

# The Grand Island Lion

**Wednesday –March 14th**

**Merritton ON.  
Cocktails 6:00 and dinner at 6:30  
Program: Joint Merritton Meeting**

**Wednesday March 28th**

**Buffalo Launch Club  
Cocktails 6:30 and dinner at 7:00.  
Program: Mike Prisbol Border Patrol**

## Commitment

Can you imagine a headline reading that all residents of our district totaling over 1.36 million men, women and children, went blind over the last three months? Can you imagine this catastrophe engulfing the entire citizenry of our neighboring District E within the next two months? Can you imagine the emotional impact on each individual, their families, friends and neighbors? Can you imagine such a crisis occurring in this age of vast medical improvements, technology and treatments? Can you imagine the financial impact on society? Who would take care of an entire population that went blind in 90 days? Can you imagine if all those people learned that over a million did not have to lose their sight had only *someone* intervened sooner on their behalf? Can you imagine that ever happening? Can you?

The total number of people around the world who have lost their vision during that 90-day period (the time between our last two Cabinet Meetings) totaled 1.5 million adults and over 130,000 children. Why is this happening? And more importantly, what can we do about it?

I trust that all of you have learned about Campaign SightFirst II, Lions International's goal of raising \$150 million by July 2008 with a stretch goal of \$200 million to continue our vast humanitarian effort to stop preventable blindness from happening. Worldwide, blindness and vision loss occur due to cataract, trachoma (corneal blindness), glaucoma, childhood blindness (primarily caused by vitamin A deficiency), onchocerciasis (river blindness), diabetes, ocular injury, and leprosy. Of all these, macular degeneration has not been curable, only its onset can be delayed.

\$200 million dollars is an incredible amount of money, but when financial impact on society is taken into account, this is a mere fraction if we do nothing to stop the devastating loss of sight. The economic impact of blindness averages \$16,000 (\$5,000 - \$27,000) *per year* for every adult. For those 37 million blind in the world today and the 51 million additional blind by 2020, the financial repercussion will grow from \$592 billion to over \$1.4 trillion *per year!* The world with all of its ailments simply cannot afford this. Prevention is the only avenue that is available to us – and we as Lions can do something about it!

In the U.S., Campaign SightFirst has provided funding to help the 25% of inner city kids who need glasses but don't have them. Campaign SightFirst has helped in the promotion and expansion of LEHP (Lions Eye Health Program) to screen for diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. In conjunction, low vision services continue to be aided by SightFirst grants through training of specialists and creating, staffing and supplying low-vision clinics throughout the country. And, of course, our eyeglass recycling programs are included in that funding. For example, Luxottica Foundation Missions were held in Pueblo, NM; Houston, TX; Chicago, IL; Bridgeport, CT; Los Angeles, CA; Hartford, CT and Fishkill, NY (Fresh Air Fund Summer Camp) providing new vision to nearly 20,000 people in 15 weeks. This year Cincinnati, San Francisco, Cleveland, Detroit, Santa Barbara and San Diego will be added to the list.

But first we have to break down that amount into easily digestible pieces so as not be overwhelmed by such a large number. Are you ready to be surprised? \$200 million (the stretch goal) ÷ 1.3 million Lions ÷ 16 months (to July 2008) ÷ 30 days (in a month) = **32 cents a day!**

I ask each and every one of you, will each of you commit to 32 cents a day until July 2008 and, hopefully, beyond? Will you do your duty as a Lion to ensure that blindness will not occur when and where we have the opportunity to stop it? Bring your savings to the Walk For Sight, April 21, 2007, at 10 am, Amherst Pepsi Center on Maple Road. Be a dedicated part of the solution by inviting your friends, neighbors, family, and associates.

Don't be just a Lion, be a committed Lion!

Sincerely yours in service,

Lion Tom Witkowski

Chairman, District 20N Walk For Sight

716-773-4437

20nwalkforsight@adelphia.net

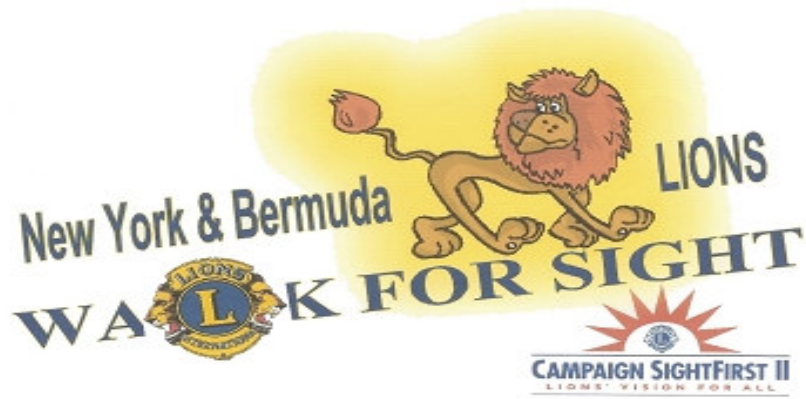
[www.district20nlions.org](http://www.district20nlions.org)



**WE SERVE**



**CAMPAIGN SIGHTFIRST II**  
LIONS' VISION FOR ALL



...the clock is ticking for 87 million people worldwide who will be blind by 2020...

*please help us save their sight!*

Saturday, April 21, 2007

**Amherst Pepsi Center**  
**1615 Amherst Manor Drive**  
 (off Maple Road near the I-290)

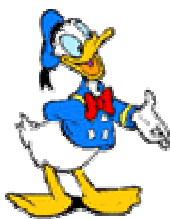
**10:00 am Registration**

**11:00 am Kick-off**

Refreshments and food

**For more info and to pre-register,**  
**call: 716-773-4437**  
**email: [20nwalkforsight@adelphia.net](mailto:20nwalkforsight@adelphia.net)**  
**website: [www.district20nlions.org](http://www.district20nlions.org)**

Lions: ...  every day everywhere!  
 WE SERVE



While I was watching the NFL playoff games one weekend, my wife and I got into a conversation about life and death, and the need for living wills. During the course of the conversation I told her that I never wanted to exist in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and taking fluids from a bottle. She got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all my beer.

Lion Tom Witkowski

Someone just called me and asked if I heard about the heated argument between Lion Fred and his manicurist...yea, they fought tooth and nail!  
lion tom



***Lions, Please pitch in  
and help make this  
years Spaghetti dinner  
a big success.  
March 12th 5-8PM***

### **Lion Notes:**

**-Lion Jerry Dubiel collects printer and toner cartridges for our club. Every qualifying cartridge brings \$1 to our club. Please bring in your used cartridges for recycling.**

**Lion Tom Witkowski collects aluminum for recycling to help fund sight projects.**

**Spaghetti Dinner is March 12th.**

**The antique appraisal event will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-5PM at the Holiday Inn Lower River Front Ballroom.**

Thanks to Lions Al Ackerman, , Glenn Connell Dave Chervinsky, and Tom Witkowski all of whom contributed to this newsletter. The deadline for the April Newsletter is Friday March 30th. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher, at [dschervin@yahoo.com](mailto:dschervin@yahoo.com)

**Grand Island Lions Club  
P.O. Box 71  
Grand Island, NY 14072**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*"We Serve"*

**We had to change the date of the  
Merritton Bowling Tournament to  
March 25, 2007  
Hope you can attend  
Lion Glenn Connell**