



THE LIONS ROAR

The Official Newsletter of the Manitowish Waters Lions Club
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545 <https://www.mwlionsclub.com> December 5



In this issue:

- President's Message
- Little Forest School Day Care
- Eurasian Water Milfoil
- Save the Chain Fundraiser Concert
- Dinner Dance/Meeting – RSVP Needed!



President's Message

Good Morning fellow Lions!!

I don't know about you, but boy, is this time of year a busy time of year!!!

I love it, though, and with the anticipation of the Christmas holiday right around the corner I feel like a little kid!

So, what's going on, what's new and how did our year end up?

Let's start with our purpose which is to donate to worthy causes and individuals in our community and within the Lions network. We had another good year and exceeded last year's goals and our budget. We raised an astounding \$159,000 through our various fundraisers, events and dinners!!!

Congratulations, for this was \$13,000 above budget.

Because of this we have been able to donate nearly \$80,000 to our causes. Again, Congratulations!!! We were able to increase the amounts donated to select organizations, new recipients like the Scholl Community Impact Group and we were able to help unanticipated causes within our community like Chuck and Michelle's granddaughter Hadley Benson and Mathais Schmitt. This would not be possible without the great involvement of our members. More and more of you are volunteering and that is what makes us great.

So what's new? A lot! 😊



Little Forest School

As most of you know, Camp Jörn closed their Childcare program in late October leaving many families in a very tough spot. A community meeting at Camp Jörn happened shortly after the announcement and from that meeting a committee was formed with the goal of creating "our own" community based childcare center. I agreed to lead the group because I have always been a strong proponent of the need for quality childcare for our young families, businesses and community in general. Without our young families, our town would not grow and be as vibrant as we need it to be.

The committee has been working hard and in late November we formed a corporation called the Little Forest School, Inc. We have a Board of Directors and have secured a temporary location for our childcare program at the Community Presbyterian Church.

A press release was sent out before Thanksgiving, and we are getting wonderful coverage, making everyone aware of our ambitious goals which includes someday in the not too distant future having our own facility in MW. To do this we will need the support of the community and will be letting everyone know our specific needs as we begin fundraising very soon. I am proud to say that our Lions Club Board has already pledged to be a part of our future success.

For more information, see the press release below and check out the website littleforestschool.net and on Facebook.

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Childcare Facility 'Little Forest School' Offers Hands-On Learning in the Heart of Nature

Manitowish Waters, WI | November 25, 2024 - On October 18th, parents in the Manitowish Waters area received devastating news: the only childcare center within 30 miles was closing its doors—for good. This unexpected closure left working families without any reliable options, creating immediate challenges and long-term concerns. Without accessible childcare, families struggle, businesses face hiring challenges, and ultimately it has the greatest impact on the children's development.

In response, a dedicated group of community members came together to ensure families and children have the resources they need.

Introducing Little Forest School: A New Chapter for Childcare in Manitowish Waters

Little Forest School is a new childcare center created to meet the needs of local families. It's more than a childcare program—it's a place where kids can explore, learn, and grow in a space designed just for them.

The mission is to provide safe, quality, and affordable childcare for the families in our community, fostering growth through play-based learning and nature exploration. By combining fun, learning, and the outdoors, Little Forest School helps children build a deeper bond with nature.

Believing that strong children come from strong communities, Little Forest School works closely with families and local organizations to support kids both inside and outside the classroom. With hands-on activities and plenty of room for curiosity, nature is at the heart of every day.

The organization is committed to making childcare accessible and welcoming for every family. With nurturing educators who receive ongoing training and collaborative growth, children feel supported and ready to develop in a positive environment.

"I am, and always will be, very passionate about the early childhood industry," said Amanda Snow, Board Member of Little Forest School. "I wish for other families to have the opportunity to have access to quality care in our area."

Little Forest School aims to be a key part of the Manitowish Waters community—a place where children are encouraged, families are supported, and the Northwoods community thrives.

Meeting Immediate Needs and Building for the Future

Little Forest School is tackling the childcare challenge head-on with a two-phase plan designed to meet the immediate needs of families while laying the groundwork for a long-term solution.

Phase 1: Addressing Immediate Needs

The first phase focuses on ensuring families have reliable childcare over the next 1–2 years. Significant progress has already been made, including:

- Formed a childcare committee of 30 dedicated parents, educators, and community members.
- Established a passionate board of directors to guide the effort.
- Partnered with the Manitowish Waters Presbyterian Community Church for a temporary location.

Now, the team is moving forward with key next steps:

- Achieve 501(c)3 nonprofit status to focus resources on families.
- Secure a childcare license to meet safety and quality standards.
- Prepare the temporary facility to welcome children.
- Fundraise to cover startup costs and operational needs.
- Recruit skilled, passionate staff to lead the program.
- Open Little Forest School to families in early 2025.

Phase 2: Building a Sustainable Future

While Phase 1 addresses urgent needs, Phase 2 looks ahead to create a sustainable program that will serve families for decades. The long-term goals include:

- Secure land for a permanent, centrally located facility.
- Design and construct a space tailored to the unique needs of an adaptive and nature-based childcare environment.
- Collaborate with local organizations, schools, and businesses to provide expanded programming and resources.
- Establish a perpetual operational fund to ensure childcare remains affordable and accessible for all families.
- Strengthen the educational model to deepen connections with nature and build a shared future.

Little Forest School is a testament to what happens when a community comes together. The team invites community members, businesses, and organizations to join them in creating this future for children and families.

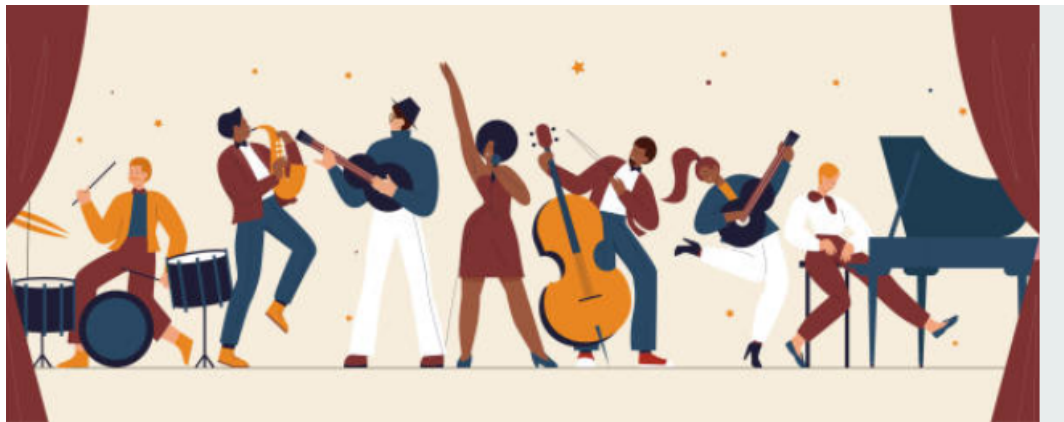
To learn more about Little Forest School or how to get involved, visit www.littleforestschool.net, email info@littleforestschool.net.

Press Contact:

Mike McKeon, Little Forest School Board Chair
mpmckeon21@gmail.com
 847-732-7460



Club Meeting December 19 Big Band Night!



Big Band Music! Dancing! Make your reservation BY DECEMBER 15 with **Lynn Schroeder**. Spouses & Significant Others Welcome! Dinner choices are prime rib or seafood platter with lobster cake, shrimp and walleye – for only \$35.

RSVP by December 15: Lynn Schroeder
 (920) 621-7366
Lynn.schroeder10@gmail.com





Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) Save the Chain!

You may know that invasive species Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) has been found in our chain. Last year, the town and the Lakes Association spent \$100,000 mapping and harvesting the highly invasive weed in our chain. It is spreading and the funding needed to get control of this infestation is significant. We are all in MW because of our lakes and to save and protect them we need to act to get ahead of this huge problem.

Through my experience sitting on the Lakes Association Board, I've become more cognizant of EWM's devastating nature. Local organizations will be cooperating to

raise funds over the winter, building a war chest to attack the infestation next spring. Our new, 15-person committee includes members from the MW Lions, MW Lakes Association, the MW Alliance/Foundation and the Discovery Center. We also have 3 at-large members.

The committee, which includes Lions **Tim Schmidt, John Hanson, Gary Luckow, Laurel Tschurwald, Paul Culler and Sue Kapal**, has been working hard and a press release and mailing will go out soon to all MW. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 from December 15th to July 5th 2025. It's an aggressive goal but one that is needed to save our chain from EWM.

The name of our campaign is **SAVE the CHAIN**. We hope that every family in MW understands the urgency to protect our lakes and that they help fund the program with generous donations. Watch for the press release and the mailer coming your way shortly. For more information on EWM and to donate please go to the MW Lakes Association Website: mwllakes.com. (The donate portion will be functional early next week).



Lions July 5th Save the Chain Concert



As you have heard at dinner meetings, we created a Lion's committee to organize a concert for the SAVE the CHAIN campaign. The thank you concert/fundraiser will be the afternoon of July 5th at Koller Park. The bands will include opening act Scott Kirby followed by 70's rock superstars the IDES of MARCH. It will be a great afternoon with all proceeds going to the SAVE the CHAIN campaign. The LIONS committee has a lot to do but and you will be hearing more about this great event shortly. The following Lions have joined me to make this event happen: **Laurel Tschurwald, John Hilbert, Paul Culler, Guy Kapal, Barry Hopkins, Kevin Birschbach, Randy Lang.** More to come!

In Closing...

Last but not least, I am looking forward to seeing you all at our December 19 dinner meeting (spouses included) at Little Bo. Remember we are having a 15-piece band to celebrate the season, playing all your big band classic Christmas/Holiday songs. Yes, we will clear a spot for dancing, too!! See information above for dinner choices and make your reservations with **Lynn Schroeder**.

This will be a lot of fun! See you there!

Cheers and Merry Christmas,

Mike



EVENTS

- 2024 -

**Club Meeting
Big Band Night**

Thursday, December 19
Little Bohemia

Club Awards Banquet

Thursday, May 15
Little Bohemia

2025 Bingo

Mondays, June 16 -
August 11

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 24, 2025

Pork Chop Dinner

Thursday, July 17, 2025
Thursday, August 21,
2025

- 2025 -

Sportsman's Night

Saturday, April 26, 2025
Aberdeen Restaurant

2025 Flea Market

Thursdays, June 5 -
August 28

Lions Golf Outing

Thursday, August 21,
2025

Save the Chain Concert

July 5, 2025
Koller Park

Lions Fall Raffle

Sunday, August 31, 2025



Officers, Directors & Committee Heads

OFFICERS

President

Mike McKeon (2025)
847-732-7460

First V.P.

Lynn Schroeder (2025)
920-621-7366

Second V.P.

Dave Hanson (2026)
715-904-0517

Secretary

Bill Vogel (2025)
262-227-9652

Treasurer

Larry Voss (2026)
608-201-5297

DIRECTORS

Dan Meier (2025)
715-904-0053

Phil Rose (2025)
715-686-2033

Paul Culler (2026)
773-802-6502

Guy Kapal (2026)
262-483-4844

Randy Lang (2026)
715-571-4447

COMMITTEE HEADS

Bingo

Larry Voss
608-201-5297

Cash Raffle

John Hilbert
715-892-0693

Deer Hide Collection

D. Henske
715-543-2942

Dinner Programs

Lynn Schroeder
920-621-7366
& Dan Meier
715-904-0053

Education & Scholarships

Bob Cook
920-660-9327
& Sue Griswold
262-492-5684
& Bill Koehler
708-446-5127

Eye Transport

Randy Lang
715-571-4447
& Laurel Tschurwald
414-255-5208

Flea Market

Phil Rose
715-686-2033

Golf Outing

Kevin Birschbach
262-227-8175

Highway Clean-Up

Randy Lang
715-571-4447

Lions' Apparel

Jim Higgins
715-543-8282

Lions Roar

Dave Hamilton
262-955-4543

Lion Tamer

Paul Culler
773-802-6502

Membership

Laurel Tschurwald
414-255-5208
& Bill Vogel
262-227-9652

Pancake Breakfast

John Hanson
715-543-2438

Past President

Tim Casey
920-327-0473

Pork Chop Dinners

John Hilbert
715-892-0693

Publicity

Dennis Hill
715-543-2681
& Steve Clausen
608-698-4714

Sportsmen's Night

Dan Meier
715-543-2774
& Lynn Schroeder
920-621-7366

Sunshine Committee

Sally Stewart
815-353-8703

Tail Twister

Lynn Schroeder
920-621-7366
& Dan Meier
715-904-0053

Vision Screening

Phil Rose
715-686-2033

Webmaster

Mike McKeon
847-732-7460





Wealth Management

VKB Wealth Management Group

John Hilbert
Vice President - Financial Advisor

8613 US Hwy 51N
Minocqua, WI 54548
Direct: 715.858.3104
Office: 715.858.3100
Toll Free: 844.939.3100
Fax: 715.858.3119

john.hilbert@rbc.com
www.rbcwm-usa.com

A division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC,
member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC

LAKELAND

True Value.

HARDWARE STORES

LUMBER & HARDWARE, INC.

(715) 543-8036
5967 County Rd W (PO Box 457)
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

BRIAN R. FORREST
Vice President



BAUERS ELECTRIC

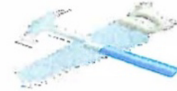
Residential - Commercial - New Construction - Remodels
Generac Generator Sales and Service

BJ Bauers - President
PO Box 344
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
715-904-0093
bauerselectric@yahoo.com

GENERAC

Authorized Generac Dealer

THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



MANITOWISH WATERS, WI 54545
715-604-2021 w5dale@hotmail.com



Lee & Associates INSURANCE



Phone (715) 543-2557
Toll Free (800) 457-2025
Fax (715) 543-2871
Cell (715) 490-3910
steve@insurancegroupwi.com



Steven E. Lee

www.insurancegroupwi.com

51N38 Highway 51 • PO Box 290 • Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

CHUCK'S EXCAVATING

Rock Shorelines ————— Trucking
Basements ————— Sand, Gravel, Top Soil
Septic System Digging ————— Lot Clearing
Road Building ————— Brush Cutting

ChucksMW@gmail.com

715-904-2707 CHUCK KRAMER
5696 Hwy 51 South, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545



Randy Nilsson, CGP
PHIUS Certified Builder™
General Contractor

PO Box 698, Mercer, WI 54547
(715) 476-0122 Office
(715) 776-0122 Cell
info@greatlakescarpentry.com
www.greatlakescarpentry.com

High Performance -
Timber Frame, SIP
and Passive House Design




WILLIAM DIETZ
Vice President

DIETZ'S SERVICE INC.

Since 1961

P.O. BOX 227 6090 COUNTY RD. W
Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin 54545
(715) 543-2144



LITTLE STAR GARAGE

Actually The Big Star of The North
• Since 1957 •

Phone 715-543-8300
CAR PORT SALES

THE RAYALA FAMILY
P.O. Box 226, 5699 USH 51
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545