



The Grand Island Lion

September 2024

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Wednesday September 11th
Lions General Membership Meeting
Details TBA

Wednesday September 25th
Lions General Membership Meeting.
Heron Point Community Room
New Member Drive
Details TBA

It's been whirlwind months since our last update! We had a blast hosting the Kids Picnic and the White Cane Days fundraiser. Plus, we kicked off a fantastic new project that was approved last year, and we even took part in a Rotary paint collection event.

I want to give a big shoutout to Lion Shelia and all the members who put in so much hard work for the Picnic. The current known costs are \$2,700, and there will likely be more to come. It looks like the costs might be a bit higher this time around. Also, our amazing Lion Shelia has decided to step back from leading this project after doing an incredible job for so many years. We're on the lookout for a new chairman for this event and some members to take on some tasks. If anyone is interested, please do let me know.



I also want to express my appreciation for Lion Anne Fahning and all the members who worked hard on the White Cane fundraiser. I don't have the final numbers for the net profits from this event yet, but it was a fantastic effort.

We've got some exciting news – the Clothing Collection Shed has finally opened at the Grand Island High School, thanks to Lion Donna Lavalley's outstanding leadership. It's not just a small fundraiser for us, but an amazing environmental project that will help reduce the amount of clothing ending up in our local landfills. Lion Donna has some great advertisement posters that we can place in businesses. If you know of a place that could help us get the word out, please let us know.

The board has suggested a \$5.00 dues increase for the 2025-26 year to cover the State Dues increase approved at the last State Convention. So, our next year's dues would go up from \$80.00 to \$85.00. We will have more information about this when the budget for the year is complete.

Lion Tom Witkowski and his committee is working on the budgets for the Charity and Admin Funds for next year. That will be published to all the members when the board makes it's final approval in September.

Mark your calendars! We've got an Open House Membership Drive planned for September 25th at Heron Pointe. More details will come your way, but please keep that Wednesday in your plans, and feel free to invite any prospective members to join us. We're limited to 65 people at the event and we want to fill the place! More members means more service that we can provide and spread our work around more people.

See everyone at the meeting in September 11th.

Lion President Jim



WE SERVE



On July 17th 2024 the Grand Island Lions Club hosted its 66th annual Kids Special Picnic. Around 560 kids with special needs and their aides were treated to a day of fun that included boat rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, and Lunch, that included hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Clown volunteers worked the crowd while a DJ encouraged the kids to participate in Karaoke. The Lions are thankful for all the help from many areas, with the Buffalo Launch Club kindly donating their grounds and personnel without which we would not be able to do this. There were many donations; Tops Markets with drinks, Dunkin Doughnuts with coffee and doughnuts for the volunteers from the community, including Troop 104 Boy scouts, Rotary Club, and Lions from our sister club from Merritton Ontario. Special thanks to the Erie County Sheriff's department for sending deputies and horses from their mounted reserve division to interact with the kids. Also, special thanks to the many boat captains, donating their time and vessels, including Excalibur Leisure Skills, Collins Marine, and the Niagara Frontier Antique and Classic Boat Club to name a few. Finally, thanks to the businesses and people who live and work in our community for their support on our White Cane Days, Spaghetti Dinner, and other fundraisers. Without their continued support, we would never be able to pay for this project.

Membership Contest

As membership chair I am asking that all Lions try to recruit at least one new member. For incentive the new member contest will again be held this year.

For Lions that wish to participate please put \$5.00 into the prize pool by the second September meeting. The Lion that signs up the most new members will win the cash plus a very special rare and collectable Lions item probably worth pennies on Ebay.

There is one caveat. Our club has a few members named Tom and one Dick. If any contestant recruits a Harry, Harold, or Harriet its winner take all regardless of totals.

Good Luck,
Lion Tom Rusert



Thank you to everyone who was able to help our Club achieve a successful White Cane Drive this year! Special thanks to everyone who took more than one shift. Even though 3 spots were left empty, we raised over \$3,000. I'm very proud of your hard work.

I did a little breakdown and found that for the two hours that we had three members collecting at two different intersections on the Island, the average collected per worker was \$258

The average per worker on Friday at Tops was \$130 And the average per worker at Tops on Saturday was \$125 for a two hour shift.

I think we would've raised another \$400 if we had filled all of the timeslots. The key is probably to attract just a few more members to our wonderful club for next year. Here is a fun fact, though, Jose asked if I would count the money in his cane because he "strong armed" several friends that came to Tops while he was there and he felt that he probably did pretty well. In fact he did! His cane had \$216 in it for his two hour shift. No other cane had so many \$20s and tens and fives. Congratulations Jose!

You know, I will be looking for you to take two slots next year ☐

I'm so happy to be associated with people who are willing to sacrifice their time to help others.

Yours in service ,
Lion Anne Fahning

Lions White Cane Chairman, Anne Fahning, poses with her white cane while collecting donations on Staley Rd at the corner of Stoney Point.



Grand Island Lions Club Scholarship Winners

The Grand Island Lions Club 2024 Service Scholarships have been awarded to the following Grand Island students. Alexandra Woloszyn receiving \$1,500 to attend Le Moyne College to study for physician assistance program and John Adam Vinkle received \$500 to attend Niagara university to study sports management.


The scholarship primarily focuses on the student's community service and volunteer activities, but other important criteria are academic excellence, school activities and written formal recommendations. The Grand Island Lions Scholarship Committee believes that these students characterize the Lions motto "We Serve". The Grand Island Lions Club wishes to extend congratulations to all these enthusiastic community serving young people.

This year, the Lions Club will continue to award a scholarship called the Outstanding Character and Effort Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a Grand Island graduating student who fulfills several criteria such as showing outstanding character traits, high effort in school, may have faced unfortunate or challenging circumstances in life, has positive attitude toward school and life, strong academic standing and other significant criteria. This year our club awarded two \$250 scholarships to Hailey Lee who will be attending a four year college and Joe Leistner who will attend a trade school.

The picture from left to right are: Lions Club President Jim Ryan, John Adam Vinkle, Alexandra Woloszyn, Hailey Lee, Joe Leistner, Lion Scholarship Chair Paul Bassette.



USED CLOTHING DROP OFF



**Grand Island Lions
@ Grand Island Central
School District**

1100 Ransom Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

REDUCE WASTE IN LANDFILLS
CLOTHING USED WORLDWIDE
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

*Used Clothing
Drop-Off Shed*

Location:
Grand Island Lions
@ Grand Island Central School District
1100 Ransom Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

Why Donate?

Reduce waste in landfills
Clothing used worldwide
Tax deductible

Only Items Accepted:
All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, towels,
sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed toys.
(Your donations will be redistributed as whole garments)

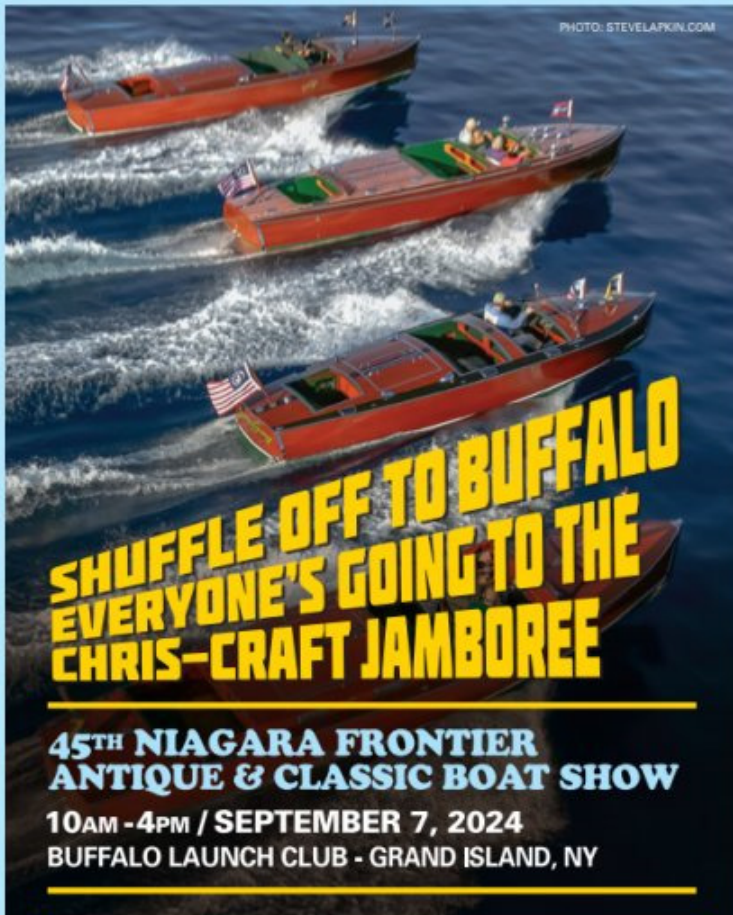


VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTIONS

This volunteer work should be done at least once or twice per week. If this is a particularly high volume shed, it may need to be done more often. For any questions, please call the St. Paddy Textile, Inc. office at (585) 924-7941.

- 1. Tie off any untied bags.**
-Please double knot.
- 2. Bag any clothing that is loose or in boxes.**
-Please use the bags we have provided.
-Clothing already in bags does NOT need to be re-bagged.
-Non-clothing items do NOT need to be bagged.
- 3. Move all donations to the other end of the shed (away from the donation chute).**
-Please stack donations, if necessary, to maximize the amount of donations that can be stored between pickups.

The Grand Island Lions now have sponsored a clothing shed where we get a share of the profits to help us with our welfare projects. The clothing shed has been delivered right in front of the middle school close to the road. Lion Donna has about 100 flyers that are a half sheet, She also has 10 laminated sheets that are appropriate to display in a business. Volunteers are welcome for this fundraiser. If our members would like to volunteer for advertizing or maintenance of this fundraiser, contact Lion Donna



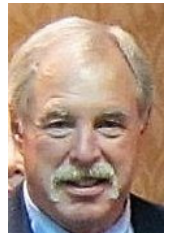
WWW.OLDBOATSBUFFALO.ORG
Reservations required for select events.



The Niagara Frontier Antique and Classic Boat Club has been very generous in supporting our Kid's Picnic for the last three years. Let's show our appreciation by attending the 45th annual NFCACB boat show on September 7th at the Buffalo Launch club.

Lion Tom

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, Donna Lavalley, Tom Witkowski, Anne Fahning, Paul Bassette, Jim Ryan, and Kelly McGarvey for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the October Newsletter is Friday September 27th. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Lion Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher at: grandislandliondave@gmail.com.

Visit us at: www.gilions.com.
See our facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/GILIONSCLUB>

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Alice Gerard