



"We Serve"

**3rd Council of Governors Meeting
December 5-6, 2025
Holiday Inn & Suites
Mt. Pleasant, MI**

**Joint MD 11/ District 10
Council of Governors Meeting
December 5-6, 2025
Holiday Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant, MI**

The meeting was called to order on Friday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. by Council Chair Becky Hamilton. Those in attendance included **District Governors** Colleen Maki, D10; Kim Hooper, A1; Mark Scicluna, A2; Bea Furman, B1; Earl Howell, C1; Aleta Cozart, C2; Gerald Whitney, D1; Jeff Schafer, E1; Marie Leathers, E2. **1st VDGs** in attendance: Gary Peralá, District 10; Larry Wergzyn, A1; Kimberly Thiede, A2; Teresa Gest, B1; Alice Kring, B2; Brian Werschem, C1; Kenny Kinsey, C2; Toby Webber, D1. **2nd VDGs** in attendance: Rick DeClaire, III; Gregg Brindamour, B1; Chuck Vasilion, C2; Heather Dourron, E1; Kris Roberts, E2. **Others in attendance:** Council Chair Becky Hamilton, ID David Wineman, PID Gary Anderson, PID Jenny Ware, PID Esther LaMothe, State Treasurer Kelley Unruh, GET Brent Beracy, GST Cheryl Anderson, GMT Roshni Patel, PCC Terri Huffman, PCC Ron Gibson, PCC Peggy Allen, PDGs Jeff & Julie Mayuiers, IPDG Carl Cozart, PDG Ray Robins, Lion Ron Sharp, Lion Ed Weessies, and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with the invocation by DG Maki and Pledge of Allegiance led by DG Marie Leathers.

IPCC Terri Huffman reported the 1st Vice District Governors interviewed three prospective candidates for the position of 2026-2027 Council Chair. IPDG Cheryl Anderson was voted in for the position and was introduced at the meeting. IPDG Anderson looks forward to serving the council in the coming year.

Lion Larry Wergzyn was introduced by DG Kim Hooper as the new 1st VDG for MD 11 A1. Lion Deborah Love (not present) was introduced as the 2nd VDG for MD 11 A1.

MOTION: Hooper, Cozart, to approve December 5-6, 2025, agenda. Motion carried.

MOTION: Howell, Leathers, to approve the minutes of the October 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

MOTION: Furman, Maki, to receive the Written Reports. Motion carried.

Lions of Michigan All State Band Report – Lion Deborah Davis, CEO

CEO Davis reported that new officers have been selected for the year, and that all financial responsibility for the band is now transferred to her. She will oversee the band's finances now that it has been removed from the state office, much like the other MD 11 projects are handled within their own organizations.

To date, there are 30 band members signed up to go to Hong Kong. The cost of the 2026 8-day trip is \$4,995.00 and includes pre-camp and many stops and tours along the way. Information on the tour will be mailed to all District and Vice District Governors,

and they will be asked to help promote the tour through local middle and high school band programs. Audition deadlines are in January but will be extended as needed.

After support from the LMASB board of directors and the MD 11 Convention committee, the band will hold a rehearsal and mini concert during the MD 11 Lions Convention in Bellaire at Shanty Creek Resort on Saturday, May 16. Lion Davis expressed pride in representing all global Lions through service – our youth. LMASB student members are also Leo members.

MOTION: Schafer, Cozart, to accept the LMASB report. Motion carried.

Lions Michigan Forum Report – PDG Julie Mayuiers, Chair

The Forum Committee has held regular, monthly meetings and has 16 breakout sessions planned for the event again this year. Keynote address will be given by Author Kathleen Macrath, author of an American Sign Language children's book. Friday night there will one again be the popular group service project. Lions will be able to record service hours on-site at this event with assistance from the committee and GST representatives. PDG Mayuiers introduced the evening's beneficiary of this service project, Lion Holly Tessman. Lion Tessman is a newly elected member of the Three Rivers Lions Club.

Forget Me Not Little Heroes – Lion Holly Tessman, CEO

Lion Holly Tessman and her assistant, Tyler, represent Forget Me Not Little Heroes, a non-profit organization providing backpacks for children entering into a shelter or foster care environment, or those who are underprivileged. PDG Julie Mayuiers introduced this organization to the Michigan Forum planning committee, and it was decided this program would be supported during the upcoming Michigan Forum in Kalamazoo.

The backpacks that are provided are unique by their color coordinated pack and contents. A decision on what items to supply was not taken lightly. Early Childhood leaders were consulted when deciding what should be included in the backpacks. Each one costs approximately \$40.00 and the organization provides anywhere between 200-400 per month and is delivered upon request to various counties.

Lion Tessman will be present on Friday, February 27 at the Lions Michigan Forum in Kalamazoo and will be providing an information discussion on the program, and together we will stuff the contents in the backpacks as a service project. Districts were asked to provide a donation to the program at the October meeting, and clubs will be asked to supplement with their donations. PDG Julie Mayuiers also pointed out that District B2 is looking into several grant opportunities to assist with funding. Donations must be made by February 1 to ensure timely arrival of products.

MD 11 Global Action Team Report

GST Cheryl Anderson reviewed activities the District GST will be promoting. October

was Mental Health Awareness. January is Hunger Awareness; April is Environmental Awareness. She stressed the importance of reporting service and making certain clubs have a designated person to do this. If help is needed with steps to reporting, District GST should be called upon to assist. PDG Anderson will look into a service grant to assist with the purchase of backpacks for the Forum Service Project.

GET Brent Beracy gave an update as to the status of overall state progress. There are currently 0 pending New Clubs with 11 Status quo clubs, four cancelled clubs and 17 Branch clubs entered into the portal. Some of the branches listed aren't current or active. There are at least two club branches that don't show up yet in this report. Bottom line, DG's and GET's make sure your club branches have a liaison and consider assigning a Guiding Lion.

District teams have been getting excellent guidance and training including online Zoom workshops and Mission 1.5 Summits. We really need to encourage all of our districts to continue to add members to the team. Almost half of our GET teams are "one-man" committees.

This year's teams are making progress towards the M1.5 goal of 11 new clubs. Most districts are reviewing their action plans and making adjustments. DG's who want to adjust their (Non M1.5) goals have until the end of the month to make changes. Remember, awards and recognition are available for meeting district goals.

Coming up next month LionsUSA will start Club Growth workshops beginning on January 6th. These are fantastic learning sessions that are appropriate for ALL members to participate in.

Even without the numbers showing up in the portal right now, PDG Beracy is fully confident that many of our Lion districts will be celebrating new clubs before the convention in May. If we can keep our teams growing and sharing, soon MD11 should be at the point where we always have a new club in the pipeline.

GMT Area E Leader PDG Ron Riebschleger reported as of November MD 11 and D10 show a +98 in membership, making us the area leader. By Decembers we were at +89 and tied for first place with Illinois Lions. With five months left in the year we have plenty of time to add new members to the roster books. December drops will affect us but PDG Riebschleger encouraged all to move past this and keep the momentum going. Review and update action plans no later than December 30. He is always available if assistance is needed.

GMT Roshni Patel Congratulated MD 11 E2. They have a new club with 39 members. The district has applied for their charter.

MD 11 District

Clubs

Members

11 A 1	30	621
11 A 2	28	1122
11 B 1	40	855
11 B 2	31	756
11 C 1	25	710
11 C 2	30	656
11 D 1	33	864
11 D 2	43	1165
11 E 1	35	879
11 E 2	25	643

Total members

Clubs: 320

Members: 8271

Positive 85 Report date 12-03-2025

Tail Twister Fines – DG Cozart collected fine money for all.

The meeting was recessed until 9:00 am on Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.

**Joint MD 11/ District 10
Council of Governors Meeting
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Holiday Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant, MI**

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, December 6, at 9:00 a.m. by Council Chair Becky Hamilton. Those in attendance included **District Governors** Colleen Maki, D10; Kim Hooper, A1; Mark Scicluna, A2; Bea Furman, B1; Earl Howell, C1; Aleta Cozart, C2; Gerald Whitney, D1; Jeff Schafer, E1; Marie Leathers, E2. **1st VDGs** in attendance: Gary Peralta, District 10; Larry Wergzyn, A1; Kimberly Thiede, A2; Teresa Gest, B1; Alice Kring, B2; Brian Werschem, C1; Kenny Kinsey, C2; Toby Webber, D1, Tim Dietzel, D2. **2nd VDGs** in attendance: Rick DeClaire, III; Gregg Brindamour, B1; Heather Dourron, E1; Kris Roberts, E2. **Others in attendance:** Council Chair Becky Hamilton, ID David Wineman, PID Gary Anderson, PID Jenny Ware, PID Esther LaMothe, State Treasurer Kelley Unruh, GET Brent Beracy, GST Cheryl Anderson, GMT Roshni Patel, PCC Terri Huffman, PCC Ron Gibson, PCC Peggy Allen, PDGs Jeff & Julie Mayuiers, IPDG Carl Cozart, PDG Ray Robins, Lion Ron Sharp, Lion Ed Weessies, and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with the invocation by DG Furman and Pledge of Allegiance led by DG Marie Leathers.

Financial Report – PDG Kelley Unruh, State Treasurer

The reports provided to the council are dated through October 31, leaving two more months of dues allocations left for the first half of the year. Most accounts are within budget at this time, with the exception of a couple primary accounts which are over

budget. Accounts which are over/under budget are highlighted on page three of the reports. VDG Weber asked if the term “gross profit” should be changed to “gross revenue”, as we are not making a profit. DG Maki explained this is an accounting software term which is a standard accounting practice.

MOTION: Scicluna, Cozart, to receive and place on file the financial report. Motion carried.

MD 11 Convention Report – PDG Dave & Lion Brenda Hacker, Co-Chairs

We are on our way to another great convention in Bellaire Michigan at Shanty Creek Resort, for our Lions 106th State Convention. E.D Wendy and co- chairs Dave and Brenda toured the hotel and the property in September. We are quite confident you will love Shanty Creek and its staff.

International President A.P. Singh has been confirmed as our guest speaker, and we need to thank PID Faber for making this happen. We have been informed he may not arrive until late Friday evening.

We are working on our Thursday Picnic at Torch Lake Cellars at cost of \$300 per hour, we are working on getting this sponsored. Charlevoix Lions will be asked about providing a chicken dinner for us at the picnic.

The Service Project selected by the committee is the Youth Initiatives organization in Bellaire. They need supplies that consist of Legos to guitars. Archery is one of the student programs they offer, and we’ve asked if they could provide a demonstration. by a certified Professional.

Other events planned: Renaissance theme for Friday night Welcome Party. Skegemog Raptors Center they will bring Ambassadors which include a bald eagle, redtail hawk and American Kestrel. They will give an informative Program on their birds of prey. District Governors are asked to create a district crest to be placed on a banner and paraded into the banquet hall on Friday.

We are working on Jousting that involves War Horses and are waiting for approval from hotel and looking into costs involved. We are working on acrobatic and magic acts and have made an inquiry into the Holly Renaissance Festival performers. PDG Hacker has a friend who is a performer at the festival and is helping to assist with this.

The committee has discussed making our S.A. Dodge recipients feel a little more special which would include seating at head table, suggestions are welcome from the Council. We plan to continue with the silent auction and are requesting donations from the Council

We are looking into holding a parade in the Village of Bellaire and have requested information from the city. It’s possible that the international parade company that participants at the Holly Renaissance Festival will bring some pirate ship floats that are

sure to impress. We would also have KidSight trailer in parade. If a parade is not an option, another Dandy Lion Service event being considered. We're excited for the Lions All State Band to perform again this year. Thank you, Director Deb Davis.

Outside tours available: Grass River Nature Area is a nearby, 1,502-acre nature preserve. It has 1.5 miles of floating boardwalks above cedar wetlands; Torch Lake Cellars, various shops and wineries.

All are being asked to help promote our 106th State Convention at all of your cabinet meetings, club meetings and your District Conventions. From the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much".

PID Gary Anderson pointed out that it is an honor to have President Singh as our speaker, and we all need to make every effort to get Lions to the convention in 2026!

MOTION: Howell, Furman, to approve the MD 11 Convention report. Motion carried.

LCIF Report – IPCC Terri Huffman, Chair

Donations can be set up through the LCIF website and auto pay is a popular feature used by many. You can easily set up monthly donations if a donation in one lump sum isn't an option. If assistance is needed to make an online donation, PCC Huffman can assist. Many of the LCIF coordinators attended the training held in Orlando. At the training each member was asked to make a personal donation of \$34.00. New members should be asked to support LCIF by making a personal donation of \$5.00 in their name. A very nice Michigan LCIF pin is available for a \$10 donation – let PCC Huffman know if you would like to make a purchase.

A list of the MD 11 districts was provided which detailed money raised, fundraising goals, individual participation, club participation and per member average donations. The per member average donation is \$10.05 and the average club participation is 31.8% participation. LCIF District Chairs and Governors are asked to make LCIF donations a subject topic when meeting with clubs.

MOTION: Schafer, Cozart, to approve the LCIF report. Motion carried.

LCI Update – International Director David Wineman

ID Wineman congratulated the 1st VDGs on how well they handled the Council Chair interviews. He congratulated CC-E Cheryl Anderson and looks forward to her leadership.

Upcoming events to watch for: Guiding Lion training, USA Lions webinars, Lions Grow. There will be several dates offered for the webinars.

PID Robert Rettby is a candidate for LCI 3rd VP. PID Rettby is from Switzerland and is

an excellent choice for the position. ID Wineman asked for a motion of support from the council.

MOTION: Maki, Scicluna, to endorse PID Robert Rettby for the position of LCI 3rd Vice President. Motion carried.

ID Wineman explained that PID Jenny Ware will need the council to endorse her, as well. She is also running for LCI 3rd VP and has three years to be placed on the ballot in either Hong Kong, Washington DC, or Texas, with a goal of being added to the ballot in Washington DC in 2027. If this happens, PID Ware will be working with the Liaison committee on the details of financing her campaign.

DG Maki gave a strong support of PID Ware to the position of LCI 3rd VP and highly recommended her to be endorsed.

MOTION: Maki, Hooper, to endorse PID Jenny Ware for the position of LCI 3rd Vice President.

PID Esther LaMothe brought up a point of order that the endorsement was an MD 11 endorsement, thus an MD 11 Governor must make the motion.

DG Maki formally withdrew the motion to endorse PID Ware as requested by MD 11.

MOTION: Whitney, Hooper, to endorse PID Jenny Ware for the position of LCI 3rd Vice President. Motion carried.

Leadership Institute Report – PID Jenny Ware, Chair

PID Ware was out of the country at the time of the Leadership Institute. Co-Chairs VDG Kimberly Thiede and PCC Brian Shepard oversaw the program and have been regular presenters for many years. The event had a light turnout but was very successful. Help promote next year's Leadership Institute. The dates are November 6-8, 2026, at the R.A.M. Center in Roscommon. As a reminder, any district making a \$300 donation will be allowed to send one attendee at no additional cost. A grant application has been submitted to LCI to help fund the ELLI/RLLI programs.

Executive Director's Report – Lion Wendy Burns

Forum registration packets were provided, and a sign-up sheet was passed around the room. DGs/VDGs are asked to choose a session and serve as a room monitor or introduce a speaker during one of the 16 sessions.

Governors will receive a packet at the February Council meeting which contains 2026-27 officer crests and name badges for the 1st VDGs, as well as a state flag to represent your speaker. As soon as 2nd VDG information is received, their name badges will be ordered. REMINDER: The council meeting begins Saturday, February 28 at 7:00 pm and resumes at 9:00 am on Sunday, March 1. This is the final training session for

VDGs.

May's Council meeting will be held at Shanty Creek on Friday, May 15, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. DGEs will hold their planning session at 1:15 pm on the same day. At this time, you will select council officers as well as fill state chairs positions that may become vacant. GAT chairpersons may need to be interviewed at this time, as well.

Peace Poster Contest: In previous years the overall winner was awarded a \$300.00 cash prize from MD 11. If the council agrees to this, a motion must be made, and funding will be from the DG Special Project fund. Judging will take place during lunch.

MOTION: Howell, Cozart, to award a \$300.00 check to the winner of the MD 11 Peace Poster contest. Motion carried.

MOTION: Cozart, Leathers, to receive the Executive Director report. Motion carried.

Lion Pride Publication Report – Lion Roger Yoder, Chair

Rising costs of paper, printing, and postage have attributed to increased expenses to produce a print copy of the Lion Pride. In addition, loss of members creates a loss of revenue. The Lion Pride subscription is \$4.50/year Eight issues per year are published with each mailed issue costing approximately \$5,000.00.

The Lion Pride Publication committee has investigated ways to reduce publication costs, which include emailing the membership a copy, online access via the website where it is posted in full color, reducing the number of print/mailed copies. Eliminating the Pride altogether is not an option. The committee's recommendation is to go digital and print as needed, which could be reduced to three times per year.

Discussion followed, with someone pointing out that not all Lions use their computer or email, causing a loss of contact with our "founding fathers." Another pointed out that continuing as we are now is not sustainable. DG Bea recommends going to an emailed format. Executive Director Burns stated that a download of email data from LCI's portal includes 6,425 email addresses, compared to our mailing list of 8,100 addresses. This means we are missing members when the Lion Pride is emailed.

There is nothing listed in our MD 11 Policy Manual preventing us from sending the Pride via email. There is a \$800.00 charge for printing 1,000 copies or less from the printing company.

MOTION: Hooper, Scicluna, to send the Lion Pride via email to the membership and mail print copies as needed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Howell, Furman, to accept the Lion Pride Publication report. Motion carried.

MD 11 Policy Manual Report – DG Jeff Schafer

At the October meeting, PCC Dick DeLong pointed out that the policy on selection of a Council Chair is not in alignment with the Constitution and By Laws. His recommendation is to change the policy. DG Jeff Schafer proposed the following:

Proposed Amendment – Article II, Appointment of Council Chairperson

Current Language: “The Council Chairperson shall be selected at a meeting called following the Multiple District Annual Convention, but not later than thirty (30) days following the closing of the International Convention for the purpose of selecting a council chairperson, by and from the First Vice District Governors.”

Proposed New Language: “The Council Chairperson shall be selected **prior to the Third Council of Governors Meeting**, by and from the First Vice District Governors.”

Rationale:

1. Ensures earlier identification of leadership, providing additional time for transition, training, and preparation.
2. Aligns the leadership selection with the regular Council of Governors meeting cycle, reducing scheduling conflicts and delays.
3. Provides clarity and consistency for all First Vice District Governors in planning for their upcoming year of service.

Implementation Note:

If approved, this change would take effect beginning with the **upcoming Lions year 2026–2027** unless otherwise specified.

MOTION: Scicluna, Cozart, to accept the revised wording on selection of a Council Chair.

Executive Director Burns will forward this information onto PCC DeLong for committee review and approval. Once approved by the Constitution & By Laws committee a ballot proposal will be created. This information will be posted in the Lion Pride and on the Lions of Michigan website and voted upon by the membership at the 2026 MD 11 convention in Bellaire, MI, Shanty Creek Resort.

Old Business: E2 Hunger Grant

District 11 E2 has submitted their application for the hunger grant. \$50,000.00 is needed to receive the full grant amount of \$200,000.00. Any donations can be sent to District E2.

New Business: 2028 USA/Canada Forum Grand Rapids, MI

VDG Brian Werschm has been appointed as the Host Committee Chairperson and IPDG Cheryl Anderson is Vice Chair for this event. Planning has already begun. The Host Committee has been asked to raise approximately \$30,000.00 and will need to recruit up to 400 volunteers. This is an honor to be selected a third time to host the USA/Canada Forum. As a Michigan event, participation by all Lions is needed. The

dates of the Forum are September 21-23, 2028.

Tail Twister Fines – DG Cozart collected fine money with the decision by all to donate the funds to Forget Me Not Little Heroes.

MOTION: Howell, Furman, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Council of Governors.
Motion carried.

Closed Session: The District Governors held a closed session following lunch to discuss LCI Presidential & Leadership award candidates and select the 2025-2026 S. A. Dodge Recipients.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Burns, Executive Director