



# Rare Meat

May 2013



*Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925*

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**YOUR SUBMISSIONS  
ARE ENCOURAGED!**



## *Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, April 3, at the Red Front*

It seems the best way to get Lion Joann Beach to a meeting is to invite her to speak. As expected, she did an outstanding job of explaining the history and operations of the Sight Society of NENY/ Lions Eye Bank. She called on PDG Dave to explain their new program for providing grants to help clubs fund sight-related projects.

Not only were the Albany Lions Club and Troy Lions Club significant players in the establishment of the Sight Society, but several of the members of our now-joint club are important to its ongoing operations. In addition to Lion Joann, Lion Vicki Adler is Executive Director and PDG Dave Harris is Chairman of the Board.

**On behalf of NABA, Lion Jerry extended an invitation to NABA's Volunteer Recognition Breakfast to all Lions who have worked on a KidSight screening. It will be held on April 25 at the Albany Airport Observation Level. Lions Ursula, Terry and Paul will be going.**

**Lion Diane transmitted several of Dr. Oz's hints for a healthier heart life, but I wasn't taking very good notes that night, so I don't remember any of them. Sorry, folks.**

## *Report of the board meetings held on Wednesday, April 17, at the Alexis Diner*

We discussed changing the time and/or location of board meetings to make it more convenient for members who are still working. **This is especially important for next year's board and our president-elect, Lion Carol.** The consensus seems to be that an evening meeting, still on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, would be better, and a good location would be the Route 7 Diner. They have a private meeting room, we can order off their expansive menu, the food is good,

## MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ADLER  
KATIE ALLEN  
MICHELLE BAKER  
JOANN BEACH  
DR. TED BELHUMEUR  
JEFF BENNETT  
BARRY BERBERICH \*  
DR. ROB BRASS  
CHRISTOPHER BURKE  
CARL CAFFALETTE  
JANE CHOUINIÈRE  
DOUG DAVIS  
NICK DEMARTE  
URSULA DESSINGUE  
KATHY DORN  
DENNIS FAGAN  
MIKE FARRELL  
JERRY GORDON  
MARYANNE GORDON  
PDG DAVE HARRIS  
PHIL HARRIS  
DR. VICI HARRIS  
DIANE BURKE HART  
TOM HART  
ELAINE HAYNER  
CHRIS HORAN  
HON. JERRY JENNINGS  
BRUNILDA JIMENEZ  
PAM KHAMBANONDA  
LARRY KRUG  
DR. DAVID LEVINE \*  
FRAN MCDOAL  
KRISTIN MCVEIGH  
MICHAEL O'BRIEN  
TERRY PAGE  
BOB PRATT  
CAROL QUANTOCK  
ROXANA SANCHEZ  
RUTH SANO  
VICKIE SHAHINIAN  
PAUL VERGONI  
CHRISTINA WEARY  
DR. ALLEN ZIEKER \*  
\* AFFILIATE MEMBER

they'll give us separate checks, and it will give us a presence in Albany County.

Moved, seconded and passed (MSP): That we accept the membership application of Jeff Bennett, a friend of Mike O'Brien's. **Lion Jerry pointed out that as we think of new projects to get involved with, we should keep in mind that we now have 6 blind members (Lions Jeff, Carl, Kathy, Chris H, Fran and Mike).**

We reviewed the 29 calls that came in to our voice-mail system from 3/18-4/16. This is a practice we started last month. 9 of these calls were for clubs outside our area; one was from a VDG in Pittsburgh who wants to know about vision screenings being done in nursing homes in our area (none that I know of), and another was from a woman in Troy, PA, who needs help getting hearing aids (referred to the DG in 14-G).

**Guiding Eyes for the Blind is holding their annual "Salute to the Lions" open house on Saturday, July 13.** The day includes a tour of their facilities in Yorktown Heights and a nice lunch. If enough people are interested in going, we can make it a group outing.

**King Lion Tom suggested that perhaps we ought to think about doing another auction; it's been several years since our last one, which proved to be a fun fund-raiser. Lion Paul mentioned that it's also time for another School-Nurse dinner.** Both of these would be 2013-14 events.

By email, Lion Carol thanked those who volunteered at the Regional Food Bank on April 9. Volunteers included Jerry and Maryanne Gordon, Carl Caffalette, Fran McDoal, Paul and Laura Vergoni, and Terry Page.

MSP: That we buy a raffle ticket for \$50 to help Lions Camp badger.

We got thank-you notes from Vanderheyden Hall for the gifts we donated last December; from the **National Child Safety Council for our donation to the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office's child-safety programs**; and from Tech Valley High School for our donation to help with their reforestation project in Haiti.

Lion Carol sent in a report by email that included:

- **"Hearing aid applications: It seems that requests for hearing aids are on the increase, and I think that all Lions Clubs (not just ours) will receive more applications as the population ages, insurance coverage for hearing devices continues to be almost non-existent, and the economy remains slow. There also seems to be a great misunderstanding on the part of some applicants about the extent of our assistance, as I have received inquiries from people who assume that the Club will just hand over the cost of extremely expensive hearing aids, usually ones that have been quoted by Miracle Ear or other such companies. I will continue to practice due diligence when looking the applications over, but would appreciate it if someone could help me out, especially after I assume my new role as King Lion in July. This would entail doing some of the detective work in determining eligibility. I have an Excel spreadsheet that I use to crunch the numbers, so it only takes a few minutes to see if the applicant qualifies financially. To help us become more efficient in handling the applications, I will be in closer contact with the Hearing Conservation Society to get some "helpful hints."**
- **"Speaking of applications, I returned an application from a lady by the name of Margaret W., as it is incomplete and doesn't contain the required proof of denial of insurance. I wrote a very gentle letter suggesting that she ask a relative, social worker, health aide, or other trusted person assist her in filling it out and getting the insurance information we need to proceed. Hopefully she will be able to do so.**
- **"Another application, from Carmen, is still in process. I spoke to her on the phone before I sent her the application, and clearly stated the need for proof of denial of insurance coverage. She gave me every indication that she understood what I said, but when I received the application, it contained just the completed application and the printout of the results of a hearing test/screening. I called her again, and**

she referred me to her Medicaid caseworker, who didn't return my two phone calls and one dictated message. I called Carmen back again and asked her to contact her caseworker personally, since I felt the reason the caseworker didn't return my calls is because of the HIPAA regulations, and the caseworker didn't want to use her valuable time telling me she couldn't give me any information. Carmen agreed to follow through with the caseworker, so I am awaiting the results.

"I have been in contact with Karen Vincek, Readmission Case Manager for the CHOICES Program at St. Peter's Hospital. She and I discussed the case of a man who needs financial assistance for hearing aids, but doesn't qualify for Medicaid. I e-mailed her the application and the supporting documents. She will, I'm quite sure, follow up and provide all the information we need to process the application. Working with caseworkers or social workers is a big plus, since they know how to navigate the system and they know their clients far better than we do. This is a win-win situation!"

MSP: That the maximum authorized expenditure for hearing aids is \$200 per hearing aid plus shipping (the price that the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Program charges), unless approved by the board.

## Bring a potential member to a meeting

### *Our next meeting ...*

Our next general meeting will be on Wednesday, May 1, at 6 PM at the Red Front. Our speaker will be Barbara Michalski, Consumer Advocate from National Grid. I'm sure she'll give us a powerful presentation.

### **Save the Date ...**

Our annual Installation Dinner will be on Wednesday, June 5, at Valente's Restaurant, 315 8th St in Watervliet. We'll gather at 6:00 PM for an "attitude adjustment hour," followed by dinner at 7:00. We'll order off the menu and get separate checks. This is one of our two mainly social events (the other is the holiday party in December), so please make every effort to be there with your significant other. Along with installing our new officers for next year, we'll be inducting two new members (maybe more, if you've got any interested candidates who are ready to join). Call in your reservation to Lion Kathy Dorn (783-0157) as soon as you can, but certainly no later than Sunday, June 2.

### *KidSight*

NABA's been having technical problems with the camera that they use for KidSight screenings, so we don't have a May schedule yet. Stay tuned - if it turns out that they need our help, I'll surely let you know.

### **Dues ...**

A month ago, you got your dues statement for the 2013-14 Lions Year. Our new policy calls for sending them out a few months earlier than previously, so that we won't have to cancel memberships of people for whom we've already paid their LCI, MD20 and 20-Y2 dues.

Be a good Lion and get your check to Lion Paul promptly, please.



Our next BLOOD DRIVE will be **Monday, July 1**, at the Michael's banquet House, 1019 New Loudon Rd, Latham. We need volunteers:

- ◆ To make phone calls in the week or two before the drive,
- ◆ To work at the registration desk and the canteen at the drive,
- ◆ And to donate blood.

If you can do any or all of these, please sign up with Lion Carol at [cquantoc@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cquantoc@nycap.rr.com) or 664-3901.

*Future blood drives: September at TBD; December at Holiday Inn Express in Latham; March at TBD.*

**On a more personal note ...**

"Hi All: Still working the FEMA job but I am now in White Plains, Westchester County. Not in NYC but very close. I am signed on till the end of June but both my daughter Val and my daughter-in-law are due about then in Denver. After that I will be there for most meetings. Lion Larry"

Lion Paul and Laura are in MN to see their 3-year-old granddaughter's first dance recital - an event not to be missed, and certainly worth a trip of a mere 1200 miles or so.

Lion Diane announces the arrival of grandkid #6, "The 3rd Princess of Pleasantville": **Marissa Diane Hart, 7 lb 9 oz, 19.25" long, born 4/24/13 at 8:42 AM to TJ & Marian Hart of Pleasantville, NY. She joins sisters Jasmine, age 2, and Arianna, age 1.**



**Mark your calendar...**

**Wednesday, May 1, 6 PM:** General meeting at the Red Front. See page 3 for details.

**Wednesday, May 15, 8 AM:** Board meeting at the Alexis Diner. All members are welcome.

**Wednesday, June 5, 6 PM:** Annual Installation Dinner; see page 3.

*Happy Birthday!*

Happy May birthday to these A&T Lions:

- 7th - Maryanne Gordon
- 9th - Elaine Hayner
- 10th - Vici Harris
- 13th - Vickie Shahinian
- 26th - Allen Zieker



*Happy Anniversary!*

Happy Lions Anniversary to these May inductees:

- Phil Harris - 1 year
- Joann Beach - 9 years
- Diane Burke Hart - 19 years
- Jane Chouiniere - 25 years

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 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**