

The
HEAD LION-ER

NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2018



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Experience is one thing you can't get for
nothing.

- Oscar Wilde

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

100-Year-Old Lions

This doesn't mean us. Lions Clubs International was started in Chicago in 1917 by Melvin Jones. Since then it has grown to the world's largest service organization with 1.4 million members in 210 countries. We naturally focus much effort on serving the Naperville area but it's inspirational to learn of the great variety of services provided by Lions worldwide as they mark the Centennial of service.

For example, the Lions Club of Montego Bay Jamaica partnered with Canadian Vision Care Volunteers to open a new vision clinic where people receive glaucoma and cataract exams and get prescription glasses. Leos and Lions in Latin America and the Caribbean organized 800 clubs from 17 countries to collect and distribute food donations. In Nepal, the Kathmandu Lions donated a new six

room schoolhouse to replace one damaged in the recent earthquake. And Lions even save rhinos. MD 410 Lions have launched an international marketing campaign to raise awareness of the plight of the last remaining wild rhinos.

These are just a few of the thousands of service projects conducted by Lions tailored to the needs of their local communities. A future challenge will be maintaining membership and service dedication with so much time devoted to Facebook, Twitter, web surfing, and other electronic distractions. An encouraging sign is the Lions International report that hundreds of thousands of new members have joined to continue to build on the impressive Lions service legacy.

Remember WE SERVE

Lion Jim Woodring, President

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The aim of education is the knowledge
not of facts, but of values.

- William Ralph Inge

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Club News and Guest Speakers

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

On August 4, our Lions clean-up crew was out again cleaning up our adopted stretch of Plainfield-Naperville Road. After doing such a great job in the previous clean-ups, this round took only one hour with seven workers.

The next and final 2018 highway clean-up will be on October 6. See Lion Paul Rewerts for information.

PEACE POSTER

With Lion Yllena Sinclair's move out of state, the club is in need of a new Peace Poster Chairperson. This person would coordinate the Naperville schools' participation in the annual Lions Peace Poster contest. If interested, please see Lion Jim Woodring.



Lions Group Photo taken August 21

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Good questions outrank easy answers.

- Paul Samuelson

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Luncheon Speakers

SIDE BY SIDE SMILES

Our group was joined by two very dedicated and impressive high school juniors, Sanjana Gangadharan and Nandini Arakoni. Sanjana and Nandini are lifelong friends. Nandini was born with a cleft lip that was successfully repaired when she was only two months old.

Because of Nandini's experience, the girls have an awareness of cleft lip and palate birth defects. They came to know that 1 in 700 children is born with a cleft lip or palate and it is the second most prevalent birth defect after Down syndrome.

In the United States, these defects are relatively easy to repair with a surgery. In the developing world, many children born this way do not have access to this surgery, however. This can lead to a lifetime of difficulties including ostracization and difficulty eating and/or speaking. Sanjana and Nandini felt devastated that these children did not have access to a readily available remedy.

They decided that they wanted to help. They formed their nonprofit, Side by Side Smiles, with the goal of selling jewelry to fund these surgeries. They have partnered with Smile Train, which is an organization

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that performs and trains local doctors to perform these surgeries in the developing world.

Each surgery costs only \$250 with Smile Train. This organization takes care of the surgery and all post-op care as well as providing counselors to explain and guide each family.

The girls started out with charm bracelets and have expanded to new items. In the year and a half since starting the charity, they have raised over \$25,000. They maintain a goal of \$100,000 before the end of 2020. They spend much of their free time on the organization and hope that it will continue far into the future.

You can visit their website to learn more or to purchase jewelry, www.sidebysidesmiles.org.

LOAVES AND FISHES

On August 14, Eric Gardner was our guest speaker from Loaves and Fishes. Loaves and Fishes mission is to end hunger and transform lives. It started in the church closet at St. Raphael in 1984 and has grown into an organization that feeds 19,000 people per year.

Loaves and Fishes operates a food pantry that is set up like a grocery store. Clients can shop for the food that they want and get to select a certain number of items from different categories based on their family size.

They partner with local farms and stores as well as the Northern Illinois Food Bank to procure their food.

Every day, they need 80-100 volunteers to run the organization. The number of hours worked by volunteers annually equates to 47 additional full-time employees.

They have also joined forces with Naperville Cares and offers a variety of non-food-based assistance to their clients. These range from emergency cash assistance, to help with taxes, to computer and English classes.

JULIE & GAVIN STAAB

On August 21, Julie Staab was our guest speaker to update the group on the progress of her son, Gavin. Gavin has Angelman Syndrome which is a genetic disorder that affects Gavin in many ways, including inhibiting him from communicating verbally.

This is the third year that Julie and Gavin have presented at our meetings. Julie informed the club that Gavin is high-functioning, but does have many difficulties. These include anxiety, sleep issues, and communicating verbally.

Each year, Gavin takes a trip to Boston to meet with Angelman Syndrome specialists. This year, after much practice, Gavin was able to balance on one foot. The doctor who was evaluating Gavin said that he had never had an Angelman Syndrome patient capable of that feat.

Julie and her family work every day with Gavin on speech, physical, and occupational therapy. He also attends formal therapy sessions

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every week. She showed us that Gavin has learned to write his name now and can read some words. Tasks that doctors said he would never be able to accomplish.

Gavin is capable of doing many activities that his brother and sister do. He rides a bike (with training wheels), swims, and plays Go Fish. He loves to fish with his grandpa Al.

Gavin uses technology to communicate. He has a sound board with pictures that he can touch to communicate a person or thing. He can also use apps on phones or tablets to accomplish the same purpose.



Julie and Gavin pose for a photo after lunch

Julie is doing a great job with Gavin. He is learning and growing more every time we see him. Gavin's brother and sister have also grown into wonderful, compassionate children thanks to their experience with Gavin and the parenting from Julie and her husband.

We are already looking forward to next summer's Gavin update!

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If you aren't fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm.

- Vince Lombardi

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on August 28, 2018 at Beidelman-Kunsch funeral Home in downtown Naperville. The following is a summary of the Board's actions and discussions. All members are welcome to attend the Board meetings, which start at 7:30 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held on September 25, 2018.

Approved the Club and Foundation regular meeting minutes of July 24, 2018 and a special Foundation Board meeting minutes of August 7, 2018.

Approved the Club and Foundation Treasurer's Reports for June 30, 2018 and July 31, 2018 as corrected.

Approved the Social Service report for August 2018. Discussed the reconciliation of amounts included on the Social Service Reports and Treasurer's Report.

Approved placing a 1/16 page advertisement in the 2018/19 DuPage Symphony Orchestra program in the amount of \$125.00 which would be charged to the Club funds.

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Approved the addition of a link on the Club web-site for a guide entitled "U.S. college Guide for Students with Disabilities."

Discussed an article that was submitted to Positively Naperville and Club group picture which was submitted to Lions District 1-J Journal.

Discussed progress of Summer Raffle. Mayor Steve Chirico will be on hand to draw winning raffle tickets on September 4, 2018 and all members should wear their Lion shirts that day.

Discussed Candy Day which will be held on October 5 & 6 for store collections and October 12 & 13 for street collections. Candy has been delivered for the event and sign-up sheets will be available soon.

Discussed the possible sale of Fanny Mae candy bars at Turkey Trot packet pick up. This item was referred to Turkey Trot Committee for further discussion and action.

Discussed request for OrCam My Eye for Brian McManus. This item was deferred to a subsequent meeting pending obtaining additional information.

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**Everyone is a genius at least once a year.
The real geniuses simply have their
bright ideas closer together.**

- Georg C. Lichtenberg
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GUESTS

District 1-J Second Vice President, John Barsanti, was our guest on August 7. He spoke briefly with the club about retaining and gaining members. He was also looking for other members to join his global membership team.

On August 21, Lion Al Knotek's family were our guests. His wife Glenda was joined by their two daughters, Stacie and Julie, as well as Al's grandchildren, Connor, Gavin, and Audrey.

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**The art of living is more like wrestling
than dancing.**

- Marcus Aurelius
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COMING EVENTS

September 4 – Raffle Drawing at our club meeting. Mayor Chirico will be on hand to draw the winning tickets.

September 11 – Jordan Howell, Chairman of Heart of a Veteran, will be our guest speaker.

September 18 – Amy Van Polen will be our guest speaker from Bridge Communities.

September 25 – Business Meeting.

October 5-6 – Candy Day Store Collections. See Lion Jim Ebers for more information.

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October 6 – Final Adopt-a-Highway clean up of the year. See Lion Paul Rewerts for more information.

October 12-13 – Candy Day Street Sales. See Lion Jim Ebers for more information.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following members have a service anniversary in **September** and they are:

Lion Nick Stanitz (37)
Lion Ken Strugalla (10)
Lion Linda Strugalla (10)

The following members have a birthday in **September** and they are:

Lion Maria Wilson – September 1
Lion George Pradel – September 5
Lion Carl Smith – September 28

Best wishes and congratulations to these members. If your information is missing or incorrect please contact **Lion Jane Bowers** to make additions or corrections.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 4 - Luncheon meeting at Braconi's
September 11 - Luncheon meeting at Braconi's
September 18 - Luncheon meeting at Braconi's
September 25 - Board of Directors meeting
September 25 - Luncheon meeting at Braconi's

OFFICERS

President – Lion Jim Woodring
1st VP – Lion Ken Strugalla
2nd VP – Lion Donna Kearney

Secretary – Lion Jane Bowers
Treasurer – Lion Bill Bleecker
Director – Lion Jim Ebers
Director – Lion Maria Wilson
Director – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Director – Lion Paul Rewerts
Director – Lion Bob Hull
Director – Lion Phil Barnum
Membership – Lion Jim Ebers
Immediate Past President – Lion Linda Strugalla

Appointed Positions and Committee Chairs:

Dues Secretary – Lion Jim Ebers
Tail Twister – Rotating
Lion Tamer – Rotating
Chaplain – At Large
Social Services – Lions Donna Kearney & Denise French
Peace Poster Contest – Vacant
Program Director – Lion Meghen Williams
Donations Committee Chair – Lion Linda Strugalla
Diabetes Awareness – Lion Meghen Williams
Publicity – Lion Bob Hull
Hospitality – Vacant
RibFest – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Candy Day – Lion Jim Ebers
Summer Raffle – Lion Ken Strugalla
Turkey Trot – Lions Glen Behnke and Donna Kearney
Sight & Sound – Lion Al Knotek
Counter Mints – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Investment Committee – Lions Bill Bleecker, Steve Hertzberg and Al Knotek
Newsletter – Lion Chris Williams
Social Media – Lion Chris Williams

If you have newsworthy information, please pass it on to editor/publisher *Lion Chris Williams* at **708-297-1987** or email **chris@pnlawoffice.com** This newsletter will be published monthly after the Board Meeting (4th Tuesday of the month). Cut off date for news information will be the 25th of the month.

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**Liberty – Integrity
Our Nation’s Service**

**70 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR COMMUNITY
NAPERVILLE**

**NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB
P.O. Box 282
Naperville, IL 60566-0282**

**Meets Tuesday – Noon (12:15)
Braconi’s
796 Royal St George Drive
Naperville**



**Phone: (630) 364-3922
Website: <http://napervillenoonlions.org/>
Email: info@napervillenoonlions.org
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/NapervilleNoonLions>
Twitter: @NapervilleLions**

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