



# The Grand Island Lion

## September 2013

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### The split club is now \$113 and counting...

Lion President Tom drew the four of Spades at our May 23rd meeting.



## WE SERVE



Our Club was out in force celebrating Independence day and joining in our town's Parade.

### Upcoming events:

#### September:

##### Wednesday September 11th:

Lions General Meeting  
Byblos Resort and Spa  
Cocktails 6:30 Dinner 7PM  
Speaker: Lion Donna Lavallee  
Topic TBA

##### Wednesday September 25th:

Lions General Meeting  
Buffalo Launch Club  
Cocktails 6:30 Dinner 7PM  
Speaker: TBA

GI Lions Newsletter  
September 2013 Issue

Dear Fellow Lions,

It's the start of a new season and I'm delighted to be your president and master of ceremonies at our meetings.

I'm going to do my best to make the meetings fun and interesting. This includes bringing in speakers related to our causes or with engaging topics. The Board and I will work towards having a speaker at every general meeting. Sometimes the speakers commit at the last moment, so if they are TBA (to be announced) at the time of the printing of the newsletter, I will send out a separate email when things are finalized.

Our meeting will also be run promptly. Dinner is at 7pm, the meeting will start at 8pm and the target will be to adjourn at 9pm (and I aim to hit my targets).

We all have busy lives and it's not possible for every Lion to be at every meeting. If you can't come to both the meetings in a month, then come to one of them. We would all like to see you and your presence makes us a better, stronger club. If you can't come to dinner, you are more than welcome to come for the meeting at 8pm.

If you've been thinking about coming to more meetings, this would be a great year to start.

Look forward to seeing you in September.

Lion President Brooks





### Grand Island Lions 55th Annual Special Kids Picnic

On July 17, 2013 at the Buffalo Launch Club Grounds over 800 children and staff were treated to boat rides, pony rides, Shriner Mini Kar rides, face painting, popcorn, soda, hot dogs and hamburgers. The Niagara Experience Players, a group of young people from Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda entertained the children with singing and dancing. Sabretooth, Pringles the Clown, Danny the Magician, and Ms. Lion added to the festivities. Over 100 volunteers worked to make the day a special summer experience for kids with special needs. Groups volunteering included the Grand Island, Ransomville, Kenmore, and Merrittton Ontario, Lions Clubs; the Excalibur boat, Knights of Columbus, Grand Island High School cheerleaders, Grand Island High School football team, as well as, Rotary Club members, Boy Scout Troop 104 and individual community people. Participating schools were Erie 1 BOCES from Williamsville, Clarence and West Seneca West school sites, Autistic Services, Heritage Education Centers, Sweet Home Schools, and People Inc. and Baker Victory Services.



Want to witness a Miracle???

Then come on out to Miracle League Field on Grand Island for "Lions Night" on the evening of Saturday, September 14, 2013. Witness the miracle of happiness on the faces of kids and young adults with disabilities who at one time could only play baseball in their dreams. Arrive by 7 p.m. and have a dog or a 'burg at the concession stand adjacent to the field. Miracle League Field is located in Veterans' Park behind the Grand Island Memorial Library at 1715 Bedell Road. The game gets underway at 7:30 p.m. and will be under the lights donated by R. B. U-Ren Equipment of Niagara Falls. The event is free and open to the public. Restrooms are available. The entire facility is handicapped accessible.

Miracle League Field is one of 250 fields located throughout the USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, and now in Australia. Over 200,000 children and young adults now participate in America's favorite pastime. It is played on a specialized rubber mat free of any obstacles making it a safe environment for everyone on the field. What makes this particular field unique is the time between the start of fundraising and opening day – just 11 months! The Lions Club International Foundation played a major role in getting the quarter-million dollar field built through a \$75,000 grant obtained by the Grand Island Lions club along with another \$22,000 the club raised at a fundraising dinner and also selling split club tickets at the World Junior League Hockey Tournament when it was hosted in Buffalo. It is an ongoing community-wide project with the hope of opening an adjacent handicapped accessible playground in the Fall of this year.

So be part of a miracle – whether it be as a player buddy to help them swing for the stars or your standard bench warmer cheering the players on. Come out and see what community involvement can do that has changed the lives of so many children and young adults. Batter up!

For further information, please contact Lion Tom Witkowski at [liontom20n@roadrunner.com](mailto:liontom20n@roadrunner.com) or 909-1862.

Our Club earned 7994 points for service related projects last month in the District 20N monthly contest thanks to Lion Corresponding Secretary Annette. Monthly reports to the District are only one of the many unnoticed tasks of a club secretary.





We deposited in total \$1866.92 in the Welfare account. Thank-You for making this fundraiser such a success. Henry and Annette.  
 Pictured is Lion Paul Bassette working the White Cane.



Our Grand Island Lions ran a 50/50 split for the Miracle League fund raiser held at the Miracle League field on August 17th. Eight hundred seventy two dollars was raised thanks to our clubs volunteers of Lions Pat Patterson, Dick Crawford, Tom Witkowski, Tom Rusert, Jerry Dubiel, Fred Ruocco and Brooks and Brenda Rimes. \$436 went to the winning ticket held by the Tollner Family while an equal amount went to support Miracle League. Pictured above is Lion Jerry Dubiel working at the ticket table.

Bon Ton Community Days Club Fundraiser- Goal \$500. This year community days are Friday November 15 and Saturday November 16. We again are asking- each member to purchase at least one book for \$5. In addition the Club can earn more money by selling books in the store one week before beginning Monday November 11.

Please contact me by e-mail to sign-up. or to purchase. Books will also be available beginning at the September 25 meeting.

Yours in Service  
 Lion Annette

Thanks to Lions Annette Boies-Lobl, Henry Lobl, Donna Lavalley, Tom Witkowski, Tom Rusert, and Brooks Rimes for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the October Newsletter is Saturday September 28th. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Lion Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher, at: grandislandliondave@gmail.com.

Grand Island Lions web site:  
[www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com)

