



District 11-E1, District Governor Lion John Monahan
“Together We Serve” **“July Newsletter 2011”**



District Governor John & Carolyn Monahan

Dear Fellow Lions,

Thank you for electing me to be your District Governor for this Lions year. I will do my best to justify your trust. It was a busy first week in July for district governors elect in Seattle. We had a four day training seminar followed by the International Convention itself. Fortunately, First Vice District Governor Bill Simpson and Second Vice District Governor Tim Anderson were there. We had some time to discuss how to keep the district moving ahead in Lionism.

A few weeks ago, a dentist from Jalalabad, Afghanistan, a town in South Afghanistan, was visiting Mt. Pleasant, sponsored by the Rotary Club. The Dentist, Dr. Sahar mal Safi, asked to speak to a Lions leader, so I talked to him at Isabella Bank. He was originally from Pakistan and had been awarded a certificate from the Lions club while in high school. Now he wants to start a Lions Club in Jalalabad.



Dr. Sahar mal Safi, me, Babrak Miakhels, a friend of Sahar

Unfortunately, Afghanistan is not yet approved by Lions Club International for clubs, but maybe in the near future it will be. It would be interesting to go to that charter night. So, you can see that there are people all over the world who want to join the Lions and even start a club. All that you and other Lions have done have has made it so that others now want to join our number. Thanks to your hard work and the hard work of other Lions, we are truly Lions Club International, although our roots are in our communities.

District Governor Elect school was interesting. My instructor was from Turkey, but most of the students were from the US or Canada. We had lots of comparisons of how we do things in various places, local conditions prevail. One idea emphasized at the school was the Club Excellence Program. The program consists of two surveys, one, and a survey of the club members concerning meetings, activities, member relations, and satisfaction with Lions, the other, a survey of

community needs. That survey is given to needs in community leaders and organizations to discover how well we are meeting the needs of our own local communities. With the information from the surveys, individual clubs get together to discover the best ways to improve club functioning and community service. Your zone chair will be talking about that soon. We received our grant for the three PediaVision Camera Systems. We should get approval to purchase systems in the next few weeks. It may take a while to get the systems because they are a brand new system, much easier to use, but not yet in full production. I screened the PediaVision salesman at the convention by picking up the camera, walking toward him and clicking it when the camera told me I was close enough. Mind boggling! Our dedicated team of KidSight leaders, PDG Janalee McClure, PDG Dan Gibbons, and Dr. Lloyd Helder, MD, will be coming to clubs to explain how it works and how to set up screenings as soon as we get the systems. This is a terrific chance to expand our Lions Service by screening as many kids as possible. Screening can help prevent blindness and other problems that develop in young children and often go unnoticed.

I am hoping to visit as many clubs as possible this year. If you want me to visit, please email, call, or write a letter soon so I can put you on the schedule. Lions Clubs International is a collection of individual clubs. Districts are there to serve the clubs. So, please, let me know what our vice governors and I can do to help your club.

Our Fall Conference will be held on September 17, a Saturday, in White Cloud at the Commission on Aging building. Second Vice Governor Tim Anderson will soon be giving you all the details, but there will be a parade of checks for State and District Projects, and a presentation on KidSight using the new PediaVision system.

Our first cabinet meeting will be on Sunday, July 31 at the Gate in Big Rapids, starting at 9 am. I hope we will have good attendance. One of the highlights will be presentations by our new Global Membership Team Coordinator, Pete Conarty and his Global Membership assistant, PDG Lynn Mast, and Global Leadership Team Coordinator, Carl Hawkins. I hope that all Lions will help them achieve their very important goals of helping clubs become even more excellent, reducing drop outs, gathering new members, and increasing service.

If you have never been to Higgins Lake Leadership Development Institute, now is a good time to consider it. The leadership skills they teach there are helpful in business, in professions, as well as in Lionism. I hope you will look into it. If you have already been, now is a good time to consider the Graduate Leadership Institute. It is given on the same weekend as the Leadership Institute. It is more Lion specific, and is very useful for anyone wanting to advance in Lionism.

Carolyn and I are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible this year. I hope to visit your club soon.

Yours in Lionism,

John S. Monahan
DG 11-E1

New Grandson



Joseph Dennis Monahan, was born on Monday, July 18, weighing in at 11 lbs. and 3 ounces. Unlike his Grandfather, he has hair. Everyone is doing fine.



1st Vice District Governor Lion Bill & Vickie Simpson

Hi,

Looks like everyone survived the International Convention. Seattle, Washington was a beautiful scenic setting for a gathering of the world's Lions. Over 12 thousand Lions marched in the Tuesday parade. As usual the costumes were spectacular and your Michigan Lions didn't disappoint either. We had white caps, white-starred red and white shirts with navy slacks and white shoes with the great sounding Lions of Michigan All State Band leading us along the mile long parade route. These activities, the International Convention, U.S.-Canada Forum, Michigan Forum and the Higgins Lake Conference are the very best the Lions has to offer and are wonderful reasons to look beyond the Club level and broaden your experiences in the Lions family.

A lot of Convention time was committed to the GMT and GLT positions. You will hear a lot about these concepts for finding and training our upcoming leaders and innovative ways of securing and retaining new and current members. Our approach as Lions and our overall appearance must be adaptive to new younger potential members. We, like other service organizations, must be willing to change in order to survive. Lions International is willing to help - they are tripling their North American advertising budgets to put the Lions name in front of as many people as possible. You can help by just asking your friends, neighbors and business contacts to become a Lion. Also remember that orientation of new and current Lions is critical to retention.

On another note, the District float trailer is ready for your club to use. In fact, the Weidman Lions used it this past weekend for their Weidman Days parade. The trailer was assembled by the Howard City Lions and King Lion Mike Scott has standardized a banner that your Club can purchase or manufacture to advertise your club name. To see this banner, go to the Howard City Lions Facebook page. The banner is 4 X 4, hemmed with grommets to fit the front display board on the float. You can order this banner from Print and Save Now with your club name for \$54.00. Contact information is: printandsavenow.com or 989-427-5378 to contact Jim Cairns. This is a good price for a banner you can use for other occasions as well. Many thanks to the Howard City Lions for their help on the District float.

Our first Cabinet meeting is Sunday, July 31, 2011 at the Gate in Big Rapids. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and we would like to have everyone there. Come meet your new District Governor and renew friendships with your district 11 E1 Lions. There's a lot to learn about: Pedia Vision cameras, district incorporation, the district float, and the GMT and GLT campaign which covers just a few topics.

Lion Bill, 1st VDG



2nd Vice District Governor Lion Tim & Chris Anderson

Hello Fellow Lions

As we start this new year of Lions 2011-12, we start it with a new enthusiasm and hope towards the future of our organization.

"I Believe" is what our new International President Tam is asking all of us to do "believe" we can make a difference "believe" we can help change the world towards the better.

I'm basically a small town boy at heart and stepping off the plane in Seattle for the International Convention was a little intimidating, my wife was unable to attend so I was alone in this strange new place or so I thought. As I began walking through the very large airport to try to find my bags when I noticed it, our Lions Logo on signs on other peoples shirts and jackets and that uneasiness I felt just melted away because now I knew I wasn't alone I was surrounded by my Lions Family.

I stopped and spoke or at least tried to speak with several of them as I passed through, Lions from France, Columbia, Nigeria, it was hard or impossible to speak words but smiles and handshake were exchanged and the one word all of us could say and understand was LIONS. The way people from all over the world from different cultures, beliefs and lives all came together to share and exchange stories and ideas on how they are helping makes you "believe" we CAN and DO make a difference and that our family our Lions Family working together does make this world a better place.

During the week long convention I attended several seminars in the hopes of gaining a better understanding of the changes that are upon us, GMT, GLT, CEP and I'm happy to say I walked away not only knowing what all these initials stand for (Global Management Team, Global Leadership Team, Club Excellence Program) but what their goals are for the coming year and what part we as Lions will play implementing and helping these new programs succeed.

Youth is also a big part of the coming year, if our clubs are to survive another 50 + years we need to have members in our clubs young enough so they may be around to carry on our work 50 years from now. I attended a seminar on how to attract young people and how to keep them interested in our clubs and I am willing to share and pass on all that I learned to any club that would like to hear it. The success of our Leo and Cub programs play a big part in our survival as they are our future!

Lastly, I just wanted to say "I Believe" this is going to be a good year and "I Believe" our Governor has put together a GREAT working team that has hit the ground running by holding training sessions already completed by most of our district and club officers. "I Believe" together we can strengthen our clubs our district and our communities and that the new programs being introduced this year may just give us the tools and guidance to show us all how!

Thanks, Yours in Lionism
Tim Anderson, 2nd VDG

Big Rapids Lions



The Big Rapids Lions Club awarded Big Rapids High School senior Cassandra McCullen the Richard C. Donley Scholarship for 2011. She has maintained a 3.995 grade point average while being very active in numerous extracurricular activities and community projects. Cassandra will attend Grand Valley State University in the fall and major in elementary education. Cassandra is the daughter of Matt and Sue McCullen. Richard Donley was a long-time member of the Lions Club, teacher and superintendent of schools in Big Rapids.

We recently held a KidSight vision screening at the local Farmers Market. All kids who had their vision tested received a free hot dog at the Lions Club food booth at the Farmers Market. We also registered people who wished to be part of the Michigan organ donor program.

Mecosta Lions



The Mecosta Lions Club had two very special guests at the recent meeting. Visiting and presenting was Pam Blizzard and her leader dog Nicholas. Pam gave a presentation of the qualifications for a dog to be accepted and trained for Leader Dog. Although we have a member with a leader dog, this was a fresh presentation. Nicholas had a good visit with our Leader Dog Usher as did Lions Pam and Nancy.



**Appreciation Dinner for
Immediate Past District Governor**

Lion Laura Johnson

August 27, 2011, Saturday at 5:30 P.M.

The Gate Entertainment Center

706 Perry Ave., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Social Time: 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Cash Bar & Appetizers

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Dinner will be a buffet and consist of two entrées,
Grilled Italian chicken, slow cooked Seasoned Beef.

Please contact Lion Debbie Kreitner with your reservations
by August 22, 2011 at 616-754-8409.

The cost for the meal will be \$25.00 per person.

You may send your check to Lion Debbie Kreitner at
514 W. High St., Greenville, MI 48838.

When entering the Gate, there are two doors,
Enter through the east door or the door to the right.

Coleman Lions



Coleman Lions Club gave scholarships to 5 seniors during the schools Senior Awards Night on June 1. All recipients have a strong volunteering background and four were members of STAR Leo Club. Lions Mary Jo Fachting and Mary Lewis made the presentations. Exchange student Soojin Lee from South Korea was our guest at the June 6th meeting. Soojin has lived with Lion Jami DeCatur's family since December. She is pictured with the DeCatur family above.

Lions Lynn Brugger and Mary Lewis represented Coleman Lions Club on June 4th during the Coleman Eastern Star's first Health Fair. Lions Lynn and Mary (pictured here) handed out club information and sold emergency 911 address signs as well as raffle tickets.

Coleman Lions also sold food from our concession wagon at a Veteran's Memorial Committee fundraising concert on May 29 in Coleman. STAR Leo members helped sell pop.

Honor Lions



It is our annual Kayak Raffle....4th of July drawing.....a very successful fundraiser to help us support our community & Lions activities/projects Also we were at the annual Frankfort/Elberta County Spring Craft Fair, Sat. 6/18/11



**Make-A-Wish Foundation®
of Michigan**

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Brighton, MI 48114
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P: 800.622.9474
F: 734.994.8025

West Michigan
P: 616.363.4607

www.wishamile.org
www.wishmich.org

Calling all volunteers!

Each year the Michigan Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® hosts The **Wish-A-Mile® 300 Bicycle Tour** to raise money to grant wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. This three-day, 300 mile tour begins with 900 riders and over 200 volunteers in Traverse City, Michigan and concludes with the Heroes Hurrah celebration at the finish line in Chelsea, Michigan. This event gives people the opportunity to work together to enhance the lives of children in their community and be a part of a truly life changing experience!

As the Make-A-Wish Foundation's single largest fundraiser, the \$1.5 million that was raised from last year's WAM allowed hundreds of wishes of Michigan children to be granted and unlimited amounts of lifelong memories to be made! The past success of this annual event would not have been possible without the support of our amazing Crew. We invite you to *Share the Power of a Wish®* and join our incredible three-day journey by being a part of our volunteer team! Join us in supporting our community on **July 28-July 31, 2011** by visiting our website <http://www.wishmich.org/wam> to explore volunteer opportunities and reserve your spot for this magical event.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jen Boan at jboan@wishmich.org or 800-622-9474 ext. 118.

Have a wonderful day, and I hope to see you this July!

Best Wishes,

Brianna

Midland Lions

The Midland Lions Social & Awards Night, May 17, 2011 at Whiting Forest

1. Lions Art Kuper, Jim Dunlap, Pat Dunlap, Mike Hoy and Thayre Talcott received service awards.
2. Lion Bernie Philabaum received the Melvin Jones Award.
3. Lioness Members Cindy Breault, Tina Hoy, Gloria Bukowski, Jean Hedlund, Virginia Sears, Barbara Swift, Nancy VanderWoude and Valarie Watson were presented a beautiful pink rose.
4. Lions Jim Warheit and Mary Schendel were honored as Outstanding Lions of the Year.



Luther Lioness

2011 will mark the 25th anniversary of the charter of the Luther Lioness Club. Instead of a party to celebrate our birthday, we decided to do some works of charity. We donated \$500.00 to our Luther Library. Phyllis Korte, President, presenting the check to the Luther Librarian, Gail Gangor. We also presented a \$500.00 check to our local senior citizens center, and three \$500.00 scholarships to local seniors from Pine River High School, for a total of \$2,500.00. Deb Holmes is shown presenting our scholarship to one of our seniors.





House Warming Party for IPDG Laura & PDG Harry Johnson
As they begin their life in their new home after the fire.

September 10, 2011, Saturday
From 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

At 1298 E. Fifteen Mile Road, Bitely, MI 49309

The meal will be provided with a Garbage Can dinner by the Johnson's.



Please bring your lawn chairs and your appetite.

Please contact IPDG Laura if you plan on attending,
because she needs to have the number of people
attending to know how many garbage cans she needs.

Phone: 1-231-250-0537
e-mail: 2312500537@mms.alltel.net