



Rare Meat

August 2026



The newsletter of the



Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

OFFICERS 2026-2027

President:

QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI

1st Vice-President:

BATMAN COLLINS-
HACKETT

2nd Vice-President:

NIGHTWING HAMLIN

3rd Vice-President:

GREG SHELTON

Secretary:

JERRY GORDON

Treasurer:

RUTH SANO, Club
LARRY KRUG, Char Fund

Tail Twister :

CARMEN MORALES

Lion Tamer:

SHAWN NEWTON

Directors, 1st year of 2:

EVA BASS
MELISSA MILTON

Directors, 2nd year of 2:

MARYANNE GORDON
MIKE O'BRIEN

Membership Chair:

CARRIE LOVE

Marketing Comm Chair:

ERIC THOMPSON

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**YOUR SUBMISSIONS
ARE ENCOURAGED!**

Report of the board meeting held July 20 on-line.

Because of Labor Day, we decided to hold our first general meeting on Sep 9 instead of Sep 2. [See page 2]

Larry and Ruth confirmed that we sent a \$1,000 donation to Camp Abilities Saratoga (CAS). "Lions Day" at CAS is Wed. Aug 5th. A few club members spoke about trying to go to see how they can help out, or just watch and learn. [See page 3]

Bridge Tha Gap has invited the club to table at 2 events for free. 1st one is Tues Aug 18th 10-4 at the Empire State Plaza and the 2nd is Aug 29th a Lincoln Park Bowl. We will reach out to Queen to see if its something the Leos want to do. Eden's Rose and the Red Book Shelf will already be tabling those 2 events and can be there to support the Lions table as needed. Paul says he has 2 people from his org who can run the Lions table if needed. Ruth will drop supplies off to Paul before the event. [See page 3]

The Club voted to sponsor the St. Catherine's Golf Outing with a \$150 tee sign.

Jerry reminded us of the District Cabinet Meeting on Saturday August 29th in Clifton Park. [See page 6]

We discussed the Clink recycling fundraiser and possibly growing that effort by partnering with businesses or collecting at events. [See page 2]

Jerry says we need to catch up on reporting to LCI website. He will try to get it done for now, but will be looking for input from others,

Batman and his organization True Heart would like to partner with our Club on a new project located on a parcel of land in Voorheesville (5 min from Indian Ladder). The project involved agriculture/gardening, youth, greenspace and education. The idea is that for a \$2,000 contribution to the project's development (for soil amendmets, testing, tools, seeds, etc), a sign would be put up and the parcel would be dedicated. The club asked for more Information in an email so that the whole Board could be involved in the decision process.

August 27th is the "I Love Albany" block party on Henry Johnson Blvd and 2nd from 1-7pm. Carrie requested a \$100 donation towards it. This motion was approved by the board.

[See pages 4 & 5]

More →

MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ADLER

MICHELLE BAKER

EVA BASS

JOANN BEACH LOVER-
IDGE

DR. ROB BRASS

DR. ANSHU CHANDRA

PAUL "BATMAN" COLLINS
-HACKETT

DOUG DAVIS

DENNIS FAGAN

DR. STEFAN FOSCO

QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI

JERRY GORDON

MARYANNE GORDON

KHALEL "NIGHTWING"
HAMLIN

DR. VICI HARRIS

CHRIS HORAN

LARRY KRUG

DR. DAVID LEVINE

CARRIE LOVE

KRISTIN McVEIGH

MELISSA MILTON

NIKKI MILTON

CARMEN MORALES

SHAWN NEWTON

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

RUTH SANO

GREG SHELTON

JODI SHELTON

ERIC THOMPSON

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER



Jerry requested the approval to spend \$119.95 on 5 more years of our web hosting. This was approved by the board

Larry noted he had completed our Clubs annual 990 filing.

September meetings



Our first general meeting of LY26-27 will be on **Wed, Sept 9**, at **6:00 PM**, at the Hub, 498 1st St (corner of Quail), Albany. [Note that subsequent meetings will be on the first Wednesday.] A featured event will be the induction of our newest Lion, Anshu Chandra.

Board meetings will continue to be held on-line on the **third Monday at 7:30 PM** (Aug 17 is the next one). All members are welcome, but only board members can vote. Here's the link:

<https://meet.google.com/dus-eyyy-vby>

Earning Some Green by Going Green

You've all got your CLYNK recycling bags; I hope you're using them. If you need more for yourself, **or for any friends or family members who are willing to help us out**, contact Lion Jerry at 518-366-5299 or 1jerrygordon@gmail.com for more bags.

It's simple: Fill the bag with cans and bottles that are NYS-redeemable (water bottles, soda bottles & cans, beer bottles & cans). Bring the full bag to your nearest Hannaford, scan the label and drop the bag into the chute. All those nickels will be deposited right into our bank account. **This project earned us \$177 last year, but with greater participation, it could be a lot more. Email, call or text Lion Jerry now to get more bags.**

Happy Birthday!

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

20th: Carmen Morales
21st: Melissa Milton
30th: Shawn Newton



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Lions Anniversary to these **August** inductees:

Chris Horan: 17 years (plus 3 yrs with Guilderland LC)
Vici Harris: 24 years



Mon, Aug 17: Board meeting; see page 2

Many other events, see next page

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

There's a lot going on in August!

Wed, Aug 5 is Lions Day at Camp Abilities Saratoga. See below.

Tues, Aug 18 is Action of Collaboration with Lion Eva's Bridge Tha Gap. See below.

Thu, Aug 27 is Lion Carrie's I Love Albany block party. See pages 4 & 5.

Sat, Aug 29 is Albany Fest with Lion Eva's Bridge Tha Gap. See below and page 7.

Sat, Aug 29 is the District 20W Cabinet Meeting, worthwhile for any Lions but especially so for officers and committee chairs. See page 6.

Lions Day at Camp Abilities Saratoga (CAS) 2026

Camp Abilities Saratoga, a service project of the Saratoga Springs Lions Club, will host visiting Lions and friends at our camp on Wednesday August 5th! All Lions are welcome to visit and witness the amazing achievements and successes of our campers in action. Morning sessions that day will include tandem biking and judo, with two sessions of each activity running concurrently from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Our afternoon session will focus on tennis for all campers, and will run from 3:30 to 5:15pm. All of these activities allow our campers with visual impairments to participate in adaptive sports!



This year will mark our 13th annual camp! Our Lions Day is an informal gathering and you're welcome to drop in and check it out. When you get to Skidmore, head to their main track/athletic field. We have a visitor's booth there. There is lots of parking there as well. In the event that you can't make the Lions day, but still want to check out CAS that week, let us know and we can try to arrange a visit.

Two Bridge Tha Gap events:

Action of Collaboration brings together residents, community leaders, service providers, youth, families, and advocates to stand united against violence while connecting our community to critical resources, opportunities, and support services.

Date: Tuesday, August 18th, 2026

Location: Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

Event Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Albany Fest —see flyer on page 7

Date: Saturday, August 29th, 2026

Location: Lincoln Park Bowl, 228 Eagle St, Albany, NY, 12202

Event Time: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Dear Jerry and the incredible members of the Albany & Troy Lions Club,

I hope you are doing well. This is Love, and I am currently employed by the Mental Health Empowerment Project, Inc. (MHEP), located at 204 Second Street in Albany, at the corner of Henry Johnson Boulevard and Second Street in Albany. MHEP is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting recovery, wellness, and community inclusion through peer support. For more than 30 years, we have worked alongside individuals, families, and communities to foster hope, resilience, and meaningful connections.

We are excited to bring the **“I Love Albany” Community Block Party** back on **Thursday, August 27, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** (Rain date Friday 8/28) on Second Street in Arbor Hill, between Henry Johnson Boulevard and Lark Street. Building on the success of our 2024 event, this neighborhood-centered celebration brings residents together to strengthen community connections, access vital resources, and foster the sense of belonging that contributes to healthier and safer neighborhoods.

Our 2024 event welcomed more than **700 residents** and over **40 organizations and community partners**, providing information, referrals, and direct access to services. The impact was immediate and meaningful, neighbors connected with resources they didn't know existed, families received much-needed support, and new relationships were built throughout the community. Since then, residents have consistently asked for the event to return, reinforcing the importance of creating spaces where our community can come together.

As we prepare for this year's event, we are seeking community partners and co-sponsors to help make this free celebration possible. Sponsorship support will help provide food, refreshments, youth activities, entertainment, and meaningful engagement opportunities that connect residents with local services and organizations.

We respectfully invite the Albany/Troy Lions Club to partner with us through a sponsorship or an in-kind contribution. We would also be honored to welcome you to the event, provide an opportunity for you to share a few remarks with attendees, and recognize your support during the celebration. We invite you to bring a resource table and engage directly with community members by sharing information about the services and initiatives available through your club.

The mission of MHEP and the mission of the Lions Club are closely aligned. Both organizations are rooted in service, compassion, and a commitment to improving the lives of others. MHEP works to empower individuals and strengthen communities through recovery and inclusion, while the Lions Club has long been known for its dedication to meeting community needs, supporting families, and making a lasting difference through service. Together, we share a common goal of building stronger, healthier, and more connected communities.

Your leadership and commitment to service and community well-being align closely with the goals of this event. We would be truly grateful for your partnership and your presence as we celebrate the strength, resilience, and unity of Albany.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the residents of Albany and Troy. We look forward to the opportunity to work together to make the 2026 **“I Love Albany” Community Block Party** a meaningful and memorable success for Albany families and neighborhoods.

With gratitude,

Carrie Love

INSET Peer Team Leader, Notary Public

M.S. Forensic Mental Health, CASAC-2/G

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

Phone: (518) 434-1393, Email: love@mhepinc.org



I LOVE ARBOR HILL BLOCK PARTY!

Save the Date

August 27 | 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Rain Date: August 28th

Second St., Albany, NY

Between Lark St. & Henry Johnson Blvd.

Food | Music | Games | Raffles
Face Painting | Giveaways & More!

Interested in
donating?



Interested in
being a vendor?



Interested in
volunteering?





20W NORTHERN NY LIONS CLUBS

First Cabinet Meeting **INVITATION**

You Are Cordially Invited

District Governor and the 20W Northern NY Leadership Team invite all Lions to attend the **First Cabinet Meeting** of the new Lions year.



— SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 —



LOCATION

Hilton Garden Inn
Clifton Park, New York
30 Clifton Country Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065



MEETING SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Registration &
Morning Coffee Service

9:30 AM SHARP
First Cabinet Meeting Begins



REGISTRATION FEE

\$50.00
per person

LUNCH

A delicious deli buffet lunch
will be served featuring:

- Oven Roasted Turkey
- Roast Beef
- Sliced Ham
- Garden Salad
- Potato Salad
- Assorted Rolls & Condiments
- Macaroons for Dessert



Coffee, Tea
& Soft Drinks



REGISTER HERE

Join fellow Lions from across 20W Northern NY as we begin a new year of service, fellowship, and leadership. This first cabinet meeting will provide important district updates, committee reports, and plans for the upcoming Lions year.

We look forward to seeing you as we work together to make a difference in our communities.

**“WE
SERVE”**



BRIDGE THA GAP PRESENTS

ALBANY

Fest

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC, CULTURE & COMMUNITY


MUSIC


FOOD


**LIVE DJ
LIVE PERFORMANCE
OF LOCAL ARTIST**


VENDORS


GAMES


LOCATION:
**LINCOLN PARK BOWL &
LINCOLN SQUARE BBALL COURTS**

**228 EAGLE ST
ALBANY, NY 12202
UNITED STATES**

ALBANY FEST 2026 THEME

LIBERATION STARTS WITH UNITY: BUILDING POWER TOGETHER

Albany Fest is a celebration of community, culture, and collective action. We come together to honor our roots, celebrate our diversity, and strengthen the connections that move our neighborhoods forward. Through fellowship, healing, and shared experiences, we recognize that real change happens when we stand united and build power together.

WHAT WE STAND FOR


UNITY
 We believe in the power of coming together.


EMPOWERMENT
 We build knowledge, confidence, and opportunities.


CULTURE
 We honor our heritage and celebrate who we are.


JUSTICE
 We advocate for equity, opportunity, and change.


COMMUNITY
 We uplift, support, and invest in one another.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES


**BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENTS & GAMES**


**FITNESS CLINICS
HEALTHY BODY, STRONG COMMUNITY**


**YOUTH ACTIVITIES
FUN, EDUCATIONAL & ENGAGING**


**FREE BACK TO SCHOOL
SUPPLIES (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)**


**RESOURCE VENDORS
CONNECT. LEARN. GROW.**


**LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS
VENDORS
SHOP LOCAL. SUPPORT LOCAL.**


**JUST-N-CASE
BBQ CHICKEN COMPETITION
WHO HAS THE BEST BIRD?**


**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY**




**SCAN ME
FOR MORE INFO
& UPDATES!**


**FAMILY FRIENDLY
FUN FOR ALL AGES**


**SAFE & SECURE
SECURITY ON SITE**


**FREE PARKING
DESIGNATED AREAS**


**SUPPORT LOCAL
SHOP. EAT. CONNECT.**



ONE CITY. ONE VIBE. ONE COMMUNITY.

COME OUT, SHOW LOVE & BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER!

Dues are due now! If you haven't already done so, send your check, cash or bitcoins, payable to A&T Lions Club, to Lion Ruth Sano, 26 Birch Ave, Albany, NY 12205. Do it TODAY, please! You can also send your dues via PayPal to rmsano@gmail.com (just put "dues" in the notes).



Got Yarn? Or extra fleece fabric?

If you don't need it anymore, we will turn it into hats, mittens and scarves for the needy

Warm Woolen Wishes Project



Unites people with yarn or fabric so they can help us reach our goal of 500 items by the end of 2025.

This helps us help everyone. Someone stuck at home will have materials to make cozy items. We will have those items to give to the needy. Everyone wins!

If you can help us out with yarn or fabric, let us know. We will be happy to pick it up and get it where it needs to go.

Contact the Albany & Troy Lions at ALBANYTROYLIONS@GMAIL.COM or Lion Ruth Sano at 518-859-3796









Helping Hands



Creating Comfort



Lions Service Areas

