



Rare Meat

January 2012



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**YOUR SUBMISSIONS
ARE ENCOURAGED!**



Report of the Annual Holiday Party held on Wednesday, December 7, at the Hilton Garden Inn

A jolly group of about 40 Lions and their guests gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn for our annual holiday get-together. About 1/3 of the attendees were from the Mechanicville-Stillwater Lions Club; they seem to enjoy our parties, and we love having them. Highlights of the evening included the good fortune of M-S Lion Pat "Lucky" Shannon, who won several of the drawings as well as the 50:50, and the astute psychoanalysis of A&T Lion "Dr" Maryanne Gordon, who told us how to interpret our reindeer drawings.



Mary Krug shows off the wreath that was one of the drawing prizes.

Report of the board meetings held on Wednesday, December 21, at the Alexis Diner

In reviewing the treasurer's report, it was noted that we still have 8 members who haven't paid their dues, in spite of several requests. We decided to make one more appeal after the new year. Anyone who is still in arrears on Jan. 31 will be dropped for nonpayment. [See page 3]

MEMBERSHIP

- HOWARD ADLER
- VICKI ADLER
- JOANN BEACH
- DR. TED BELHUMEUR
- BARRY BERBERICH *
- DR. ROB BRASS
- CHRISTOPHER BURKE
- CARL CAFFALETTE
- JANE CHOUINIÈRE
- DOUG DAVIS
- NICK DEMARTE
- URSULA DESSINGUE
- KATHY DORN
- DENNIS FAGAN
- MIKE FARRELL
- ALEX GILLIES
- DIANE GILLIES
- JERRY GORDON
- MARYANNE GORDON
- PDG DAVE HARRIS
- DR. VICI HARRIS
- DIANE BURKE HART
- TOM HART
- ELAINE HAYNER
- CHRIS HORAN
- HON. JERRY JENNINGS
- MARYJOY
- PAM KHAMBANONDA
- LARRY KRUG
- DR. DAVID LEVINE *
- KRISTIN McVEIGH
- MICHAEL O'BRIEN
- SHERIE O'CONNELL
- CYNDY OTTY
- TERRY PAGE
- BOB PRATT
- CAROL QUANTOCK
- RUTH SANO
- VICKIE SHAHINIAN
- PAUL VERGONI
- DR. ALLEN ZIEKER *
- * AFFILIATE MEMBER

The wreaths program netted us approximately \$700, and we netted about \$500 on popcorn sales at the Victorian Stroll, thanks to the Lion Ruth and Bob Sano donating the repair costs on the popcorn machine.

The holiday party went well, and everyone had a great time. M-S Lion Pat Shannon donated her 50:50 winnings back to the club, so we were able to donate \$75 to the Holiday Hunger Appeal on a day when all donations were matched.

We have picked up another eyeglass-collection spot: Dr Rickert's office in Star Plaza in Guilderland. Members of the now-defunct Guilderland LC will continue to cover their other sites for the time being.

We voted to do a blood drive every quarter, in March, June, August, and December, with 2 in Albany County and 2 in Rensselaer County. Jerry will contact ARC to set them up.

Lion Terry Page has resigned from her post as hearing chair, in which she has been performing admirably for several years. Now we need someone to fill this important position. Her final three applicants were handled thus:

- ◆ Because Lion Terry was unable to get sufficient financial information, we voted to deny assistance to a woman from Nassau.
- ◆ A gentleman from Troy has already paid \$3000 for hearing aids. We voted to reimburse him \$200, which is what we would have spent if he had come to us in the first place.
- ◆ We voted to provide hearing aids to a woman from Wynantskill, paying for them with the credit that Lion Vici Harris has accrued with Starkey Company from our previously-donated used hearing aids.

We had a request from a Troy woman to whom we have previously supplied eye glasses, and another from a Lansingburgh woman, for financial help with Christmas gifts. They were referred to the Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club.

We voted to donate \$25 to St Paul's Center.

Blood Drive

We had another successful blood drive on Wednesday, Dec 21 at the Holiday Inn Express in Latham. Between phone calls ahead of time and working at the drive itself, seven Lions spent a total of 44 hours and two Lions donated blood. The Red Cross collected 38 units, which is enough to potentially save 114 lives.



Lions Carol Quantock (left) and Vicki Shahinian bleeding for the cause.



Make a note:

Next Lions Work Night at the **Regional Food Bank:**

Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 5:30-7:30 PM

Friends and family welcome. Tell Lion Carol how many you're bringing at cquantoc@nycap.rr.com or **664-3901**.

Save the 2nd Tuesday of January, April, July and October.



We Serve

Shoes for the Shoeless...

Lion Al O'Neill, from the Glasgow (Delaware) Lions Club, oversees an outreach program that collects used (but still usable) shoes, clothing, furniture, etc. for distribution in five Appalachian locations in Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. The Delmar Bootery in Stuyvesant Plaza in Albany has been the local collection point for this "Shoes for the Shoeless" campaign. Once a year, he drives up here pulling a 32-foot trailer, loads it with shoes, and heads back to Glasgow (about 270 miles from Albany), all in the same day.

This year, he showed up on Saturday, Dec. 3, and for the 8th year in a row, a contingent of Lions was on hand to help. Lions Jerry Gordon, Larry Krug, Mike O'Brien, Carol Quantock, and Paul Vergoni plus 3 non-Lions managed to load 9000 pairs of shoes in about 2 hours.

If you've got any shoes you're no longer wearing, consider putting them aside for this worthy cause. Delmar Bootery usually accepts shoes only during October.



Before ▲

▼ After



Dues are Due...

Lion Paul sent out dues notices early in July, at the start of the new Lions year, requesting that dues be paid by September 1. Unfortunately, **8** of you haven't paid yet (you know who you are). **PLEASE put your check in the mail TODAY!** Can't find your statement? It's **\$65**, payable to A&T Lions Club; mail it to Lion Paul Vergoni, 7 Davis Place, Latham, NY 12110-1181. **This is the last time this notice will appear. We really hate to do it, but any member who hasn't paid by Jan. 31, 2012, (or made some other arrangement) will be dropped for non-payment.**

Our next meeting...

Our next general meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 4**, at the Red Front. Come and hear Elaine Phelan tell us what's new in tax law. Also, we'll be inducting two new members. Let's get a good turnout to welcome them into the club.

Happy Birthday!

Happy **January** birthday to these A&T Lions:

- 23rd - Chris Burke
- 25th - Rob Brass



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Lions anniversary to these **January** inductees:

- MaryJoy - 1 year
- Pam Khambonanda - 20 years

What “We Serve” means to the Albany & Troy Lions Club

At this half-way point in the Lions year, it seems like a good time to review what our club has done over the past six months:

- Collected **7500** pairs of used eyeglasses and **67** used hearing aids.
- Provided eyeglasses for **1 child** and **13 adults**.
- Held 2 work sessions at the Regional Food Bank.
- Sponsored a blood drive in August that collected enough blood to help 111 people. One Lion donated blood, and eight Lions worked 45 man-hours
- Sponsored a blood drive in December that collected enough blood to help 114 people. Two Lions donated blood, and seven Lions worked 44 man-hours.
- Provided dinner for the residents of Joseph's House, a homeless shelter in Troy.
- Purchased holiday gifts for a family of four from Vanderheyden.
- Five Lions helped load 9000 pairs of used shoes that will be distributed in Appalachia.
- Provided a device that provides visual and vibratory signals so a deaf mother will know when her baby is crying.
- Helped fund the replacement of a prosthetic eye for a student.
- Participated in NABA's Low-Vision Technology Fair
- Donated to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Fight for Sight, NABA, American Council of the Blind, Schoharie County Flood Relief, Troy's Victorian Stroll.

On a more personal note ...

The Vergonis and the Krugs are off to the wild (mid-)west to visit grandkids this holiday season - Lion Paul & Laura are in Minneapolis, while Lion Larry & Mary are in Denver. Hope this isn't a plot for our two treasurers to abscond with all our funds.

Speaking of grandkids, I mentioned in the October issue that Lion Ruth Sano recently had twin grandlings; here they are - Liam & Jack Keegan ►►

If you save your newspapers, dig out page A3 in the Times-Union of Monday, Dec. 26. You'll find a photo and article about Courtney Burke, Commissioner, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. The article says she has a husband, but it doesn't say that it's Lion Chris Burke.



Mark your calendar...

Wednesday, January 4, 6 PM: Next general meeting at the Red Front. See page 3 for details.

Tuesday January 10, 5:30-7:30 PM: Work Session at Regional Food Bank. A head count helps them select an appropriate job for us to do. Contact Lion Carol Quantock at cquantoc@nycap.rr.com or 664-3901 to sign up.

Wednesday, January 18, 8 AM: Board meeting at the Alexis Diner. All members are welcome.

Visit your club's web site: ALBANYTROYLIONS.ORG,
your district web site: 20Y2LIONS.ORG,
and International's web site: LIONSCLUBS.ORG.

And remember to do your on-line shopping at ALBANYTROYLIONS.PENNIESATATIME.COM