

NOVEMBER 2025

LIONS DISTRICT 11A-2

WWW.LIONSDISTRICT11A2.ORG



LIONS GOBBLE



Upcoming Events

To submit an event, email details to lionsnewsletter11a2@gmail.com. The deadline is the 10th of each month. See Lion Frank's emails for details. Thank you
Lion Kathy Gladd - Newsletter Editor



November 2025

- 7-9 Lions Leadership Institute
- 7 Shelby Lions Holiday Wine Tasting
- 8 Romeo Lions Blood Drive- Lions Clubhouse
- **10 Region 2 Meeting, Clawson**
- **11 Veterans Day - Thank you for your Service**
- **13 Region 1 Meeting, Beverly Hills**
- 15 Sterling Heights Lions Mom to Mom sale
- 18 Fraser Lions "Let the Good Times Roll" Bunco
- **19 Region 3 Meeting, St Clair Shores**
- **27 Happy Thanksgiving**



December 2025

- 4 Leader Dog Kickoff Dinner
- 5-6 Kris Kringle Market, Rochester Lions Tent with Hot Chocolate and S'mores
- 7 Rochester Hometown Parade - Rochester Lions/Leader Dog float
- 16 Fraser Lions Tea and Strumpets

February 20-22 New Baltimore Lions Winterfest. For sponsorship information, please see Lion Frank's "Upcoming Events" email.

District Convention Location Change

From Lion Dick Maxwell: For the first time to my knowledge the location of our Lions District Convention has changed. Due to operational difficulties during the hotel renovations at the Saginaw Four Pointes by Marriott they lost their food and beverage service. As a result of this, **we have had to relocate the March 2026 District Convention to the Grand Rapids Airport Doubletree by Hilton.** The convention will keep the same dates March 20 to 22, 2026. The room rates will be \$105.00 a night. More details will be announced at the upcoming Cabinet and Region Meeting.

NOVEMBER 2025

LIONS DISTRICT 11A-2 NEWSLETTER

GOVERNOR'S GREETING

Marketing Matters

I would like to take this opportunity to thank RC Bill Stevens and the Clawson Lions Club for hosting our October Cabinet meeting. If you missed it (and many of you did) we talked a bit about how upgrading our clubs' marketing programs can be beneficial to your club's success. The majority of attendees at the meeting came from clubs that already have a strong marketing game, so I felt like I was preaching to the choir.

As Lions, we have always been shy about tooting our own horn. This is because we serve expecting nothing in return. A well marketed club, however, can improve your fundraising efforts as well as attract like-minded individuals that might want to be a part of your club.

The clubs that should be especially interested are the smaller clubs with membership below 20 and clubs that have not been successful in attracting new members for some time.

One does not have to have a degree in Marketing to successfully market your club. The only necessary ingredients are motivation, basic computer skills and the desire to share your club's story and successes. Lions International has many tutorials on how to market your club as well as many pre-designed graphics and print copy that can be used.

At the meeting, we briefly discussed why, not how to market your club. I would be happy to schedule a how-to seminar if there is enough interest. We have a couple of Lions that are skilled in this area that have offered to help explain tips and procedures to those of us that can use a bit of help getting started. Contact me if your club is interested. I am thinking about January or February for the meeting. If there is not enough response by Thanksgiving, I will assume your club does not need a seminar and will maintain the current status. We have an upcoming round of Region meetings this month. If you have not attended a District meeting since the Covid lockdown, I strongly suggest you might want to drop by and see what the other clubs in your Region are doing and you might even have a bit of fun doing it.

I still see disappointing numbers when it comes to clubs reporting their service. Remember, reporting service is not "Big Brother" invading your privacy. Reporting service gives metrics to the volume of time we spend on our projects and the estimated number of people we have impacted through our service. Contact me or 1st VDG Kimberly Thiede if you require assistance in reporting for your club. Believe it or not, a regular club meeting serves as a reportable event.

I congratulate the entire District on your membership numbers. Our October numbers show that our District has achieved positive growth and father time is responsible for most of our losses. I believe social media is the "secret sauce" in helping our organization attract younger people. This is a controversial point of view for many, and I would love the opportunity to explain why. Call me if your club is interested in learning how to use social media to your advantage. Spoiler Alert! It is not an auto program; there will be a need for a club member to participate to gain maximum results.

Planting Seeds for Success: By focusing on effective marketing strategies that suit your club and making use of free platforms like social media to reach young audiences, any club has the potential to achieve significant success!

Mark Scicluna DG

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LIONS DISTRICT 11A-2 NEWSLETTER

1st VDG KIMBERLY'S NOTES

Fellow Lions:

Where does the time go? We are half way through this year already. It is crazy how fast this year has flown.

We are doing well on the Membership numbers. Keep up the good work!!!

We had a great round of meetings with so much good information shared. Remember as I always say, if you are thinking about doing something new, reach out, there is a good chance that some Club has done it - don't reinvent the wheel.

There are so many good things going on in this District. We need to make sure that is shared with as many people as we can. Get with your local newspaper, social media, shot at the street corner - okay maybe not that but it wouldn't hurt! There is a place on the International site to report your service projects. The District goal is to have 100% reporting by the end of the year. This is very easy to do. If you need help doing it please contact me so we can get it done. I know for a fact that every Club in this District has already meet the qualification of doing something that can be reported so let's get it reported!

There is also the Lion Pride at the State level. You can submit articles and pictures to the State Office. I am looking forward to my Club visits coming up very soon. I love seeing our Lions at work and getting to meet those that I have not meet.

I would like to congratulate the Lions that participated in the District Service Project that took place at the last COG in Gaylord. It benefited the local schools and they were overwhelmed with the amount of support they received. During this holiday season, the GST is asking that the Clubs concentrate on the needs of their local communities.

The next District Service week is January 3-11, 2026 and will focus on HUNGER. The request is that each Club seat up a project to participate in the Glove Service Week and then be sure to report it by January 12th.

Still looking to fill my Cabinet, let me know if you have an interest in anything or questions about what a certain job entails.

I wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. Take time to enjoy family and friends. Sit back, take a break because you all deserve it for all of the amazing things you do!

Yours in Service,

1VDG Kimberly

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LIONS DISTRICT 11A-2 NEWSLETTER

Lions of Michigan Forum

Fellow Lions,

The Lions of Michigan Forum Friday evening "We Serve" project will be packing back packs for children who are homeless. Homeless due to being removed from their home due to abuse, drug issues or no one to care for them.

These back packs consist of the following items:

Throw blanket, #2 pencils, Colored pencils, Crayons, Activity book, Coloring book, Composition book, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Socks, LED tablet, Toy and Comfort stuffed animal.

The Forum committee is asking each District to contribute \$200.00 to fund 50 of these backpacks and we are hoping clubs in District 11-A2 would also contribute whatever they can.

Individual Lions can also contribute to this very important cause because it is for children.

The cost for each backpack is \$40.00.

Naturally when Lions from different districts get together completion starts to form so let's get District 11-A2 to be the best.

Checks should be made payable to Lions of Michigan with Forum Backpack in the memo area.

Please send to Lion Jim Pettinato at 6039 Steeplechase Dr., Grand Blanc, MI.

This is a great project and clubs should report this as a service project.

Thanks
Lion Jim

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LIONS DISTRICT 11A-2 NEWSLETTER



Leader Dog Kickoff Dinner



For more than 85 years, Lions and Leader Dogs for the Blind have shared a powerful partnership – transforming over 17,000 lives through our guide dog, orientation and mobility, and teen summer camp programs, all provided at no cost to people who are blind or low vision.

Be part of the celebration at Kick-Off 2025! This special evening brings together the Lions of Districts 11-A1, 11-A2, and A-1 to honor the incredible impact you continue to make in your communities and beyond.

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025

Location: Somerset Inn, 2601 West Big Beaver Rd, Troy, MI

Event Highlights:

- 6:00 p.m. – Doors open, Cash Bar, Gift Shop & Blindfold Walk Experience
- 7:00 p.m. – Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. – Parade of Checks & Program

Registration deadline: November 21, 2025

- Registration is online only this year. Be sure to complete your registration early to secure your spot as seating is limited to the first 300 people.
- Tickets are \$40 per person or \$280 per table of 8

Remember this event is exclusively for Lions of 11-A1, 11-A2, and A-1. We can't wait to come together, celebrate the work you do as Lions, and kick off another year working side by side to serve!

If you have questions, please contact: LionsSupport@LeaderDog.org

NOVEMBER 2025

L I O N S D I S T R I C T 1 1 A - 2 N E W S L E T T E R

District Nominations and Elections

Per the District Constitution and Bylaws, nominations for District elected officers (District Governor, Vice-District Governors, Region Chairs, Lions of Michigan Foundation Trustees) must be submitted and received by the Nominations Committee no less than 60 days prior to the District Convention. This means they have to be received by January 20, 2026.

Nominations should be sent to:

PDG Shawn Blaszczyk
1420 Balmoral Drive
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Or via email: Shawn.prc1973@yahoo.com

FVDG Kimberly has indicated she would like Region Chairs next year so if anyone is interested please turn in your nomination as soon as possible.

If there are any questions please reach out to me.

Thank you.

Lion Shawn Blaszczyk, PDG
Selfridge-Chesterfield Lions, Secretary
11-A2 GMT, 2025-2026

November 2025

LEADING THE WAY

Leader Dogs for the Blind – Lions Newsletter

Our top priority is ensuring each client receives customized instruction so they can develop exceptional skills to travel independently with a white cane or a guide dog. Below is the story of Winter, a Leader Dog who works with a client who is DeafBlind, like honorary Lion Helen Keller was. **In 1992, Leader Dog became the first organization to train guide dogs specifically for the DeafBlind community.** To learn about other adaptive services for clients with physical and intellectual disabilities, scan the QR code or go to LeaderDog.org/blog.

Leader Dog Winter's Story



My name is Chelsea, and I am an apprentice Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (GDMI) on the DeafBlind and Adaptive Services team. I hope you will find the tale of this small black Labrador as inspiring as I did.

Winter was an absolute joy to train. **She is a certified good girl – she quickly picked up on the work and loved every second of it.** When we were looking for a match for a DeafBlind client who uses American Sign Language to communicate, I immediately thought of her. The first time she saw me signing, with my hands flying around, she wagged her tail excitedly and tilted her head back and forth (a signature Winter move).

During training with her client, Winter would patiently sit and stare up at her while she signed. Her client uses both hands to expressively sign and one hand to track (receive ASL signs from the person she's signing with) which doesn't leave very many hands to hold the leash and manage a dog. It is critical that Winter is comfortable and patient while her client signs.

Because of support like yours, we can not only provide folks with the independence that comes from working with a Leader Dog – we can provide folks with their *perfect match*. We can take the time and resources to train our dogs specifically for their client. The

greatest part of my job is graduating a team and watching them walk away beaming with pride.
Thank you for your support.

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UPDATED DONATION INFORMATION

CORRECTION

Lions of MI All State Band donations should be sent to:

Lion Wendy Burns
Lions of Michigan State Office
5730 Executive Drive
Lansing, MI 48911

Bear Lake Camp donations should be sent directly to:

Lions Bear Lake Camp
Lion Traci Tribley
3409 North Five Lakes Rd
Lapeer, MI 48446

JDRF is now Breakthrough T1D

Metro Detroit & Southeast MI Chapter
24359 Northwestern Hwy; Suite 150
Southfield, MI 48075



October New Members



Club

Fraser
New Baltimore
New Baltimore
New Baltimore
New Baltimore
Romeo

Sponsor

Patrick O'Dell
Carol Rzepka
William McClellan
Karen Lietke
Lynn Bell
Patrick Vinckier

New Member

Duane Stein
Karen Auer
Maria Olson
Daniel Rivard
Terrie Rivard
Gregory Shotwell

11 A-2 Newsletter is published monthly by Lions District 11 A-2. The editor, Lion Kathy Gladd can be reached at lionsnewsletter11a2@gmail.com.

To submit an event, email details to lionsnewsletter11a2@gmail.com. The deadline is the 10th of each month. Club news is to be submitted by the 25th of each month.