



Rare Meat



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 at the Red Front on January 8:

General membership meeting:

Our speaker was Karen Mort, a community nutrition educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension. She told us about the various programs they have to educate folks about the dangers of diabetes, who's at risk, how diet affects the disease, and what you should eat whether or not you have diabetes.

Our Joint Service Club Holiday Party with Troy Kiwanis and Lansingburgh Rotary was very successful and several Lions mentioned a desire to continue having joint events. [See last month's *Rare Meat* for pictures.]

Board meetings (club & charitable fund):

Most of our newer members have day jobs and are coming from Albany, so it's getting tough to start the meeting at 6:00. Starting in February, our call-to-order time will be 6:15 PM.

Preem Cabey was appointed chair of our club's pin committee. And at his request, we have added Greg Sheldon to the nominating committee, joining Lions Carol and Chris Horan.

Lion John will be collecting bottles at his apartment complex and donating the redemption money to our club.

Stratton VA Hospital will no longer be a drop-off spot for used eyeglasses because our program does not specifically benefit veterans.

We've been invited to participate in a health fair at Troy Middle School on Wed, Mar 11, from 4:30-6:30 PM. Kathryn Miklowitz, NABA's LPN, has agreed to do vision screenings there and Lion Larry has agreed to man our table.

Lion Eva, chair of our new initiatives committee, said her team will be looking into working on health inequalities. Lion Preem mentioned Channel Albany, Youth Bureau and National Endowment for the Humanities as orgs we could possibly affiliate with or as possible sources of funding.

Lion Shawn's Bike Rides for the Blind committee is ready to start serious planning for a spring event. Permits from the City of Albany will cost \$50-100. Shawn also mentioned a possible tie-in with Tour de Cure.

Lion Ruth is still working with America's Best to supply eyeglasses. She looked into the Essilor program and thinks it's much too complicated.

Lion Jerry sent out two hearing-aid apps.

MEMBERSHIP

IRVIN ACKERMAN

VICKI ADLER

JORDAN ALEXANDER

MICHELLE BAKER

EVA BASS

JOANN BEACH

JEFF BENNETT

JOHN BIANCO

DR. ROB BRASS

CHRISTOPHER BURKE

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DIANE BURKE HART

TOM HART

CHRIS HORAN

LARRY KRUG

DR. DAVID LEVINE

FRAN MCDOAL

KRISTIN McVEIGH

SHAWN NEWTON

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

CAROL QUANTOCK

RUTH SANO

GREG SHELTON

JODI SHELTON

SUE SHIPE

PAUL VERGONI

JIM WILSON

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER



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2VDG Michele O'Hare asked us to sponsor an LCIF grant to transform NABA's second floor into a vision center. All their rehab services and programs will then be located on one floor, along with office space for diabetes education and for Lions Hearing Conservation Society. We had asked Michele what our financial obligations would be, but in the absence of an answer, we postponed our vote. [Since the meeting, we found out there would be no obligations of any sort but there would be a request for a donation. In an email discussion over Jan 22-24, we voted to sponsor the grant request and to make a donation of \$500.]

We have received \$2700 from LCIF for the blueberry project. Lion Greg submitted a spreadsheet of expenses, but there are many questions. We'll address them when he and Jodi return from Ecuador.

Lion Greg wrote from Ecuador that Tosagua LC is very interested in partnering with us on an eyeglass mission. Questions are going both ways on our Facebook Special Projects page, but this will be another subject for discussion on his return.

Our next general meeting: *Note changed time and date*

Because of a scheduling problem, our next meeting will be on the **second Wednesday, February 12, at the Red Front**. Our speaker will be from Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County.

Note the new, slightly later starting time: We will be calling the meeting to order at **6:15 p.m.** but please try to be there by 6:00 so you can place your dinner order and have a few minutes to unwind and socialize. The restaurant likes a head count, so let me know whether you'll be there (jerrygordon@juno.com or 518-235-8232). Telling me your intentions means one less follow-up phone call that Lion Mike will have to make.

KidSight Vision Screenings

Kathryn Miklowitz, NABA's LPN who conducts their KidSight vision screenings of preschoolers, always appreciates our help. They usually start around 9:30 a.m. and last an hour or two. I'll send out her February schedule as soon as I get it.

If you'd like to sign up for one or more screenings, please contact Kathryn at kmiklowitz@naba-vision.org and mickeyskat@gmail.com or call her on her cell at **518-915-4722** for time and address details.



Seal campaign

Our annual seal campaign letters went out after our November meeting. Thanks to two very generous donors, we have broken two records: As of Jan. 21, we have collected more than any other year (\$1540) from the fewest number of donors (18). It's not too late to send your contribution to us at PO Box 192, Troy, NY 12181.

A bit of pre-history ...

We've all heard about how Melvin Jones started Lions Clubs in Chicago in 1917. In honor of his birthday on January 13, Lion Ruth Sano posted a brief history on our Facebook page. This prompted a comment that led me to this web site: william-perry-woods-md.com/, which claims that Lions were actually founded in 1911 by Dr William Woods in Evansville, IN. So I wrote to LCI to find out what's what. More →



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**.

This is the response I got from Christopher Bunch, LCI's manager of strategic communications:

"Thanks for writing us, Lion Jerry. You're not the first person who's asked this question. Here is an overview of how Lions came to be, and the role that Melvin Jones and Dr. Woods played in its founding.

"Melvin Jones is considered the founder of "modern-day" Lions and is credited with bringing several coalitions together that led to the formation of what we now know as Lions Clubs International. It is important to note that Lions clubs existed prior to Melvin Jones' involvement. Those early Lions clubs existed largely in Indiana and a few other areas. But it was Melvin Jones who called business people together in Chicago, including Dr. Woods who represented Lions.

"The "new" organization of Lions Clubs came into existence in 1917 when a charter was drafted, largely through the efforts of Melvin Jones, and those previous Lions clubs were folded into the new organization. Dr. Woods would famously go on to become the "new" organization's first president. And Melvin Jones would continue to be the driving force behind Lions, leading our effort to expand internationally and creating a truly global force of good in the process.

"While great leaders and visionaries like Melvin Jones and Dr. Woods built the foundation for a century of service, it is the incredible men and women like you who keep our legacy, and our mission of service, alive."

And now you know the rest of the story.

District cabinet meeting ...

Due to our Cabinet Meeting for Saturday 1/25 being canceled, we are scheduling a Business Cabinet Meeting to be held on Saturday, February 8, at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs to complete standard business we were unable to do. In addition, nominations will be made and voted on for 2020-2021 DG, 1VDG and 2VDG. The meeting will start promptly at 9:30am and will be wrapped up before noon. The cost is \$5.00 per person at the door.

All members are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Barb Bentley at bbentley@saratogaspingslions.com if you are planning on attending.

Give the Gift of Sight This Holiday Season!

Support Blind Children
By Purchasing a

"Through Their Eyes – The Gift of Sight"
2020 Calendar

Each month showcases original artwork created by Capital District
children expressing their appreciation for the gift of sight.

Every calendar sold benefits underprivileged children in need of eye care.
This calendar is about ***children helping children.***



For more information call:
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Lions Eye Bank at Albany
4 Tower Place, Ste. 601
Albany, NY 12203

Bring a potential member
to a meeting.

Happy Birthday!

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

5th: Dave Levine
8th: Eva Bass
22nd: Mike Farrell



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Lions Anniversary to only one **February** inductee:

Greg Sheldon: 1 year with A&T + 6 years with Tosagua LC

FEBRUARY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 United in Service	27	28	29	30	31	1
	3	4	5	6	7	8 Cabinet Meeting; see page 3
9	10	11	12 Meeting at the Red Front; see page 2.	13		15
16		18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

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

