

Capitol Correspondent



The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber | December 2014

Lansing Jaycees
P.O. Box 16150
Lansing, MI 48901

www.lansingjaycees.org
[@LansingJaycees](https://twitter.com/LansingJaycees)
[Lansing Jaycees](http://LansingJaycees)

District 3

Seen in Action!



Top left: Lansing Jaycees members and friends enjoy a game of Whirly Ball at a Membership event.

Below left: Ryan Kiernicki poses with the Miss Piggy piggybank he unwrapped at the annual December General Membership Meeting (GMM) and white elephant gift exchange. Sadly, Ryan didn't get to keep his prized Miss Piggy piggybank, as it was stolen by 87th President-elect Michael P. Leeds.

Below right: Lansing Jaycees 86th President Charlie Root swears in the newest Lansing Jaycees member, Danielle French, at the December GMM.



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**

The Lansing Jaycees is an organization of people ages 21–40 that promotes leadership training through community service. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Tripper's Bar and Grill in the Frandor Shopping Center, with dinner served between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Visit our website, www.lansingjaycees.org for more information.



Letter from the Editor

Thanks to the contributors of this month's newsletter, including:

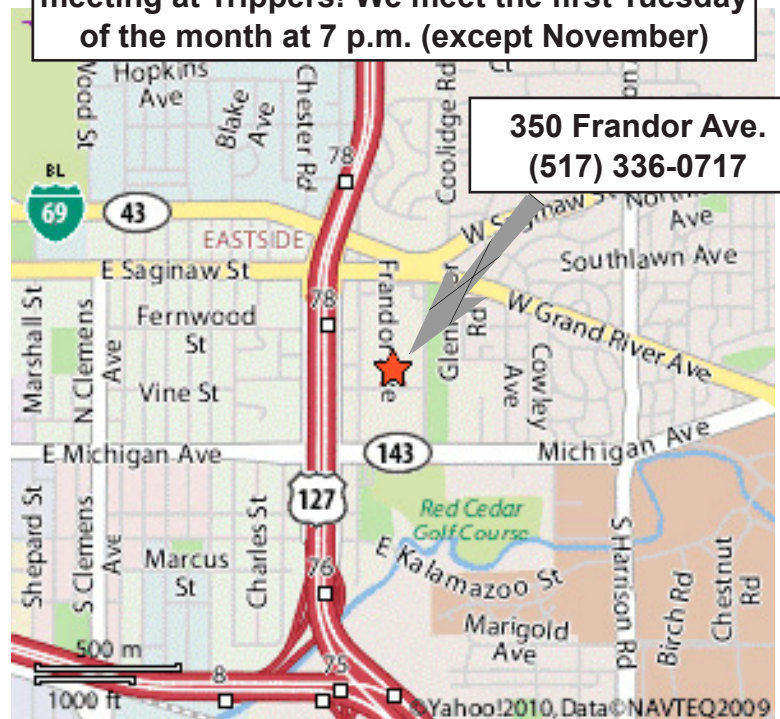
Lauren Leeds, Carrie May Larsen, Charlie Root, Sheryl Soczek, Jessi Wortley Adler and Angela Clock.

Remember, anyone can be an author!

For more information about submitting ideas, articles and photos for the 2015 newsletters, please contact 87th President-elect Michael P. Leeds.

Join us for our monthly membership meeting at Trippers! We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. (except November)

350 Frandor Ave.
(517) 336-0717



2014 Board of Directors

President

Charlie Root, (517) 862-5326

Chair of the Board

Abby Kelly, (517) 944-9729

Individual Development Directors

Michael P. Leeds, (248) 622-1829

Nick Horstman, (517) 703-4565

Management VP

Carrie Larsen, (248) 756-3840

Secretary/Management Director

Lauren Leeds, (989) 482-1232

Community Development Director

Angela Clock, (517) 410-9527

Membership Director

Colleen Burton, (517) 281-6049

Treasurer

Sheryl Soczek, (517) 862-6376

Assistant Treasurer

Jeff Straus, (989) 330-1956

President's Report

Looking Forward, Looking Back ...

Looking Back

Now that 2014 is winding down, and my year in the hot seat is nearly over, I'm looking back at what we've accomplished this year, and I am quite proud of all of you. I can say with confidence that our local chapter is one of the best local Jaycee chapters in the world.

We have overhauled our governing documents that were almost impossibly convoluted and meandering. That's the kind of work that will benefit the chapter for years to come. We also raised thousands of dollars for local organizations like Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Sparrow Children's Hospital. We pretended to be drug dealers, deaf people, angry drivers and gun toters to help the Michigan State Police train the latest round of State Troopers. And we have continued the tradition of our flagship events, the Easter Egg Hunt and Stuff the Bus.



Charlie Root
President

croot80@gmail.com

This year we held our 56th Easter Egg Hunt for the people of Lansing. That's more than half a century of fun and excitement for the children in our area at no cost to their parents or the community. Not many other organizations can boast that kind of longevity which shows the great level of our dedication.

And our Stuff the Bus event for 2014 should push us to a total of providing holiday gifts for 176 children throughout the past five years. What a great way to help the folks in our community share some smiles and love when times are tough.

And you all made it happen. Whether you were one of the outstanding members of the Board of Directors, or if you were just a general member, your participation this year helped make all of this happen. And I just do not have the words to properly express my gratitude. This chapter is full of the most amazing people I know and I cherish you all.

Looking Forward

My year in the hot seat may be just about over, but my service is not. I will be back on the board next year as your Chair of the Board. I will run board meetings, and helping the 2015 board navigate their year with the sage wisdom I have gained through my time as president. I am very much looking forward to working with our incoming Board of Directors and my successor, Michael P. Leeds. We have a lot of fresh new people coming in and that means fresh new ideas.

But I will also be taking more time to spend with the two most important people in my whole world, my wife Karin and my daughter Joy. The three of us are really excited for that.

Don't get me wrong, you'll still see plenty of all three of us. In fact, you may even see more of my better half, since Karin will be able to get out of the house more and let me take my turn at home with Joy.

Yeah, 2015 stands to be another great year for the Lansing Jaycees and I am happy I'll be there to be a part of it.

Dates to Remember

Membership Events

2015

JANUARY 6: General Membership Meeting, 6-8:30 p.m., Tripper's, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing

Community Development Events

DECEMBER 6: Stuff the Bus, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Walmart, 3225 Towne Center, Lansing

DECEMBER 10: Guest Chef at Ronald McDonald House, 5-7 p.m., 121 S. Holmes, Lansing

REST OF 2014: Pop Tab Collecting, drop off pop can tabs to Angela Clock or Michael Leeds

2015

FEBRUARY 22: Polar Plunge for Special Olympics, approximately 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eagle Eye Golf Course, 15500 Chandler, East Lansing

Management Events

DECEMBER 9: Board of Directors Meeting, 6-8 p.m., 1804 Peppertree Lane, Lansing

UNTIL DEC. 29: Operation Snowman Army, accepting orders through Dec. 29th

2015

JANUARY 17: 2014 Awards Banquet, reception at 6 p.m., program at 7 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel (Lansing West), 925 S. Creyts, Lansing

FEBRUARY 8-11: Texas Hold 'em at Trippers, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing

Individual Development Events

SEEKING PROJECT IDEAS AND INTERESTED CHAIRPERSONS

2015

Happy Birthday!

December Birthdays

Carrie Larsen
Jaimie Hutchison
Jason Larsen
Jessi Wortley Adler
Joe Kelly
Justin Barnes
Rob Dowding

January Birthdays

Alex Gardner
Jeffrey Straus
Karin Root



Membership Anniversaries

December

Nick Alt
Ilona Castelein
Robert Dowding
Angela Fossi
Dawn Hetzel
Dana Martinez
Carrie Larsen
Ashley Orel
Charlie Root

January

Jen Anderson
Andrew Hoard
John Prush



Community Report

Planning for Success

As we're already halfway into a really busy time of year, I got to thinking about some of the things I've learned during my time as a Jaycee. The first thing that comes to mind is: PLANNING.

It's been an invaluable tool as I've juggled various things including work, graduate school, and state and local Jaycees. The skills we learn about planning – how to think ahead, get things done and how to problem solve – are not just for use in the Jaycees. These skills are life skills. I've learned that if I put in time to plan events, homework assignments and work projects, the easier they are when it comes time to get it done, because I'm not scrambling to do things at the last minute (and let's be honest, we're ALWAYS doing things at the last minute, but why pile on?) Everything may not go according to plan, but you can be prepared for that.



Angela Clock
Community Development Director
fallingstar924@hotmail.com

As we finish 2014 and begin 2015, I encourage you to get involved with a project – attend, be on a committee, chair a committee. Use the safe place of the Jaycees to learn skills you can use anywhere. Make the most of your membership, learn transferable skills and help the community at the same time!

Stuff the Bus!

It's that time again, the most wonderful time of the year! Except for some local families, the holiday's aren't always so bright and cheery. For many different reasons, there are children and parents out there who will receive no presents on Christmas Day.

To make sure these children (and their parents) wake up to presents on Christmas morning, our Lansing chapter holds an annual event, Stuff the Bus, to help provide a wonderful Christmas to local families who are experiencing hardship and would be unable to have a nice Christmas on their own. Through a partnership with Walmart, CATA and community members out shopping, we will make sure a few of these families receive new clothes, toys and a yummy holiday meal.

This year's event is Saturday, Dec 6. Jaycees members and other volunteers will be collecting gifts outside the Eastwood Town Center Walmart from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. to fill a small CATA bus with toys and clothing for five local families, including 21 children.

Jaycee Members are needed in shifts throughout the day to help hand out wish lists to customers entering the store. Please visit the VolunteerSpot link to sign up for a shift(s) <http://vols.pt/3Mb64h> or contact one of the co-chairs of the event. Family and friends are also welcome. Remember to dress warmly as we will be outside all day.

We also will need volunteers on Sunday, Dec. 7 and the following week to help sort the gifts, exchange items, and help wrap the presents. Please contact Jessi or Ryan if you can assist.

Questions about the event? Contact Jessi Wortley Adler at jessicawortley@gmail.com or Ryan Kiernicki at ryan.kiernicki@gmail.com.

Management Report

Thanks for the Memories!

It's been a wonderful year in the area of Management! I thought I would recap a bit by the numbers, if you will, on how our year went. Here are a few highlights:

- \$400 – raised during Enjoy the City Coupon book sales
- Nearly \$4,000 raised and more than 250 man hours spent on Texas Hold 'Em fundraisers
- \$1,700 raised and 250 man hours spent during MSU concessions events
- 100+ hours – time spent reviewing and updating the Constitution and Bylaws
- 90+ hours – time spent on Criminal for an Evening events
- Approximately 288 man hours spent in board meetings
- \$750 raised and 90 man hours volunteered at the Frankenmuth Jaycees World Expo of Beer
- Approximately \$800 raised and more than 80 hours spent on Holiday One Stop Shop

These are just some of the highlights of our management projects this year. I hope you were able to participate in some of the events.

And just to share a few thoughts as I end my final year serving on your board of directors:

- View projects as opportunities instead of work to get the most out of your membership and to enjoy the time you have in the Jaycees.
- If you haven't chaired or co-chaired a project, what are you waiting for?
- If you don't believe in what you are doing, nobody else will either. Be passionate.

My final thought is attributed to someone else:

"Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them." - William Arthur Ward

Best wishes as you finish 2014. Give it your all in 2015!



Carrie Larsen
Management Vice President
carriemay@aol.com

Just a General Member?

Come Dec. 31 I'll no longer be a member of the Lansing Jaycees Board of Directors. I intellectually understand this, but I don't think it's quite sunk in yet.

You see, I've only been "just a General Member" for four months. When I joined the chapter four years ago this past September I was a member for all of a month when Sheryl Soczek nominated me to serve on the board. I accepted and jointly with Abby Siegel (now Kelly), I filled the role of Community Development Director in 2011. I followed that up by serving as President in 2012 and then Chair of the Board in 2013 and now, lastly, as Management Director and Secretary.

When the clock strikes midnight I'll be what I hear many members say when introducing themselves at a General Membership Meeting, "I'm just a General Member," with an emphasis on the "general." Well, I'm hear to tell you there's no such thing as just a general member. Without every single one of our 65 members we wouldn't be able to accomplish the great things in our community that we have done and will do. One of the greatest things about the Jaycees can be found in this simple saying, "Many hands make light work." With every ounce of my being, I believe that there is strength in numbers.

If you still feel like you're "just a general member," then I'll leave you with this thought from Edward Everett Hale, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do."



Lauren Leeds
Management Director
lleds823@gmail.com

Auxiliary Officers Report

Looking Back on My Time as a Jaycee

Hello my fellow Jaycees. As I write this I am reflecting back on my 12 plus years of being a Lansing Jaycee and the journey I have had.

I had heard of the Jaycees (Key Man) as my father was a member of a chapter way back in the day. When I came to Michigan (1997) I was looking for something to do, a business fraternity (Delta Sigma Pi) brother of mine recommended that I join the local Jaycees chapter as he felt it would be a good fit for me. I looked up the chapter contact number and there it sat in my desk drawer for a few years. Fast forward a couple of years to 2002. I was eating in Rio Bravo (now Old Chicago Pizza) and I saw a flyer for a membership drive/event the Lansing Jaycees were hosting. I "stole" the flyer and called Sally Sohn (the current president) a couple days later. I came to the meeting and met Amy Miller and another Amy (Radford-Popp). I had such a great time at that meeting I joined that night. The rest is history.



Sheryl Soczek
Treasurer

soczek@msu.edu

I joined the Jaycees to meet people that was my sole intention. I did that and a whole lot more. I chaired events – eating, drinking, shopping, wine tours, prison tours, children’s events, etc. I helped build houses (haunted and Habitat), raise money, count money, went to meeting after meeting and much, much more.

I am most thankful for the people I met while being a Jaycee. My best friends were found here, people who have been there for me, people who have stood up for me, people have stood up to me and people that will be in my lives forever. I am grateful for the people I have met and the person they have helped me become. I have learned a lot in the various positions I have held and believe I have been able to leave the chapter in a better condition than I found it. One of the most important things for me to do over the last few years was to pass on my knowledge to others. Below is a list of the offices I held and awards I earned. These are actual items that are reported in our history forever. Soon I will be just another name listed in a program. The knowledge I have is only here as long as I am. However, if I have done my job well, that information will be passed on for generations to come. This is my legacy!

Offices: 2006 Individual Director • 2007 Individual Director • 2007 79th President • 2008 80th President • 2009 Chairman of the Board • 2010 Management Vice President & Individual Development Vice President • 2011 Treasurer • 2012 Treasurer • 2013 Treasurer • 2014 Treasurer • 2015 Exhausted (literally).

Awards: Presidents Award – 2006, Robert M. Reames Memorial Award Outstanding Leadership – 2006, 2008 and 2010 and Key Member – 2009.

I challenge each of you to think about how you want to leave the Jaycees and what your legacy will be. Think about it and act upon it.

Good Bye to my fellow Jaycees!

Jaycee Trivia

What city is the birthplace of the Michigan Jaycees?

Answer: Jackson, as the September 1924 delegate meeting was held at the Old City Club. Fitty delegates from Saginaw, Pontiac, Flint and Jackson met. Junior Chamber chapters existed in Bay City and Kalamazoo, but they did not attend.

Jaycees Business Directory

Auto, Home, Life & Tax Deferred Annuities

Member: Shantana Goerge

I specialize in home, auto, and life insurance. I'm passionate about the fact that insurance is boring and confusing to most people. Let me keep an eye on it for you, so it can keep up with you without the worries.

Phone: (517) 347-6772, ext. 56547

Fax: (517) 347-6983

Email: shantana.goerge@libertymutual.com

Facebook: [Shantana Goerge](#)

Keller Williams Realty

Member: Rob Dowding

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 your family in achieving your Real Estate dreams and goals.

Phone: (517) 853-6390

Email: Sold@RobertDowding.com

Website: www.RobertDowding.com

Blog: www.RealestateRealresults.com

Clearing Blocks: Editing Services & Creative Content Development

Member: Jen Anderson

I offer comprehensive copy editing services, from light editing to line editing, in addition to creative content development. If you have a special project you'd like a professional set of eyes on, don't hesitate to get in touch! Please check out the website for sample rates and services, or call for a consultation.

Phone: (603) 548-0840

Email: jennifer.margaret.anderson@gmail.com

Website: www.clearingblocksediting.com

The Law Office of Eric J. Sheppard

Member: Eric Sheppard

I provide dedicated, personal attention to all of my cases. I will assist you and your family with all of your questions and concerns relating to your legal matters. I am highly experienced in criminal law, family law, and general practice matters.

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Phone (Cell): (216) 973-9996

Website: www.ericshppardlaw.com

Want to see your business featured?
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