



Rare Meat

February 2017



Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

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ALBANY & TROY LIONS

PO Box 192

TROY, NY 12181-0192

(518) 512-2722

info@albanytroylions.org

ALBANYTROYLIONS.ORG

Rare Meat editor:

JERRY GORDON

JERRYGORDON@JUNO.COM

518-235-8232

**YOUR SUBMISSIONS
ARE ENCOURAGED!**

**Report of the meetings held on
Wednesday, January 4, at the
Red Front (board meetings are
now held right after the general
meeting)**

GENERAL MEETING

1st VDG John McDonald and Lion Phil Klein, both from the Saratoga Springs Lions Club, spoke to us about Camp Abilities Saratoga, a one-week overnight sports camp for children and teens who are blind, visually impaired or deaf-blind. It is held at Skidmore. Next summer will be their fourth year. The camp is modeled after similar ventures at Brockport, Utica and Long Island, but each is run independently.

For most campers (last year there were 26), it's a new experience and their first time away from home, especially overnight. They get to swim, bike, bowl, dance, play baseball, ride horse-back, enjoy cook-outs and many other social activities, all with one-on-one counselors.

It costs about \$3500 per camper, or about \$90,000 total, but all campers attend for free. Support comes from about 20 Lions clubs in the district, grants from the NYS&BLF and others, and the club's fund-raising activities.

In the absence of our tail-twister, Lion Maryanne elicited comments from everyone about good things that happened to them in 2016. Fortunately, everyone had something – grandchildren were a common theme.

BOARD MEETINGS (CLUB & CHARITABLE FOUNDATION)

Lion Jerry reported that we grossed \$474 on popcorn sales at the Victorian Stroll on Dec 4. The popcorn cost \$32.95 and we made a \$50 donation to the Stroll, so net income was \$391.05. Many thanks to the 13 Lions and family members who worked on it, and special thanks (again) to Lion Carol's partner-in-service Paul for his refurbishment efforts on the machine.

Lion Fran reported that we sold 32 SaveAround books for a net profit of \$400. Kudos to Lions Fran and John on this fine accomplishment! Maybe we can sell more next year, if we start a little earlier.

DG James Griffith is speaking to us in Feb. In April, we'll hear from Alexandra Sipos, the Albany High junior who has undertaken an eye-glass collection project. KL Chris will look for a March speaker.

We formally approved our participation in the Albany Jewish Community Center's Health Fair next May 7. As previously, NABA and the

FEBRUARY



MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ADLER

MICHELLE BAKER

JOANN BEACH

JEFF BENNETT

JOHN BIANCO

MICHELE BIANCO

DR. ROB BRASS

CHRISTOPHER BURKE

JANE CHOUINIERE

DOUG DAVIS

URSULA DESSINGUE

KATHY DORN

DENNIS FAGAN

MIKE FARRELL

JERRY GORDON

MARYANNE GORDON

PDG DAVE HARRIS

DR. VICI HARRIS

DIANE BURKE HART

TOM HART

ELAINE HAYNER

CHRIS HORAN

LARRY KRUG

DR. DAVID LEVINE

FRAN MCDOAL

KRISTIN MCVEIGH

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

TERRY PAGE

CAROL QUANTOCK

RUTH SANO

VICKIE SHAHINIEN

SUE SHIPE

JJ STONE

PAUL VERGONI

ELENA WATSON

KEITH WOODARD

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER

Hearing Conservation Society have agreed to split the \$180 cost. Maryanne and Jerry have run it in the past, but they'll be at a grandson's graduation from the University of Kentucky, so someone else will have to do it this year.

There will be a special vote on redistricting at the cabinet meeting on Jan 28, but since no one from our club will be going, there was no need to discuss it further or assign delegates.

Lions Jerry and Maryanne will be away for the Feb and Mar meetings. PDG Dave has agreed to cover the voice-mail system and the PO box. Lion Ruth will handle eyeglass requests. Lion Ruth will take meeting notes, and hopefully, Lion Carol can cover if Ruth's away. Attendance replies should go to Lion Mike.

Lion Jerry reported that the seal campaign has brought in \$1353 so far. Contributions continue to trickle in.

Lion Maryanne gave out three eyeglass vouchers in December.

Lion Joann completed the shopping for holiday gifts for four young men from Vanderheyden, spending \$238 of the allocated \$250.

We got a thank-you note from Regional Food Bank for the donation that Lion Elena made in our name.

We voted to donate \$500 to Camp Abilities Saratoga.

We voted to donate \$100 to the Lions Eye Foundation in lieu of selling chocolate bunnies.



Purtate un putenziale membru di na riunioni



If we keep repeating "Bring a potential member to a meeting," it will soon become old hat. So as part of your continuing education and to keep the thought fresh, we'll say it in a different language each month. This is Corsican, spoken on the islands of Corsica and Sardinia and closely related to Italian.

Our next meeting ...

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 1**, at the Red Front. Our speaker will be District Governor James Griffith.

We call the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., but please try to be there by 5:45 so you can place your dinner order and have a few minutes to socialize. The restaurant likes a head count, so please let **Lion Mike O'Brien** know (**272-0905** or **m.obrien@samobile.net**) whether you'll be there. Telling Mike your intentions will be one less phone call that he has to make.

If you're a board member, remember that we now hold the board meetings immediately after the general meeting, so be prepared to stay for another hour, more or less.



Learn about centennial events
at LIONS100.ORG

KidSight

Kathryn Miklowitz, NABA's RN who conducts their KidSight vision screenings of pre-schoolers, always appreciates our help. They're usually at 9 or 9:30 a.m. and last an hour or two. If you'd like to sign up for one or more, please contact Kathryn at C: 915-4722 or mickeyskat@gmail.com for time and address details.

The February schedule was not available in time for publication here. We'll distribute it as soon as we get it.

We're up to 6!

That's how many from our club are going to LCI's 100th Annual Convention from June 30 to July 4, 2017. If you've never been to an international convention, or even if you have, give some serious thought to attending this one. So far, PDG Dave Harris, Lion Ruth Sano and PIS Bob, Lions Maryanne & Jerry Gordon and relatively new Lion Elena Watson have made reservations. (FYI: Albany to Chicago is about a 2-hour flight, a 13-hour car ride or a 16-hour overnight train ride.)



Registration forms and information are available at tinyurl.com/LCI100th. Why you should sign up now:

1. The \$130 registration fee goes up to \$200 after March 31 (you missed the January 14 deadline for \$180).
2. The sooner you register, the better your chances of getting into the Hyatt Regency Chicago, the hotel for NYS delegates.



Blood drives ...

At the Dec 19 drive at the Holiday Inn/Latham, 21 units were collected, which equates to 63 people that were able to receive life-saving blood products.

Our next drive is at the YMCA in East Greenbush (next to the library) on Tuesday, March 14. Mark your calendar

Regifting...

We got an email recently from the Guilderland Public Library offering us two back issues of the Ladies Home Journal in Braille, and a magnifying machine that allows folks with low vision to read books, magazines, newspapers, etc. We passed the offer on to NABA, and by the time you read this, they will have acquired the device and, I'm sure, put it to good use.

On a personal note ...

Our deepest condolences go to Lion Elena Watson on the loss of her mother, Socorro "Virginia" Watson-Ramirez, who passed away last week in Florida. In an email vote after the board meeting, we voted to make a donation to LCIF in her memory.



Instead of shopping at amazon.com, please shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3255679. You'll get the same great deals, plus a percentage of your purchases will be donated to the **Albany & Troy Lions Charitable Fund**.

FINE DINING AT SARATOGA INN TO BENEFIT NABA

February 21 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



You are cordially invited to support “NABA Night” at [The Inn at Saratoga](#) at 231 Broadway in Saratoga Springs.

20% from the total food and beverage revenue from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM in the bar and restaurant will be donated to NABA!

NABA is very appreciative of the support of The Inn at Saratoga in helping to fulfill our mission to help people of all ages with vision impairment remain independent and achieve goals.

For over 100 years in Saratoga and 13 other NY Capital Region counties, NABA has been providing a wide range of services to individuals with visual impairment and blindness. Some of these services include KidSight vision screenings for preschoolers; low-vision examinations for magnifiers and adaptive aids; recreational and life skills youth programs; orientation and mobility training for safe travel; placing legally blind teens and adults in professional employment; and providing vision rehabilitation services to seniors with age-related vision loss.

Visit your club's web site: **ALBANYTROYLIONS.ORG**
your district web site: **20Y2LIONS.ORG**
International's web site: **LIONSCLUBS.ORG**
and LCI's centennial site: **LIONS100.ORG**

Give the
Gift of Sight!

Support blind children
By purchasing a

“Through Their Eyes”
2017 Calendar



\$8.00 (no tax due)

Please make checks payable to
Lions Eye Bank at Albany
6 Executive Park Drive
Albany, NY 12203

For more information
(518) 489-7606

jbeach@lionseyebankalbany.org

Breaking News!



Just before this issue went to press, we learned that we have 6 Save-Around books for sale, and we get the full \$25 proceeds on each one! Visit tinyurl.savearound to see exactly where you can save many hundreds of dollars, and then contact Lion John Bianco at jibianco53@gmail.com or (518) 260-3047 to get yours today!



Happy Birthday!

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

5th—Dave Levine
22nd—Mike Farrell



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Lions Anniversary to no **February** inductees!

February 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WHERE THERE'S A NEED THERE'S A LION 100 YEARS 			1 Meeting at the Red Front; see page 2.	2 Groundhog's Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21 Eat & drink for NABA; see page 4	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

For other events around the district, visit 20Y2Lions.org

"Nature abhors a vacuum," it is said, and YrEd abhors a blank page, so here's some seasonal filler.

