VOL 20 ISSUE 5

District 11 - A2
District Governor Kimberly Thiede
Official Theme: Together We Will
1st VDG Rick DeClaire
2nd VDG James Boomer
Zone Chairperson Jim Lykins

Lake Orion Lions Club
Lake Orion, Michigan
President Mike Pikelis
Club Phone Number: 248-975-6378
Club Website: www.lakeorionlions.org

International President Mark Lyon - Official Theme "Rooted in Service"

LAKE ORION LIONS NEWSLETTER



OUR CLUB OPEN HOUSE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH AT JOHNNY BLACK'S AND STARTS AT 6!
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

OUR PREZ SEZ:

Lake Orion Lions,

As your club's President, I encourage every member to make a commitment to attend at least one upcoming Lions event you have never attended before.

Whether it's our Christmas Raffle Dinner, Christmas Basket Program, Special Needs Christmas Party, Lake Orion Lighted Parade, Lions of Michigan Leadership Institute, Leader Dogs for the Blind Kick Off Dinner, Charity Poker Event, or Monday Night Meals, each event is an opportunity to see firsthand the difference our club makes in the community.

We all have our favorite events, but stepping outside our usual routines allows us to meet fellow Lions, experience different aspects of our service, and discover new ways to get involved. You may even find a new favorite!

Our club is strongest when we show up, support one another, and serve together. I challenge each of you to pick one event that's new to you, put it on your calendar, and join us. You won't just be attending an event, you'll be strengthening our club and helping us make an even greater impact.

Thank you for everything you do for our club and our community. Let's make this a wonderful year of service, fellowship, and new experiences!

Lion Mike Pikelis
Lake Orion Lions Club President
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From the Desk of our 1st Vice President:

Winter Is Coming
It's hard to believe we're already into November. Before long, we'll be busting out the ice scrapers and preparing for another long Michigan winter. But for some of our neighbors, the colder months bring a different set of worries. Will their kids have coats and snow boots that fit? Will there be enough food on the table? Can they afford to heat their homes or make repairs that simply can't wait? These are real challenges facing people right here in our community.

Recently, a woman reached out through our website because she was facing some serious problems with her home and wanted to be receive a Christmas food basket. A leaking roof, a damaged front door, and other repairs had left her struggling to find help. She didn't know where else to turn. Unfortunately, there wasn't a simple solution. Many organizations aren't equipped to handle larger home repairs, while others have temporarily paused programs that might otherwise have helped. Although we couldn't solve her problems directly, we were able to point her toward organizations and programs that might be able to assist.

In case you didn't know, our website has a Community Resource section with information about local organizations helping individuals and families facing financial hardship, housing challenges, food insecurity, and other difficult circumstances. Quite often, we connect people with organizations like Love INC and Faith in Action. A new resource we came across is Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), which provides services many people probably don't even know exist. One example is their Weatherization Program: helping qualified homeowners prepare for the colder months through insulation, heating efficiency improvements, and certain furnace or water heater repairs. Another unique program is through Oakland County. They help eligible homeowners tackle larger repairs through zero-interest loans of up to $23,000.

Our Second Vice President, Sherrie Fitzgibbon, and I co-chair Emergency Services for the club, helping coordinate requests from people in need and connecting them with available resources. One thing I've learned is that there's no shortage of people and organizations willing to help. The challenge is often knowing where to turn and what questions to ask. That's why I'd encourage everyone to spend a few minutes exploring the Community Resource section of our website. You may never need these services yourself, but you never know when someone you meet might benefit from something you've learned.

Sometimes making a difference starts with listening, caring, and simply being able to say, "I know someone who might be able to help."

We Serve

Lion Matt Sebastian
1st Vice President

Editor's note – 2nd VP Matt's column references OLSHA's WAP program. There is a pdf with more information included with the newsletter.

Words of Service from our 2nd Vice President:

Together, We Make the Holidays Brighter!

As the holiday season approaches, let's remember those in our community who may need a little extra help and kindness.

Through our donations, volunteer hours, and generous hearts, we can make a meaningful difference. Every contribution, big or small, helps bring hope and joy to those who need it most.

Now is the time to get involved! Please consider volunteering at some of our upcoming Lions events, or making a donation. Every helping hand makes a difference, and together, we can brighten the holidays for those who need us most.

Thank you for all you do. Let's make this holiday season one of caring, sharing, and serving!

Together, we serve!

Lion Sherrie
2nd Vice President,
Lake Orion Lions

CLUB NEWS & INFORMATION:

New Member Open House: This great event will take place Wednesday, November 4th at Johnny Black's starting at 6. The program for the evening will be the Executive Director from Lions Bear Lake Camp, PDG Traci Pohoda. She will also be installing some new members for us! It should be a fantastic night. Please attend if you can.

A Christmas for Everyone Dinner and Raffle: WE ARE GETTING EXTREMELY CLOSE TO SELLING OUT!!! It will be here before you know it. We are extremely fortunate that Skalnek Ford will be our hosting sponsor of this event this year. It will be on Saturday, November 14th. Tickets will be $125 for two people. That will include one entry into the reverse raffle along with dinner and an open bar. We have had three committee meetings already and will plan another very soon. If you have any questions, please ask. Lions Cathi Williams and Jim Leach are Co-Chairs for this event and are looking for help. Flyer is included with the newsletter. A sign-up genius has gone out and is almost completely full. Here it is in case a member is looking for a job that night. Speaking of jobs, we will need everyone to stay and help clean after the event is over.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054EACAE2CAAF49-66948074-2026#/

Charity Poker Event: Our first event at the new location, Paradise Banquet and Poker, went extremely well. We have another one there coming up November 22-25 during the day. A sign-up genius has gone out, and it is almost full. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for a shift for this event. This is quickly becoming one of our biggest club fundraisers; it is definitely the easiest. I have not received the schedule for 2027 yet. Once I do, I will let you know. If you haven't had a chance to work a shift, please try it.

CLUB NEWS & INFORMATION CONTINUED:

Welcome to Our Newest Members: We have been extremely fortunate lately to be adding new members to our club. Our Membership Chairperson, Lion Jennifer Barry, would like to introduce the newest ones to you This is the email Lion Jennifer sent me and I couldn't agree with her more!
Lion Jim,
I would like to have our new members highlighted as they are installed in the monthly newsletter with their picture so not just the members who attend the meetings meet them. Each new person brings new talents and fresh ideas to help our club grow.
I have asked each person/couple to write a short bio of themselves that they would like to share with the membership.
Thank you!
Lion Jennifer

Susan and George Dandalides:

Since their retirement, George and Susan have dedicated their time and talents to helping their community. George's biggest commitment is his responsibilities as a member of the Village Council. Susan spends her time tutoring as a member of the Oakland Literacy Council. Volunteering in the community has helped them meet new people and learn new things. For example, as co-chairs for a Lake Orion polling precinct, they have seen first-hand how our elections are secure. George and Susan prioritize spending time with family. They look forward to meeting new friends and helping their community as Lions.



CLUB NEWS & INFORMATION CONTINUED:

Welcome to Our Newest Members continued:

Beth Slade:

Beth has a background in Lions-supported nonprofits, including Leader Dogs for the Blind, and currently serves as Chapter Senior Director for Breakthrough T1D's Southeast Michigan Chapter. She lives in Oxford with her husband, Mark, and looks forward to re-serving alongside fellow Lions.



Orion Area Lighted Holiday Parade: This will take place on the streets of downtown Lake Orion. Lion Jack is the chair for this event and will have more information coming out. We will need members to walk in the parade behind our lighted sign. After the parade we all go back to Lion Hank's house for a party. It is a great night!

Special Needs Christmas Party: Lion Denise Zuke is chairing this again this year. She is finalizing the date and location with the schools right now. Once she has that information, she will let the club know. She just wanted to make sure everyone knew we were still doing it and would be looking for help.

Christmas Basket Program: The best project of the year! This year's Christmas Basket Program will take place Friday, December 18, and Saturday, December 19, at our new location: Orion Recreation Center, 3800 S. Baldwin Road, Lake Orion. Friday, beginning at 9 a.m.: Help us sort out the generous food donations. In the afternoon, we'll pack the baskets for local families. Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.: Join us as we deliver the baskets and bring some holiday joy to families in our community. Whether you can lend a hand for a little while or stay longer, we'd love to have you. Just come on by—every helping hand makes a difference!

Club Apparel Website: Our new clothing website is up and running. Instructions are included with newsletter. A few members have already ordered and the items look great.

Well, that is all I have for this Issue. See you at the Meetings. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please let me know. This is your newsletter and if you want to see something here, I need to know about it!

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Yours, In Lionism, Jim Leach, Jr.