

Capitol Correspondent



The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber | March 2014

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

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

District 3

Making a Splash for Special Olympics



Above: President Charlie Root (from left), Community Development Director Angela Clock, Shantana Goerge and Management Director Lauren Leeds leap from the platform at Special Olympics of Michigan's annual Polar Plunge fundraiser.

Below, left: Individual Development Director Michael Leeds (from left), Michael Patterson and Jessi Wortley Adler take the plunge for a good cause.

Below, right: Lauren Leeds, Angela Clock and Michael Leeds try to warm up/dry off while pausing for a quick post-plunge photo. All total, the Lansing Jaycees Polar Plunge team raise \$1,311 for Special Olympics of Michigan. Planning for the 2015 plunge is scheduled for March 13; contact Lauren Leeds if interested.



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

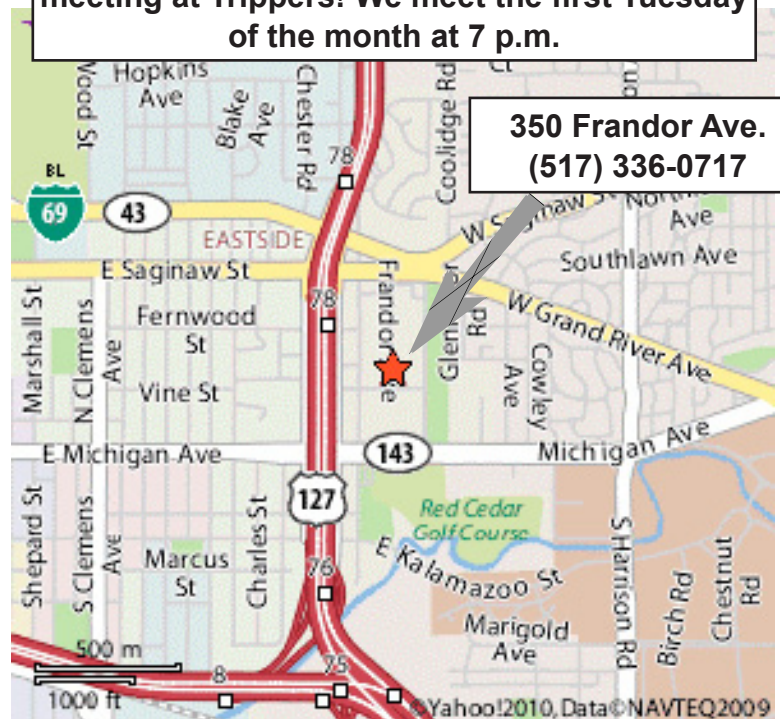
Thanks to the contributors of this month's newsletter, including Joe Kelly, Abby Kelly, Lauren Leeds, Carrie May Larsen, Charlie Root, Angela Clock, Ashley Orel, Sheryl Soczek, Nick Horstman, Jen Anderson, Ilona Castelein, Colleen Burton, Jenni Riehle, Ruthi Dake, Jill Blust.

Remember, anyone can be an author!

Please submit your articles, photos, or ideas for future newsletters to Lauren Leeds at lleeds823@gmail.com by March 18, 2014.

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

350 Frandor Ave.
(517) 336-0717



2014 Board of Directors

Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

President

Charlie Root, (517) 862-5326

Chair of the Board

Abby Kelly, (517) 944-9729

Membership VP

Joe Kelly, (616) 617-8037

Individual Development Directors

Michael P. Leeds, (248) 622-1829

Nick Horstman, (517) 703-4565

Management VP

Carrie Larsen, (248) 756-3840

Management Director

Lauren Leeds, (989) 482-1232

Community Development Directors

Angela Clock, (517) 410-9527

Ashley Orel, (517) 582-7252

Treasurer

Sheryl Soczek, (517) 862-6376

Assistant Treasurer

Jeff Straus, (989) 330-1956

Secretary

Ilona Castelein, (517) 488-2245

President's Report

Fifty Cents Worth of Smiles

I was picking up a few items from my local pharmacy the other day when a little thing happened that got me thinking about the way I place value on things. And I don't mean like they do on the Price is Right, I mean the way I value the more intangible things in life.

When I walked up to the register at my pharmacy my favorite clerk was working. He was talking to another customer who had completed her purchases but was hanging around to finish up her conversation with the clerk. He rang me up, I paid, and he began to count my change when he slapped a shiny new fifty cent piece on the counter and said "I'm going to go ahead and give you that right now."

As I picked it up to check it out, I thought, "Hey cool, I haven't seen a fifty cent piece in a while." But the lady he had been talking to asked if she could have it. And I could tell by the way her eyes lit up, and the tone of her voice that she was very excited about this coin. She was excited enough that she hurriedly blurted out such an unexpected request from a stranger.

The excitement on her face and in her voice made me give up the coin without hesitation. She was very thankful as I turned back to the clerk for the rest of my change. And, when I turned to leave she was digging through her purse for two quarters to give me. I said, "You don't have to do that. You can just have the coin." She asked if I was sure, and we had the typical back and forth of her politely insisting I take her money, and me politely refusing. Then I said "Ma'am, you are clearly more excited about that fifty cent piece than I am. Besides, the smile on your face has got to be worth at least fifty cents to me. You keep it."

Her smile grew even wider as she told me all about her collection of fifty cent pieces and other coins. I wished her and the clerk a good night and got on my way.

As I drove away I got to thinking about how we value things. Her smile was easily worth far more than fifty cents. Not only did I get to feel good about myself, I got a pretty neat story out of it. In fact, I probably owe her a few dollars.



Charlie Root
President

croot80@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

Individual Development Events

- MARCH 5:** Financial Workshop II
6-8 p.m., Capital Area District
Library, 401. S. Capitol, Lansing
- MARCH 11:** Knitting Circle, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,
Zoobies Old Town Tavern,
611 E. Grand River, Lansing
- MARCH 25:** Knitting Circle, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,
Zoobies Old Town Tavern,
611 E. Grand River, Lansing
- MARCH 27:** Turbo Networking, 6-8 p.m.,
Location TBD

Membership Events

- MARCH 7:** Happy Hour, 5:30-7:30 p.m.,
HopCat, 300 Grove St.,
East Lansing
- APRIL 1:** General Membership Meeting,
6-8:30 p.m., Tripper's
350 Frandor Ave., Lansing

Management Events

- MARCH - APRIL** Enjoy the City coupon books
- MARCH 10:** Lansing JCs Foundation Meeting,
6-7:30 p.m., Aladdin's,
300 N. Clippert St., Lansing
- MARCH 18:** Board of Directors Meeting,
6-8 p.m., 2425 E. Grand River
Suite 1, Lansing
- MARCH 24:** Monster Dash Meeting, time and
location TBD

Community Development Events

- MARCH 6:** Pet Photos w/the Easter Bunny
conference call, 6-7 p.m.
- MARCH 12:** Relay for Life committee meeting,
6-7 p.m., Noodles & Co.,
1965 W. Grand River, Okemos
- MARCH 6:** Special Olympics wrap-up/
2015 planning meeting, 6-8 p.m.,
Qdoba, 301 N. Clippert, Lansing
- MARCH 21:** MSU Museum Wine Tasting Benefit
6:15-9:45 p.m., Kellogg Center,
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing



Membership Anniversaries

March

Sheryl Soczek

Joe Kelly

Michael Leeds

Andrea Stay

Ryan de la Rambelje

Nick Horstman

April

Jill Blust

Holly Nester

Sara Schultz

March Birthdays

Elizabeth Beal

Dawn Hetzel

Ryan Kiernicki

Anne Ribby

Jennifer Young

April Birthdays

Laura de la Rambelje

Adam Dobbrastine

April Birthdays Cont.

Shantana Goerge

Andrew Hoard

Beth Michaels

Ashely Orel

Tracy Prush

Jamie Sheppard

Jacqueline Swanson

Justin Warner

A Letter From Our President Concerning Dues Changes

My Fellow Lansing Jaycees,

I alerted you all that the Michigan Jaycees were seeking to have changes to their constitution approved at the Leadership Conference this past February. The proposed changes were approved by a vote of local chapters from all across the state during a business meeting held at the conference. This approval put into place changes that both modernized and simplified the structure of the Michigan Jaycees Board of Directors. The approval also put into place an increase in member dues and a change in the way we pay our dues.



Charlie Root
President
croot80@gmail.com

Beginning April 1, you will have two options for how you pay your dues. You can choose to either pay annually as it is done now, or you can choose to setup an automatic monthly payment. This new flexibility should help people who think they might have an easier time budgeting for their dues payment monthly, while still allowing an annual renewal for those who care to structure their payments that way.

Also beginning April 1 is an increase in dues. As I stated earlier, you will have an option to pay your dues either monthly or annually. If you choose to pay monthly, your cost will be \$7.50 per month. If you choose to pay annually your cost would be \$75 per year. It has been over a decade since the last time we had to increase dues, which I think shows that we are never quick to increase the cost of membership. Unfortunately, the Michigan Jaycees cannot afford to continue to provide the benefits we enjoy as a chapter. Furthermore, the folks at the state level want to increase the member benefits we receive by providing more training, more affordable and exciting leadership conferences, as well as lower insurance rates. These are just some of the benefits we will be picking up with the increase in dues.

To aid in processing the new dues payment structure, the Michigan Jaycees have setup a web based system where you can create a profile. Once you have a profile setup you can use this website to submit your dues payment, or register for trainings and conferences. The website will go live in early March, and there will be a series of training sessions available to all members to walk people through the site, and to help familiarize everyone with its functionality. Beginning April 1, all dues payments will need to be made through this site.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than happy to answer any questions I can, and find answers to the questions I cannot. You can reach me by email at croot80@gmail.com or by phone at (517) 862-5326.

Sincerely,

Charlie Root
86th President
Lansing Jaycees

Management Report

Fundraising

The Lansing Jaycees will begin another fundraising project – selling Enjoy the City coupon books! The nice thing about the coupon books is that they offer great deals at a variety of places, which makes them easy to sell. Coupon books will be sold for \$20 each. The Lansing Jaycees get to keep \$10. If that's not enough of an incentive, for every five books you sell, you get one for free!

So, what kind of impact can this have on our chapter? We have an overall goal to raise \$12,100 this year in order to fund the programming we'd like to run. By the numbers: 1 person sells 5 books each = \$50 – not too shabby! And not too much work!

Imagine if each person who worked February Texas Hold 'Em sold the same: 24 people sell 5 books each = \$1,200 – again, not too bad.

Now imagine if each member sold the same: 70 people sell 5 books each = \$3,500! And we would be more than a quarter done with our fundraising!

You can check out the coupon book online. There are great deals for local restaurants like Leo's Lodge and Old Chicago, area activities like EDRU and many different golf courses, and shopping at stores like JoAnn Fabric and Dick's Sporting Goods!

Rules for selling books:

- You are responsible for the books you sign out – if you request 10 books, you will be expected to return \$200, or a combination of money and unsold books.
- Checks may be made payable to Lansing Jaycees.
- Books will be available starting at the March GMM on March 4.
- We will sell coupon books until the end of April.

If you cannot attend the March GMM, contact Carrie Larsen (248-756-3840) or Lauren Leeds (989-482-1232) for books!



Carrie Larsen
Management Vice President
carriemay@aol.com

SHOUT OUTS!

A huge shout-out to everyone who worked at our second Texas Hold 'Em tournament! Having 23 people work 24 shifts meant that only one person worked two shifts. And we really appreciate Colleen Burton for stepping up! Many hands really do make light work. Thank you for your time! – Carrie

What time is it? It's Clock-Bananas time! – Lauren

Mr. and Mrs. Castelein ... The Bun is in the oven! Congratulations! – Ashley

Carrie, you are the wind beneath my wings.
– Lauren

Many thanks to Jessi and Lauren for their help in filling the Texas Hold 'Em Shifts! – Carrie

Nick ... It's all in the name of PM-Geezy! Keep being that guy. You're awesome and I am glad you are on the board! – Ashley

Thanks to Ryan Kiernicki and Jake Bourdon for all their hard work to make the financial workshops take place. – Nick

I heard the K-Zoo Jaycees want some bacon in May ... Lansing, DON'T LET IT HAPPEN! – Ashley

Management Report

Have You Ever Wondered ...

Have you ever driven by a business in town and wondered what exactly they do there? Take Paramount Coffee for example (they're a local company that roasts all of Biggby's beans). Have you ever wondered what kind of equipment it takes to roast thousands of pounds of coffee beans? I know I have.

If there's a local business you'd like to get a "behind the scenes" peek at, please let me or Carrie Larsen know, as we plan to bring back the series of popular Management projects last run in 2012. Just to give you a few more ideas, that year we had an opportunity to see inside the studio at WLNS, learn about starting up a gourmet popcorn business from Chad Jordan of Cravings Popcorn, and we even had the opportunity to see inside the locker rooms before taking in a Lansing Lugnuts game.

I look forward to hearing from you about what businesses you think would be fun to get an up close and personal experience of and learn more about.



Lauren Leeds
Management Director
lleeds823@gmail.com

Management Update ... Oh, My!

It has been a busy year so far in the area of Management! We have successfully run two Texas Hold'em tournaments, started committees for a Lansing Jaycees foundation and bylaw review, and started planning more fundraising opportunities including the Monster Mayhem Dash and Bash and selling Enjoy the City coupon books.

If that is not enough, we have also been diligently working to overhaul the Chapter Plan. You may be wondering what the Chapter Plan is, and why it is important. Here's the short version. The Board of Directors takes feedback – provided by members through surveys, meetings, and informal conversations and gathered through observation and experience – and puts together a plan that assesses our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. We use this information to generate long-term objectives and short-term goals. We do this to guide the chapter and address areas of opportunity. The Chapter Plan is a living document that is updated regularly.

Our long-term objectives include:

- Increase membership
- Raise funds for the chapter
- Raise funds for the community
- Establish a foundation / 501(c)(3) organization
- Celebrate the chapter's 90th anniversary

Our short-term goals for 2014 include:

- Achieve membership growth
- Have general members run 60% of the projects
- Activate 75% of members per quarter
- Support area non-profits with \$20,000 in fundraising / in-kind donations
- Partner with five organizations
- Secure sponsorships from 25 organizations
- Raise \$12,100 for the chapter
- Hone the chapter's management tools

If any of these goals sound like something you would like to help with, or for a more in-depth look at the Chapter Plan, contact anyone on the 2014 Board of Directors.



Carrie Larsen
Management Vice President
carriemay@aol.com

Management Report

Texas Hold'em ... and Beyond!

We held our first Texas Hold 'Em fundraiser of the year Jan. 23 – 26 at Tripper's, and just wrapped up the second fundraiser, which ran Feb. 27 – March 2.

The Texas Hold 'Em fundraisers are interesting in that we do not have a guaranteed amount of money that we will raise. Money is raised from cash tables where players ante to play a hand, and we get a portion of the amount they ante. Our chapter also receives a portion from tournaments. Players have to pay a specified amount to enter the tournament. Prizes are calculated based on the number of entries. We make a portion of what is left after the prize money has been set aside.

You may have heard or read about some of the changes that may impact our ability to raise funds through Texas Hold 'Em tournaments. Proposed rule changes have not taken effect yet, and scheduling of future tournaments is happening on a very limited basis. Because of this, we do not know if we will have more tournaments scheduled this year. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Here is how we did by the numbers in January:

Money raised: \$1,621

Volunteers: 18 people filled 24 shifts

Number of volunteers new to working Texas Hold 'Em: 2

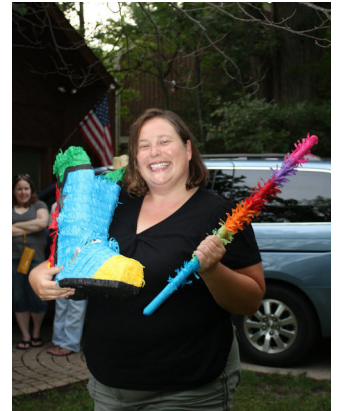
And in February:

Money raised: \$2,398

Volunteers: 23

Number of volunteers new to working Texas Hold 'Em: 2

As always, thank you to our volunteers!



Carrie Larsen
Management Vice President
carriemay@aol.com

Lansing Jaycees Trivia

The Chapter's "New Jaycee of the Year" award is named after the author of the Jaycee Creed. What is his name?

Hint: you can find the answer by reading the whole newsletter.

Answer: William Brownfield

Individual Development Report

Opportunities for Personal and Professional Development

Turbo Networking

Mark your calendars for March 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. and join us for our second Turbo Networking event to be held at Northwood University's DeVos Campus off of Abbott Road in East Lansing. Whether you are an expert in networking or a newcomer, all are welcome. The focus of this event is to allow individuals in attendance to network with others from within the community and learn some keys to networking.

We will have a guest speaker at this event from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (aka LEAP), to teach all in attendance how to maintain value in their current positions and how to go about landing their dream position. This event is great for those seeking employment and those who have steady employment. The event is free of charge and will include a light meal. Look forward to seeing you there!



Nick Horstman
Individual Development Director
nhorstma@msufcu.org

Financial Workshop

The first Financial Workshop is on the books and I'm to report it was a success! Those in attendance learned how to develop a useful budget to assist with monthly expenses.

It also provided those in attendance an opportunity to ask questions rather in private or in the group setting of a real financial advisor. But do not fret if you were not in attendance for this workshop, as we will be holding more throughout the year. In fact the next workshop will be held on March 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Capital Area District Library. The focus of this event will be retirement planning and will begin with a recap of the previous budgeting workshop.

Those who attended this event in the past found this to be enjoyable and insightful. One stated that this event was beneficial and helped him save \$100 throughout the course of the month! That's almost 100 Mc-Chickens! Just think of what you can do with an extra \$100* in your budget.

*Results may vary from individual to individual.

Lansing Jaycees Trivia

Who was the first president of the Lansing Jaycees?

Bonus points if you can name the father of the Michigan Jaycees too!

Bonus answer: Bill Otto

Answer: Sam Street Hughes

Membership Report

Becoming an Active Member

As the Membership Vice President, I want to make sure that each member is getting value out of their membership. As I mentioned at the last General Membership Meeting (GMM), I will list in this article various projects that we as a chapter have brainstormed for the next year. The Lansing Chapter is organized around four areas of opportunity - Community, Individual Development, Membership and Management. Community events are projects that benefit outside stakeholders. Individual Development and Membership projects benefit our individual members. Individual Development projects focus on individual growth while Membership projects can just be fun. Management activities benefit the Chapter, such as fundraising for the chapter.

I also wanted to inform our members of a new program -- "board buddies." Each general member will be assigned to a board member. The two will keep in touch from time to time. Board members will try to direct general members to events and opportunities of their interest. General members can in turn give board members feedback about what future programming will be of most interest. Any project with a "+" needs a chairperson.



Joe Kelly
Membership Vice President
joewkelly@gmail.com

Community: Angela Clock and Ashley Orei

- Easter Egg Hunt Stuffing + Event - Children's Easter Egg hunt on the Capitol Lawn
- Relay for Life - a 24 hour walking event to benefit the American Cancer Society
- Stuff the Bus - The Jaycees collect holiday gifts for families in need
- Human Trafficking/Sexual Assault advocacy - Learn more about what you can do to end human trafficking
- Polar Plunge - Benefit the Special Olympics by jumping into freezing cold water
- Ronald McDonald House - Volunteer to make a meal
- Bowl for Kid's Sake - Bowl and benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny - Provide an opportunity for pet owners to get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny
- +Comedy for a Cause
- +Children's shopping spree - Do back to school shopping for less fortunate students
- +Extra Life - 24 hour fundraiser. People donate to your cause and you play video games
- +Ele's Race - 5K Run / Walk that benefits Ele's Place, a healing center for grieving children and teens
- +River clean up - Pick a river and let's clean it up
- +Mentor high school students
- +Volunteer tutoring
- +Help students move in
- +Finals survival kits
- +After school programs - Boys & Girls Club
- +Visit a nursing home
- +Adopt a classroom
- +Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- +Fall Fun Fest
- +Face painting

Continued ...

Becoming an Active Member (*Continued ...*)

Individual Development: Nick Horstman and Michael Leeds

- Movie Night - Watch movies and learn something too
- Seder Dinner - Learn about the Jewish observation of Passover
- Photography in the Fall - Learn about how to take perfect fall photos
- Star Gazing - Learn about our solar system with fancy telescopes
- Turbo Networking - Learn how to network with others
- Knitting Circle

Membership: Joe Kelly

- +Happy Hour - Enjoy the company of fellow Jaycees
- Whirlyball - Play a sport on bumpercars with fellow Jaycees
- Wine Tasting - Take a trip to Traverse City
- Canoeing - Enjoy the outdoors with your fellow Jaycees
- Cedar Point trip
- Membership picnic
- +Beerfest in April
- +Go to a race track
- +Watch a Lugnuts game
- +Watch a Tigers game - Maybe go in a beer bus?
- +Bonfire - Enjoy a bonfire with the Lansing Jaycees; Andy T's has fire pits
- +World Cup Watching Party - Watch the best soccer matchups in the world
- +Go Sledding - Hawk Island has a hill
- +Impressions 5 - The Jaycees could tour our local children's museum
- +Dog Show - The Ingham County Kennel Club has a dog show
- +Overnight trip to Indianapolis - See the wonderful city of Indianapolis
- +Visit the theatre
- +Go to an opera
- +Go to the orchestra
- +Mini golf at Eagle Eye
- +Geocaching
- +Visit the Henry Ford Museum
- +Go Skiing
- +Taste of Downtown in July

Management: Carrie Larsen and Lauren Leeds

- Newsletter - You're reading it right now; articles are due the third Tuesday of the month
- 3 on 3 Basketball tournament - Raise funds for the chapter and for the fight against Malaria
- Monster Dash 5K - Help the Lansing Jaycees put on our first 5K race
- Texas Hold'em - Help the Jaycees fund raise for the chapter with charity poker
- World Expo of Beer - Volunteer pouring beer in Frankenmuth
- Snowman Army - Brighten up the holidays with artificial snowmen
- Debate Tournament - Provide students an opportunity to engage in the art of debate
- +Haunted House - In the past, we have hosted a Haunted House; to seriously consider, we need a chair
- +Christmas Shopping Spree - Bring party plan distributors together, charging a table fee
- +Give walking tours of Lansing pointing out places that are said to be haunted
- +Painting with a Twist fundraiser - The chapter can earn a portion of the proceeds from painting.

Member Spotlight

Jenni Riehle

Have you had a chance to meet Jenni Riehle? If not, you're missing out.

Jenni joined the Jaycees in July of 2012 and has been an extremely active member ever since. In fact, this year she's co-chairing the Easter Egg Hunt on the Capitol lawn, which is one of the chapter's biggest events.

When asked why she joined the Jaycees, Jenni responded with "I joined the Jaycees to become more involved with my community, build leadership skills and make new friends."

Her favorite Jaycee project is face painting at the East Lansing Art Festival and the Trick or Treat on the Square in downtown Lansing because "It's simple and the kids totally dig it. It's great to see them smile. They don't even care if the butterfly you just painted looks like a blob with antenna."

When she's not busy spending time with her fellow Jaycees, you might find Jenni working as a vendor outreach coordinator for the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget or spending quality time with her amazing boyfriend Jeff Pierce.

Her favorite movie of all time is *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* with Kevin Costner, which she admits to watching at least six times a year (psst ... she owns the extended edition!). Jenni's favorite TV show is the *Tudors* on Showtime. While she has read a ton of good books, she lists her favorite book as *A Song of Ice and Fire*, since it has consumed the past seven years of her life reading and re-reading because "basically, if there are sword fights and pretty dresses, I'm all over it."

With a basement full of "hobbies," Jenni's interests are pretty widespread. As a self-admitted "dork when it comes to politics," she has a huge interest in campaign advertising and campaign finance. "Political ads are like my Super Bowl commercials and election night is like the big game," she said.

When it comes to anything else Jenni would like you to know about her, she said: "I am kind of shy when meeting new people, but once I get to know you a bit I do have a strong personality, so be prepared for it."

Random riddle fact: Jenni has gone to Pentwater campground on Lake Michigan every August for the past 29 years, this year will be her 30th and she'll only be 28 years old.

One of Jenni's favorite quote: "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." ~ Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

You can follow Jenni on Twitter at: @JenniRiehle.



Community Report

Nonprofit Spotlight: American Red Cross

March is Red Cross month. The American Red Cross mission statement is, "The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors."

Lansing and Ingham county are part of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross is an organization that encompasses a lot of things from disaster relief to hosting blood drives.

There are many ways to become involved with our local Red Cross chapter. They provide classes in an array of things from lifeguard training, CPR training, HIV/AIDS education, to youth services, medical career training, and many more.

The Red Cross is always in need of blood donations. One pint of blood can save the lives of three people.

Visit the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross today to find out ways you can assist a local community organization: www.redcross.org/mi/lansing.



Ashley Orel
Community Development Director
ashley.orel.mpa@gmail.com

The Power of Literacy

If you're reading this article, congratulations. It means that you have been taught to read at a basic level. The recent KIDS COUNT report by the Anne E. Casey Foundation shows that Michigan is only one of six states that did not improve fourth grade reading proficiency from 2003-2013. While the national average of fourth grade reading proficiency improved, almost seven of every 10 Michigan fourth graders did not reach proficiency levels in 2013.

What does this mean? Most fourth graders in Michigan aren't able to enjoy awesome books like the Harry Potter series, Charlotte's Web or Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. And for the future, how do we, as a society, expect these children to succeed in school, college and life?

I'm sure many of you know that I love reading, and honestly, I don't know what I would do without books. If you are also interested in helping our children have a fighting chance to succeed, please contact me or attend an upcoming interest meeting to brainstorm ideas to get involved.



Angela Clock
Community Development Director
fallingstar924@hotmail.com

Lansing Jaycees Trivia

When were the Lansing Jaycees founded?

Answer: November 1929

Community Report

Start Something ...

Prior to moving to Lansing, I participated as a Big Sister through Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS). I mentored an eight year old girl named Sheryl. We went shopping, to movies, hung out, went to the bookstore, and participated in various activities like haunted houses and hayrides. I loved the entire experience, and not only was having a mentor a positive for Sheryl, but I learned a lot also.

When I moved to Lansing, I didn't quite have the time to be a mentor, but wanted to stay involved in BBBS. Back in 2008, the Lansing Jaycees started something. That was the first year we participated in Bowl for Kids' Sake to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region. In that first year, we raised \$525.

Since 2008, the chapter has raised a total of \$4,872 for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

From BBBS: Where does the money raised from Bowl for Kids' Sake go?

100 percent of the money raised through Bowl for Kids' Sake stays here in our community. We depend on the money raised from Bowl for Kids' Sake to carry out the work of carefully matching children with caring adult mentors and providing ongoing support to the child, volunteer mentor and child's family.

So, join us as we raise money again this year and surpass the \$5,000 mark to help kids have a positive influence! Our team will be participating at Royal Scot on Friday, April 25 at 8 p.m. Pizza and pop are provided! A link to the team page is below. It's a great time for a great cause!

<http://www.bbbsmcr.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ievent=1092499&lis=1&kntae1092499=F5BD51AE A3D24D54AA767F5B295758B7&team=5831806>



Angela Clock

Community Development Director
fallingstar924@hotmail.com

Nearly Spring = Easter Egg Hunt Time!

The day is fast approaching for one of our biggest events of the year, the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Capitol lawn. It may seem far off, as it is nearly two months away, but this project involves so many people and resources that we have already started planning. The EEH, as it is called by many in the chapter, brings 1,000 to 2,000 people out to the Capitol lawn each year to participate in the hunt and other activities. The Lansing Jaycees' goal is to stuff approximately 10,000 eggs annually. When reading those numbers, it's clear why it takes so much planning and coordination to pull off!

For those who are newer or have never participated, EEH actually involves two major event days, the Egg Stuffing Party and the actual hunt. We stuff the eggs one week before the hunt and utilize members, friends and outside volunteers to do so. We usually (and will again this year) stuff at Sohn Linen's Wood Street location, generously donated by Sally Sohn, a past president of the Lansing Jaycees who is still active in helping the chapter. We stuff the eggs with candy, stickers and small toys; we stuff the eggs for the four and under area with Saf-T Pops.

The day of EEH is not just about the egg hunt, which is a crazy free-for-all that lasts approximately 15-30 seconds. We also have a clown doing balloon animals, Potter Park Zoo with some live animals and other animal related goods, face painting, crafts and mascots such as Sparty and Big Lug. It really is a fun event for the community and the volunteers working the event.

Although planning has already started, there is always need for more help planning, as well as volunteers on the day of the two events. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 12 to help stuff the eggs, and Saturday, April 19 to help out at the main event. For more information or questions contact Jenni Riehle or Colleen Burton.

Submitted by Colleen Burton and Jenni Riehle

Community Report

Ten Reasons You Should Join the Lansing Jaycees Relay for Life Team

1. Everything is purple. Purple. It's the color of the fragrant lilacs that bloom in spring. It's the color of a ripe and juicy plum. It's also the color of hope that we will win the fight against cancer. At Relay, you will see a LOT of purple. Survivors are honored and celebrated by wearing purple T-shirts. People wear purple ribbons to support awareness of all types of cancer. Many of the Relay teams use purple in their decorations and fundraisers. Purple is powerful!

2. It is NOT a race. If you have never heard of Relay before, you may think it is a 24 hour race, but don't worry! Relay for Life is not a race! Although you are more than welcome to sign up for a one hour walker shift and run a few laps around the field, running is not required. In fact- walking is not required! There are several volunteer opportunities such as: Help to sell items at our tent on the day of the event, June 27 and 28, become a committee member and helping us FUN-draise and plan FUN-draisers, or even just come out to the event to cheer on walkers and assist where needed! We will also need creative people to help with decorations, spray paint, and dip Oreos into Chocolate!

3. Help create a world with more birthdays. In 2014, nearly 14 million cancer survivors will celebrate another birthday, with the help of progress made by the American Cancer Society. Let's make that number even higher! Birthdays are about celebration, laughter, and hope, much like the Relay for Life event itself. We all want to see the day when cancer never steals another year from anyone's life.

4. Bragging rights. How often do you get to say you helped raise \$7,500 to help with the fight against cancer? Last year our team rose over \$5,000, and this year we plan to raise over \$7,500!

5. Celebrate those who knocked cancer out of the park, remember those who struck out, and honor/cheer on those up to bat! Unfortunately, most of us know someone whose life has been greatly affected by cancer. Maybe that person was just diagnosed, has been fighting it for years, or maybe they won their battle. Maybe you or someone you know has lost a loved one to cancer. Relay for Life is a time to remember, honor, and celebrate those people in your life. Please think of them and decorate a luminary, walk a few laps, or make a donation.

6. The event is at a baseball field! For the first time ever, the Lansing Relay for Life event will be held at the Lugnuts Stadium! We're pretty sure this speaks for itself.

7. You love coffee. Relay for Life is a 24 hour event. Coffee was a big part of Relay for Life last year. We ...



Continued ...

Ten Reasons to Relay (*Continued ...*)

sold it at our tent and our team drank a lot of it into the wee hours of the morning! A local business usually donates coffee and donuts for everyone in the morning as well. You do not have to stay the whole 24 hours, but you might consider a late night or early morning caffeinated walking shift with us!

8. The money we raise does more than fight cancer. The American Cancer Society does more than support the fight against cancer with research funding. They also provide services and programs for people who have cancer, to help them with the recovery process. American Cancer Society Hope Lodge Facilities provide a free and comfortable place for patients and their care givers to stay so they can focus on getting well. The Road to Recovery program matches cancer patients and specially trained volunteer drivers to help patients get to and from their treatments. The Look Good...Feel Better program helps both women and men cope with how treatments may change the way they look. The Reach to Recovery program matches specially trained breast cancer survivors with people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and want to talk to someone who has been there.

9. FUN! Some moments at Relay for Life can be serious or heartbreaking. We need to reflect on these moments because we are there to help fight cancer. But then there are moments of laughter and joy because we are also celebrating the people who have won their battle or kicking cancer right now. Our team always has fun at Relay for Life. Whether it's brainstorming creative fundraising ideas, participating in silly theme laps at the event, or just trying to keep each other awake, the Jaycees always find a way to make it fun!

10. You get to see our lovely faces all night long! Whether you show up at 2 p.m. on the 27 or 2 a.m. on 28, we will be at the event taking a swing at cancer! Come and keep us company!

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. If you are interested in signing up to help with Relay, please contact us, visit us at the next General Membership Meeting on March 4, or at our first meeting at Noodles and Company in Okemos on March 26 at 6 p.m.!

Jill Blust
Lansing Jaycees Relay for Life Co-Chair
hellokittyjilly@aol.com

Ruthi Dake
Lansing Jaycees Relay for Life Co-Chair
ruthilovesyou87@gmail.com

Submitted by Jill Blust and Ruthi Dake



Community Report

Polar Plunging: A Temporary Discomfort for A Permanent Good

For the fourth year in a row the Lansing Jaycees participated in the Special Olympics of Michigan Polar Plunge. Six members, and Jessi Wortley Adler's crazy co-worker, being of otherwise sound mind purposefully jumped into a frozen pond (really a water hazard at the Eagle Eye Golf Course); the water was 34° and the ice was 2 feet thick!



Michael P. Leeds
Individual Development Director
mp_leeds@yahoo.com

Yes, it was cold. Very, very cold.

I can't exactly recommend this to everyone. Some people become immediately disoriented once they hit the water. No matter how hard you try not to, you screech as you try to catch your breath after coming up for air. It makes you the kind of cold that lasts for hours. But in the end, it is temporary discomfort. You're in, you're out, you dry off, you change clothes, you eat a hotdog lunch and you call it a day.

But for those for whom we raised the money discomfort is not temporary. Physical and mental disabilities are annoying at best and painfully crippling at worst. And this unpleasantness doesn't go away with a hot shower and some (dry) footie pajamas. Being able bodied we should not feel apprehension at putting ourselves through this minor ordeal, but rather gratitude that we are able to do any small thing to help.

But as I said, this is not for everyone. Last year when I made the jump I asked a young man with Down's Syndrome who was passing out blankets to the jumpers as they exited the water why he wasn't jumping in. To which he replied "I'm too smart for that."



Auxiliary Officers Report

The Many Uses of Hydrogen Peroxide

I found this interesting list on Facebook about the wonderful things hydrogen peroxide (a very inexpensive product) can do so here is my "share" for you.

1. Use it instead of mouthwash – take one capful, swish in mouth for 10 seconds then spit out. It will help whiten your teeth and reduce the risk of canker sores.
2. Soak your toothbrush in a cup of peroxide to keep it free of germs.
3. Put a little on your dishrag when you wipe your counters to kill germs and leave a fresh smell.
4. After rinsing off your wooden cutting board, pour peroxide on it to kill salmonella and other bacteria.
5. Spray a 50/50 mixture of peroxide and water on your feet nightly (let it dry) to help rid yourself of food fungus (gross).
6. Soak infections or cuts in 3 percent peroxide to help heal the wound.
7. Clean your bathroom with a 50/50 peroxide and water mixture. It will disinfect without harming your septic system like other disinfectants.
8. If you have a cold or plugged sinuses, mix a 50/50 peroxide and water mixture, tilt your head back and spray into nostrils. The solution will bubble, helping to kill the bacteria. Hold for a few minutes then blow your nose (use tissue).
9. To lessen the pain of a toothache, put a capful of 3 percent peroxide in your mouth and hold for 10 minutes several times a day.
10. Not recommended, but here it is ... to put highlights in your hair, spray a 50/50 water and peroxide solution on your wet hair and comb through it.
11. Put half a bottle of peroxide in your bath to help rid boils, fungus or other skin infections.
12. Add a cap of peroxide instead of bleach to a load of whites to whiten them. If there are protein stains on your clothing, pour it directly on the spot, let it sit a minute, then rub and rinse with water. Repeat as necessary.
13. Use peroxide to clean your mirrors with no smearing.
14. Use 3 percent hydrogen peroxide for removing blood stains (the fresher the better). Pour it directly on the spot, let it sit a minute, then rub and rinse with water. Repeat as necessary.



Sheryl Soczek
Treasurer

soczek@msu.edu

Enjoy!

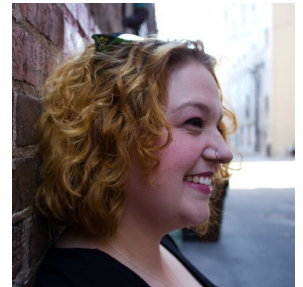
We Believe ...

Hello, fellow Jaycees! Lets talk about our creed, shall we? This group of words put together by a Jaycee named William Brownfield is the way we mark the end of our monthly membership meetings. It contains a lot of meaning, and for the next few months, I'd like to share some of than meaning with you.

We will start at the beginning: "We believe that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life."

Much like our nation's pledge of allegiance, this line was added after the original creed was created. Even though ours is a completely secular group, in the 1940s and 1950s, Jaycees worked closely with church groups and other religious organizations in our community to make the most impact. According to usjayceefoundation.org, Brownfield felt as though the belief in God was implied by the verses he originally penned. With the addition of this line, the creed was adopted nationwide in 1950, and our international body, Junior Chamber International (JCI) followed suit.

We are a very religiously diverse chapter, and perhaps this first line makes you uncomfortable because you don't identify with having faith in God (any god, not playing favorites here). Please feel free to abstain from reciting the creed. Hopefully by sharing the history of one of our documents, you will come to appreciate the words we say and the meaning they have.



Abby Siegel

Chair of the Board

queenpetunia@hotmail.com

Chair of the Board Report

Jaycees 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 your family in achieving your Real Estate dreams and goals.

Phone: (517) 853-6390

E-mail: Sold@RobertDowding.com

Website: www.RobertDowding.com

Blog: www.RealestateRealresults.com

Auto, Home, Life & Tax Deferred Annuities

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

E-mail: shantana.goerge@libertymutual.com

Facebook: [Shantana Goerge](https://www.facebook.com/ShantanaGoerge)

The Law Office of Eric J. 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.ericssheppardlaw.com

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