



# The Grand Island Lion

## July-August 2014

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



**WE SERVE**



### Upcoming events:

#### Friday July 4th

Independence Day Parade  
8:30AM McMahan's Restaurant  
Wear your vest and/or your Lions shirt and Khaki pants

#### Wednesday July 16th:

Special Kids Picnic  
Buffalo Launch Club

#### Saturday July 19th

Members Picnic  
Details TBA

Hello Lions

I am pleased and honored to serve as your Lion Club president for this upcoming year. I would like for all of us to review the focus points from LCIF.

- 1) We give sight
- 2) We support Youth
- 3) We provide Disaster relief
- 4) We meet Humanitarian needs.



In order to honor these goals and continue to provide for our community, region and worldwide efforts we need the commitment from all our members. If you do not already serve on a committee, please consider doing so. The following committees are in need of leadership, members, fresh eyes and perhaps new ideas. BonTon fundraiser, Eye Glass collection, Loan closet, membership, nominating, phone, scholarship, photoscreening, Special Kids Picnic, and sunshine. I will be calling members who have previously served and who do not currently serve on a committee to see where you best fit in to serve our club.

We will be walking again this year in the GI 4th of July parade. We need anyone interested to come on out and walk with us. I promise you it is a lot of fun and a nice walk to burn off some pre-holiday calories. This year we will be collecting eyeglasses along the route. We will be lining up around 8:45 in front of McMahan's restaurant, please wear your lions shirt or vest. Dress colors are khaki pants and black shirt. Keep in mind that they begin deterring traffic along GI Blvd at 8:45, so you may need to have someone drop you off or park near the end and walk a mile or so down to meet us.

The Special Kids Picnic is on Wednesday 7/16 at the Buffalo Launch Club. We will be setting up tents, etc on Tuesday. Please call Lion Annette 773-3530 if you can help. On Wednesday plan on coming as soon as possible as the buses start to arrive at 10 AM! This is a great event to show your Lion spirit, become connected to this great club and serve the more than 700 local children who come to this event. This is our biggest event; we need all members who can to participate!

Our members picnic will be on Saturday 7/19. Always good food and good times, I'll keep you posted on the place and time. It will either be at Lion Donna's house or Lion Anne's. We will either send an email or a post card invitation.

Board meeting for this summer are at Lion Donna's house; 3809 West River Rd, (north end between Long and Bedell) at 7 PM on Wednesday 7/23 and 8/27. Enjoy our beautiful WNY summer weather and I hope to see you at our summer events. Here's to a great year!!!

Lion President Donna Lavalley

### Sunshine



Lion Bill Wind is in need of O-Positive blood and platelets daily right now. If any member can help they may please contact my sister in law Sue Klimek who is coordinating the effort. Her number is 807-4048.

Thanks,  
Lion Tom Rusert

Please remember Bill Wind in your prayers as he faces more chemotherapy and possibly a second marrow transplant.

Lion Annette



We'll be doing something unique during the 4th of July parade this year- we'll be collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids as we march. We'll be wearing golden yellow and purple balloons around our wrists to let people know we're approaching and to have these items ready. How you can help is to let your family and friends know about this. It also helps to know a little bit of the story why we collect eyeglasses and hearing aids. Our collections benefit the millions of people worldwide who simply cannot afford them. We ship them to the New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center where volunteers clean, obtain the prescription, catalog and process the eyeglasses so that someone can use them to learn, to hold a job, or possibly see their loved ones for the first time in their lives. According to the World Health Organization, 153 million eyeglasses are needed each year to benefit or change someone's life all at our cost of just eight cents apiece from the time they leave a donor's face to the time someone receives them. What a marvelous display of generosity when used eyeglasses are donated! The hearing aids are processed at the Finger Lakes Region Hearing Foundation then returned to western New York for use by financially strapped individuals after they have been evaluated with the cost paid for through Lions Clubs. So if you're not marching in the parade (we do miss you, you know) look out for the Grand Island Lions and do something wonderful for someone somewhere on this earth we all share. For further information, please contact Lion Tom Witkowski, 909-1862, or at [liontom20n@roadrunner.com](mailto:liontom20n@roadrunner.com). Thanks for your participation!



On Saturday June 14th scores of volunteers turned out to help Miracle League of Grand Island and Western New York build a playground next to the Miracle League ball field. The Board of Miracle League surprised our Grand Island Lions club with a bench dedicated to the club for its efforts in getting the field and the playground built. The bench is now installed at the playground. Posing with the bench (l-r): Lions Henry Lobl, Dick Crawford Tom Witkowski, Anne Fahning, Fred Ruocco, Club President Donna Lavallee, Paul Bassette, and Dave Chervinsky who all helped in the construction of the playground.

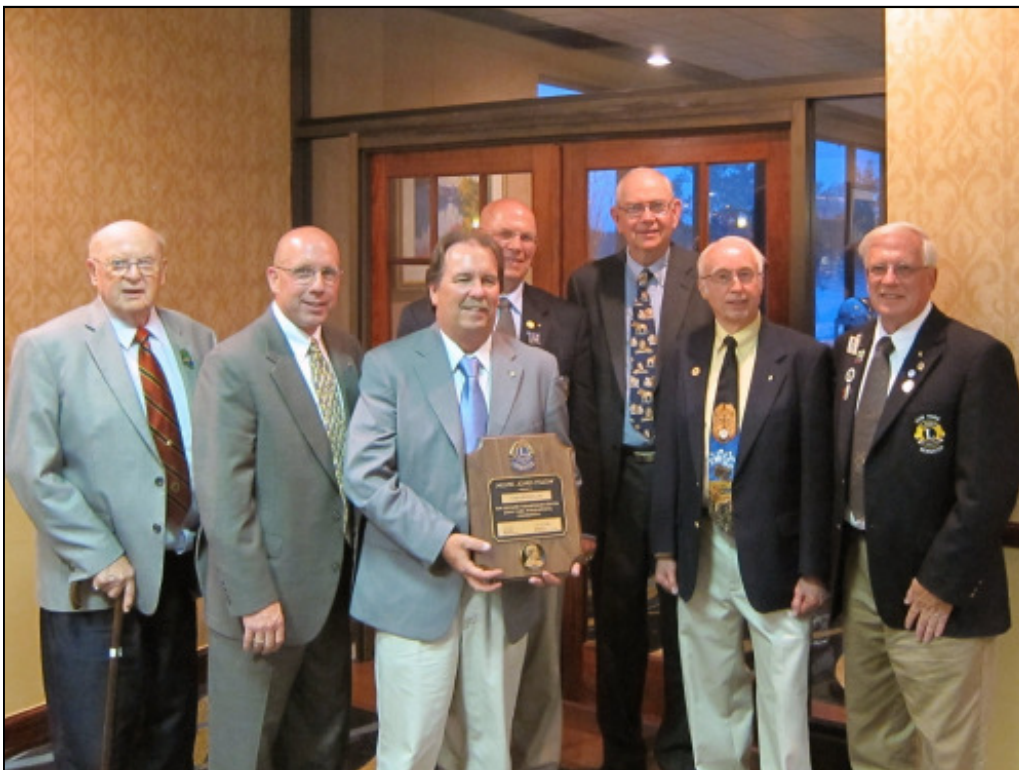


The Grand Island Lions invite all clubs, Lions families and friends of Lions to come out to Miracle League Field on Sunday, August 3, 2014 at 2:00 pm for an action packed triple header featuring the Pirates vs. Red Sox, Rays vs. Blue Jays, and Marlins vs. Yankees. The concession stand will be stocked with all the goodies that make game day fun and exciting. Put on your Lions vest or shirt or team paraphernalia and be a Buddy on the field or simply cheer on your favorite team. You'll soon find out that these kids and young adults are excited as ever to be playing baseball. After the game, stop by the brand new playground that is handicapped accessible and useable. The kids and probably some adult kids will enjoy all the rides and features that make this playground so extra special. It was built with an awesome amount of community support and in part through Lions participation in a 50/50 raffle at a Sabres game and a nice \$2,000 grant from the Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation. The Miracle League Field is located a quarter-mile behind the Grand Island Memorial Library located at 1715 Bedell Road. Just take the road between the Veteran's Memorial and the library and stay to your right. You can't miss it! See you August 3rd at the ballpark!





The Grand Island Lions Club held their annual Installation Dinner at Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2014. A number of members were recognized for perfect attendance and years of service. Most notably Lion Paul Bassette was recognized for 40 years of service and Lion Dick Crawford for 25 years. District 20N Governor Elect Lion Mike Lawkowski installed the Officers and Directors for the 2014-15 year. Pictured from left to right: Lion Tamer Al Ackerman, Tail Twister Fred Ruocco, Corresponding Secretary Annette Boies-Lobl, First Vice –President Tom Rusert, Director Norm Hahn, President Donna Lavallee, Treasurer Dick Crawford, Recording Secretary Tom Witkowski, Director Anne Fahning, Director Dave Chervinsky, Immediate Past President Brooks Rimes, Director Paul Bassette and District Governor Elect Mike Lawkowski. Not in picture is Second Vice-President Mike Steinagel.



On Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, The Grand Island Lions Club awarded Dan Drexelius with the Lions Club International Foundation Melvin Jones Award at their annual Installation Dinner held at Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa. The award is the LCIF's highest honor and is given to a lions member or citizen for outstanding humanitarian service. Drexelius a local contractor on Grand Island was instrumental in building the Miracle League Field on the Island. Lion Dick Crawford in presenting the award to Drexelius noted that because of Drexelius, the Field was completed in less than half the time it would ordinarily take. Posing with Drexelius are past Melvin Jones Award recipients from left to right: Al Ackerman, Dick Crawford, Drexelius, Tom Witkowski, Dave Chervinsky, Paul Bassette, and Mike Lawkowski.

## Journey For Sight 2014

If you thought you missed the Journey For Sight in April or May, I have good news for you: you haven't! The Journey is one-the-road again this year with the Niagara County Lions being the host. With much thanks to PDG Jim Luckman, this year it will take place Saturday, September 13, 2014 at the Royalton Ravine, located on Gasport Road in Royalton. Registration will begin at 10 am as usual, with the Journey underway at 11 am. The Niagara County clubs have selected Vision Beyond Sight Foundation, Braille Group of Buffalo, Equi\*Star, and Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service as the beneficiaries for this year's Journey. Your generous donations and sponsorships are part of the \$168,000 raised since the Journey For Sight began in 1989 as an international effort. The legacy continues with 37 Lions-supported agencies in our own district that have received the financial assistance to make a difference in thousands of lives. With a small portion of sponsorship money (less than 10%) used for expenses, the humanitarian effort of our district speaks volumes for the care we Lions, Lioness, and Leos provide for our ailing and/or underprivileged neighbors and friends. More info will be forthcoming in the August and September issues of the DGNFL. Be also on the lookout for the registration, donor, and sponsor forms plus a map for the Journey online at the district website, [www.20nlions.org](http://www.20nlions.org). For more info about the Royalton Ravine (trust me I never heard about it either until recently but I am going to explore it personally), go to [www.niagaracounty.com/park/RoyaltonRavinePark.aspx](http://www.niagaracounty.com/park/RoyaltonRavinePark.aspx). It looks to be a great Journey! And we hope to see all of you there.



Oh the weather for the Journey? You should know by now!

Lion Tom Witkowski

909-1862

[liontom20n@roadrunner.com](mailto:liontom20n@roadrunner.com)



Thanks to Lions Tom Witkowski, Donna Lavallee, Tom Rusert and Annette Boies-Lobl for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the September Newsletter is Friday August 30th. 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).

**Grand Island Lions web site:**

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

### Thank you!

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to all the clubs and my fellow Lions for the outpouring of sympathy over my brother Frank's passing. My family is in deepest gratitude for your prayers, your thoughts, and your condolences! Thank you so much!

*Lion Tom Witkowski*

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, 'Jesus knows you're here.'  
He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard 'Jesus is watching you.'  
Startled, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.  
'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot.  
'Yes', the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he's watching you.'  
The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'  
'Moses,' replied the bird.  
'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'  
'The kind of people who would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'  
Lion Tom W.