



Rare Meat

October 2016



The newsletter of the
Albany & Troy Lions Club

Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

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**YOUR SUBMISSIONS
ARE ENCOURAGED!**



Report of the meetings held on Wednesday, September 7, at the Red Front (Board meetings are now held right after the general meeting)

GENERAL MEETING

Lion Jerry introduced our visitors: Potential Lions John and Michele Bianco, Keith Woodard and JJ Stone, our guest speaker Megan Martucci and her father, Joe.

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program was started in 1958 by "Wyatt Earp." (Coincidentally, Mr. O'Brian just passed away on Sept 5 at age 91.) We've been sponsoring high-school sophomores to be HOBY Ambassadors for a number of years, and we always say we should get our sponsoree to be a speaker. We finally did. Megan Martucci is going into her junior year at Academy of the Holy Names, and she told us about her experience. The seminar was held at Oneonta College last June, and she found it to be exciting and inspirational. She learned much to enhance her leadership and community-service skills and strongly suggests that we continue to sponsor a sophomore every year.



Megan, KL Chris & Sec Jerry

BOARD MEETINGS

Lion Elena reported by email that she approached both Mary Jane Books and Barnes & Noble about 1/2-off gift certificates as a fundraiser.

Lion Carol noted that we have a blood drive this coming Monday at the EG Library.

MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ADLER

MICHELLE BAKER

JOANN BEACH

JEFF BENNETT

JOHN BIANCO

MICHELE BIANCO

DR. ROB BRASS

CHRISTOPHER BURKE

JANE CHOUINIERE

DOUG DAVIS

URSULA DESSINGUE

KATHY DORN

DENNIS FAGAN

MIKE FARRELL

JERRY GORDON

MARYANNE GORDON

PDG DAVE HARRIS

DR. VICI HARRIS

DIANE BURKE HART

TOM HART

ELAINE HAYNER

CHRIS HORAN

LARRY KRUG

DR. DAVID LEVINE

FRAN MCDOAL

KRISTIN McVEIGH

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

TERRY PAGE

CAROL QUANTOCK

RUTH SANO

VICKIE SHAHINIEN

SUE SHIPE

PAUL VERGONI

ELENA WATSON

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER

John and Michele Bianco submitted their membership applications and check at the general meeting. At the board meeting, we voted to welcome them into the club.

We discussed an email we got from Regeneron, the pharmaceutical company in Rensselaer, in which they asked whether we wanted to participate in their “Week of Service” campaign. It was unclear just what they were offering, so we decided Jerry would follow up and get more info. [In emails over the following week, we found out that they will be helping the Sight Society sort glasses. Tom didn’t think we needed them for that, but we did sign up to participate in their recognition day in April, 2017; we can set up a table to show their employees what we have to offer,]

Lion Larry noted that we received a direct-deposit of \$15+ from Amazon as a result of folks specifying us as their charity of choice on purchases from smile.amazon.com.

Lion Maryanne gave out two eyeglass vouchers in the past month, one each for a child and adult. There were no hearing-aid requests, but we did get a nice thank-you card from our last HA recipient.

We had an email request from an EAP Coordinator in the NYS Comptroller’s Office to help one of their employees get a prosthetic eye. Her insurance will cover only 50%, and the remaining \$1500 will be a financial strain for her. We have sent her our aid-request application so that we can more thoroughly review her situation.

We discussed an email we received from ARC of Rensselaer County, in which they requested toiletries and men’s clothing to help out the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless and their Sheridan Hollow Drop-In Center in Albany. We decided that we would make an appeal to all through the next issue of *Rare Meat*. [See page 3.]

We discussed an email we received from Freely Clothing, an on-line retailer that dedicates 10% of their sales to “giving back to the community.” The first recipient of their \$1000 grant is a 12-year-old girl who wants to upgrade the children’s playground at Brotherhood Park in Watervliet. The total cost of the project is \$8400. We voted to donate \$500 and pursue a matching grant from the New York State & Bermuda Lions Foundation. [See page 5 for the full story.]



Ekarrri kide bat potentziala bilera batera

If we keep repeating “Bring a potential member to a meeting,” it will soon become old hat. So as part of your continuing education and to keep the thought fresh, we’ll say it in a different language each month. This is Basque.



Our next meeting ...

Our next general membership meeting is **Wednesday, October 5**, at the Red Front Restaurant. Our speaker will be PDG Ed Stano, who will speak to us on Lions centennial projects and on membership. He will also be inducting our newest members, John and Michele Bianco. Be there if you can.

We call the meeting to order at 6:00, but please try to be there by 5:45 so you can place your dinner order and have a few minutes to socialize. The restaurant likes a head count, so please let Lion Jerry know (235-8232 or jerrygordon@juno.com) whether you'll be there. Telling Jerry your intentions will be one less phone call that Lion Mike has to make.

If you're a board member, remember that we now hold the board meetings immediately after the general meeting, so be prepared to stay for another hour, more or less.

Low-Vision Tech Fair

On Thursday, October 19, NABA is holding their annual Low-Vision Technology Fair. We need folks to sit at the information table we will have there. Lion Jerry will set it up and work from 9-11:20. We need two more volunteers for 11:20-1:40 and 1:40-4:00.

Toiletries and Men's Clothing

We're collecting toiletries and gently-used men's clothing, including T-shirts and underwear, for the Clothing Pantry at the Sheridan Hollow Drop-In Center in Albany. The toiletries should be the personal-size items that many of us accumulate from our various hotel stays. If you've got any suitable items, please bring them to our October meeting. If you're not going to be at that meeting, please contact Bethany Schaff at ARC of Rensselaer County (W: 274-9232 x 3211, C: 390-7147 or bschaff@renarc.org) and arrange some mutually convenient time for you to get the stuff to her, or for her to pick it up from you.

KidSight

Kathryn Miklowitz, NABA's RN who conducts their KidSight vision screenings of pre-schoolers, always appreciates our help. They're usually at 9 or 9:30 a.m. and last an hour or two. If you'd like to sign up for one or more, please contact Kathryn at C: 915-4722 or mickeyskat@gmail.com for time and address details.

The October schedule in our service area:

Wed 10/5—Rensselaer CEO

Mon 10/24—New Scotland School, Albany

Wed 10/26—School 12 in Troy

2016 Low Vision Technology Fair

Presented by

NABA
Northeastern Association
of the Blind at Albany

www.naba-vision.org

DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2016

TIME: 9am - 4pm

LOCATION: St. Sophia's Greek
Orthodox Church
440 Whitehall Road, Albany, NY



DIRECTIONS:

<http://mapq.st/1hK3AEF>

FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

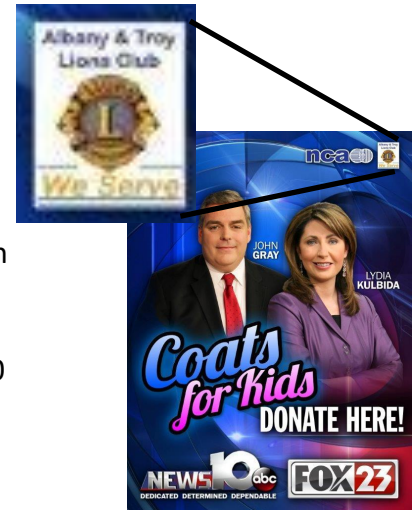
- The latest in low vision technologies for reading, computers & adaptive vision aids
- Medical expert speakers present the latest in eye disease research & treatments
- Adaptive living experts on living successfully with low vision, vision rehabilitation therapy and *more!*
- Door prizes & light refreshments!



Coats for Kids

It's that time of year again, folks. The Coats for Kids campaign will run from Columbus Day to Veterans Day (although it often runs a little longer). I'll be getting a detailed email out to everyone soon, but it looks like the list of cleaners is the same as in previous years.

For those who are new to us or have a very short memory: In conjunction with WXXA/WTEN, 10 dry-cleaners in Albany and Troy have agreed to accept donated kid's coats and clean them for free. Our job is to pick them up from the cleaners and deliver them to one of three distribution points. We need 10 volunteers, one for each cleaner. Past experience shows that one or two trips per cleaner is generally sufficient.



Blood Drive

Thanks to Lions Paul Vergoni, Maryanne & Jerry Gordon for working at the blood drive at the East Greenbush Library on Sept 12, and to Lion Carol for making all the arrangements. We ended up with 2 first-time donors and 26 units of blood were collected, which is enough to potentially save 78 lives.

Help Found ...

Fund-Raising: New Lion John Bianco has volunteered to work with Lion Fran on this important committee. It's not their job to actually raise funds - we want the committee to find fund-raising activities that the rest of us can work on. We're looking forward to what they come up with.

We're up to 6!

That's how many from our club are going to LCI's 100th Annual Convention from June 30 to July 4, 2017. If you've never been to an international convention, or even if you have, give some serious thought to attending this one. So far, PDG Dave Harris, Lion Ruth Sano and PIS Bob, Lions Maryanne & Jerry Gordon and relatively new Lion Elena Watson have made reservations. (FYI: Albany to Chicago is about a 2-hour flight, a 13-hour car ride or a 16-hour overnight train ride.)



Registration forms and information are available at tinyurl.com/LCI100th. Why you should sign up now:

1. The \$130 registration fee goes up to \$180 on January 14, 2017, and to \$200 after March 31.
2. The sooner you register, the better your chances of getting into the Hyatt Regency Chicago, the hotel for NYS delegates.

Buying on line...

If you're planning on making a purchase at amazon.com, do it from **SMILE.AMAZON.COM** instead. You can specify **ALBANY AND TROY LIONS** as your charity of choice, and we'll get 0.5% of whatever you spend, at no cost to you.



The Playground Update Project

Tara Burke founded FreelyClothing.com as an on-line retailer of inspirational T-shirts. 10% of all sales are dedicated to a giving-back project. All customers are encouraged to enter their contest by answering the question, "What would you do if you could give freely?" A winner is selected a few times a year and is given up to \$1000 towards their project. Their goal is to have a winner every month.

The first contest winner is 12-year-old Sophia Shark, whose winning entry was, "If I could give freely I would give an appropriate playground to my community so kids like my brothers and their little friends could have fun and be safe." They will be buying a bright red commercial playset and rubber mulch for Brotherhood Park in Watervliet. [References: www.freelyclothing.com/pages/donate-sophias-new-playground-idea and wnyt.com/news/watervliet-girl-sophia-shark-on-crusade-to-beautify-playground/4250055/]

The playset is \$7500 and the rubber mulch (to replace the old wood chips) is \$900, for a total cost of \$8400. The installation supervision and tools will be donated by Pettinelli & Associates (the playset vendor), and they'll be looking for 10 community volunteers to do the actual assembly and installation in the spring of 2017, as soon as the weather allows. Since this worthwhile project meets the Lions' goals of serving children and serving their community, a good portion of the required funds will come from the Albany & Troy Lions Club with a matching grant from the New York State & Bermuda Lions Foundation. Donations are needed toward the balance, which is \$3300 as of 9/20.



PDG Dave Harris has lived in Watervliet all his life. When asked if he was familiar with this park, he said, "I am very familiar with Brotherhood Park. It was used for outside PE classes when I attended School 9 Elementary School, so it is very old. The most recent but also old feature is a baseball diamond and there is an old broken court for basketball (pickup-games and practice for older youth), both of which are still used. There is, however, nothing for younger children, which this project is aimed to address."

If the project is not completed, children of Watervliet will not have a safe and age-appropriate outlet for outdoor play. Currently there are only 8 out-of-shape swings and a small slide at Brotherhood Park. The number of children who come to use the park far outnumber available equipment. The playground, which was intended for 5-12 year-olds, has since become a teenage hangout. Local residents have had concerns about broken glass on the ground and graffiti on the equipment. In addition to this, the wood chip surfacing and underlying matting has become a falling hazard. Since the playground isn't that enticing to local parents, they have to travel to surrounding towns for their kids to play. Sophia, the Watervliet resident who initiated this project, doesn't want to see families leaving her area to find fun and safe places to play. Instead, she wishes they'd come together as a whole and build a playground her entire community can take pride in.

You can help by making a donation. Checks should be payable to the ALBANY & TROY LIONS CHARITABLE FUND, with "Playground project" on the memo line. Mail it to **Albany & Troy Lions, PO Box 192, Troy, NY 12181-0192**. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, so all donations are tax-deductible and should be eligible for any matching-gift program.

On a personal note ...

PDG Dave is recovering from recent (9/23) carotid-artery surgery. He says it was worse than his open-heart operation some years back. He'll be out of commission for 2 or 3 weeks, but we're looking forward to his return.

Happy Birthday!

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

6th—Dennis Fagan
24th—Fran McDoal
28th—John Bianco



Happy Anniversary!

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

Jerry Gordon—25 years
Larry Krug—37 years
Paul Vergoni—37 years

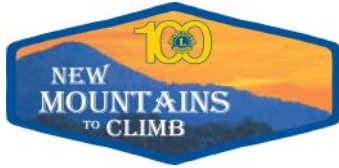
October 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Meeting at the Red Front; see page 3.	6 Shop at Talbot's & help NABA; see p 8	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 NABA's Low-Vision Tech Fair; see p 3.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	31 Halloween					



For other events around the district, visit 20Y2Lions.org

Visit your club's web site: **ALBANYTROYLIONS.ORG**
your district web site: **20Y2LIONS.ORG**
International's web site: **LIONSCLUBS.ORG**
and LCI's centennial site: **LIONS100.ORG**

District Governor James Griffith presented his vision for our district at the cabinet meeting on September 17:



**Lions Clubs International
District 20-Y2
2016-2017**



Balanced Scorecard Mission Statement

Membership Satisfaction

Fortify the **"We Serve"** atmosphere with programs that relate to our goals and mission of Lions Clubs International. We will mentor and develop new and eager Lions with praise and specific plans for improvement. And last, we will reward members with well-thought-out merit and recognition. As a result of high quality support services from our committee, region and zone chairs, and effective policies and procedures, we will be able to serve our communities so that we create value, loyalty and satisfaction amongst our members.

Community Satisfaction

By creating a culture in which member satisfaction and loyalty is high we will directly impact Community Satisfaction. Ultimately, we need to sharpen our focus on **"We Serve"** efforts to ensure the community is satisfied with clubs' efforts and attempts to assist. Clubs should diligently be focused on LCI's Centennial Service Challenge and Legacy Projects to strengthen Lions presence in the community.

Service Activities

After establishing community needs and garnering support, our clubs will continue to define proactive service activities tailored to the aforementioned. Whether a fundraiser, an awareness campaign or advocacy for a special needs project, our clubs will serve with **"Dignity, Harmony and Humanity"** as we strive to be the answer for resolve in our communities.

Membership

Through collaborative service with our communities, we will gain awareness for our clubs and assist in promoting membership. We will focus on developing services in communities where we are not and continue focus in the communities where we already are. We will continue to seek out qualified leaders for our district and continue to **"Strengthen the Pride."**



TALBOTS

Share the
FUN *& make a*
DIFFERENCE

Talbots and Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany
invite you to shop for modern classic
Fall styles and enjoy light refreshments

*10% of pre-tax sales will be donated to
Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany in Albany, New York
a 501(c)(3) not for-profit organization (the "Charity")*

Stuyvesant Plaza
1475 Western Avenue
Albany, NY

RSVP to Michele Puleo O'Hare at
518-463-1211 ext. 241

Thursday, October 6th
4:00–7:00 P.M.

NABA

Northeastern Association
of the Blind at Albany

518-463-1211

www.naba-vision.org

Talbots will donate 10% of pre-tax sales on all merchandise purchases made
by customers at the Talbots store during the event for the Charity.
Talbots is not affiliated with, sponsored or endorsed by the Charity.