



# Rare Meat

The newsletter of the

November 2025



*Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925*

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**THIS COULD BE YOU!**

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EVA BASS

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JODI SHELTON

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**YOUR SUBMISSIONS  
ARE ENCOURAGED!**

**For various personal reasons**, there was no October *Rare Meat*. Maybe you noticed its absence. I apologize for that, but I'm making it up with an especially large November issue. We'll start off with reports of the Sept & Oct meetings, then lots of pics from the great 100th anniversary celebration, and then some other important stuff. Here we go ...

## **Report of the general meeting held on Wed, Sep 3, at Margarita City**

On Sunday, Sept 29 (and the last Sunday of every month), Queen will be combining our Leos with her Guardians of Al-Fitrah to feed the homeless and addicted of our community. The event will be in the old DMV parking lot across from Capital Mission in Albany. She expects to feed about 100 people.

Jodi and Ruth agreed to sit at the sign-in table at our 100<sup>th</sup> banquet.

Queen proposed that we get involved with the 7th Annual CNYS Black Expo, which will be at Empire State Plaza on Nov 15. We will have an information table, and we agreed to donate \$1000 to the scholarship fund.

## **Report of the board meeting held on Wed, Sep 22, on Google.Meet**

RE the 2026 Spelling Bee: Jerry reported that our matching grant application for \$2500 to the New York State & Bermuda Lions Foundation had been approved for submittal. Our matching grant application for \$1250 to the Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation does not require cabinet approval; we should send it in ASAP.

Ruth reported that she had 3 requests for glasses, which were being filled by LensCrafters.

She also reported that we have stocked the Lions Free Library at the HIVE with over 500 books and 45 pairs of reading glasses in the year it's been there.

Queen is planning a major event to feed over 350 families at the Ida Yarborough apartments on Dec 20. This Sunday, 9/28, her Guardians and the Leos will be giving out meals and fresh produce across from the Rescue Mission.

In October, Batman will be showing the movie "The Right to Read" at the South End Children's café. In November, he'll be delivering turkeys. In December, they'll be doing Toys for Tots.

## MEMBERSHIP

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EVA BASS

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IDGE

DR. ROB BRASS

PAUL "BATMAN" COLLINS  
-HACKETT

DOUG DAVIS

DENNIS FAGAN

DR. STEFAN FOSCO

DAVIA GADDY

QUEEN GHAFAR-ADJEI

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MARYANNE GORDON

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DR. VICI HARRIS

CHRIS HORAN

LARRY KRUG

DR. DAVID LEVINE

KRISTIN McVEIGH

NIKKI MILTON

SHAWN NEWTON

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

RUTH SANO

RICH SCHMIDT

GREG SHELTON

JODI SHELTON

SUE SHIPE

ERIC THOMPSON

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER



### **Report of the general meeting held on Wed, Oct 1, at Margarita City**

Our guests were Niyra Pulinario; her daughter Angelica Bolta, who is a Leo; Youssry Salama; and James Losey, also a Leo. They all worked last Sunday on Queen's monthly feeding of the homeless and addicted of our community, as did Lions Ruth, Jodi and Greg. The event was in the old DMV parking lot across from Capital Mission in Albany. They fed over 100 people.

Queen had spent the previous night doing all the cooking for the event. Angelica volunteered to cook in the future, and Batman mentioned the availability of a commercial kitchen. James agreed to work on outreach and promotion.

By phone, Queen proposed a 3-way partnership of the Sheldons' Produce Pickup Project, her Guardians of Al-Fitrah, and the Lions/Leos. She requested the purchase of two 10x10 Lions- and Leo-branded pop-up tents, 4 folding tables, and 4 Lions tablecloths. We approved a motion to proceed with the purchase at a cost not to exceed \$2500. During the discussion, we recognized the need for a storage facility, not only for this equipment, but also for our existing (and growing) collection of bells, banners, historical documents like our charter and old photos, as well as miscellaneous paraphernalia. We tabled the storage discussion for a later time.

We discussed the Spelling Bee and its value, not only as a youth-related project but as a way to generate Lions PR within the broader community. Perhaps we can get other clubs in the 20W to spread participation in our Bee into their local schools, where they may already have contacts via vision screenings, the peace-poster contest or Lions Quest. There is interest in getting other Districts throughout the Multiple.

### **Report of the board meeting held on Wed, Oct 20, on Google.Meet**

Margarita City does not want to house our paraphernalia that we need for meetings (banners, bells, flags, etc), so we discussed other possible locations. Among the suggestions: Metro 7 Diner in Latham, Westgate Diner in Albany, Iron Gate Café in Albany, and a return to the Red Front in Troy. Ruth proposed holding our holiday party (Dec 3) at the Red Front. We also discussed having non-meal meetings at someplace like a meeting room in a library. Because of the limited attendance at this meeting, we came to no conclusion. We will hold our Nov 5 general meeting at Margarita City, where we will discuss it further, hopefully with input from more members.

Queen held another very successful feeding of the homeless last Sunday (Oct 19). With the help of the Leos, they fed 167 men, women and children. Crew photo to the right →



### **Our Nov and Dec meetings:**

**Wed, Nov 5:** General meeting at Margarita City at **6:30PM**. Two major topics of discussion:

- A. Moving forward on a vision-screening program. Our guest will be Patty Murphy, Cab Sec and VP of Duane Lions Club and chair of Duane's 10-yr-old successful screening program. See more on p 7.
- B. Other possible meeting places. See 10/20 report above.

**Mon, Nov 17:** Board meeting on Google.Meet at **7:30PM**. Watch for link

**Wed, Dec. 3:** Holiday party! Watch for details to follow

**Mon, Dec 15:** Board meeting on Google.Meet at **7:30PM**. Watch for link



**Bring a potential member to a meeting.**



**Our 100th Anniversary Celebration** was a great event. Sadly, only a dozen A&T Lions showed up, but between Saratoga Springs, other clubs around the district and visiting dignitaries, there were about 175 attendees in all. The live Dixieland jazz band welcomed everyone with era-appropriate music and the folks in '20s dress added to the festive air. Among the evening's highlights: The presentation of International President's Certificates of Appreciation to Lions **Michael O'Brien**, **Ruth Sano** and **Maryanne Gordon** by PID Anthony Paradiso on behalf of International Pres A.P. Singh.





Dave Lambert's Ragtime Windjammers + 1



Lion Ruth Sano and PiS Bob



Lions Jodi & Greg Sheldon



DG Barbara Bentley and  
PDG John McDonald



PDGs Lettie Saheim and Joan Scott



**Lions Paul "Batman" Collins-Hackett, Greg & Jodi Sheldon, Tyhisha "Queen" Ghaffar-Adjei and Eric Thompson**

**PiS Nancy and Lion Dr Allen Zieker**





**The Keynote Speakers: Past International Director Gary Brown and Keller Johnson-Thompson, Helen Keller's great-grand niece.**

**The awardees get what they deserve. The presentation of IP's Certificates of Appreciation to Lions Michael O'Brien, Ruth Sano and Maryanne Gordon by PID Anthony Paradiso (in the white jacket).**



**Lions SEE needs you!**

The mission of Lions SEE, Inc. (Screening Eyes Early) is to reduce childhood blindness in New York State through early detection and treatment of common vision disorders that cause amblyopia, so every child can see their future clearly.



**Vision screening for children is at the heart of the Lions' mission.** Since NABA's screener retired, screenings are only being done part-time, which means there is a growing need for help. Our club wants to support this important program, but before investing \$8,000 in a screening camera, we need to be sure there are enough volunteers to conduct the screenings.

We are seeking three types of volunteers:

- **Screeners:** Must be certified; see the blue box below.
- **Assistants:** No certification needed. NOTE: Assistants don't have to be Lions. It can be anyone from the community who has a few hours once (or more) a month to do some very worthwhile volunteer work
- **Administrators:** One or two people to handle scheduling and paperwork.

Screenings typically take place in kindergartens, elementary schools, preschools, or daycare centers and generally last 1–3 hours. Would you consider volunteering for one or two screenings each month? It's a meaningful way to contribute a morning or two to a good cause. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact Jerry by text, email, or phone ([1jerrygordon@gmail.com](mailto:1jerrygordon@gmail.com) or 518–366-5299). If you're interested in being a screener, see below for certification details.

So far, one of the few Lions to step forward is Dr. Allen Zieker. During his first 25 years as a Lion, he focused on his ophthalmology practice and couldn't participate much, but we greatly appreciate his ongoing support. Now retired, Dr. Zieker regularly attends meetings and has signed up for screenings. You can make a difference too.

**Becoming a Certified Eye Screener**

You don't have to do this all in one sitting. Spread it out over whatever time period fits your schedule and lifestyle. Here's how to become a certified eye screener:

Go to [LionsKidSightUSA.org](http://LionsKidSightUSA.org). At the top of the page, click on GET CERTIFIED. Scroll down a bit and click on the **Lions KidSight Training Manual**. You can read the 16-page manual on line, but I suggest you also print it. It's got info you'll want to refer to later (unless you've got an excellent memory!).

Then, just above the manual, click on **LION'S KIDSIGHT USA TRAINING VIDEOS HERE**. Watch the first three videos (about 45 minutes total). These will give you an overview of the KidSight program and an understanding of why we're doing it. The second video especially will provide the technical stuff you need to know.

When you're ready to take the screener exam, click on **Sign In here**, just below the training manual. Sign in using username = **newyork** and password = **KidUSA**. You'll also need your Lions member number, which is listed on the club roster or is available from Lion Jerry. At some point *after* taking the exam, you will receive a personalized **Certificate** via email. You are welcome to print additional copies, to show schools that you and your team are truly qualified.

## 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](mailto: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. **This project earned us \$177 last year, but with greater participation, it could be a lot more.**

## Fall Conference

This year's Fall Conference is on Saturday, Nov 8, at the Courtyard Marriott Lake George (see page 10). The RSVP date is Thurs, Oct 30 (although I'm sure late responses will be accepted). Highlights will include:

- An inspiring talk by Intl Director David Wineman
- Presentations by several clubs of their most successful service projects
- A presentation about diabetes alert dogs.

All Lions are encouraged to attend

### Happy Birthday!

Happy **Oct & Nov** birthday to these A&T Lions:

10/6: Dennis Fagan  
10/9: Nikki Milton  
11/27: Michael O'Brien



### Happy Anniversary!

Happy Lions Anniversary to these **Oct & Nov** inductees:

Jerry Gordon: 34 years (Oct)  
Larry Krug: 46 years (Oct)  
Dennis Fagan: 19 years (Nov)

### Mark Your Calendar



Wed, Nov 5: Lions Club meeting; see page 2

Sat, Nov 8: Fall conference & 20W cabinet meeting, see page 10

Mon, Nov 17: Lions BoD meeting; see page 2

Thu, Nov 27: Thanksgiving

Wed, Dec 3: Holiday Party - watch for details

*For other events around the district, visit [20WLions.org](http://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

**Helping Hands**



**Creating Comfort**



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](mailto:ALBANYTROYLIONS@GMAIL.COM)  
or Lion Ruth Sano at 518-859-3796





## NORTHERN NY LIONS DISTRICT 20-W FALL CONFERENCE



**Saturday, November 8, 2025**

**Courtyard Marriott Lake George**  
365 Canada Street, Lake George NY 12845  
9:00 AM Registration

**Meeting Start Time 9:30 AM**  
**\$55 per person**  
Includes Hot Buffet Lunch



Special Guest Speaker  
International Director  
Lion David Wineman

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- \* International Director David Wineman
- \* Group Service Ideas Session
- \* Diabetes Alert Dog Presentation

*Don't Forget  
to Bring Your  
Sorted Eyeglasses*

Every club is encouraged to bring materials, photos, poster boards, etc. to display at shared tables. There will be time given during the program to mingle with other clubs and share ideas!!  
Come prepared to brag about all you do in your community!!

**PLEASE REGISTER By 10/30, using the below link or QR Code**

[www.tinyurl.com/20WFallConference](http://www.tinyurl.com/20WFallConference)



Please.... Register and make payment online  
or Register and mail your check \*

\* If paying by check, please make payable to: DISTRICT 20W LIONS CLUBS and mail to  
Cabinet Secretary Patty Murphy, 11725 Duanesburg Road, Delanson, NY 12053.

**Lodging Reservations** can be made by calling the Courtyard Marriott Lake George at  
518-761-1150 \$189/night Code: LIO

For questions, please email the Cabinet Secretary at: [LionsDistrict20W@gmail.com](mailto:LionsDistrict20W@gmail.com)