

CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT



@LansingJaycees



Lansing Jaycees



LEADERSHIP FRIENDSHIP CITIZENSHIP MEMBERSHIP

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LANSING JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | NOVEMBER 2012

Lansing Jaycees
P.O. Box 1610
Lansing, MI 48901

www.lansingjaycees.org

District 4
Population Division 6
Base Membership: 77

LANSING JAYCEES



Kris D. was very successful at the Tie-One-On Happy Hour earlier this month, which is good, because without a tie, he looked very sad.



Dan H. signs Thank You cards at Nyaka AIDS Foundation. Donations came into this local non-profit from around the country.



Joe K., Eric R. and Michael L. watch the presidential election results come in at the Leeds' house. Michael, actually, is watching the results, Eric is hamming it up for the camera and Joe is playing with a statistical website predicting the outcome of the election.

SEEN IN ACTION!

THE JAYCEE CREED

BY C. WILLIAM BROWNFIELD

WE BELIEVE THAT FAITH IN GOD GIVES
MEANING AND PURPOSE TO HUMAN LIFE;

THAT THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN
TRANSCENDS

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIONS;

THAT ECONOMIC JUSTICE CAN BEST BE WON
BY FREE MEN THROUGH FREE ENTERPRISE;

THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE OF LAWS
RATHER THAN OF MEN;

THAT EARTH'S GREAT TREASURE

LIES IN HUMAN PERSONALITY; AND THAT
SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS

THE BEST WORK OF LIFE

2012 Board of Directors

The Board meets on the last Monday
each month, 6 p.m. at Maner
Costerisan, 2425 E. Grand River Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48912 .

President

- Lauren Leeds 989.482.1232

Chair of the Board

- Angela Fossi 586.484.7027

Board Members

- Danielle Wellington 616.405.6993

Membership VP

- Joe Kelly 616.617.8037

Individual Development VP

- Dan Harris 517.927.9412

Management VP

- Eric Richmond 802.734.1405

Community Development VP

- Sheryl Soczek 517.862.6376

Treasurer

- Abby Siegel 517.944.9729

Secretary

The Lansing Jaycees is an organization of people
ages 21-40 which promotes leadership
training through community service. We meet the
first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. (dinner
from 6 to 7 p.m.) at Tripper's Bar and Grill in
Frandor. Visit our website,
www.lansingjaycees.org for more information.



A note from the Capital Correspondent Editor:

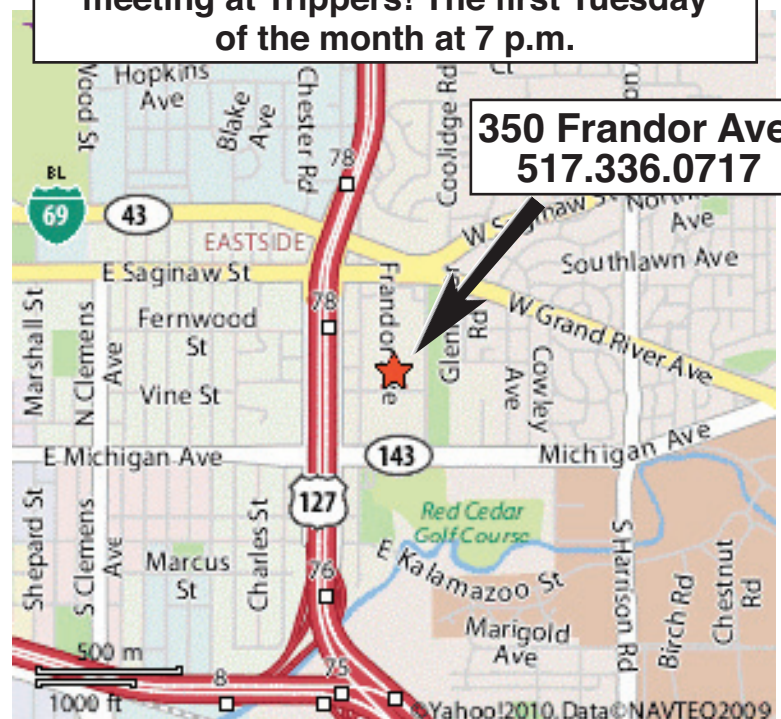
Thanks to the contributors of this month's
newsletter: **Joe Kelly, Dan Harris**
Sheryl Soczek, Abby Siegel, Lauren Leeds,
Michael P. Leeds

ANYONE CAN BE AN AUTHOR!

Please submit your articles, photos, or ideas
for future newsletters to: Abby Siegel
queenpetunia@hotmail.com

Join us for our monthly membership
meeting at Trippers! The first Tuesday
of the month at 7 p.m.

350 Frandor Ave.
517.336.0717



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What are you thankful for?

November happens to be my favorite month of the year – mostly because of Thanksgiving – but also because it is an annual reminder to pause and reflect about what we are thankful for.

Perhaps it's human nature, but we all tend to get caught up in the whirlwind of what's missing, what went wrong at the office, or why life doesn't match the picture in our head of how we think it's supposed to be. We forget to be present in the moment and focus on what is going right.

When I have a hard time sleeping, I think of that line from an Irving Berlin song that Bing Crosby immortalized in *White Christmas*: "When I'm worried and I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep." It's amazing how relaxing it can be to stop and focus on what we have instead of what we don't have.

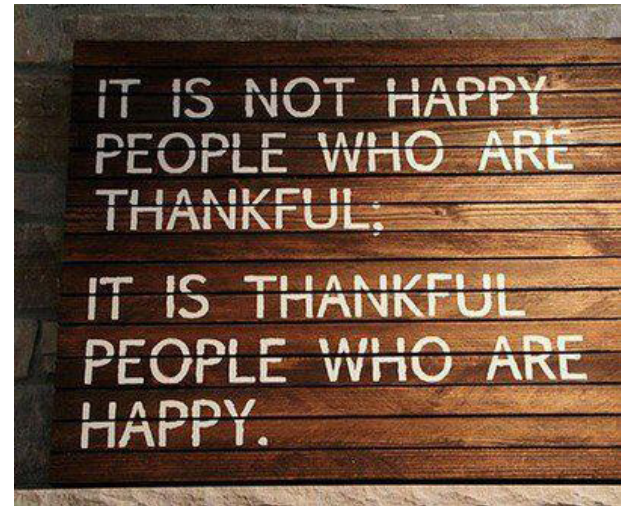
The picture accompanying my article this month is one of my favorite quotes: "It is not happy people who are thankful; it is thankful people who are happy." These are surely wise words to live by – a simple concept that is painstakingly difficult to master. In fact, I have to remind myself every day to breathe and be appreciative for what I have.

So, here it goes ... I am thankful for:

- Serving as the Lansing Jaycees' 84th president. The past 10 months have been truly rewarding – it is a humbling honor to hold this position for such an important and worthwhile organization;
- My loving husband;
- Friends (both Jaycee friends and non-Jaycee friends);
- Family;
- A silly, nine pound dog named "Houdini;"
- Not having to worry about: having a roof over my head, food in my belly and a warm place to sleep; and
- Lastly, but not least, dedicated members who are willing to step forward and lead the Chapter next year (congratulations and kudos to Abby Siegel, Charlie Root, Ruthi Dake, Ilona Hajdar, Sheryl Soczek and Eric Richmond).

It's as simple as that. Running through a list of all the ways in which you are fortunate can greatly improve your mood, as well as adjust your perspectives on what you think is so wrong. I encourage you to focus on what is going right in your life. This simple change in thinking can have a far reaching impact on your attitude and outlook toward life.

Yours in gratitude ...



Lauren Leeds
lleeds823@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Cooking corner

#webuildeaters

Spinach and Feta Soup

Ingredients:

2 10.5 oz cans of condensed cream of mushroom soup
8 oz mushrooms, diced
4 cups, diced potatoes
1 lb chopped spinach
10 oz chopped broccoli
extra virgin olive oil
3 garlic cloves
1/2 large onion
1 teaspoon garlic powder
The juice of 1 lemon
6 oz feta crumbles
21 oz milk

This recipe was created after eating the Mediterranean Spinach & Feta soup at Olga's Kitchen. It is the perfect soup for a chilly Michigan autumn day.

The lemon flavor in this soup is not overpowering, but lends itself to the other ingredients and brings out their flavors quite well. If you do not like mushrooms, you could substitute another condensed soup flavor like chicken or celery (or both!) Joe likes to serve it with a crusty French bread and butter. But a warm flatbread or naan would be an excellent side, too.

Pour spinach and broccoli into a strainer to thaw. Put potatoes into a medium pot of warm water on medium heat for 10 minutes. Chop mushrooms, onions, garlic. Coat a large soup pot with extra virgin olive oil. Put mushroom, onions, garlic into oil, over medium heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Run to the store because you forgot milk. Once vegetables in soup pot are browned and soft, add soup cans, adding 1 can of milk for each can. Add garlic powder. Heat and stir occasionally. Pour pot of hot water and potatoes over broccoli and spinach (this will strain the potatoes, and hot water will help thaw other vegetables). Mix saucepan contents into soup pot. Mix contents of strainer into pot. Run to the store again, because you forgot feta and pick up a second just-in-case lemon while you're there. Juice the lemon, and mix in lemon juice. As necessary use the strainer. Add 2/3rds of feta mixture to the soup. The remaining feta will be used to top each serving.

Joe Kelly
joewkelly@gmail.com



DATES TO REMEMBER

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 30 - Computer Programming in CO-BOL, 2 p.m., Lansing Community College Main Campus (exact site TBA)

NOVEMBERS 30 - Debate Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Wells Hall - MSU

DECEMBER 9 - Resume Workshop, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett

MANAGEMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 26 - 28 - Texas Hold 'Em, 11:30 a.m. - 2:15 a.m., Tripper's, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing

NOVEMBER 26 - Board of Directors Meeting, 6 - 8 p.m., Maner Costerisan, 2425 E Grand River Ave, Ste. 1, Lansing, MI (Details - Lauren Leeds)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

DECEMBER 1 - Stuff the Bus, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., WalMart, 3225 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing

MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

DECEMBER 4 - General Membership Meeting, 6 - 8:30 p.m., Tripper's, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing (Details - Lauren Leeds)

DECEMBER 5 - EagleMonk Micro Happy Hour, 7 - 10 p.m., EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 Mt. Hope Hwy., Lansing

DECEMBER 7 - Wine Tasting Tour, 6:30 - 11:45 p.m., Bergdorf's Winery, 5635 Shoeman Rd., Haslett

DECEMBER 14 - Meet & Mingle - Cork and Barrel, 1161 Clark Rd., Ste. 134, Dewitt

DECEMBER 18 - New Member Orientation, 6 - 7:30 p.m., Olga's Kitchen, Frandor

DECEMBER 21 - Happy Hour at the End of the World, 5 - 8:30 p.m., Location TBD

November Birthdays

Eric Dennis

Michelle Smith

Geoff Streit

December Birthdays

Robert Dowding

Brittany Gray

Jaimie Hutchison

Joe Kelly

Jason Larsen

Carrie May

Holly Nester

Jessi Wortley Adler

Membership Anniversary Dates:

November

Mike Castelien

Angela Clock

Eric Dennis

Angela Fossi

Ilona Hajdar

Meaghan Kelly

December

Carrie May

Robert Dowding

Charles Root

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Use mind mapping tools to organize ideas and manage projects

Whether brainstorming opportunities or making checklists mind mapping offers a scalable, organization tool that doesn't comprimize your creative edge. They allow you to get more done in less time. Mindmaps are usually centralized around a single idea, word, or concept. They are typically used to solve problems, outline an idea, collaborate between multiple people, or express thoughts creatively.

BBC television personality and psychology author Tom Buzan was the primary person to popularize the term and tool in today's world. Buzan has the following recomendation when creating a guidemap:

- 1) Start in the center with an image of the topic, using at least 3 colors.
- 2) Use images, symbols, codes, and dimensions throughout your mind map.
- 3) Select key words and print using upper or lower case letters.
- 4) Each word / image is best alone and sitting on its own line.
- 5) The lines should be connected, starting from the central image. The central lines are thicker, organic and thinner as they radiate out from the centre.
- 6) Make the lines the same length as the word / image they support.
- 7) Use multiple colors throughout the mind map, for visual stimulation and also to encode or group.
- 8) Develop your own personal style of mind mapping.
- 9) Use emphasis and show associations in your mind map.
- 10) Keep the mind map clear by using radial hierarchy, numerical order or outlines to embrace your branches.

If you find yourself stuck at the first word consider using a different approach. Consider using speech recognition software like Nuance Dragon NaturallySpeaking to transcribe your thoughts. Using a speech recognition program like this along with a headset with microphone allows you to have your computer transcribe your voice into words. You may find speaking your thoughts outloud first through a speech recognition and transcription program first then organizing them later to be an effective kickstart when stuck. As a bonus you will likely get all your thoughts down much sooner as the average person talks at a rate of 150 words per minute compared to around 40-60 word per minute typing.

For more information about these products see the following websites:

Mind Mapping software:

<http://www.thebrain.com> (recommended, free basic version)

<http://mindjet.com> (free trial)

<http://matchware.com> (free trial)

Speech Recognition software:

<http://www.nuance.com> (PC, Mac, iPhone, Blackberry, Android; recommended, some include a headset)

<http://www.tazti.com> (PC)

Popular headsets with a microphone:

<http://amzn.to/UsfXih>



Dan Harris
dan@dnharris.com

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Stuff the Bus is back!

December is coming! Santa and trees and really old candy canes your grandma decorates with every year that are all old and chewy.

Also, one of Lansing Jaycees' signature events, Stuff the Bus! This year, we have adopted 40 children from Salvation Army. We will give them all a Christmas to remember with help from shoppers at the WalMart store in Eastwood Towne Center.

Ingredients for this event include:

40 Children's names, interests, and clothing sizes, as well as any family needs they may have

1 Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) bus (donated with generosity)

1 WalMart store to stand in front of
Shoppers to donate articles of clothing, gifts, and money towards this event

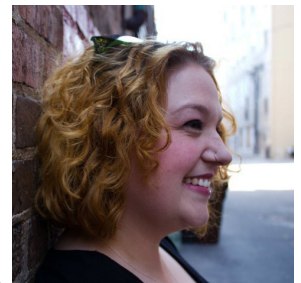
1 Large Conference room (donated by Sohn Linen) to sort the nearly \$10,000 worth of merchandise we receive

YOU - A Volunteer!! To help hand out wishlists, collect monetary donations, sort and stuff the bus

On Dec. 1, we will start giving out wish lists to shoppers at 11 a.m. We have two-hour shifts available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. These shifts are outside, with limited breaks, so if you are volunteering, please remember to dress as warm as necessary. Although our time outside the store ends at 8 p.m., we will need help un-stuffing the CATA bus over to Sohn Linen where we will sort the items for the children.

Please sign up for a shift here:
<http://vols.pt/RrAL5d>

If you cannot attend this event, please pass along our message of giving to friends, family, coworkers and others to help spread the word about the project. We welcome all shoppers, too, not just volunteers!



Abby Siegel
queenpetunia@hotmail.com

AUXILIARY OFFICER'S REPORTS

Groupon: Good, bad or indifferent....

By now I am sure everyone has heard the name "Groupon," quite possibly the majority of you have even purchased a few. If you are like me, you are addicted to the "Daily Deals" they offer. I haven't yet determined if this is good, bad or indifferent. As I sort through my pile of Groupons in my desk and based on my experiences, here my opinions.

Good:

1. Some great deals are offered, who wouldn't want a massage or oil change for 50 percent of list price?
2. They are a great way to see what businesses, vendors and retailers are out there.
3. You can make \$10 (toward a future purchase) on getting your friends to purchase Groupons.
4. You can stock up and save. I have 16 massages waiting for me to use (all for around 50 percent off).
5. You can gift a Groupon to someone else.
6. If you let a Groupon expire, the face value is still good.
7. MAY produce new clients for the retailer.

Bad:

1. The retailer must pay 50 percent of the cost of the Groupon as their fee.
2. I can't seem to find any time to use my 16 massages.
3. Groupons expire before you may be able to use them. I had a house cleaning Groupon to use by October 31, never used it because I would be too em-

barrassed to show someone how dirty my house was and I didn't have time to pre-clean.

4. Does anyone remember why I purchased \$80 worth of personalized labels? I am sure I did so for a good reason.
5. Anyone know why I felt the need to purchase 100 percent recycled sandals? I don't know either, can you say impulse buy?

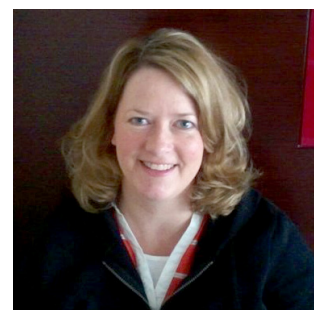
Indifferent:

1. Does any of it really matter? The fact is I got a good deal.
2. Should I care what the retailer is paying, I mean they are the ones that signed up.
3. The face value is still there so technically I will never lose any money unless I choose to not use at all (Boot Camp).

Basically I am not sure that it really matters what you feel about Groupon, the deal is you get products and services cheap. I know I eagerly wait to see what my next "Daily Deal" will be. Here it is, three 45-min. massages for \$69, gotta go get this deal.....

Enjoy your Groupons!

Sheryl Soczek
soczek@msu.edu



JAYCEE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Keller Williams Realty

I pride myself and the Robert Dowding Team at Keller Williams realty with excellent customer service in the representation of sellers, buyers, and investors in the entire Greater Lansing Area.

Leverage yourself by hiring a true professional to assist you, your friends and family in achieving your Real Estate dreams and goals.

Ph: 517.853.6390

Email: Sold@RobertDowding.com

Website: www.RobertDowding.com

Blog: www.RealestateRealresults.com

Website Design Services

Vieth Consulting provides development services for organization and commercial websites. Contact Chris Vieth for more information or for a quote.
H: 627-7145 W: 930-3611 ccvieth@viethconsulting.com

To advertise your business here, submit information to queenpetunia@hotmail.com

This service is FREE for Members of the Lansing Jaycees!!

Three cheers for mediocrity!

A few weeks ago a student gave me what I believe to be the single worst term paper ever written. Not just the worst term paper I have ever seen. I mean literally the single worst term paper ever penned by a college student, ever in the history of academics. It was poorly written, offensive, ignorant, factually inaccurate and badly argued. The font used was even a bad choice. The student obviously failed the assignment.

However, the sheer awfulness of the paper was instructive. I learned something important from reading this paper. What I learned had nothing to do with the content of the paper but rather about students in general and my role as an instructor.

As a college instructor I have read a lot of term papers. Some have been great but nearly all are, by and large, decidedly average. Average arguments, average grammar, average skillfulness of writing. And this is fine. Average is acceptable. Average makes the world go round.

This, no doubt, strikes some readers as blasphemous, even insulting. You might say “your job as an instructor is to inspire people to achieve, not settle to be merely average.” To which I reply: “you’re right.” But no instructor at any level of education can reach everyone and in the end, by definition, most people will live average lives and accomplish average things. And for the record, I consider myself no different.

The fact is we can’t all be doctors, lawyers, airline pilots, or captains of industry. We can’t in the sense that a society cannot exist with all its citizens working in only a small handful of “prestigious” fields, and we can’t in the sense that not everyone is cut out for all occupations. The world needs average people. We need nurses, file clerks, customer service agents and trash collectors. As an instructor my goal is to inspire, but my success is determined not by whether or not my students run this Fortune 500 Company or cure that disease.

My success comes from sending students out the door better citizens than they were when they walked in. If my students stay out of trouble, contribute something worthwhile to society in the form of doing a job and paying

their taxes and being nice to their neighbors I have done a large portion of my job. As a philosopher I do this by getting students to ponder the vastness of the universe or question the mode of their existence. Getting students to focus on the big picture (and existence is indeed a big picture) helps put their lives into perspective and thus be better people over all.

Am I all right with the fact that a student of mine turned in such an awful paper? Of course not. I want this student to do well, to learn from his plentiful mistakes and know what not to do next time. But at the same time I am not going to kid myself and believe I alone can turn this student into the next Steve Jobs or Martin Luther King Jr. Sometimes the best you can do is bring a student up to average. And I hope I can make him the best average person I can.

