

Capital Correspondent



The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber | January 2014

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

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

District 4
Population Division 6
Base Membership: 77

LANSING JAYCEES



The Lansing Jaycees ended 2013 with a bang! Top left, Abby Kelly, 85th president, fulfilled her Relay for Life fundraising challenge by dressing up as a banana at the December GMM. Top right, Jaycees withstood the cold to solicit donations for Stuff the Bus. Bottom left, Jason Larsen led the Jaycees in cooking meals for families staying at the local Ronald McDonald House in October, November, and December. Bottom right, Carrie May Larsen, Angela Clock, Charlie Root, and Michael P. Leeds find a quick minute to smile for the camera at the second debate tournament the Chapter hosted in 2013.



SEEN IN ACTION!

The Jaycee Creed by C. William Brownfield

We believe that faith in God gives
meaning and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends
the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won
by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of
laws rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure lies in
human personality; and that
**SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS
THE BEST WORK OF LIFE**

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, Sheryl Soczek, Abby Kelly, Lauren Leeds, Carrie May Larsen, Michael P. Leeds, Nick Horstman, Charlie Root, Angela Clock, Ashley Orel, and Jeff Straus.**

Remember, anyone can be an author!

Please submit your articles, photos, or ideas for future newsletters to Lauren Leeds at lleeds823@gmail.com by January 21, 2014.

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
Ashely Orel, (517) 582-7252

Treasurer

Sheryl Soczek, (517) 862-6376

Assistant Treasurer

Jeff Straus, (989) 330-1956

Secretary

Ilona Castelein, (517) 488-2245

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



President's Report

Happy New Year Lansing Jaycees!

2014 is going to be a great year for the Lansing Jaycees and our community. We have a board of directors that are bringing a lot energy and excitement to the table, as well as an eager corps of general members looking to accomplish great things in the coming year.

As we go through the year, please know that the board of directors and I are at your service. If you have a question, concern, or maybe just need someone to lend you an ear, don't hesitate to track one of us down. We're here to serve you!

If you have an idea for an event, let somebody on the board know—we can help you get your event off the ground. If you don't have an idea for an event, but would like to take the lead on something, let us know. We will have a list of potential events just waiting for some ambitious member to come along and take charge. If you're just looking for something to do, check our calendar; it's already filling quickly.

With my time as president of this fine organization, I very much look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Please, if you think there is anything I can help you with, I am at your disposal. Call me, e-mail me, or hit me up on Facebook—whatever your preferred method of communication, I'm here.



Charlie Root
croot80@gmail.com



Dates to Remember

Individual Development Events

FEBRUARY 18: Self-defense Class
Location and Time TBD

Management Events

JANUARY 23–26: Texas Hold'em
3:30 p.m. to 2:15 a.m.
Tripper's Card Room, Frandor

JANUARY 21: Board of Directors Meeting,
6–8 p.m., 2425 E. Grand River
Suite 1, Lansing, MI

**FEBRUARY 27–
MARCH 2:** Texas Hold'em 11:30 a.m. to
2:15 a.m., Tripper's Card Room,
Frandor

Membership Events

JANUARY 18: 2013 Year End Awards Banquet,
6–10 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel
925 S. Creyts Road

FEBRUARY 4: General Membership Meeting,
6–8:30 p.m., Tripper's
350 Frandor Avenue

MARCH 4: General Membership Meeting,
6–8:30 p.m., Tripper's
350 Frandor Avenue

Community Development Events

FEBRUARY 23: Special Olympics Polar Plunge
1–3 p.m.
Eagle Eye Golf Course
15500 Chandler Road
Bath, MI

January Birthdays

Karin Root

Alex Gardner

Ben Magsig

Jeffrey Straus

Mallory King

Larry Wascher

February Birthdays

Nick Alt

Dan Harris

Charlie Root

Sara Schultz

Membership Anniversaries:

January

Jennifer Anderson

Andrew Hoard

February

Elizabeth Beal

John Prush

Dan Harris

Amy Simon

Meet the Lansing Jaycees 2014 Board of Directors

Charlie Root, 86th President

Occupation: Estimator/Customer Service Representative at Spartan Printing

Married To: Married to my favorite Lansing Jaycee, Karin Root (Everyone else is tied for second). We also have a daughter named Joy, she's pretty great.

Pets: None.

Dream Job: Genius, billionaire, playboy, philanthropist.

Jaycee Join Date: November 2009

Favorite Movie: *Necessary Roughness*

First Car: A stellar 1988 Ford Temp, with no working dash lights, and a slew of sweet bumper stickers.

Favorite Quote: "Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic." – Dave Barry

Favorite Book(s): *The Lord of the Rings*

Random Fact: When I was a child I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. I said "A smoker."

Why did you join the Jaycees? I joined the Jaycees at the urging of my father. I first approached it as a way to make some new connections to create some business for the family printing company. I learned that I could do that and so much more.

Favorite Jaycee Project: The annual camping trip. I've only gone one time, but it is such a great opportunity to spend quality time with some great people for a whole weekend.



Charlie Root
croot80@gmail.com

Carrie Larsen, Management VP

Occupation: Financial Analyst

Married To: Jason Larsen

Pets: Ceramic dog named Lucy. She's very docile.

Dream Job: Lifeguarding at Record Town. It's really a mash-up of my favorite two jobs.

Why did you join the Jaycees? I joined to meet people and be involved in my community.

Favorite Jaycee Project: There are too many to narrow down to just one, but I do love Easter Egg Hunts and Beer Buses.

Jaycee Join Date: December 2004

Favorite Game/Sport to Play/Sport to Watch: Loaded Questions/Swimming/ urling

Favorite Movie: *The Shawshank Redemption*. If you have a chance, visit the Ohio Reformatory where part of the movie was filmed!

Favorite Music: Anything but new country and metal. I love alternative, Motown, blues, rock, and oldies.

Random Fact: I attended two universities while completing my undergraduate degree. Both changed mascots while I was there, so I was a Pioneer, Golden Grizzly, Tartar, and Warrior. Also, I once auditioned for Wheel of Fortune but did not make it on the show.



Carrie Larsen
carriemay@aol.com

Lauren Leeds, Management Director

Occupation: Communications Specialist for the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget, State Budget Office

Married To: Michael P. Leeds

Pets: Two Pomeranians named after the Roosevelts, and two cats: Aquaman and Belle

Dream Job: PIO for ACLU or ASPCA

Why did you join the Jaycees? To get involved with my community and make a difference

Favorite Jaycee Project: Stuff the Bus because no child should wake up on Christmas morning without something under the tree to open.

Jaycee Join Date: September 2010

Favorite Food: Asian food, specifically sesame chicken

Favorite Movie: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

Random Fact: I am the fourth of five children

Favorite Quote: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love." – Mother Teresa



Lauren Leeds
l Leeds823@gmail.com

Michael P. Leeds, Individual Development Director

Occupation: Adjunct professor of philosophy at EMU and graduate student at MSU

Married To: Lauren Leeds

Pets: Two dogs and two cats

Dream Job: Video game playing astronaut

Why did you join the Jaycees? So I could meet people in the Lansing area and make friends.

Favorite Jaycee Project: The monthly happy hours because it's an opportunity to meet my fellow Jaycees and get to know them.

Jaycee Join Date: March 2011

Favorite Food: Pizza

Random Fact: I've survived two parachute malfunctions and I'll never go skydiving again.



Michael P. Leeds
mp_leeds@yahoo.com

Nick Horstman, Individual Development Director

Occupation: Business Services Specialist at MSU Federal Credit Union

Relationship Status: Dating

Pets: A cat named Nala

Dream Job: Financial Analyst for a Hospital

Why did you join the Jaycees? To engage in networking and meet people from the Lansing Community

Favorite Jaycee Project: Turbo Networking; it is the first event that I chaired and it is my personal project

Jaycee Join Date: March 2013

Favorite Food: Fettuccini alfredo, but with the recent weather, chili

Favorite Movie: *The Dark Knight Rises*

Favorite Book: *Onward*

Random Fact: Goal is to run a half-marathon from start to finish

Favorite Game or Sport: Baseball



Nick Horstman
nhorstma@msufcu.org

Joe Kelly, Membership VP

Occupation: Software Configuration Analyst

Relationship Status: Married

Pets: None

Dream Job: Food critic that doesn't have to write articles

Why did you join the Jaycees? My dad was a past president in Kentwood and he said it would be a good way to meet people

Favorite Jaycee Project: The Debate Tournament, because I enjoy debate and the project involved a lot of planning

Jaycee Join Date: February 2009

Favorite Food: Olga's Spinach Pie

Favorite Movie or Book: *The Art of Computer Programming*

First Car: 1983 Ford

Favorite Quote: "What one fool can do, another can too."



Joe Kelly
joekelly@gmail.com

SHOUT OUTS!

To: Sam Keeney
From: Lauren and Michael Leeds

The Lansing Jaycees are going to miss you like crazy. Have a blast blazing new trails in Nashville!

To: Shout out to all my Lansing Peeps
From: #87

Have a great year and don't give President Charlie any grief that he doesn't deserve... until next month!
;-)

Ashley Orel, Community Development Director

Occupation: Student in the Master of Public Administration program at Central Michigan University

Relationship Status: Single

Pets: A very big baby, a Pitt Bull named Mick

Dream Job: Executive Director of a Non-Profit that provides services to sexual assault and human trafficking survivors.

Why did you join the Jaycees? The Jaycees prides itself on building leaders in the community. I have a passion for community and community service. The Jaycees stood out to me as an organization that builds community within its membership and enhances the community around us. The Jaycees allows people to be individuals and explore their passions in whatever areas they may have, helping and supporting each other to make people's dreams reality.

Favorite Jaycee Project: Stuff the Bus because it's an opportunity for the Jaycees and the community to collaborate to provide at-need families with the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. It's the project I let the Jaycees shave my head for raising enough money. In 2013 I co-chaired this project. It's the project that pushed me to be a Jaycee to see the members rally together to fundraise for the items and the passion they had in doing so.

Jaycee Join Date: The lovely day of December 5, 2012

Favorite Quote: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." – Nelson Mandela

Random Fact: I've been to Washington D.C. three times and fall in love with the city again and again. I look forward to going back many times.

Favorite Movie: My favorite movie is *Freedom Writers*. Every time I watch it, it reminds me again why I am a social worker.

Favorite Book: *Time for Dancing* by Davida Hurwin

Favorite Game: My favorite game is a card game called Mafia. I first learned how to play it during an Alternative Break trip in college. I LOVE IT!

Favorite Music: I listen to a lot of different music. I really enjoy contemporary Christian, Blues, Jazz, and sometimes anything I can dance to.

Editor's note: If you'd like to know more about the game "Mafia," feel free to contact either Ashley Orel, Angela Clock, or Lauren Leeds for instructions on how to play.



Ashley Orel
ashley.orel.mpa@gmail.com

Angela Clock, Community Development Director

Occupation: Executive Director, Tobacco-Free Michigan

Relationship Status: Single

Pets: A nine year old dog, Dakota

Dream Job: Literary Critic

Why did you join the Jaycees? To meet other people that were interested in the community

Favorite Jaycee Project: Stuff the Bus because it's an opportunity for us to give back to the community on a more meaningful and smaller scale by donating to individual families. As a co-chair this time around, I was able to get to know the families we adopted a little bit and also help make their lives a little better.

Jaycee join date: July 2004

Favorite Food: Sushi and cupcakes

Favorite Movie or Book: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Favorite Music: Honestly, pretty much anything

Random Fact: After reaching a stretch goal to raise \$3,500 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Spring 2013, I shaved my head. It resulted in 12 inches of hair being donated to Children with hair loss.

Favorite Game or Sport: College football—GO BLUE!

Favorite Quote: "Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." – Robert F. Kennedy



Angela Clock
fallingstar924@hotmail.com

Sheryl Soczek, Treasurer

Occupation: Accountant/Business Manager

Married To: Michael Spaulding

Pets: Two Cats, Felix (17) and Bella (6)

Dream Job: One where I am paid my value and appreciated for the work I do

Why did you join the Jaycees? I joined the Jaycees to meet people

Favorite Project: My favorite Jaycees project was Children's Shopping Spree because I love to buy school supplies

Jaycee Join Date: March 1, 2002

Favorite Food: Hard-shell beef tacos (cheese, black olives, and sour cream)

Favorite Quote: Chinese Proverb "Those who say it cannot be done, should not interrupt the person doing it."

Favorite Music: Most items from the late '80s early '90s

Favorite Movie: *Valley Girls*



Sheryl Soczek
soczek@msu.edu

Stuff the Bus Delivers!

On Saturday, December 14, the chapter held the annual Stuff the Bus event at the Wal-Mart in Eastwood Towne Center. The weather was cold, snowy, and just downright awful! But, we stood outside the store from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. with a Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) bus and stuffed it to help families in need in the Lansing area!

Thirty-one children and their families were adopted from Volunteers of America's Adopt a Family program. Each family received a gift card to Kroger, clothes, gifts, and household items that were needed. Members of the chapter also wrapped and delivered the gifts directly to the families, so we were able to see how appreciative they were for the donations. Colleen and I even received huge hugs at one delivery!

Because of many challenges to the event this year, this was a difficult but worthwhile event to pull off. Thank you to our members for getting the word out about the project, volunteering some hours and purchasing items! We would also like to thank Sally Sohn for the use of Sohn Linen as sorting/wrapping central.

We would also like to thank Lauren Leeds for her help in organizing things while Ashley and I were both dealing with work and health issues. A huge thank you

goes out to Lauren and Michael Leeds, Carrie and Jason Larsen, Colleen Burton, Sam Keeney, Alexandra Briseno, Shawn Wiltfong, Joe and Abby Kelly, and Ryan and Katy Kiernicki for their assistance after the event.

What a great way to end 2013 by supporting families in our local community! We hope everyone had a great holiday season and have a happy new year!

Angela Clock & Ashley Orel, Stuff the Bus Co-Chairs



A picture from inside the CATA bus during the 2013 Stuff the Bus event.

Jeff Straus, Assistant Treasurer

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant at Maner Costerisan

Married To: Angela Straus

Pets: Two German Sheperds, Kona and Cash

Dream Job: I honestly love my job and wouldn't change it

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

Jaycee Join Date: Summer 2012

Favorite Jaycee Project: Easter Egg 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 (3 1/2 years old) and Emily (6 months old)

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

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



Jeff Straus

jeffrey.straus@gmail.com

Ilona Castelein, Secretary

Occupation: Mother of Junior Jaycee Caydence Ann

Married to: Mike Castelein

Why did you join the Jaycees: To make a difference in my community and teach my daughter the importance of community

Favorite Jaycee project and why: Easter Egg Hunt, I love that the Lansing Jaycees are able to provide so much fun and excitement to the community every year for Easter!

Pets: Mr. Barley Boy (Rot and Sheppard mix)

Dream Job: Systems Analyst

Jaycee join date: October 2009

Favorite food: Tamales and fruit

Favorite movie: Sweet Home Alabama

Favorite sport: Baseball, GO TIGERS!

Favorite Quote: Make It Happen!



Ilona Castelein

ilonacastelein@gmail.com

Greetings Lansing Jaycees!

Welcome to 2014! I am Ashley Orel and I am very excited and honored to serve as your 2014 Community Co-Director alongside Angela Clock.

In the fall of 2012, I became a prospect to the Lansing Jaycees. In December 2012 a project was going on, Stuff the Bus where the Jaycees were collecting items to provide in need families the opportunity to have Christmas. The chapter had a goal to raise a certain amount of money, by a certain date. I attended the December General Membership Meeting as a prospect and the president at the time was sharing with the chapter that they didn't meet their fundraising goal yet. So I threw out the idea of shaving my head if the chapter could meet that goal in a week. They had over a thousand dollars to raise. Sitting in Tripper's board room that evening, a member offered to cut her hair if they met a goal. Another project offered to give Stuff the Bus some of the funds raised from Snowman Army, and other members were in collaboration with each other examining ideas of how the money could be raised. I knew in my heart then that I wanted to join the Jaycees and be a part of a group of people who are passionate about their community and the people in it.

I wanted to be part of an organization that is dedicated and committed. The Jaycees did indeed meet the fundraising goal and then some in a week. They were determined, and I joined the Jaycees in December 2012. In February 2013, the Jaycees shaved my head. I joined the Board of Directors in July 2013 as a Director-At-Large, this year 2014 I will gladly serve as Community Co-Chair. My goal this year is to have two events a month in Community. In order to achieve this, I need the help of our members to chair projects and share the ideas you have. I have a sincere passion for the work this organization does. I have a passion of making the Jaycees an organization that stands out in the community. So let's continue to stand out to the community in doing service in various areas such a poverty, children, working in the environment, public health, etc.

I'm one year and a month old in the Jaycees and I love this organization. This organization is made up of people who care about one another and the community. My fellow Jaycees are a group of individuals with their own passions and goals in how they see the Jaycees play a role in the bigger picture. They are diverse people with various experiences and skills, but when we all come together we can make change. We learn and grow together. I want to assist you in your growth as a Jaycee.

Do you want to participate in making calming bags for the MSU Sexual Assault Response Team to hand out to sexual assault survivors? Do you want to distribute soap with the S.O.A.P. project to help victims of human trafficking? Do you want to participate and raise money for Relay for Life for ACS, Michigan AIDS Fund and the Lansing AIDS Walk, Breast Cancer Awareness walk, March of Dimes? Do you want to participate in a clean-up of our local Grand River, a park, or a section of the highway? Do you want to donate books to help local children learn how to read? Do you want to participate in a food drive to help local families in need? Do you want to participate in one of the biggest events of the year, an Easter egg hunt or Stuff the Bus? There are all kinds of things we can do in the area of community.

Contact me to share your passions and interests!

A great man in history once said: "I choose to identify with the underprivileged, I choose to identify with the poor, I choose to give my life for the hungry, I choose to give my life for those who have been left out of the sunlight of opportunity. This is the way I'm going If it means suffering a little bit, I'm going that way. If it means sacrificing, I'm going that way. If it means dying for them, I'm going that way, because I heard a voice saying, 'Do something for others.'" - MLK Jr.

Cheers to a great year!

Management Report

Bylaws and fundraising and projects, oh my!

We are excited to get 2014 off the ground in the Management area! We already have two Texas Hold 'Em tournament fundraisers scheduled for January and February. You will be hearing about the Bylaws Review Committee, and you'll hear about an investigation into whether or not it makes sense to start a Lansing Jaycees foundation in order to achieve a favorable tax status as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (a fancy way of saying donations to the foundation would be tax-deductible). Have you heard about the Pi Day 5k? Our chapter is working on planning a fun run fundraiser to be held on March 14. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved.

You will also have the opportunity to help us plan Management projects for the year. Do you have an idea for a behind-the-scenes tour for a local business? Let us know and we will work with you to make it happen! Do you have an idea for a fun or different or unique fundraiser? Let us know so that we can work with you!

As another call for input—we will be releasing our monthly Capitol Correspondent newsletters at our General Membership Meetings. What would you like to see in the newsletter? Do you have ideas for articles or columns? Please let us know—we want to make sure you get the most out of your Jaycee experience!

Your Management Team,

Carrie Larsen and Lauren Leeds

Individual Development Report

Hitting the ground running in 2014

2014 should be a great year, and Michael and I are excited to hit the ground running. There are already multiple event ideas in the pipeline and we need your help to chair the events and discover new ones!

There will be events throughout the year that cover personal development and growth, cultural development, and even professional development. We will strive to cover each area per quarter.

If you are passionate about helping or developing an event please reach out to me or to Michael. We would be happy to turn your event idea into reality. Looking forward to an eventful year!

Your ID Team,

Nick Horstman and Michael P. Leeds

Chair of the Board Report

Abby Kelly, Chair of the Board

Occupation: Graphic Designer

Married To: Joe Kelly

Pets: None, yet

Dream Job: Paint namer or American Cancer Society Community Liason

Why did you join the Jaycees? To give back to the Lansing area with like minded people

Favorite Jaycee Project: Relay for Life, because it was my first project, and it makes me incredibly happy to build a world with less cancer and more birthdays

Jaycee Join Date: June 2009

Favorite Food: Good

Favorite Movie or Book: *Lamb* by Christopher Moore

Favorite Music: Good

First Car: Luna, a white '99 Mitsubishi I had until earlier this year



Abby Siegel

queenpetunia@hotmail.com

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

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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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