



# The Grand Island Lion

March 2023

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



## Lions Social Event and Membership Meeting

Wednesday March 8th 2023  
6:30PM at Mallwitz Lanes



## Lions Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Monday April 24th 2023  
River Oaks Golf Club  
Details TBA

Lions,

The spaghetti dinner this year will be hosted at River Oaks on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 8pm. This fundraising project has been a component of our club since the late 1950's. Its success is attributed to our members the community and local sponsors. Committees will be put together for a basket raffle, placemat, dinner servers, set-up, and clean-up. As a major fundraiser for our club this event allows us to support many local charities and causes. This is a great event to show why you are a GRAND ISLAND LION. Choose a committee to serve on and email Anne Fahning ([afahning52@gmail.com](mailto:afahning52@gmail.com)), Tom Rusert([terusert@yahoo.com](mailto:terusert@yahoo.com)) or Dick Crawford([richard.crawford.jr@gmail.com](mailto:richard.crawford.jr@gmail.com)).



*In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

We are deeply saddened by the loss of longtime Lion Bob Goulding. His life was a shining example of Lionism and service to others. He is in our thoughts and prayers and will be missed by all.



**District 20N  
CABINET  
MEETING**

**LIONS  
INTERNATIONAL**

**Saturday, March 4th**  
**J's White Elephant**  
**1404 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna NY**  
**9am Registration - Meeting begins at 10am**  
**Lunch Following the Meeting - \$20 per person**

**\*\*If you plan on staying for lunch, please email  
CS Barry Scott rbarry.scott@gmail.com**

**3rd Cabinet Meeting  
ALL Lions are Welcome  
Bring a Guest**

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

### Thank You from Lion Mike Hoplight

I would like to thank everybody for all the work and time they put in on this project which was very successful. I'll be delivering the last of the supplies this week. Personal hygiene products were delivered to the Buffalo and Batavia VA hospitalized veterans, PTSD female clinic in Batavia, the female clinic in Buffalo, the un-housed veterans and Suicide Prevention/PRRC clinic.

Just this week I received a call from the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment program at the Buffalo VA that was in need of coffee supplies, sugar, and creamer. With enough money left in our funds, we can buy \$100 worth of supplies for them. I also have a small box of personal hygiene that will be given to them.

The Lions should be very proud of what they've accomplished in the service to our country and to our veterans.

And again, thank you so much for all your support.

Lion Mike

### A Thank You from Grace House for our contribution in honor of District Governor Mike Yost at his November visitation to us

Your generous contributions in 2022 supported 352 families of caregivers and patients embraced by Grace House, including Bob and Lori. When Bob found out he would be needing weekly treatments at Roswell, his wife and children had worries about where they could stay. Being two hours away from Roswell, driving in each day from home was unfeasible. When they found Grace they were filled with relief. Grace provided them with lodging, transportation and nutritious food. Most importantly, they would have a comfortable "home away from home" just 15 minutes away from Roswell. Bob and Lori have certainly felt the "embrace of Grace," and are grateful to be able to stay at Grace while receiving treatment.

Lori and Bob are just one family who have experienced the embrace of Grace during the midst of a difficult medical journey. Your investment in Grace's mission helped us to provide 795 nights of affordable, safe, and comfortable lodging, nutritious meals and door-to-door transportation during 2022. Thank you for your continuous support and dedication to Grace.

We wish you good health, love, and peace in 2023.

Grace Guest House, Inc.

2315 Seneca Street

Buffalo, NY 14210

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



**Congratulations!** to DG Mike for spearheading the local effort to seek a Brandel-Murphy emergency grant for a portable generator for a Buffalo family who lost power during the recent blizzard. The significance is their son requires the use of a ventilator around the clock, now at last report, he now needs it when he is sleeping. Without power for three days, the couple had to manually ventilate their son every single moment during that time. Brandel-Murphy members downstate learned of this and contacted DG Mike to see what he could do to mitigate this urgent situation if not then but, in the future, as well. Having three portable generators of his own, he researched the appropriateness of a generator being used to power a life-sustaining medical device such as a ventilator. During this time, some concerns were understandably raised and subsequently satisfied, paving the way to obtaining the grant money to supply the family with their need. The televised presentation of the generator, extension cord and five gallons of gas were made to the boy's mother within days of the grant's approval. They will not have to be concerned about a power outage adversely affecting their child's health and their well-being. Where there's a need, there's a Lion!

This grant and dozens of others are funded with the generous donations made to Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation through its Super Hero raffle held on Super Bowl Sunday, through regular donations, purchases of Everyday Hero fellowships, and planned and legacy gifts and endowments, thus affording a donor the satisfaction of helping children in need, now and even far beyond the donor's lifetime. Additionally, knowing that many of the current and previous projects not only affect the number of children attested in the applications but those children benefiting from the project that haven't even been born yet give our donors and benefactors a warm sense of doing good. Projects such as vision screeners, playgrounds and educational programs, to name a few, comprise a portion of these types of long-lasting projects. This translates into hundreds of thousands of children, conceivably millions over the lifetime of the project. Though nobody from our district won in this year's raffle, our donors know they are part of the solution to the needs of children. On behalf of Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation, we extend our gratitude for your generosity.

Throughout our district, 10,842 children to date have benefited from 20 grants valued at \$35,000, the second highest awarded in New York State and Bermuda. These grants aided in projects ranging from a hearing aid for a 13-year-old child in Gowanda to the construction of a playground in Lewiston that will provide enjoyment for 2,000 children annually. Multiply that over a modest 15-year lifespan for a playground and you have 30,000 children enjoying play from an idea that was brought to fruition by a Lions Club with help by a grant from Brandel-Murphy.

Further information is available on our website, [brandelmurphyfoundation.org](http://brandelmurphyfoundation.org). We encourage you to visit it and learn what is available to your club and your district. We thank you for your support!

Lion Tom Witkowski  
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 716-909-1862



P.O BOX 913

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571



Pictured L-R Brandel-Murphy Vice-President Tom Witkowski and Channel 7 WKBW reporter Michael Schwartz, Ms. Shahida Muhammad and DG Mike Yost.



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, and Dick Crawford for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the April Newsletter is Friday March 24th. 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).

