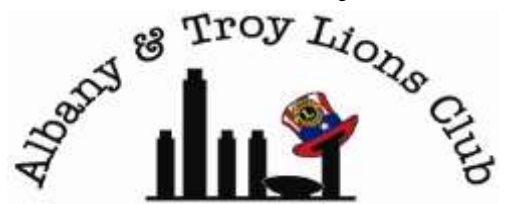




Rare Meat

The newsletter of the



January 2025



Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

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YOUR SUBMISSIONS
ARE ENCOURAGED!

December 4 found about 30 Lions, Leos and guests joyfully gathered at Margarita City for our annual holiday party. Our gratitude goes to **Lion Maryanne** for orchestrating the games and ensuring that a good time was had by all.



Lions Maryanne & Jerry presented **Lion Queen** with a little gift for resurrecting our Leo Club (new Leos above and below).



The **Sheldons** got a Lions clock that had belonged to PDG Dave Harris, who brought Greg to us. Scarlett and Kahlo got something just for being cute kids. (Where's Greg?)

MEMBERSHIP

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SUE SHIPE

MIKE SUSKE

CHLOE TARLEN

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER

One more picture →





JoDee Kenney, Spectrum News Anchor, was there because her daughter, a new Leo, was away at school. Her husband Donovan is on her right. On her left is Paul "Batman" Collins-Hackett, executive director of The RED Bookshelf and active in other area non-profits. With a little bit of luck, we'll get one or two of them (dare we hope for three?) to become A&T Lions.

Our next meetings and our new home:



Our next meeting will be on **Jan 8** at our new home: Margarita City! Note that this is the second Wed. **We want to start the meeting promptly at 5:30 PM, so try to get there by 5:15!** Please let Lion Jerry know (518-235-8232 or jerrygordon@juno.com) whether you'll be there.

We held an email vote over the last few weeks and as a result, we're going to try meeting in the back room at **Margarita City**, 1118 Central Ave at Osborne Rd, Colonie. It's easy to get to, it's on a bus line and has plenty of parking. The menu is Mexican and Peruvian, but with enough items that aren't typical "Mexican." The food and service are very good, the prices are reasonable, there's no charge for the room, they'll give us separate checks, and they have a place to store our paraphernalia. What more could we ask for?



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 518-235-8232 or jerrygordon@juno.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.

Happy Birthday!

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

14th: Davia Gaddy
25th: Rob Brass



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Lions Anniversary to no **January** inductees

Mark Your Calendar



November is Hunger Awareness Month and Glaucoma Awareness Month

Tue, Jan 7: Orthodox Christmas

Wed, Jan 8: General + Board meetings; see above

Fri, Jan 13: Melvin Jones's birthday; see page 4

Mon, Jan 20: Martin Luther King Day

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

Little Free Library

On December 19, we installed a little free library at the park across the street from the Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club. Troy Mayor Carmella Mantello (just to the left of the library in the picture below) made some nice remarks, as did King Lion Jodi. Also present were Jimmy Bulmer, ED of the Lansingburgh B & G Club, and Victor Patterson, Youth Services Specialist for the City of Troy, as well as other Lions. Special thanks to Bob Sano, Ruth's PiS, for constructing the library.



Lions Eva, Ruth, Jodi, Maryanne & Jerry



The Lions International Convention is **Sunday, July 13-Thursday, July 17, 2025.**

If you've never been to an international convention, you're missing one of the highlights of the Lions year. You can connect with Lions and Leos from all over the world and build friendships that last a lifetime. You will hear from hundreds of Lion leaders and speakers who will present their ideas and inspire you to even greater levels of service to help you make the most of your Lion experience. Convention is where we celebrate the incredible work of Lions and Leos around the globe. And you can enjoy fantastic attractions, lively cuisine, trendy shopping and iconic theme parks in one of America's truly magical cities.

Here's why you should sign up now: If you register by March 1, the registration fee is \$190 (reg only; doesn't include lodging).

If you wait until March 2-July 10, it's \$265.

And if you wait until the last minute (July 10-July 17), it's \$340.

Visit this website for answers to all your questions: <https://lionscon.lionsclubs.org/>

The Melvin Jones Story

Melvin Jones was a dreamer, a doer and a pragmatist. He was an energetic, extroverted salesman who in private hours would reread Shakespeare. What better man to found the world's largest association of service clubs?

The Lions International Board of Directors officially designated Jones as the founder of Lions Clubs in 1958—more than four decades after Lions Clubs held its first meeting. But, no matter what his official title, Jones' impact on the Lions has been far-reaching. He provided the leadership, the organizational ability, the tenacity and the muscle necessary to establish the foundation for Lions Clubs International to become what it is today.

Jones was born on Jan. 13, 1879, at Fort Thomas, Arizona, a remote U.S. Army cavalry post where his father was a scout for the Army. At age 7, Jones' family moved east and settled in Illinois. Gifted with a fine tenor voice, he considered making his career in music. Instead, he became an insurance salesman.

By 1913, Jones had formed his own insurance agency in Chicago. When he joined a networking luncheon club for businessmen in Chicago called the Business Circle, he quickly took the lead in recruiting new members and persuading backsliders to rejoin. But something about the club's business-only focus didn't square with Jones' different, larger vision.

"What if these men who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" Jones asked. He saw a new kind of club with the desire to help others.

As Business Club secretary, Jones, with help from his wife—the championship golfer Rose Amanda Freeman—wrote scores of letters to clubs nationwide inviting them to take up his idea for a service-centered organization. Businessmen interested in membership convened in Chicago, Illinois, and on June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born.

Later that year, at Lions' inaugural convention in Dallas, Texas, Jones was elected secretary-treasurer, a title he would hold for many years. Eventually, the board bestowed upon Jones the title of secretary general for life.

Jones was a prolific writer who could be clear and forceful on some occasions, and sentimental the next. His hand can be seen in founding documents like the Lions Clubs Objects and Code of Ethics. His columns in LION Magazine, which are still quoted today, helped articulate the organization's principles and values.

He also loved aphorisms. Never one to sugarcoat the truth, Jones had one favorite saying neatly framed in his office: "Truth and roses have thorns about them."

Jones gave up the insurance business in 1926 to become Lions' de facto CEO and global goodwill ambassador. He played both roles brilliantly—building and managing an expanding headquarters operation and traveling constantly for club visits and speaking engagements. The pace never stopped.

Let's Celebrate Melvin Jones' 146th Birthday

In honor of Lions International's founder, Melvin Jones, your LCIF District Coordinator PDG Ricky Laurin is asking each and every Lion in 20W to make a minimum donation of \$14.60 and each and every club to donate a minimum of \$146 to mark the occasion of his 146th birthday.

Some districts may be offering special incentives for those who participate in this celebration, so please check with your District Coordinator (listed above).

Let's get this party started!



Lions Seal Campaign



Seal campaign letters went out early in December, and you all got one. As of this writing, we've added \$1225 to our charitable fund. It's not too late to be a contributor.



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

Helping Hands



Creating Comfort



Unites people with yarn or fabric so they can help us reach our goal of 1000 items by the end of 2024.

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

