



# The Grand Island Lion

## February 2019

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### Upcoming Events:



**WE SERVE**

February 27th – Meeting at Mallwitz’s Island Lanes ( General Membership and Board Meeting)

March 13th - Meeting at Grand Island Highway Garage Whitehaven Road Catered with No Alcohol (General Meeting and Board Meeting)

April 10th - BLC ( General Membership and Board Meeting)

April 24th - Trip to Merritton Ontario Lions Club

April 29th – Spaghetti Dinner at Radisson

May 8th - Radisson

May 22nd - BLC ( General Membership and Board Meeting)

June 12th - Installation Dinner Radisson

July 17th – Special Kids Picnic at BLC

Hello Lions, Here we are at the end of January 2019. We have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. This month at our Board Meeting Lion Bob Goulding introduced his new Project. Lion Bob has made Lion Badges to be worn proudly to spread the word about Lionism, along with a card to give to a prospective member. The Badges display our Lions Emblem and is affixed with a magnet to be easily worn on most apparel. As we move forward into 2019, we are working towards expanding our Club by at least 6 additional members. Our new badge will be a conversation starter wherever we go. It will make it easy to talk about the way in which we serve our Community and beyond. Thank you Lion Bob. We are always looking for new ideas for fundraisers. Looking forward to your creativity in our combined endeavor to identify and foster new and innovative ways to raise funds so we can better serve those in need. Our next meeting will be at Mallwitz for a fun night of bowling and comradery. We will have a short meeting followed by a Board Meeting of intense brevity. We express remorse for those Lions that have elected to fly south for the winter as they have burdened themselves with sunshine and warmth while missing out on our magnificent winter wonderland. We all miss you. Love, laugh, live and hurry home.



### 50/50



**The split club is at \$28. Lion Tom W. Drew a silver nugget at our last meeting**

The Split Club is now at \$28.00. The sticks have been replaced with poker chips with club members names on it. The deck of cards has also been replaced by a much sweeter treat: Hershey Nuggets! 52 Nuggets in all, 48 wrapped in silver, 4 in gold. Pick a gold one and whatever the pot is at, you win the nugget and the cash! Pick a silver and at least you have something that tastes good - everybody knows chocolate soothes you!

Lion Tom Witkowski

**Save The Date!**  
**Spaghetti Dinner**  
**Radisson Hotel Ballroom**  
**Monday April 29, 2019**

**For more information,**  
**contact Lion Dick**  
**Crawford**



Currently Lion Shelia and Lion Mike Kelly have each recruited a new member this Lion's year. Lion Shelia leads the contest due to tiebreaker rules. Let's all try to sign up a new Lion this year!



Members should continue to bring nonperishable food items to our regular meetings for benefit of the Neighbors Foundation Food Bank, and used cell phones can be re-purposed by the Erie County Sheriff's domestic violence unit.

Continue to donate your empty cans and bottles to Bottle Junction. The advantage of this donation is you do not have to wait. Just tell them to donate the proceeds to the Lions. Thank you to all who participated.

Lion Tom Rusert

#### LETTER OF THANKS

The Grand Island Lions Club expresses its sincere and heartfelt thanks to the residents and friends of Grand Island for the donations of useable eyeglasses, non-prescription sunglasses, eyeglass cases and hearing aids for ultimate distribution to those in need locally and throughout the world. With thanks to the Walmart Corporation, the eyeglasses are shipped at no cost to the Lions Eyeglass Distribution Center in New Jersey where they are carefully examined and stored until needed. The eyeglass cases are delivered to Saint Edmunds Campus in Tonawanda to be shipped where needed. Hearing aids are sent to Lions Finger Lakes Region Lions Hearing Foundation in Fulton, NY where they are refurbished, then distributed to individuals who are financially challenged and fit the criteria for eligibility. During 2018, the club has collected, from designated locations, 1008 eyeglasses, 362 non-prescription sunglasses, 607 cases and 29 hearing devices. Grand Islanders care and are the best of the best!

Lion Bob Goulding

Club members Paul Bassette, Cindy Sharpe, and Tom Witkowski and other Lions from our district participated in vision screenings in our island's elementary schools and at St. Stephen's. 640 kids were screened with 39 being referred for further evaluation by a pediatric ophthalmologist or optometrist. The 6% referral rate is below the approximately 15% rate experienced elsewhere. Next on tap are the island's population of about 200 kids who attend child care centers and day cares. Every eye is important. So, if you can spend two hours in the morning once or twice a week to volunteer, whether as a screener or an assistant, we will train you how. Although the kids are cute and sometimes very mischievous, they look to us with childhood innocence while we do what we can to protect their vision. Remember, 80% of vision loss IS preventable. Let's do whatever we can to stop preventable vision loss.



The Constitution and By-laws Committee has presented proposed changes to the Board of Directors. They now have been approved. Be on the lookout for a very important email describing the changes next week. Your voice and your vote are important. Per Section 9 of our bylaws (BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY MAIL): "This club may transact business by mail (including letters, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, or cable), provided that no such action shall be effective until approved in writing by two-thirds (2/3) of the entire number of the club. Such action may be initiated by the president or any three (3) members of said board." For those that do not use email, the proposed changes will be mailed to them so that their voice can be heard.

Lion Tom Witkowski  
 716-909-1862

Thanks to Lions Shelia Ferrentino, Donna Lavalley, Tom Witkowski, Dick Crawford, and Tom Rusert for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the March Newsletter is Thursday February 28th. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Lion Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher, at: [grandislandiodave@gmail.com](mailto:grandislandiodave@gmail.com).

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