

D10 Lions News- June 2026

Summer of Service Edition

Lions across the peninsula will be busy this summer hosting service activities, and fund-raising events. Many of us are off to camp, traveling, and entertaining friends and family. Consult our “Summer of Service” club calendars in this issue, and plan to attend Lions events throughout the U.P. Embrace our international motto, “We Serve.”

Service is an ancient concept. Look beyond the self to find how you can serve others. Kabir Dass, the 15th century Indian poet and saint wrote, “The river that flows in you, also flows in me.” He was suggesting that we’re connected to all humanity, through our actions, words, behaviors, and breaths. We impact one another in all we do. Anne Frank said, “No one has ever become poor by giving.” Lions thrive by being of service. There is no greater ecstasy than being of service. A centuries old Chinese proverb advises, “If you want happiness for an hour...take a nap. If you want happiness for a day...go fishing. If you want happiness for a year...inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime...help someone else.”

The joy we feel from serving others has been labeled the “helpers high.” Or giver’s glow.” This has been defined by scientists as a feeling of elation, exhilaration, and increased energy, experienced following a period of service to others. Have you experienced these feelings?

In this issue you will meet Mr. Jack from Bay Cliff, get a sneak peek at what goes on at a USA Canada Leadership Forum, see how the Ishpeming Lions Club serves their community by giving away over 200 trees, and learn how district clubs are fund-raising for Northwoods Air Lifeline. Share the joy with district clubs as they celebrate the benefits of selling and winning Lions of MI Sweepstakes tickets and yes folks...we have winners! Farmer Finley thanks his volunteers and hosts gardening workshops for veterans, and clients of the Superior Alliance for Independent Living. Now, let’s celebrate Lions by supporting our clubs in service!

June-King



What does it mean? We plant in May. It freezes in the greenhouse. We plant in late May, it gets to 120 in the green house. We cover the greenhouse in very early June. Growing in the greenhouse is much better now. So, we're June-king around!

Thanks to the marvelous volunteers, our primary gardens are planted. Thanks to two very dedicated volunteers, we are able to prepare, compost, add new soil, prep beds for planting, plant 60 beds and begin the watch to getting plants.... Out to the ground!

Early June is a great time for those living in the U.P. to move transplants from greenhouse/dining room floors (I'll tell you about that some time), basements or any other place you start your starts.



The key is to slowly introduce them to sun and wind. Starting with 2-3 hours per day of direct sun to slowly working to full day exposure before you move them to ground, eases them to "hardening off."

Another change we've made is long rows versus the up to 80 beds in the main Rooted in Faith garden. It is far easier to move through the garden knowing you have a walking path 100 feet long. We're also using landscape fabric to tighten space on either side of the plantings to minimize weeds. And, we've put holes into the fabric to allow plants to grow through. One, to isolate the plants. 2, to further minimize weeding.

You can do this in your garden to minimize weeding. You can also use newspaper, 2 sheets thick and covering the paper with wood chips. Don't put wood chips into the ground, keep them on the surface. We used that method in the Forsyth Garden.

When you move transplants to soil, make sure you're adding your favorite potting mix into the hole to place the start. Potting mix is looser than soil and will help root development faster. Then water well using either a misting or sprinkler setting.

Great news! In mid-May, after 4 years of trying, we worked with Wounded Warrior and SAIL to provide a workshop for area vets. It was a great workshop sharing 'taking home a garden'. The response was terrific, over 40 vets and family attended. Steve did the workshop Gwinn Food System provided seeds, potting mix and trays to help attendees build their own window gardens! We are looking forward to working with them in the fall for another workshop!



Meet the New Mr. Jack from Bay Cliff



Jack Vander Lugt is the new Executive Director of Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay. A district endorsed organization, Lions have a decades long history serving the camp. We are currently seeking a 2026-27 District 10 Bay Cliff Chair. They have new programs, updated facilities, and a great team, and are ready for summer campers. Lions Day at Bay Cliff is Saturday, July 18th from 10 to 2 pm. We will join the local Elks club touring the facility, having lunch, and meeting the staff. Please plan to attend if you can. To learn more about assuming the district Bay Cliff Chair position, contact, Lion Gretchen at prestongretchen@gmail.com

Jack has graciously provided an inspirational introduction which will give readers the opportunity to get to know him. He gave a presentation to the Marquette Lions Club in May, shortly after he began as the executive Director. The club found him to be personable, engaging, dedicated and excited about providing an enriching camp experience for the Bay Cliff campers.

“Yes! They call me Mr. Jack. I am originally from West Michigan, north of Grand Rapids. I've always been a camp kid. I grew up going to my grandma's house for "Grandma Camp" in the summers. There we made crafts, climbed trees, and sang songs. Some of my most beloved memories of my grandparents are from that time in my life. I have many service-oriented family members, which influenced my career path and interests. I was always playing outside as a kid, spending time with friends and family, and in the water.

I had my light bulb moment when I was diagnosed with Type One diabetes shortly before my 21st birthday. My wife and I were married on September 21, 2024. My incredible wife Megan O'Connor is truly my better half; She helps me find the best version of myself every single day. We recently bought a house in Marquette. We feel so blessed and thankful for the roots we are putting down. I will live at Bay Cliff from late May to late August. A proud alumnus of Northern Michigan University, my degree is in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management. My career path has been focused on service-oriented non-profit leadership. Most recently, I was the Regional Director for the Alzheimer's Association, where I oversaw operations for the entire Upper Peninsula.

Above all, living with Type One Diabetes has been the most important learning experience of my life. I deeply connect with Bay Cliff's mission. "to promote health, welfare, happiness, and independence for children and adults with physical disabilities, using a therapeutic, camp-based environment as the primary vehicle for achieving these goals." I am so honored to be a part of this legacy of community and service. I am very excited to get to know this year's campers. I am dedicated to Experiencing and continuing Bay Cliff's beloved traditions firsthand.

I look forward to seeing my amazing staff in their element. Together we will spend the summer fully immersed in the camp environment and mission.

District Lions Clubs can best serve Bay Cliff by

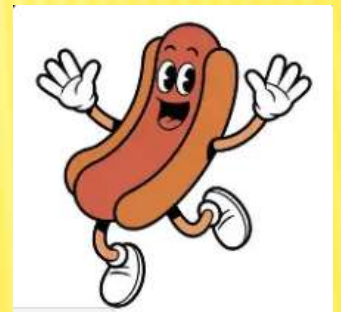
- Continued hands-on support through volunteering and being present at camp
- Sharing the Bay Cliff story and mission within your Upper Peninsula communities.
- Helping connect new supporters and advocates to the program
- The provision of ongoing financial support to ensure accessibility and high-quality programming for campers

I have such deep gratitude for the Lions' longstanding support and commitment to Bay Cliff. I recognize the impact of Bay Cliff is possible because of your dedicated Lions community. Thank you! I am so excited to build on the legacy created by the camp and District 10 Lions. Together, we are part of something that changes lives every summer. I look forward to getting to know you all!

What's going on around our Towns this summer?

Marquette Lions Summer:

- June 12: UPHSC Resource Fair (Kidsight, Eversight, ect)
- June 13 and 14: Flag Days at Walmart
- June 15: no meeting
- July 20: Installation picnic, Teaching Family Homes 5-8 pm. PDG Dan will conduct installation ceremony
- July 29: Provide salads for Tour De Yoop 4 pm.
- July 31: Blueberry Festival
- August 13-14: Marquette County Fair - KidSight
- August 17-23: Escanaba State Fair - KidSight
- August 22 and 23: Candy Days at Walmart
- September 7: Labor Day, No Meeting
- September 14: Business and Board Meeting
- September 22: Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser



St Ignace Lions Club service projects this summer

- 4th of July - Cooking hot dogs provided by the fire department after the parade and Lions Face Tattoos for the children.
- Community Fall Festival in September
 - Duck Pond with ducks with Lions manes.
 - Lions Face Tattoos
- Adopt a Highway trash pick up in May, July and September.

The Ishpeming Lions Club hosted its second annual Fruit and Nut Tree Giveaway at the Partridge Creek Community Farm, drawing dozens of community members. Residents could take home up to three free trees of their choice after a hands-on planting demonstration.

The event is part of a broader effort to address food insecurity in the region by empowering families to grow their own food locally.

Attendees walked away with everything they needed to get started.



Stephenson Lions have been busy as well!

In May the Stephenson Lions Jim Svinicki and club President Holly Phillips awarded 5 \$2000 scholarships.



They were also busy hosting the Special Olympics track meet which hosted athletes from throughout the U.P. Athletes enjoyed the games, a lunch and meeting the local Law Enforcement

Officers who assisted with the opening ceremonies and hand out metals.



Gwinn Lions have been out and about in other areas than just the community gardens.....they turned in 200 pairs of eyeglasses for recycling, raised funds through the annual “White Cane” event and most recently had an amazing **Gwinn Fun Daze Celebration!**

Thousands attend Gwinn Lions Club's annual family-fun event



The Gwinn Lions Club put the fun in its annual Gwinn Fun Daze event on Saturday.



The day started with a 5K Walk, Run, Roar which raised \$900 for North Woods Air Lifeline. This was followed by our annual Gwinn Fun Daze Parade which was larger than normal due to the Great Lakes Rodeo also participating in the weekends events.

Immediately following the parade were games in the park that included a Corn Hole Tournament. And then to top the day off 500 rubber ducks were dropped in the river with the top 3 ducks earning their raffle ticket owner cash prizes!

Gwinn Lions will also be hosting the Project KidSight Event at the Marquette County Fair and look forward to working with other local clubs in screening all the kids at the fair!



Sneak Peek at What Goes On at the USA Canada Leadership Forum

If you are unable to attend the USA Canada Leadership Forum this year, don't fret! We can offer similar leadership training opportunities right here in District 10! Browse the sessions below, and if you find one or more which interests you, we can develop a similar training for you, your club, zone lions, or on a larger scale via Zoom. We have leaders right here in D10 who are here to serve. Please let me know if you find a topic which interests you! Email me at: prestongretchen@gmail.com.

JUNE 2026 LEARNING DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS AT THE MEMPHIS FORUM by Lion CONNIE LECLEIR-MEYER EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

- Join us for the 50th Anniversary of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis, Tennessee September 3-5.
- Celebrate five decades of excellence with an impressive lineup of learning development seminars designed for both new and seasoned members.
- It is the perfect opportunity to network, acquire new skills, and gain invaluable insights alongside fellow Lions.
- There's something for everybody! Our program features multiple subject categories of general interest, with some sessions offered more than once!
 - Club Success focuses on strengthening Lions Clubs by improving member experience, service impact, and long-term sustainability.
 - It equips leaders with tools to build healthy, vibrant clubs that meet community needs.
 - There are six seminars: Dealing with Resistance to Change (repeated), Fundraising with a Twist, Inspiring Growth Through Meaningful Service, Keeping Core Values While Embracing Change (repeated), Making Leadership Enjoyable, Revitalizing Lions Clubs (repeated), Lions Portal Q&A (repeat)

□ There are four seminars: LCIF Impact Promoting Mental Wellness Among Lions Members and their Communities (repeat) Share the Story: Meet the LCIF Chairperson Unlock the Power of LCIF grants.

- Leos is our youth leadership program that empowers young people to develop leadership skills through service. Leos are the future of Lionism, bringing energy, innovation, and fresh perspectives.
 - There are three seminars: Leo Advisors Panel Discussion, Starting and Supporting Leos Clubs, Transitioning Leos to Lions.
- LionsUSA is a collaborative initiative that strengthens service, advocacy, and visibility of Lions across the United States. It connects Lions to national partnerships and opportunities for greater collective impact.
 - There is one seminar: Leveraging Corporate Partnerships to Amplify Club
- Service Impact Marketing supports Lions in telling their story, increasing visibility, and promoting service impact.
 - Effective marketing helps attract new members, engage communities, and amplify the mission of Lionism.
 - There are five seminars: Creating Impactful Videos and Free Applications, Marketing Strategies for Service Visibility, Marketing That Attracts Attention, Protecting Your Identity and Data Online, Transforming Membership Growth and Marketing with AI.

As you can see, the Forum offers a dynamic program designed to strengthen every aspect of Lionism, from individual and club success to global impact. You can explore topics while gaining practical tools to enhance member experience and community impact. In addition, you'll hear of ideas to expand service, increase visibility, build the future of our organization and experience learning, connecting, and inspiration!" For more information about the USA Canada Leadership Forum visit: [lionsclubs.org/ USA Canada Leadership Forum](https://lionsclubs.org/USA_Canada_Leadership_Forum).

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Can't make the forum in Memphis? Watch for upcoming information about our Lions of MI Leadership Institute coming this November. Scholarships are available through our Educational Fund, supported by the sale of Lions Mints. Opportunities are available for current Lion Leaders, seasoned club Lions, and those who are new to Lionism. This is an opportunity to stay closer to home, get a scholarship to cover the registration fee, and to meet fellow Michigan Lions. If you have never been, don't miss our Leadership Forum in November 2026!

2026 Sight and Hearing Sweepstakes Review

While over 11,000 Sight and Hearing Sweepstakes tickets were sold this past year- this is the lowest number sold since Covid. And less than 50% of our Michigan Lions Clubs participated. D10 had 25 clubs sell 1415 tickets in 2025, but only 19 clubs selling 1276 tickets in 2026.

Kudos go out to Wells that sold 400, Bark River that sold 210, Marquette sold 122 and Keweenaw sold 113. In total our 19 clubs raised \$12,760 for the foundation.

Of our ticket selling clubs- Bark River won first prize of \$1000 in the Ticket Sellers Drawing and Gladstone won 4th place with a \$100 prize.

Our D10 individual winners included-
2nd Prize (\$2500) to Skandia Lions
4th Prize (\$1000) to Cheri Allen- Keweenaw Lions Club
And 8th Prize (\$1000) to Bark River Lions Club

Please work with your club in selling these tickets next year. It's a great way to give back to our Foundation that supports us in so many ways.



Marquette Arts and Music Wellness Lions Club Celebrates it's 1 Year Anniversary in a Big Way!

I wanted to send a deeply felt THANK YOU to everyone who made last night's 1-year birthday party and fundraiser such a beautiful evening!

While we are tallying the final numbers, it looks like we raised ~\$2,000 for our club and Northwoods Airlifeline. We should take some pride in this!

More importantly, to me, the vibe level was off-the-charts. The thing I noticed most is that at many times during the night, everyone (and I mean everyone) was smiling. I was taking in the scene and playing a little *Where's Waldo* game with myself to see if I could find someone not having a good time.

No luck.

At our core, this is who we are. When we come into a space, we bring the energy up, whether it be for wellness, healing, or important causes. We saw this mission in full effect again last night.

A few special thank yous are in order:

First, a massive thank you to **Ashlyn**, who organized an amazing lineup of seven performers and bands--that, plus creating her own band for the event and bringing her own personal fire at the end! Everything was fluid, and the music powered the evening. That is no easy feat, and she crushed it, as did all the musicians who played last night. It was 4 hours of diverse listening pleasure where time loses itself. I was listening the whole time, and it felt like 1 hour.

I also want to thank Jim LaJoie and Rick Peterson for organizing a very successful silent auction (\$ details to come at our next meeting) and Gretchen Preston for her guidance, wisdom, and loving support throughout the planning stages and at the event itself. She's an inspirational Lion.

Thank you also to Andy Langois and Blackrocks Brewery for hosting and especially Andy's always-great job doing the sound-engineering hustle. Thank you to Jacob LeCaptain for taking charge and organizing a whole crew of video/photographers, including ducking under chairs himself to get "that shot". I can't wait to see, hear, and share what they captured.

And last, but certainly not least, thank you to everyone who came out, contributed, and brought your creative and welcoming energy to the evening. We are becoming an integral part of the Lions community in the U.P., and many Lions came out to support us. If you know a Lion who attended, please thank them the next time you see them.

We're just a 1-year-old baby, but we're already doing great things in our community. Many people are becoming interested in what we do, and we'll have some new members to welcome soon.

Momentum. Now, we just gotta keep that train rolling!

To that end, our next meeting will be at Peter White Library on July 14th at 6 pm (probably the Lions Room), where we will take a pause, reflect on our year, and chart our next moves. Please be prepared to share your thoughts and ideas on how you'd like to see us grow and evolve.

¡Muchas gracias, everyone!

Lion Doug Davis

