

Rare Meat

February 2015





Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

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YOUR SUBMISSIONS ARE ENCOURAGED!

Report of the general meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, at the Red Front

Lion Jerry introduced our visitor, Ralph Passonno. Ralph is an active volunteer with Community Gardens, and he's the one who called us several months ago to see if we'd like Amy to speak to us. He's also a past member of the Albany Lions Club, and a past president of the Troy Lions Club.



Lion Kathy introduced our guest speaker. Amy Klein is executive director Capital Roots, the organization formerly known as Capital District Community Gardens. She told us of their several initiatives to grow healthy communities: 50 **Community Gardens** in 4 counties where people can grow their own food; two **Veggie Mobiles** deliver

fresh produce to urban neighborhoods; **Healthy Stores** makes produce available in urban convenience stores; the **Taste Good Series** educates inner-city children about nutrition and food-preparation skills; **Squash Hunger** delivers excess from gardeners and farmers to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens; **Urban Greening** uses public landscaping and street tree planting to add aesthetic appeal, increase property values, reduce energy consumption and improve overall quality of life; the **Produce Project** employs underprivileged high-school students to operate a year-round urban farm and to sell its harvest. Also, they recently opened their new Urban Grow Center in a renovated 100-year-old building at 594 River St in Troy.

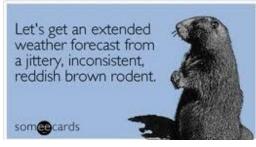
Lions Diane and Tom Hart announced that they will no longer be chairing our wreath sales. They've been doing it for almost 20 years, and the amount of work involved, coupled with other demands on their time, preclude their continuation. They will be happy to train anyone willing to take over this project, which has become one of our major fundraisers, netting us over \$900 last year.

Pam Khabananda joined the Albany Lions Club in 1992. She moved to Yonkers long before Albany and Troy merged in 2006, but she's maintained her membership, always faithfully paying her dues. She's moving back to Thailand in February and therefore resigning. Even though many of us have never met her, we wish her well.

Lion Tom's tail-twisting revealed our mixed knowledge about past presidents, and it raised \$11 for our treasury.

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>

VICKI ADLER MICHELLE BAKER JOANN BEACH DR. TED BELHUMEUR JEFF BENNETT DR. ROB BRASS CHRISTOPHER BURKE JANE CHOUINIERE **Doug Davis** MEGAN DAVIS **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** PAM KHAMBANONDA LARRY KRUG DR. DAVID LEVINE FRAN McDoal KRISTIN MCVEIGH LAURA MONA MICHAEL O'BRIEN TERRY PAGE **BOB PRATT** CAROL QUANTOCK RUTH SANO VICKIE SHAHINIAN SUE SHIPE PAUL VERGONI DR. ALLEN ZIEKER



Report of the board meetings held on Wednesday, January 21, at the Route 7 Diner

We didn't quite have a quorum. Lions Carol and Laura have flu-like symptoms; we hope they're better soon.

Lion Paul raised the issue of a dues increase. He noted that we keep only \$5 of the \$70 that we collect. The consensus was that there was no real need to raise the dues now; there was some concern that an

increase might cost us both existing and new members. Because we didn't have a quorum, we took an email vote after the meeting to confirm this.

We don't have an exact count on the number of toys we donated to CEO for their drive last month, but they were pleased with the several cartons. Lion Jerry was the only Lion to spend an afternoon helping with the distribution.

The 90th anniversary committee (Mike, Laura, Jerry, Maryanne) hasn't had a chance to meet, but Jerry and Maryanne feel that the best way to get a good turnout is to hold the event on a Friday (rather than Wednesday, when many other clubs also meet), and get a good speaker. Accordingly, we have consulted with DG Marianne and PDG Steve about getting Past International Pres Al Brandel here. He says, "I do want to participate if at all possible," but he won't know his schedule until this summer. This means it might be a challenge planning a September event, but the consensus was that it's worth the wait. An email vote after the meeting confirmed this decision.

We will need volunteers for the blood drive on March 2 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick St. [See page 3] Seal campaign donations continue to trickle in. We are now up to a respectable \$1105.

Paul's committee (Tom, Diane and Fran) has been considering whether we should continue our Klingaman award. For a number of reasons, they recommend that we discontinue this program. Those at the meeting agreed with this conclusion, and it was confirmed in an email vote after the meeting.

Lion Maryanne reported that she has given out two vouchers to kids and one to an adult since the last board meeting.

We had approved a hearing aid applicant last month. We sent a check to Madison Hearing, but they apparently failed to pass it on to LCI; we're still trying to sort it out. Lesson learned: we should continue to send the check to Madison (or whoever), but it should be payable to LCI.

Last month, we donated reading glasses to an ophthalmology class at Albany Med for a vision screening at Capital City Rescue Mission. We got a phone call from the Mission to tell us of their extreme gratitude. For details, see the "Vision Screening..." story on page 3.



Bring a potential member to a meeting

Our next meeting ...

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, February 4**, at the Red Front. Our speaker will be **Barbara Martin** from the Saratoga Springs Lions Club. She will tell us all about CampAbilities.

We want to call the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, so please try to be there by 5:45. That will give you time to place your dinner order and enjoy a bit of camaraderie before we start.



Vision screening at Capital City Rescue Mission

Dr Sai Gandham is with the Lions Eye Institute. We were approached by one of his MD students on behalf of his ophthalmology class at Albany Medical College. They will be holding a vision screening clinic at the Capital City Rescue Mission in Albany, and they would like us to provide eyeglasses for those in need – possibly as many as 50 people. Because of the difficulty of getting these folks to LensCrafters, who usually provides our glasses, they decided that reading glasses would probably suffice, and they have found a relatively inexpensive source. We voted to donate \$244 to purchase 244 pairs of reading glasses in assorted strengths. Any left-over glasses will be used at future clinics.

Here's the report on the clinic, which was held on Jan 17, from Alyssa Hermann, the doctoral student we worked with: "On Saturday we held the Vision Screening Clinic, and it was a huge success!! Our group wanted to thank you again for your generous donation!! We saw over 40 patients and gave away nearly that many reading glasses. I need to go back and collect the total stats from the clinic after my next test. We had 11 follow up referrals to Dr. Gandham for glaucoma and other ocular diseases. The optometrist wrote about 10 prescriptions for distances glasses. This was a great experience for our students as well. They were able to learn how to do visual acuity tests and assist with eye exams! I've attached pictures from the event." (See our Facebook page for more photos.)



KidSight

Kathryn always appreciates our help on KidSight vision screenings, but I don't have her February schedule yet. I'll let you know as soon as I know what she needs.

Buying on line...

If you're planning on making a purchase at amazon.com, do it from **SMILE.AMAZON.COM** instead. You can specify Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) as your charity of choice, and they'll get 0.5% of your purchase price.



Our next **BLOOD DRIVE** will be **Monday, March 2, from 1-6 PM** at the **Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick Street.** We need volunteers:

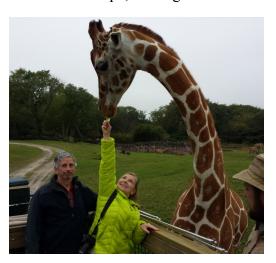
- To work at the registration desk and the canteen at the drive,
- And to donate blood.

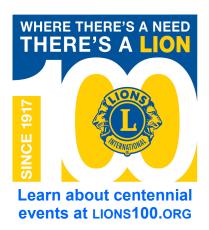
If you can do either or both of these, please sign up with KL Carol at **cquantoc@nycap.rr.com** or **664-3901**.

On a personal note ...

While we have all been enjoying the brisk weather here in the great northeast, poor Lion Ruth and Bob have had to suffer through the monotony of boring sunshine in Vero Beach, Florida. It looks like Ruth also got a chance to feed the fauna at Busch Gardens in Tampa, although she was barely up to the task.







Happy Birthday!

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

5th - Dave Levine 22nd - Mike Farrell



Happy Anniversary!

None of our members was inducted in February

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3	5:45pm:	5	6	7
			Meeting at Red			
			Front; see p 2			
8	9	10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	6pm: Board	19	20	21
	0		meeting at Rte			
			7 Diner.			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	For other events around the district, visit 20Y2Lions.org					