

Rare Meat

The newsletter of the

November 2026

LIKE US ON facebook

Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

OFFICERS 2026-2027

President:
QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI

1st Vice-President:
PAUL "BATMAN" COLLINS-HACKETT

2nd Vice-President:

3rd Vice-President:
GREG SHELDON

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

ALBANY & TROY LIONS
PO BOX 192
TROY, NY 12181-0192
(518) 512-2722
info@albanytroylions.org
ALBANYTROYLIONS.ORG

Rare Meat editor:
JERRY GORDON
1JERRYGORDON@GMAIL.COM
518-235-8232

YOUR SUBMISSIONS ARE ENCOURAGED!

Report of the board meeting held on Oct 19 on line:

Opening / Member Update: It was noted that Lion Shawn is currently in the hospital. The Board sends its thoughts and well wishes for his speedy recovery.

Zone Meeting, October 28: The Board discussed the upcoming Zone Meeting on October 28 and encouraged members to attend. Members were reminded to RSVP to Logan by October 24, as noted in the October 14 email.

Fall Conference, November 14: The Board discussed the Fall Conference being held November 14 in Lake George and encouraged members who are able to to attend. *[See flyer on page 5]*

Service Carnival, November 7: The Board discussed the Service Carnival in Ballston Spa on November 7 and the opportunity to highlight and publicize the service work and accomplishments of member organizations, including Albany Victory Gardens, AVillages, Bridge Tha Gap, Collective Souls, Eden's Rose, Fond-des-Blancs Eye Clinic, Guardians of Al-Fitrah, and RED Bookshelf. Even if we don't participate, it would be useful to attend this event. *[See flyer on page 8]*

MD 20 Club Officer Training: The Board discussed the MD 20 Club Officer Training sessions referenced in the October 16 email. Board members were encouraged to complete at least one training session. *[See flyer on page 4]*

December Meeting and Holiday Party: The Board discussed the December meeting and holiday plans. It was decided that the Dec Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 14 and the holiday party will be held on **Wed, Dec 16 (save the date).** A committee (Jodi, Queen, Carmen, Maryanne) was formed to plan the details of the holiday party.

Spelling Bee Grant Applications: The Board discussed the need to begin preparing and submitting grant applications to NYS&BLF and Brandel-Murphy in support of the spelling bee. Batman will prepare and submit the applications. Grant deadlines are **Nov 5** and Jodi will proofread the applications prior to submission.

Bunny Sales: The Board discussed the upcoming bunny sales and decided not to participate in bunny sales this year.

Love Thy Neighbor Christmas Service Event: Queen reported that the Albany City Executive Office will be donating

More →

MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ADLER
MICHELLE BAKER
EVA BASS
DR. ROB BRASS
DR. ANSHU CHANDRA
PAUL "BATMAN" COLLINS-HACKETT
DOUG DAVIS
DENNIS FAGAN
DR. STEFAN FOSCO
QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI
JERRY GORDON
MARYANNE GORDON
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 SHELDON
JODI SHELDON
ERIC THOMPSON
DR. ALLEN ZIEKER

Kindness matters

1,000 insulated bags (20 boxes of bags) on November 2 in support of the club's "Love Thy Neighbor" Christmas service event. **To fill the bags, Queen has requested all able-bodied Lions to show up at 280 N. Pearl St on Friday, Dec 18 at noon.** The event is on Saturday, Dec 19, from 10AM-4PM. *[See flyer on page 6]*

Thanks to Lion Jodi for providing these meeting notes.

November meetings



Our next general meeting will be on **Wed, Nov 4**, at **5:30 PM**, at the Hub, 498 1st St (corner of Quail), Albany.

Board meetings will continue to be held on-line on the **third Monday at 7:30 PM** (Nov 16 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.***

Our deepest gratitude goes to Lion Ruth Sano, who is not only our treasurer, but also chairs a number of service projects: Little Free Libraries, used eyeglass collections, providing eyeglasses to the needy, Coats for Kids, and Warm Woolen Wishes. She provided these updates:

Little Free Libraries – Sharing the Joy of Reading!



The **Albany & Troy Lions Club** continues to keep our Little Free Libraries stocked with books for readers of all ages.

We currently maintain two* active locations:

- **577 Clinton Avenue, Albany:** Since July 1, we have added **315 books** to this library, including both English- and Spanish-language books for children and adults.
- **289 Hudson Avenue, Albany:** Since July 1, we have added **275 books** to this location. Lion Love reports that many young children in the neighborhood enjoy stopping by Wonderland to choose a new book as they walk through the neighborhood.

We're expanding! We are preparing to deliver our **third Little Free Library** to the **Kids Club Discovery Center on Whitehall Road in Albany**. This new location will initially be stocked with approximately **50 books**.

More →

Book donations are always appreciated! While children's books are especially welcome, we also receive many requests for adult books. Word search books, puzzle books, and other activity books are particularly popular and are always appreciated.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and the dedication of our volunteers, we have already placed **590 books in our two existing libraries since July 1**, with another 50 planned for our newest location.

Together, we are helping to encourage reading and making books more accessible to children and adults throughout our community.

*We've installed a Little Free Library in the park across the street from the Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club. Ruth doesn't maintain that one, but the LB&GC does, with the help of The RED Bookshelf.

We Serve – One Book at a Time!

Eyeglass Collections – Making a Difference!



Our **Albany & Troy Lions Club** has been hard at work collecting used eyeglasses throughout the community! Since **July 1, 2026**, we have collected, packaged, and shipped an impressive **4,900 pairs of eyeglasses!**

We are currently collecting from **64 different locations** throughout the area, thanks to the continued support of local businesses, organizations, and community members. **We can always use more collectors. Most sites require pickup only once every month or two—some even less frequently. Please reach out to Lion Ruth (518-859-3796 or albanytroylions@gmail.com) if you can help.**

A special thank-you goes to the **five dedicated volunteers** who help make this effort possible, including **two wonderful individuals who are not Lions members** but generously give their time to support our mission.

Every pair of glasses collected has the potential to make a difference in someone's life. It's a great example of what we can accomplish when our community works together!

We Serve!

Helping Children See a Brighter Future

This past month, the **Albany & Troy Lions Club** received requests for assistance with eye exams and eyeglasses for **five children, ranging in age from 4 to 13**.

To help meet these needs, our club provided **one voucher for LensCrafters and four vouchers for Target Optical**, allowing all five children to receive free eye exams and eyeglasses.

Helping children see clearly is an important part of our Lions' mission. We are proud to make a difference in the lives of these children and their families, one pair of glasses at a time!

Coats for Kids – Albany & Troy Lions Club

Our Albany & Troy Lions Club is once again proud to participate in the **Coats for Kids** campaign in partnership with **WTEN Channel 10**, running from October 15 through November 6, 2026.

More →

With the help of the **Saratoga Lions Club**, we are now coordinating coat pickups at **26 different dry-cleaning locations** throughout the area.

Four of our club members are currently volunteering their time to help collect the donated coats and keep this important community effort moving forward.

It's a wonderful example of Lions Clubs working together to help keep children warm this winter!

Stay tuned! A final count of the coats collected will be shared shortly.







NORTHERN NY LIONS DISTRICT 20W FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Courtyard by Marriott Lake George

365 Canada Street, Lake George NY 12845

9:00 AM Registration



Special Guest Speaker
International Director
Lion Liz Crooke

Meeting Start Time 9:30 AM

$55 per person

Includes Hot Buffet Lunch

14 NOVEMBER WORLD DIABETES DAY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- International Director Liz Crooke
- Updates on District and Club projects
- Group Diabetes Service Ideas Session

Please register by 11/5
using link below or QR code

Lodging Reservations
Lions Fall Conference room block
available @ $169/night.
Call 518-761-1150 by 10/23
for reservations.

For questions, please email the Cabinet Secretary at:
LionsDistrict20W@gmail.com

The Guardians of AL-Fitrah Presents To You.

OUR ANNUAL
"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR"
GIVEAWAY



FEATURING: THE Eden's Rose FOUNDATION · ALBANY & TROY LIONS CLUB

"WE'RE COMMITTED TO FEED, ENLIGHTEN & INSPIRE 1,000 RESIDENTS."

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2026

12PM-4PM

Idayarbough Complex
(280, 270, 260 and Small Houses)
Residents Only (I.D. Required)

Donations Are Kindly Welcome!

$GuardiansOfAlFitrah

- **FREE** FRESH PRODUCE
- **FREE** GOURMET DINNERS
- **FREE** PASTRIES & BREADS
- TOYS FOR TOTS
- **FREE** RANDOMLY SELECTED GIFT CARDS (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
- **FREE** COATS (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
- **FREE** GIFTS

Let's Celebrate Together!

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

Contact: Queen Adjei
Theguardiansofalfitrah@gmail.com

NOVEMBER IS EYE DONATION MONTH

IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE



REGISTERING AS AN EYE, ORGAN OR TISSUE DONOR IS QUICK AND EASY!

SIGN UP TODAY!

SIGN UP ONLINE

REGISTER WITH THE STATE DONOR REGISTRY AT LEBNORTHEAST.ORG

SIGN UP AT THE DMV!

SAY "YES" TO DONATION WHEN YOU RENEW YOUR LICENSE

UPDATE YOUR HEALTH APP

ADD YOUR REGISTRATION TO THE HEALTH APP ON YOUR IPHONE

LIONS EYE BANK of the Northeast

EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

EYE DONATION MONTH

2025 EYE BANKING BY THE NUMBERS



LEBNORTHEAST.ORG INFO@LEBNOTHEAST.ORG 518-489-7606


NORTHERN NY
LIONS
SERVICE
Carnival
LIONS
L
INTERNATIONAL
FREE EVENT!
TOGETHER WE SERVE.
Making a Difference in Our Communities!
NOVEMBER 7, 2026
12 PM TO 3 PM
AT THE
MILTON COMMUNITY CENTER
310 Northline Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Come and see first-hand what your local Lions Clubs do in vision screening, hunger, diabetes, education, childhood cancer and youth services.
SERVICE IN ACTION
COMMUNITY STRONG
TOGETHER WE CAN
We Serve!

LionsUSA

Something new is afoot! We all got an email a while ago from Lion Mark Lyon, the president of Lions Clubs International and of LionsUSA. It says that LionsUSA is "*an independent volunteer organization. Not affiliated with or representing Lions Clubs International.*"

This doesn't replace anything we're now doing. Instead, it brings Lions together to share ideas, celebrate success, discover practical tools, and learn from one another.

I suggest we all go back to that 10/1 email and click the link to sign up to Join the Pride!

Bring a potential member to a meeting.

Happy Birthday!

Happy **November** birthday to only one A&T Lion:

27th: Mike O'Brien

Happy Anniversary!

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

Dennis Fagan: 20 years



November is Diabetes Awareness Month

Mon, Nov 2: Learning Monday; see page 4

Wed, Nov 4: General meeting, see page 2

Sat, Nov 14: Fall Conference; see page 3

Mon, Nov 16: Board meeting; see page 2

Thu, Nov 25: Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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



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 2026.





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

Diabetes | Childhood Cancer | Disaster Relief | Environment | Humanitarian Efforts | Hunger | Vision | Youth