



Rare Meat

The newsletter of the



January 2026



Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

OFFICERS 2025-2026

President:

QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI

1st Vice-President:

BATMAN COLLINS-
HACKETT

2nd Vice-President

DAVIA GADDY

3rd Vice-President

GREG SHELTON

Secretary:

JERRY GORDON

Treasurer:

RUTH SANO, Club

LARRY KRUG, Char Fund

Tail Twister, Lion Tamer:

SHAWN NEWTON &

NIGHTWING HAMLIN

Directors, 1st year of 2:

MARYANNE GORDON

MIKE O'BRIEN

Directors, 2nd year of 2:

DAVIA GADDY

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER

Membership Chair:

THIS COULD BE YOU!

Marketing Comm Chair:

EVA BASS

Immediate Past Pres:

JODI SHELTON

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Rare Meat editor:

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**YOUR SUBMISSIONS
ARE ENCOURAGED!**

Report of the general meeting held on Wed, Dec 10, on line

Guests: potential Lions Carrie Love and Melissa Milton

1. Jerry reminded everyone about the KidSight training session in Saratoga on Dec 13. Any A&T Lions who might work on this extremely worthwhile project are encouraged to attend. Jerry distributed details in a separate mailing.

2. We accepted the membership applications of Carrie Love (sponsored by Queen) and Melissa Milton, sister of Lion Nikki (sponsored by Jodi).

3. Our application for funding for the Spelling Bee from NYS&BLF has been approved in principle, but it required revision to fix a few details. The revisions were to have been mailed last week. Queen thinks it was done, but we need Batman to confirm. Nightwing reported that local bees will begin in January, and we're still finalizing a location for our regional event

4. Queen's "Love Thy Neighbor" event is Dec 20 from 2-5PM. She'll be providing hot meals, free produce and personal gifts to over 500 residents of Ida Yarborough Homes. We approved a motion to donate \$1000 to Guardians of AL-Fitrah to help with the event. Queen also requested labor help from any Lions who can be there that day; they should arrive around noon to help with setup.

5. We discussed Lion Jerry's recent email to all members wherein he stated that he will not be secretary again next year, and would like to back off from his several different functions over the coming months, while he's still around to help train his replacement(s).

a. New member Carrie agreed to take on the website.

b. Lion Eric agreed to be secretary.

c. Lion Ruth will chair the Coats for Kids project.

In an email vote after the meeting, we decided to skip a board meeting in December.

Our January meetings



Our next general membership meeting is **Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 PM** at Margarita City. Since the restaurant would like a head-count, please let me know whether you'll be there; call or text 518-366-5299 or email ljerry-gordon@gmail.com.

Monday, January 19 at 7:30 PM is our on-line board meeting. Watch for the link.

MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ADLER

MICHELLE BAKER

EVA BASS

JOANN BEACH LOVER-
IDGE

DR. ROB BRASS

PAUL "BATMAN" COLLINS
-HACKETT

DOUG DAVIS

DENNIS FAGAN

DR. STEFAN FOSCO

DAVIA GADDY

QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI

JERRY GORDON

MARYANNE GORDON

KHALEL "NIGHTWING"
HAMLIN

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





Ursula Dessingue
Nov 5, 1934-Dec 16, 2025

A native of the Troy area, Ursula became a Troy Lion in December of 1994. She became active quickly and worked diligently. She held several offices and chaired our community services and membership committees. She sold popcorn at the Victorian Stroll and helped with NABA's KidSight screenings. Ursula was a recipient of both a Robert J Uplinger Distinguished Service Award and a Melvin Jones Fellowship. She resigned in 2021 to be with her daughter in South Carolina .

Her family was kind enough to list our club as a recipient of donations in her memory.

A Mass will be held at St. Augustine Church (534 4th Ave at 115th St) in Lansingburgh at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026. Friends and family are invited to gather to celebrate her life and the love she shared every day with all who were touched by her grace.

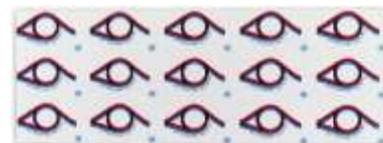
Earning Some Green by Going Green

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 jerrygor-don@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.**

Seal Campaign

You all got your seal campaign letters a few weeks ago. This has become our winter fund-raiser, so if you're so inclined, throw a few bucks in the self-addressed envelope. As of 12/27, 8 donors have given us \$675.



Warm Woolen Wishes



Lion Ruth reports that we donated 100 crocheted hats to Lion Queen's "Love Thy Neighbor" event along with 45 coats for kids, and we donated 60 hats to Lion Eva's "Spirit of Giving" event.

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 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 or Lion Ruth Sano at 518-859-3796



Helping Hands



Creating Comfort



 Bring a potential member to a meeting.

Happy Birthday!

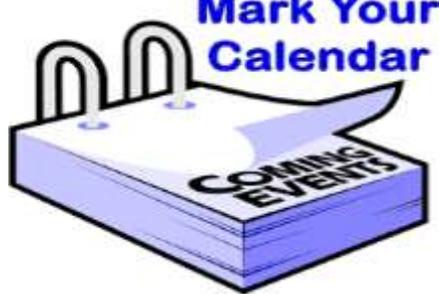
Happy **January** birthday to these A&T Lions:

14th: Davia Gaddy
18th: Batman Collins-Hackett
25th: Rob Brass



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Lions Anniversary to no **January** inductees:



Mark Your Calendar

January is **Hunger Awareness Month** and **Glaucoma Awareness Month**

Thu, Jan 1: New Year's Day

Wed, Jan 7: Lions meeting, see page 1

Tue, Jan 13: Melvin Jones's birthday 1

Mon, Jan 19: Lions board meeting, see page

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

Easter is right around the corner!

Get your solid milk, dark or white chocolate Easter Bunnies to help support

The Albany and Troy Lions Club,
The Lions Eye Institute and your sweet tooth!

Only \$5 each

Limited supply - we will
deliver locally before Easter
albanytroylions@gmail.com
or call Lion Ruth at 518-859-3796

