



# The Grand Island Lion

## February 2025

[www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com)



February 12th  
GI Lions Valentines  
Party  
At Lion Anne and Bob Fannings  
Bring you significant other.  
Details to follow.



April 28th:  
GI Lions Spaghetti Dinner  
Elldens Grill and Banquet  
201 Whitehaven Rd  
Grand Island NY



Lion Anne and Husband Bob Fahning are hosting our annual Valentines party at their home on Wednesday, February 12th. Plan on attending and significant others are welcome. More details will follow.



Lions, January is over, and there are five months left in this Lions year. We have just five months left to focus on recruiting new members, developing new ideas for service projects, and increasing our outreach.

February 15 is Childhood Cancer Day.

The Lions International [Childhood Cancer webpage](#) includes service ideas and LCIF grant opportunities to help affected families.

As we approach February 15, Childhood Cancer Day, let's reflect on the impact we can make in the lives of children and families facing this formidable challenge. The strength and resilience of these young warriors inspire us to go above and beyond in our service.

The board has approved a \$150 donation to purchase small Lego kits to be distributed to children at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. The Multiple Districts and the State Convention Committee have decided to gather these donations and kits from all the clubs in the state and provide them to Roswell as a service project at the state convention.

Together, we can provide hope and support through our collective efforts. Our Childhood Cancer webpage offers a wealth of service ideas and LCIF grant opportunities designed to make a difference. Let's seize these opportunities with passion and determination, embodying the true spirit of the Lions.

By reaching out to affected families, organizing fundraisers, and spreading awareness, we affirm our commitment to the fight against childhood cancer. Let our actions this February be a testament to our dedication and compassion.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to serving our community and for your continuous efforts to bring light to those who need it most. Together, we can create a brighter future for every child.

Lion President Jim Ryan





## Super Hero Raffle

*Be A Super Hero For Children In Need*

Drawing will be held Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, 2025

**Grand Prize - \$5,000**



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$ 2,000

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$ 1,000

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Prizes: \$ 500

6<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup> Prizes: \$ 250

**Special  
6 Tickets  
For \$100**

**\$20 Per Ticket**

To Purchase Tickets Scan here →  
Or log on to [brandelmurphyfoundation.org](http://brandelmurphyfoundation.org)



Or...make your check payable and send, with ticket stubs to:

Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation

P.O. Box 913

Rockville Centre, NY 11571

**For Tickets & Information Contact: PCC John Wargo**

Email: [jwargo@yahoo.com](mailto:jwargo@yahoo.com)

cell: (845) 489-1578

**All proceeds benefit children in need through  
the Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation**

For further information visit us at [www.brandelmurphyfoundation.org](http://www.brandelmurphyfoundation.org)

We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.



## News from the Grand Island Lions:

January 2025 has been a very busy month for the Grand Island Lions. From scooters, to vision screenings, to a new member, to books for kids with special needs, Lions continue to make our community a better place to live and work in.



Four new (and much needed) knee scooters have been added to our medical equipment loan closet. They were purchased in anticipation of receiving an LCIF Club Community Impact Grant that the club is eligible for. Pictured are (l-r) Lions Tom Rusert, Dick Crawford and Jose Garcia .



We have successfully completed screening the entire Grand Island Central School District and Saint Stephen School. Club members (l-r, pictured) Lions Tom Witkowski and Sue Standora, and District Vision Screening Co-chair Mike Lawkowski of the Lancaster Lions participated in the screenings along with valued assistance from West Seneca Lions Pete Adornette and Rob Bristko and Grand Island Lion Jeanine Justen. A total of 668 kids were screened with 55 being referred for further treatment. Appointments for screenings at three day cares (and counting!) and home-schooled children are already being scheduled.



**Lion Mary Vari of Grand Island was welcomed to the club as a new member. She is excited and looking forward to working with the club. Pictured with her are (l-r) Club President PDG Jim Ryan, Lion Mary and her sponsor, Lion Sue Standora. Welcome Lion Mary!**



## Hello, Fellow Lions!

My name is Mary Vari (né Cudmore) and I am thrilled to have been inducted into the Grand Island, NY chapter of Lions International!

My family moved to Grand Island from Toronto when I was 5 years old. I enjoyed growing up in the house my father built for us and attending the wonderful Grand Island Public Schools. I was in the class of 1966 - the first to graduate from the G.I. high school - yes!...I'm that old!!! My working career spanned many interests from teaching elementary school to Director of a trade school in Toronto, as an instructor in the wine and spirit trade and finally Director of Marketing for a residence specializing in care for people with dementia.

My volunteer career began as I was raising my 3 children. I served on my children's PTA and on the Board of Young Audiences of Western New York. Buffalo Suzuki Strings was my main focus, where I served on the Board of Directors wrote grant applications and helped prepare for legal 501C-3 not for profit status. I also organized concert tours for about 25 students at a time to 5 different continents. I enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas which had membership of about 5,000 at the time in North and South America. As such, I experienced in-depth training in Board responsibilities.

I moved back to Grand Island a few years ago and am once again in the family house my father

built! My lovely neighbor, Lion Susan Standora, has told me about the amazing work Lions International has been doing in the community - including helping establish the athletic fields where my grandchildren play soccer and baseball! Volunteering in my community has always been an important part of my life. I am looking forward to hopefully make a contribution to the health and happiness of my community through the good works of Lions International. I appreciate being accepted into this powerful and far reaching organization.

Lion Mary





The Grand Island Memorial Library was presented a check for \$825 for their Early Childhood Education project. The money will be used to buy special books that have printed words plus Braille and audio functions so that the members of a family with a child with special needs can enjoy reading together. A \$275 budgeted amount was used as leverage to obtain two grants of \$275 each from the district's Ray Wheeler Humanitarian Fund and the multiple-wide Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation. The books will also be available throughout the Erie County Library system. Pictured receiving the check are (l-r) Lion and Library Board of Trustees President Dick Crawford Jr., Library Director Bridgette Heintz, Youth Services Librarian Carly Spatar and Lion and Brandel-Murphy First Vice President and Grant Committee Chair Tom Witkowski. Also pictured is Carly showing a book sampling to Lion Dick.

**Lions: We Serve to make a difference every day, everywhere!**

**Q: What do you get if  
you divide the  
circumference of a  
pumpkin by its  
diameter?**



**A: Pumpkin  $\pi$   
Sorry. I'll see myself  
out.**

Submitted by Lion Dick!

### Grand Island Lions Service Projects for December

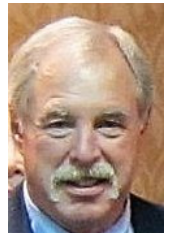
12/18/2024

Vision Screening

12/30/2024

Monthly Clubs Newsletter

Please return your empties to Bottle and Can Retrieval Center 2447 Grand Island Blvd, Grand Island, **Grand Island Can and Bottle Retrieval Center** is now tracking our donations when items are left for them to credit our account.



**Donations for the Neighbors Foundation are on the upswing so please continue to bring any of the listed items to our meetings or drop off Tops gift cards, food items and checks/cash to me and I will deliver to them. They are also in need of diapers, toiletries and personal care items.**

**Thank you, Lion Tom Rusert**



Stuart Sports has many styles and colors of polo shirts along with other apparel available. Stop in and peruse their catalogs and request that the Grand Island Lions logo be applied to your selection.

It's just a short drive to Lewiston:  
Stuart Sports 486 Center St. Lewiston, NY (716-754-4895)

<http://www.stuartsportsinc.com/>

Lion Tom Rusert

Thanks to Lions Tom Rusert, Tom Witkowski, Mary Vari, Jeanine Justin, Jim Ryan and Dick Crawford for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the March Newsletter is Friday February 21st. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Lion Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher at:

[grandislandliondave@gmail.com](mailto:grandislandliondave@gmail.com).

Visit us at: [www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com).

See our facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/GILIONSCLUB>



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

Thomas Witkowski  
Thomas E Rusert  
James D. Rose