



# The Grand Island Lion

## January 2024

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



January 10th Ax Throwing Party @ Grand Throw House (details to follow from Lion Shelia)  
 Feb 14th Bowling Social @ Mallwitz Lanes (details to follow from Lion Dick)

March 13th Lion Adrienne Cassata presentation on Vision  
 6:30 pm at Howard Hanna  
 General meeting & BOD meeting

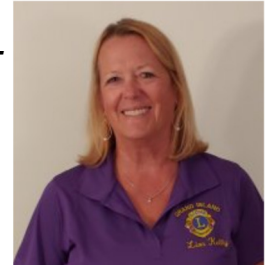
March 27th 6:30 pm at Howard Hanna  
 General Meeting only

April 10th Review Slate/vote on Officers '24-'25  
 6:30 pm at Howard Hanna  
 General Meeting & BOD meeting

April 22nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Ellden's at River Oaks

Happy New Year Lions. . . .

Welcome to 2024, the start of another exciting year. I can't believe we are near the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Lion year and my role as President of our club! Don't know about you, but years seem to be going by way too fast. For those who weren't able to attend our Christmas party – we had a great meal (BLC never disappoints) – played Friends Feud which was a hit thanks to Lion Donna and the White Elephant Exchange game. Ended the evening with delicious desserts provided by some of our members. I have to apologize, I totally let the evening end without our club's group photo.



Looking ahead. . . Lions Donna and Dick are finalizing the details for our donation shed through St. Pauly Textile and hope to have it installed on the G.I. High School grounds and available for donations in a few months.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we will hold our biggest fundraiser event, our Annual Spaghetti Dinner. We will need ALL Lions on deck to help with this event. Again this year, it is being held at Ellden's Restaurant. More details soon to be emailed out.

Again please continue to watch your email for important updates and meeting information. If you have an idea for a new club service project or a guest speaker, please send an email or call me and we will get it on the agenda.

I want to take this time to wish all of you and your family a prosperous 2024!

LP Kelly



**WE SERVE**



Lion Henry continues to have health issues and is now on Long Island so he can be closer to his Daughter. If anyone wants to send him a note you can address it c/o his daughter.

Henry Lobl  
 c/o Beth Thompson  
 1315 7th St  
 West Babylon, NY 11704



## Super Hero Raffle

Be A Super Hero For Children In Need

Drawing will be held Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024

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: John Wargo**  
 Email: [jwargo@yahoo.com](mailto:jwargo@yahoo.com)  
 cell: 1-(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.



A recent trip to Town Hall found our eyeglass college action station literally overflowing with 563 recyclable eyeglasses along with eight hearing aids. From the start of our Lions year, over 1,100 eyeglasses and 25 hearing aids will find their way to someone who can least afford to pay for them.

In the courses of recent conversations about our eyeglass collections, several items of note were discussed that you may not be aware of. One, broken frames and loose lenses are suitable to be placed in your recycler bin. If unbroken eyeglasses have one or both lenses missing, do not discard them. The frames can be used at Popup Eye Clinics. Second, the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers now accept unopened packages of contact lenses.

Lion Tom Witkowski

### MAUI WILDFIRE UPDATE - message from PIP AI Brandel

It has been 4 months since the beginning of the Maui wildfires that devastated Lahaina and Upcountry Maui. The first phase of disaster recovery by the Lions Clubs of Maui was to form a Disaster Response Team in the first week and connect with all organizations that were responding and receiving advice from the Paradise Lions Club that dealt with its own wildfire disaster 5 years ago.

The Red Cross was the first to respond and set up shelters throughout the island. The Salvation Army took on the task of taking care of the already homeless population. The National Guard stepped in to provide security and FEMA had the unenviable task of victim identification. We took on the task of filling gap needs such as replacing eyeglasses and hearing aids, providing coolers to transport meals, purchasing filter masks, working in the shelters, preparing, and boxing meals, and making sure that our first responders were recognized for their heroic work. The first phase included housing all those displaced into vacant hotels, extended family homes, and vacation rentals.

The second phase of disaster recovery was to provide food security. For the next two months the culinary arts program at UH Maui College prepped, cooked, and sent out for delivery over 200,000 meals. This project was supported by Common Ground Collective, the UH Foundation, and the Lions Clubs of Maui. They were joined in by displaced restaurateurs, food truck owners and unaffected restaurants to produce thousands more meals. Planning was begun for long term housing, and the Lions offered to partner with work underway in Kahului to create a family village and give hope to survivors of the deadly and devastating wildfires.

We contacted Family Life Center Chief Executive Officer Maude Cumming to see how we could help. Cumming said 160 single-family shelters "with a home-like feel" have will be constructed to create Ohana Hope Village off Kuehelani and Maui Veteran's Highways and once constructed the Lions could help to furnish the units. Those units will first go to multi-generational families, then to families with children. Two popup units will double up to fit up to a family of four.

We are now in the third phase of recovery and hotels are beginning to reopen and thus 7000 people will need to find alternate housing. The county passed a bill to business tax exempt all those that provide rental units. Housing construction has been fast tracked. We just met at the Ohana Hope Village to see the progress of construction and were

**HAPPY  
 NEW YEAR**



Pictures from our Lions Club Christmas party held on December 12th at the Buffalo Launch Club. At the Christmas Party we collected about 30 lbs. of food and over \$500.00 in checks and Tops gift cards for the Neighbors Foundation. Our Club was presented with a campaign 100 plaque recognizing our service to LCIF making us a "Model Club."



**The Brandel - Murphy Lions Youth Foundation**

**Our Mission:** "To provide assistance to children in need, throughout the state of New York and the country of Bermuda, through partnerships with Lions and other organizations, by supporting programs that will improve the lives of those served."

The Lions of Western New York have provided over 7,300 kids with playgrounds and associated equipment sponsored by 11 clubs, an emergency generator to power a child's ventilator during power outages, a hearing aid for a 13-year-old child, summer swim programs for 475 children, baseball equipment for 250 kids. Other kid-related projects have benefited over 1,900 kids. In all, over 11,500 children received items to enrich their lives all because sixteen clubs saw the need and the way to help. Several of these projects will positively affect even more children in the future, many who have not even been born yet. So, whether there's a need for one child or thousands, your club and Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation can be there to provide for their unique needs.

As this year comes to a close, we look back at the many challenges we faced and overcame during 2023 but remain optimistic that healthier, happier, and brighter days are ahead. We cannot thank you enough, that it was ONLY through your help and support that the Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation continues to flourish. This past Lions year, we awarded 20 grants, totaling \$30,570 helping 58,262 children. To date, the Foundation has assisted nearly well over a quarter million children with 171 grants totaling over \$309,000. The pictures below capture a few of the children whose lives have been enriched by your support.



We urge you to organize Lions projects that focus on helping children who are in need in your community and applying for your BMYF \$2,000 matching Humanitarian Grant, a non-matching \$2,500 Emergency Grant or a \$10,000 - \$20,000 Major Grant to help you reach your goals. Applications for all grants are available on our website for any Lions Club Zone, or District in MD-20.

If you have questions, would like help to see if you qualify for a grant or help in applying for one, feel free to contact Lion Tom Witkowski, Grant Committee Chair, at 716-909-1862 or [liontom20@roadrunner.com](mailto:liontom20@roadrunner.com). We are here and we are happy to help you!

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

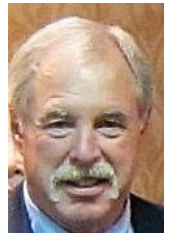
Please visit our website where you can buy tickets for our annual Super Hero Raffle, being held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024. This is our sole source of funding for grants and were counting on you to help you to help others. You will also find additional ways in which you can further our mission. Honoring someone special with an "Everyday Hero Fellowship" recognition or making a memorial tribute or estate gift are examples of how you can help.

As always, on behalf of PIP Al, Lion Dr. Maureen, and all of us at the Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation, **THANK YOU** for your dedication to helping children in need. We could not do it without you!!

Together we can continue to make a difference.

[www.brandelmurphyfoundation.org](http://www.brandelmurphyfoundation.org)

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.**

**At the Christmas Party we collected about 30 lbs. of food and over \$500.00 in checks and Tops gift cards for the Neighbors Foundation.**

**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, Donna Lavallee, Tom Witkowski and Kelly McGarvey for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the February Newsletter is Friday January 26th. 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**



**Adrienne Cassata**