

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

District 4 • Population Division 3 • Base Membership: 67

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## Seen In Action!



The Lansing Jaycees Kickball Team's team picture and last game of the season.



Shortly before my wife Lauren and I joined the Jaycees, Lauren held a bake sale in downtown Lansing to raise money for a national hunger relief organization. To promote the event, she was interviewed by a local radio station. During the course of the interview she was asked, what I can only think to describe as the most asinine question, about her efforts. To paraphrase:

‘Obviously you won’t be able to eliminate hunger with a single bake sale, so why bother to do it?’

Lauren handled the question well. She told the interviewer that just because we can’t solve the problem today, there is no reason to not do what we can to help.

The Jaycees, historically and today, do some big things. The Frankenmuth Jaycees host one of the largest beer festivals in the world to raise money for local charities. The Capital Area

interviewed by a local radio station. During the course of the interview she was asked, what I can only think to describe as the most asinine question, about her efforts. To paraphrase:

## President’s Report

Airport here in Lansing started as a Jaycees project. Massive projects like this are great (I wish all our projects could have this kind of impact) but this is not the whole story.

Everything we do to help the community does just that, it helps the community. We don’t have to change the face of global politics, cure a deadly disease or eliminate homelessness in order to matter. If we can raise a couple bucks to help out an animal shelter, buy toys for kids in need at Christmas or pick up sticks at a nature center we are doing something that matters. And in fact we do all of those things and we can do more.

What problem with the world do you wish we could do something about? Maybe we can’t solve the problem; maybe the problem is unsolvable, but we can do something to help solve it or make it better. Always think big, act big when you can and act small when you can’t. Every little bit helps, all efforts matter.

-Michael Leeds, President

## Welcome!

Ryan Maloney (left) took the Jaycee oath during the September General Membership Meeting at Trippers.

He is seen here with Lansing Jaycees President Michael Leeds (right).



## Member Activation!

This year has been a challenge for the Lansing Jaycees for many reasons. The one I'm going to focus on here is activation. For those who don't know, activation is the word we use to describe members being involved in projects/events. This includes chairing projects as well as attending them.

The Lansing Jaycees try to put on a variety of projects throughout the year so we can include something that interests each member. We, as Board members, cannot know what members would like to participate in without hearing from you. Many of us have been Jaycees for over five years, and while we know what WE like to do, that doesn't always translate into what the rest of the members enjoy. We will always have our signature projects, such as Easter Egg Hunt and Stuff the Bus, but there are so many other possibilities to fill our time!

The second portion of this is that we not only need to know what you, as a member, would like to do; we need members willing to chair these projects. Chairing a small project is not nearly as time consuming or daunting as many fear. Take, for instance, a Happy Hour. All the

chairperson really has to do is make sure the restaurant/bar is open when we are planning to be there, perhaps make a reservation, and complete a short Project Management Guide for documentation. I've heard too many members over the years give ideas for a project but back down as soon as someone asks if they would be willing to chair it.

Try to remember back to when you first joined the Jaycees. What were your reasons for doing so? Were you hoping to get involved in something more than you had been doing? Were you thinking you would meet new people? Were you wanting to learn new skills or polish ones you already had? I have great news! Attending and chairing a project will fulfill all of these goals.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I am here to serve you. If you have any ideas for projects or for getting increased activation from our members, please let me know.

—Colleen Burton, Executive Vice President



## Member Birthdays

Jenni Riehle	10/5	Eric Sheppard	10/16	Ryan de la Rambelje	10/25
Heather Kalso	10/7	Ryan Kolb	10/18	Melissa Marciniak	11/05
Abby Kelly	10/13	Danielle Wellington	10/23	Dana Cogswell	11/11

## A Question of Worth

Is it worth it? The amount of time, energy, money and passion that I put into the Jaycees is difficult to measure. What is even harder is the reward. How do you measure worth of this organization? The options are limitless. As an easy answer we tell people your reward of membership is related to how much effort you put into it.

Definition of worth from Merriam Webster is an amount of something that has a specified value, that lasts for a specified length of time, etc. I am fortunate to be part of the Past Presidents group with the Lansing Jaycees. Even though the membership age for our active members currently ends at 40, in years past it was as young as 30. These people have already done their time and worked countless hours with our organization. However, at least once a year we all get together and talk about what we are doing today and share stories from their past. This is a great example of people who think our organization is worth it. As I quickly approach 40, I am realizing that my active time is coming to an end and I trying to squeeze as much into my last year as possible.

I recently read a book called "Worthy" and the main character was a dog named Worthy. It was a powerful

reminder that anything can have worth. Some people would never imagine naming a dog worthy. For others, this seems natural. Who am I to judge how they measure worth? The choice is individual.

Are the Jaycees worth it?

For me, the answer is yes. What is your answer? If the answer is yes, then honor the organization by responding to invitations, working a few hours, and getting involved. If the answer is no, let's find out why. Did you have a bad experience? Is your voice not being heard? We need to know what works for you, as worth really is an individual choice.

As a reminder we have elections in November and I am honored to be the election chair. If you want to see a change, it may be time to consider serving on the board for the Lansing Jaycees.

—Angela Fossi, Secretary



## Trick-or-Treat on the Square

One of my favorite holidays, hands down, is Halloween. It is no wonder then, that one of the first Jaycees events I ever signed up to volunteer, was face painting for Trick-or-Treat on the Square in downtown Lansing.

Trick-or-Treat on the Square is a great community event. Many Lansing organizations and businesses come together to put on a fun and spooky evening for Lansing families. Children can scoop up loads of candy, make crafts, watch some magic, take a hay ride, and of course

come get their face painted by the Lansing Jaycees.

To make our part a success we are rounding up volunteers. If you have found that you have not had much time to get involved with the Jaycees, this event is a great ice breaker. You do not need to be an artist—I'll let you in on a little secret....the kids DON'T care what it looks like...honestly, I am a terrible face painter and I have never had any complaints

The event will take place on Monday, October 26 from around 4:30pm to around 8:00pm. If you have to show up late, or leave a little early, that is okay. The important thing is that you turn out, have fun, make friends, and participate in the greater Lansing Community that we all love so much. [Contact me for more info or to sign up.](#)

—Jenni Riehle, Director



## Fundraising Opportunities for the Lansing Jaycees

Happy Fall everyone! Fall brings in some of my favorite activities of the year including college and fantasy football, cider and doughnuts, and the change of colors. Throughout the year I have been a part of the fundraising efforts for our group. Our fundraising events allow us to contribute to the community with events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Stuff the Bus without stressing about financing or sponsorships. This is our second year selling concessions at the home MSU football games and the biggest problem we have is finding enough people to step up and spend a Saturday fundraising for the Jaycees. If you'd like to help out, go to this Volunteer Spot link to sign up:

<http://vols.pt/QeaQVm>

We have focused this year on attempting to diversify our fundraising efforts which have been in years past dominated by Texas hold em events held at Trippers. Due to the possible legislative changes that came up this summer we have been actively looking for other major contributions to our fundraising programs. If you have an idea for a fundraising opportunity or want to get more involved in our current events give me a call or shoot me an email and we can discuss what steps can get the idea off the ground or how you can get involved. Look out for a fundraising strategy committee meeting to hit the calendar this fall to look into how to take advantage of opportunities we have left for this year as well as start to plan for next year's efforts.

—Ryan Kiernicki, Director

### Upcoming MSU Games

October 24

November 14

November 28

## Stuff the Bus is Underway!

Stuff the Bus is a favorite event among many Lansing Jaycees. Each year we try our hand at stuffing a CATA bus full of toys, cloths, and necessities to help many Lansing area families have a better holiday season. This year's bus stuffing will be taking place on December 5, so mark your calendars!

If you would like to get involved with planning the event, the Stuff the Bus Committee could use your help. The next committee meeting will be taking place on October 21, from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at XIAO China Grille and Lounge. If you are unable to help out at the committee meetings, we will need all hands on deck the day of to help pass out flyers and in the days after helping to organize and wrap donated items.

This is a great event that helps so many in the community. We hope you decide to get involved.

## Top 10 things to do in Lansing!



### #1 MI Historical Museum

Michigan's story is told, from early civilization to present-day, through a variety of exhibits including "Pre-contact to 1900" and "Michigan in the Twentieth Century."

### #2 Michigan State Capitol

Designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1992, this building has served as Michigan's seat of state government since its completion in 1879.

### #3 Specialty & Gift Shops

Lansing is home to a number of unique markets and shops that offer a unique variety of products. The following are only three of the select shops in our town.

- **Horrocks Farm Market** – Horrocks is based in Lansing, MI and has all kinds of fresh produce, specialty cheeses and wines, beautiful flowers arranged or to be planted, bakery items, and a fantastic meat and seafood section. Your trip to Horrocks might be a little further than your neighborhood grocer, but is promised to leave you with affordable specialty items that cannot compare.

- **Cravings Gourmet Popcorn** – a specialty popcorn shop located in Old Town with so many flavors to choose from! Butterscotch caramel, Chicago style, chocolate drizzled, cheddar cheese, and many more.

- **Love, Betti** – also located in Old Town, Love, Betti is a good sized boutique that offers a variety of local artwork, historic and contemporary furniture, jewelry, clothing and so much more.

### #4 Impression 5 Science Center

Interactive museum engages all five senses in the exploration, understanding and appreciation of the wonders of physical science.

### #5 R.E. Olds Transportation Museum

From rare vehicles like REO, Star, Durant, and Viking to classic Oldsmobiles, buggies, bicycles, aviation endeavors, trucks and engines- enjoy the excitement of transportation history! See why we are rated one of "The Ten Best Automobile Museums in the United States" exhibiting a small collection, by Car Collector Magazine.

### #6 River Trail

This trail is such a hidden treasure! The Lansing River Trail is a multi-use, non-motorized trail approximately 13 miles long. It runs along the Grand River and the Red Cedar River between Michigan State University and Dietrich Park in northern Lansing.

### #7 Cooley Law School Stadium

Home to the Lansing Lugnuts, the Lugnuts are a Class A minor league baseball team affiliated with the Toronto Blue Jays. Going to games is a great live event to bring the family to or go with friends.

### #8 Potter Park Zoo

Visit more than 100 species of animals, many of which are endangered, including Black Rhinos, Siberian Tigers, Red Pandas and Snow Leopards.

### #9 Old Town

Old Town is a beautiful, artistic, and fun area of Lansing to enjoy. There are a number of artistic shops, galleries, stores, bars, and hosts a number of the area's local festivals.

### #10 Kayaking & Canoeing

River Town Adventures allows for boat tours and water sports including kayaking. Downtown takes on a whole new view from the perspective of the river. Rentals are near the Lansing City Market, where you can get food and drinks before or after the river trails.

—Danielle Wellington, Board of Directors, Community

## Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Contact
<p><b>General Membership Meeting</b> Please join us for our monthly general membership meeting at Trippers in Lansing! <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	10/06/15	06:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST	<a href="#">Michael Leeds</a>
<p><b>Lansing Jaycees Take a Trip Down Memory Lane</b> Join us as we take a little time to visit the Lansing Jaycees archive at the Capital Area District Library! <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	10/14/15	06:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST	<a href="#">Charlie Root</a>
<p><b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Join the Lansing Jaycees Board of Directors for its monthly meeting. <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	10/15/15	06:00 PM - 08:30 PM EST	<a href="#">Michael P Leeds</a>
<p><b>Stuff the Bus Committee Meeting #2</b> If you missed the first meeting, make sure you come out to the second. This event is so great to plan, and it's a great way to kick off the holiday season. <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	10/21/15	06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST	<a href="#">Jessi Wortley Adler</a>
<p><b>Concession Sales at MSU Football Games</b> Help us raise money for the chapter by selling food and beverage items at MSU home football games! <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	10/24/15	Times will vary by game.	<a href="#">Ryan Kiernicki</a>
<p><b>Trick-or-Treat on the Square Face Painting</b> The Lansing Jaycees have been invited to host a face painting table at this year's Trick-or-Treat on the Square. <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	10/26/15	04:30 PM - 08:00 PM EST	<a href="#">Jenni Riehle</a>
<p><b>General Membership Meeting</b> Please join us for our monthly general membership meeting at Trippers in Lansing! <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	11/10/15	06:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST	<a href="#">Michael Leeds</a>
<p><b>Concession Sales at MSU Football Games</b> Help us raise money for the chapter by selling food and beverage items at MSU home football games! <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	11/14/15	Times will vary by game.	<a href="#">Ryan Kiernicki</a>
<p><b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Join the Lansing Jaycees Board of Directors for its monthly meeting. <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	11/19/15	06:00 PM - 08:30 PM EST	<a href="#">Michael P Leeds</a>
<p><b>Concession Sales at MSU Football Games</b> Help us raise money for the chapter by selling food and beverage items at MSU home football games! <a href="#">more info...</a></p>	11/28/15	Times will vary by game.	<a href="#">Ryan Kiernicki</a>

## 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

### Advertise your Business Here

Did you know that members can feature their business in the Jaycess newsletter for free?

Advertise your business in the Lansing Jaycees bi-monthly newsletter. Send an email of interest to Jenni Riehle at [jenniriehle@gmail.com](mailto:jenniriehle@gmail.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](mailto:Sold@RobertDowding.com) Website: [www.RobertDowding.com](http://www.RobertDowding.com) Blog:

### Alan Waters Agency

Member: Alexander Nelson

*Trusted Insurance Advisor*

*Auto - Home - Life - Business - Health*

Alan Waters Agency | Farm Bureau Insurance

Office: [517-381-8110](tel:517-381-8110) | Cell: [517-927-8876](tel:517-927-8876)



*Michigan's Insurance Company*



Want to see your business featured? Contact Jenni Riehle at: [JenniRiehle@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mp_leeds@yahoo.com)

**Chair of the Board: Charlie Root**

[croot80@gmail.com](mailto:croot80@gmail.com)

**Programming Vice President: Eric Richmond**

[edr@thelastbyte.com](mailto:edr@thelastbyte.com)

**Executive Vice President: Colleen Burton**

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**Secretary: Angela Fossi**

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