

The Monthly Newsletter for the Lansing Junior Chamber of Commerce | February 2015

District 4 • Population Division 3 • Base Membership: 64

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Year End Banquet Recap!

This past January, Lansing Jaycees young and old came together for the annual Jaycees Award Banquet which took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in West Lansing. It was a busy night with many award presentations, swearing in of the 2015 Board of Directors, and spotlights on four exhausting Jaycees: Carrie (May) Larson, Sheryl Soczek, Jamie Hutchison, and Dan Harris.

Some award winners were Carrie May Larsen for Outstanding Leadership, Spirit of the Jaycees to Ryan Kiernicki, New Jaycee of the Year to Keri Brown, Alex Nelson receives Lansing Jaycee Springboard of the Year, Project of the Year to goes to Stuff the Bus – Jessi Wortley Adler and Ryan Kiernicki.

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Charlie Root, 86th Lansing Jaycees President, swears in Michael Leeds as the 87th Lansing Jaycees President of 2015.

Year End Banquet

Michael Leeds swears in the 2015 Board of Directors. From left to right; Michael Leeds, Charlie Root, Jenni Riehle, Eric Richmond, Angela Fossi, Colleen Burton, Jeffrey Straus, Alex Nelson



Eric Richmond and Charlie Root present Kerri Brown the New Jaycee of the Year award.



Dave Worthams, 87th President of the Michigan Jaycees, presents Carrie May Larson with her JCI Senatorship.

Continued from page 1. . .

Two very special honors were also bestowed upon Sheryl Soczek and Carrie May Larsen at the end of the evening when they were presented with their numbers for the United States JCI Senate. A Senatorship is the highest international honor that can be given to a Jaycee. Only 1 out of 1,000 Jaycees will ever become a Senator. A big congratulation to Carrie and Sheryl!



Sheryl Soczek takes her first picture as a JCI Senator!

Presidents Report



Most decisions are bad. I don't mean this as an insult to anyone making decisions, but rather as an observation that for every right decision there are numerous wrong decisions that could have been made instead. Given this, what are decision makers supposed to do? If most of the decisions we could make are potential wrong decisions, how do we convince ourselves it is alright to take a chance that we might make the right one?

There are two options: one, do not make decisions; put it off or make someone else do it. Or two, understand mistakes will be made and hope you are in a culture or group in which mistakes and even failure are allowed. Neither of these seems like a particularly good option. In the first case we haven't

solved the problem, just avoided it, and for the most part, the second environment does not exist.

An environment in which mistakes can be made without fear is a rare thing. But as a member of the Jaycees you are part of that environment. The Jaycees is a place for new ideas. We encourage trying more than we require results. The important thing is that you try, and if you are willing to try, we are all here to help you succeed.

The Lansing Jaycees is not a place where we want to just maintain the status quo; we want to do better than that. The only way to make our organization great is by trying things that sometimes scare us. That's what taking a risk is. If we just sail by and keep comfortable we can never grow. This is an organization built on ideas and not all of those ideas are successful. There is always dignity in the attempt. Here you can fall flat on your face, brush yourself off, and start again. How many places can claim that?

It's a Wrap! Stuff the Bus

What do you get when you cross 20 Jaycee members, 10 non-Jaycees, \$8,000 worth of items from WalMart, multiple rolls of wrapping paper and Scotch tape, 11 hours in the cold and a box of Carrie May Cookies?

A sugar rush, cold toes and paper cuts might come to mind...but you'd be more correct if you said 29 Lansing kids and their parents who had a much happier Christmas this year!

The 2014 Stuff the Bus project celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, and what a fantastic year it was. The day of the event, Dec 6th, was great as far as Michigan weather in December goes. It was chilly, but the sun showed up, we did not get 5 inches of snow, and the temperature was above 30 most of the day. I call that a win! Continued on page 4. . .



Andrew Hoard stands outside WalMart for the Stuff the Bus event.

Stuff the Bus Continued

Continued from page 3. . . What it really meant for our project was that customers were out in full force that day, and didn't mind stopping to grab a wish list or learning more about what we were trying to accomplish. As a result, we were able to stuff the bus with more than enough toys, clothes, pots and pans, pillows, sheets, coats, boots and lots more. A few highlights of the day:

A woman who was waiting for her bus had some time to kill, so she sat in the store for a couple hours and knitted a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles hat for one of the kids on the list. We couldn't believe it when she dropped it off at the bus. What a special treat!



Another woman went home and brought back bags of brand new skin-care and makeup products from her personal business to give to all the moms on the lists.

A third person used her Sams membership to purchase bulk packages of paper towel and toilet paper to give to all the families.

It's these stories that melt your heart and remind you of all the good in the world!

The event would not have been a success without the awesome committee who went out of their way to get things done before, during and after the event. Thank you, thank you, thank you! And thank you to all the members who stood in the cold handing out fliers, organized items on the bus, or stopped by Sohn to sort and wrap gifts. We couldn't have done it without everyone's help!

A big shout out also goes to Sohn, Walmart and CATA for their continued partnerships – these relationships are crucial and we cannot take them for granted. As a Jaycee member, please make sure you patronize these businesses whenever possible and thank them for all they've done for the Lansing Jaycees.

This is my favorite project for many reasons, but the one reason that tops it all is seeing the smiles on the parents' faces and getting big hugs when you deliver the gifts. It is then that you know you have truly made a difference in someone's life.

-Jessi Wortley Adler



Jessi Wortley Adler with donations from the Stuff the Bus event in December.

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Contact
General Membership Meeting Please join us for our monthly general membership meeting at Trippers in Lansing! more info...	02/03/15	06:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST	Michael Leeds
Texas Hold 'Em February Please help us raise money for the Lansing Jaycees! We will hold a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Feb. 8 - 11!	02/08/15 -02/11/15		
Easter Egg Hunt Committee Meeting Check www.lansingjaycees.org for updates	2/17/15	6:00 PM	Danielle Wellington
Board of Directors Meeting Join the Lansing Jaycees Board of Directors for its monthly meeting. more info...	02/19/15	06:00 PM - 08:30 PM EST	Michael P Leeds
Michigan Jaycees Year End Leadership Conference Celebrate another great year with the Michigan Jaycees!	02/20/15 -02/22/15		Charlie Root
Polar Plunge Join us as we jump into freezing cold water to raise funds for Special Olympics of Michigan! more info...	02/22/15	11:00 AM - 02:30 PM EST	Lauren Leeds
General Membership Meeting Please join us for our monthly general membership meeting at Trippers in Lansing! more info...	03/03/15	06:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST	Michael Leeds
Board of Directors Meeting Join the Lansing Jaycees Board of Directors for its monthly meeting. more info...	03/19/15	06:00 PM - 08:30 PM EST	Michael P Leeds

Meet the 2015 Board !



Michael Leeds
87th President

Occupation: Adjunct Professor

Relationship Status: Married

Pets: Dog- Eleanor Cats- Belle and Aquaman

Dream Job: Video game playing astronaut

Why did you join the Jaycees?- My wife signed me up initially. Stayed for the friendship

Why did you take a board position?- I wanted to learn how to do more

Favorite Jaycee Project: Easter Egg Hunt

Jaycee Join Date: March-ish 2011

Favorite Quote: Too long to list

Random Fact: I survived two consecutive parachute malfunctions

Favorite Movie: Se7en, Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Book: Animal Farm, Lolita

Favorite Game: Bioshock

Favorite Music: I like what I like. Journey is not on this list

First Car: 1981 Ford Fairmont



Charlie Root
Chair of the Board

Occupation: Print Estimator/Resident Badass

Relationship Status: Married

Pets: None

Dream Job: Competitive Napper

Why did you join the Jaycees? To meet new people and get involved with community service so my daughter grows up seeing that as a normal part of life.

Why did you take a board position? Partly to improve my own arsenal of leadership skills and partly to give something back to the chapter I love so dearly.

Favorite Jaycee Project: Operation Snowman Army

Jaycee Join Date: November, 2009

Favorite Quote: "You can only be young once, but you can always be immature." - Dave Barry

Random Fact: I once broke my ankle in 7 different places while in a mosh pit.

Favorite Movie: Two way tie between Necessary Roughness and Roadhouse.

Favorite Food: Mexican

Favorite Book: Don't make me choose. That's just not fair, I love them all so much.

Favorite Game: Cards Against Humanity.

Favorite Music: Anything that stirs my soul or can make me laugh.

First Car: 1988 Ford Tempo. It didn't have a gas pedal, or dash lights, and only one speaker worked, but it had an awesome array of bumper stickers. Is there anything else you would like people to know about you? If you see me out and about, whether it's a Jaycees event or not, stop and say hi. You won't regret it.



Eric Richmond Programming Vice President

Occupation: IT Business Analyst

Relationship Status: Married

Pets: Butters (Pug), Clementine (CKCS), Gilly (Pug), Mr. Mann (cat), Peekaboo (cat), and Sheldon (turtle)

Dream Job: Film Director

Why did you join the Jaycees? I was new to the area and wanted to meet motivated and accomplished people.

Why did you take a board position? I wanted to challenge myself and enjoy helping others, giving back, and seeing the organization do well.

Favorite Jaycee Project: Haunted House (old school), or Snowman Army (new school)

Jaycee Join Date: September 2010

Favorite Quote: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." This is often miscredited to Albert Einstein, but is actually sociologist William Bruce Cameron,

Random Fact: I have a guilty pleasure obsession with Judge Judy.

Favorite Movie: The original Star Wars trilogy

Favorite Food: Pasta, French Fries, Thai food, Tacos, Chocolate... I like food.

Favorite Book: I'm not much of a reader, but let's say Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy

Favorite Game: Cards Against Humanity

Favorite Music: mostly Rock/Alternative, but a little bit of everything

First Car: A white Pontiac Sunbird

Is there anything else you would like people to know about you? I'm a Michigan graduate and passionate fan, including four years in the Michigan Marching Band playing trombone. It's not easy being a Wolverine in Spartan country, but Go Blue!



Colleen Burton Executive Vice President

Occupation: Disability Examiner

Relationship Status: Single

Pets: Not currently

Dream Job: Stylist (clothing)

Why did you join the Jaycees? To meet people who do things and give back to the community.

Why did you take a board position? To be able to help the organization I care so much about, that has given so much to me.

Favorite Jaycee Project: Easter Egg Hunt and Stuff the Bus

Jaycee Join Date: August 2007

Favorite Quote: The (Lansing) Jaycees are a drinking club with a volunteer problem.- Sam Keeney

Random Fact: I grew up in a very large family (10 people) with only one bathroom in the house.

Favorite Food: Fried green tomatoes.

Favorite Game: Cards Against Humanity, of course!

Favorite Music: Pop & Country

First Car: 1977 Buick Century, that puppy had houndstooth seats!

Is there anything else you would like people to know about you? With the Lansing Jaycees, I finally found a group I really fit in with. It's by far my favorite thing about the Jaycees.



Angela Fossi
Secretary

Occupation: Software Manager and Compliance Coordinator

Relationship Status: Single

Pets: 2 cats - Moxie and Mags

Why did you take a board position?

After spending a couple of years on the Michigan Jaycees Board of Directors I wanted to finish my Jaycees career with the Lansing board.

Favorite Jaycee Project: Operation Snowman Army

Jaycee Join Date: November 2007

Favorite Movie: Grosse Pointe Blank

Favorite Food: Olive Burgers



Jeffrey Straus
Treasurer

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant at Maner Costerisan

Married To: Angela Straus

Pets: Two German Sheperds, Kona and Cash

Why did you join the Jaycees? To meet people and provide a positive impact on my local community

Join Date: Summer 2012

Favorite Jaycee Project: EasterEgg Hunt because of the impact on the children in the community—my daughter loved it!

Favorite Movie or Book: The Beach by Alex Garland (not necessarily my favorite, but it is a very enjoyable book). The movie did not do it justice, and I usually love Leonardo DiCaprio movies.

Random Fact: I have two beautiful Daughters, Elizabeth (4 1/2 years old) and Emily (1 1/2 years old)

Favorite Game or Sport: Football. I am a diehard Detroit Lions fan

Favorite Music: Ryan Adams (alt-country), Johnny Cash, and Garth Brooks



Ryan Kiernicki
Director

Relationship Status: Married

Pets: Raffie (turtle) Cat (Charlie) dogs (Carmen and Maggie)

Dream Job: (financial planner)

Why did you join the Jaycees?: I was talked into it

Why did you take a board position?: I Loved what I was talked into

Favorite Jaycee Project: Stuff the Bus

Favorite Quote: When in Rome do as the Romans do

Random Fact: Shit Happens

Favorite Movie: Fight Club

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Book: Antifragile

Favorite Game: Call of Duty or Settlers of Catan

Favorite Music: Country

First Car :GMC safari



Danielle Wellington
Director

Occupation: Neogen Corporation – International Sales and Marketing for Canada

Relationship Status: I claim single on my taxes and am accepting applications.

Pets: I have a dog and a cat. My dog is a greyhound-lab mix and his name is Tucker. I've had him his entire life; even though he is 11 years old, he can likely out-run your dog. My cat is Kokomo (like in the Beatles song). She is 9 years old. Both animals were rescued.

Dream Job: An international position where I can live in Michigan but travel the world. I would also prefer to have the hours of 10-3pm and only work on days that are rainy and under 70°F.

Why did you join the Jaycees? To gain new skills, meet new people, & volunteer toward the community.

Why did you take a board position? To gain new skill sets and be more involved with the organization.

Favorite Jaycee Project: Stuff the Bus and the Easter Egg Hunt, however for smaller projects, I like Behind the Scenes and the Happy Hours.

Jaycee Join Date: June 2011

Favorite Quote: You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough. – Mae West

Random Fact: I very much dislike waking up early or getting little sleep. I'm basically a completely different person.

Favorite Movie: Elf with Will Ferrell – it's a tradition for me to watch this movie over the holidays every year.

Favorite Food: Sushi

Favorite Book: I don't have a favorite, however I currently am reading *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.

Favorite Game: Euchre, Heads Up, Cards Against Humanity, and Loaded Questions.

Favorite Music: Hip hop, Country, and Alternative Rock

First Car: Dodge Dakota Sport Truck



Rob Dowding
Director

Occupation: Realtor/Owner Robert Dowding Group at Keller Williams Realty

Relationship Status: Married since 2000 to Krista

Pets: Graham 4, Samara 11 (they're children)

Dream Job: Motivation speaker, business coach

Why did you join the Jaycees? To make connections and grow my business, I stayed because of the people and what you learn about the Jaycees often after you join.

Why did you take a board position: To give back to an organization that has given a lot to me and the community in which we all serve and live.

Favorite Jaycee Project: Silly question EEH!!!!

Jaycee Join Date: No Idea, 2003

Favorite Quote: "Blame no one, expect nothing, DO SOMETHING!" also "Good is the enemy of GREAT!"

Random Fact: I love to cook, canning and gardening.

Favorite Movie: Goodness not sure I could pick just one and I have kids so we don't get out much :)

Favorite Food: Sushi, prime rib, most anything actually. I love food and love to cook.

Favorite Book: Right now - The ONE Thing

Favorite Game: Hockey

Favorite Music: Country

First Car: 1980 Ford Fairmont



Jenni Riehle
Director

Occupation: Communications and Outreach at State of Michigan DTMB-Procurement

Relationship Status: In a Relationship (with a future Jaycee although he doesn't know it yet)

Pets: Orange cat named Jasper

Dream Job: Kayak Tour Guide

Why did you join the Jaycees? To meet people, help the community, and gain leadership experience

Why did you take a board position? It was time for a new challenge

Favorite Jaycee Project: Face painting – but it's a love/hate relationship

Jaycee Join Date: July 2012

Favorite Quote: "There is no such thing as cold weather; only poor clothing choices" —Mom

Random Fact: I officially saw Star Wars for the first time a month ago

Favorite Movie: Robin Hood - Prince of Thieves

Favorite Book: A Song of Ice and Fire

Favorite Game: Bocce Ball



Alex Nelson
Director

Occupation: Insurance agent with Farm Bureau

Relationship Status: Bachelor

Pets: I live with a pitbull named Marley

Dream Job: Pro surfer

Why did you join the Jaycees? To help give back to the community that raised me

Why did you take a board position? To be a bigger part of the decision making process

Favorite Jaycee Project: Stuff the Bus, getting hugs from all the families made standing out in the cold for a day completely worth it!

Jaycee Join Date: July 2014

Favorite Quote: "If women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy."

Random Fact: I went bungy jumping twice

Favorite Movie: Step Brothers

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Favorite Book: "Collapse" Jared Diamond

Favorite Game: Euchre

Favorite Music: Blues and reggae

First Car: 1998 Acura

Is there anything else you would like people to know about you? I have many leather bound books

Shout Outs!

Ryan - Thanks for being my awesome co-chair for Stuff the Bus! - Jessi

Lauren Leeds –Thanks for giving me the low-down on all the communications stuff. I appreciate it!!

-Jenni

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in some capacity for STB - we had more gifts than ever, yet got them all sorted, exchanged and wrapped in only 3 days! You all rock! - Jessi and Ryan

Thanks to everyone who came out to the first Easter Egg Hunt Committee Meeting, this year is going to rock!

-Danielle

Member Birthdays!

Charlie Root	Feb. 13
Nick Alt	Feb. 26
Jennifer Young	Mar. 19
Ryan Kiernicki	Mar. 26
Anne Ribby	Mar. 29
Dawn Hetzel	Mar. 31

Remember, anyone can be an author! For more information about submitting ideas, articles, Shout Outs, photos for the 2015 newsletters, please contact Jenni Riehle at JenniRiehle@gmail.com.

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

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: jen-nifer.margaret.anderson@gmail.com Website: www.clearingblocksediting.com

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:

Alan Waters Agency

Member: Alexander Nelson

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Want to see your business featured? Contact Jenni Riehle at: JenniRiehle@gmail.com

About US

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 networking between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Visit our website, www.lansingjaycees.org for more information.



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!

2015 Board of Directors

President: Michael Leeds

mp_leeds@yahoo.com

Chair of the Board: Charlie Root

croot80@gmail.com

Programming Vice President: Eric Richmond

edr@thelastbyte.com

Executive Vice President: Colleen Burton

colleen713@yahoo.com

Secretary: Angela Fossi

kitispart@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jeffrey Straus

jeffrey.straus@gmail.com

Director: Ryan Kiernicki

ryan.kiernicki@gmail.com

Director: Danielle Wellington

daniellewellington@gmail.com

Director: Rob Dowding

sold@robertdowding.com

Director: Jenni Riehle

jenniriehle@gmail.com

Director: Alex Nelson

anelson@fbinsmi.com