

The  
**HEAD LION-ER**

**NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB**

**MARCH 2019**



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**Everything has been figured out, except  
how to live.**

**- Jean-Paul Sartre**

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Beyond the Local Pride

Local Lions clubs around the world can be justly proud of the work they do providing services and support for their particular locations. I'm impressed with the variety of service projects such as building parks and home handicap access ramps to packing meal kits. Our club is fortunate in that the amount of money we're able to raise permits the support of several dozen organizations which also provide valuable services.

But there is more. The amazing scope of the Lions organization supports large scale assistance activities worldwide. Our state Lions of Illinois Foundation supports about a dozen programs thanks to club contributions of dues and proceeds from Candy Day and Sight & Sound Sweepstakes. Included are of

course multiple vision programs, but also a hearing aid bank and social services (Lions of Illinois Funds for Emergency (L.I.F.E.)). Recycling programs collect eyeglasses, hearing aids, keys, ink cartridges, pop tabs, and cell phones. And let us not forget the importance of the multiple Camp Lions and the Lions vision and hearing testing vans continually roaming the state.

So even if you are too busy or unable to fully participate in local projects, take some Lions pride in the support your dues and fund-raising efforts provides for big scale services all over Illinois.

Still to come: Lions on the world stage.

**Remember WE SERVE**

**Lion Jim Woodring, President**

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**Everything's got a moral, if only you can  
find it.**

**- Lewis Carroll**

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# The Head Lion-er



## Club News and Guest Speakers

### CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD

On February 13 at the Southeast Zone Meeting, our club was honored with the Lions Club Excellence Award. This award was based on our club's activities for the 2017-2018 club year. District 1-J Governor Susan Galvez was on hand to present the award to Past President Linda Strugalla.



Lion Linda Strugalla accepts our Club Excellence Award from District Governor Lion Susan Galvez

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Feed My Starving Children held its annual mobile pack event at North Central College on February 16-17. As always, our club supported the event through a donation and with volunteer help. The event showcased a number of financial

donors and we were one of the largest.



Lion volunteers presenting a check for our donation representing 34,091 meals

This year, the organization set a goal to pack 1.3 million meals. After all was said and done, that goal was achieved as the event packed 1.33 million meals.

### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Our club will reprise its role as a road cleanup crew this year. Lion Paul Rewerts has scheduled the clean-up dates to beautify Plainfield-Naperville Road. The dates are as follows: **April 6, June 1, August 3, and October 5.** In the event of inclement weather, a make-up date will be set for the following Saturday. Plan to meet at 8:00 AM in the east parking lot.

The county requires updated waivers for all who wish to volunteer. See Lion Paul Rewerts for a waiver.

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I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another.

- Thomas Jefferson

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## *The Head Lion-er*

### **Luncheon Speakers**

#### **SHARON GOODWIN**

On February 5, Sharon Goodwin was our speaker. Sharon spoke with us about her mission trip to Rwanda. With her church, Sharon has been taking annual mission trips to test vision and distribute eyeglasses.

Her most recent trip was to Butare, which is the second largest city in Rwanda. This country was devastated by the Rwandan genocide, wherein 15-20% of the population was murdered in 1994.

As a country, Rwanda has bounced back and is the most progressive country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Unlike some other developing nations, the Rwandan government loves that Sharon and her group are there to help.

Through their missions, Sharon and her group have learned to test vision as lay people. While they cannot provide as precise of services as optometrists, they are still able to provide patients with glasses that greatly enhance their vision.

In Rwanda, there are only 14 ophthalmologists in the entire country. While in Butare, Sharon worked with a husband and wife ophthalmologist duo who helped to perform cataract surgeries. While not the most sterile environment, the surgeries are done in about 10 minutes and are relatively pain-free. Sharon showed us a short video of a woman who, after having the surgery, was able to see more than

just shapes and shadows. It was a very moving video.

#### **TOUCH MY HEART**

Rick Montalbano, Jr., founder of Touch My Heart, was our speaker on February 12. After working his whole life in the furniture business, Rick and his family started Touch My Heart in 2010 as an organization to help those with special needs.

Touch My Heart is based in Naperville and the majority of their services are provided to the Naperville community. They reach nearly 5,000 people per year, with 75% of those being disabled adults.

Rick has worked to involve Boy Scouts and has worked with more than 50 Eagle Scout projects impacting special needs. He has also created a food distribution program wherein he delivers food four times per week. This food is usually donated by Panera at the end of the day and delivered the next morning to those in need.

Touch My Heart has also produced theater productions with casts of entirely special needs actors. They also partner with Drury Lane for an annual Christmas party at the theater.

#### **FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS**

Lion Steve Sroka was our guest speaker to discuss Foundation Fighting Blindness. Lion Steve was sure to thank us for our generous \$25,000 grant which was matched

by the Gund Foundation. He was proud to tell us that we were the only Lions Club to donate a full \$25,000.

Lion Steve gave us a brief refresher on Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB). The organization has been around for 40 years with a mission to drive research to provide treatment and prevention of retinal degenerative diseases. FFB is the largest non-governmental source of fundraising for this endeavor in the world, having raised over \$800 million.

Each year, they are able to fund about 130 grants, but have to turn many away. Currently, there are 35 ongoing clinical trials which is incredible. Because of the results of these trials, private companies are beginning to invest which has allowed even more research.

Recently, the first FDA approved gene therapy has gone into production and the results have been dramatic. There are a number of companies completing trials and working to get new drugs into the market.

Lion Steve wanted to let us know about the Vision Walk which will take place in Elk Grove Village on June 2. This is a fun event that he hopes to get more Lions Clubs involved in.

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**You can never plan the future by the past.**

**- Edmund Burke**

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**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

The Board of Directors met on February 26, 2019 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 March 26, 2019.

Approved the Club and Foundation regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2019.

Approved the Club and Foundation Treasurer's Reports for the seven months ending January 31, 2019.

Discussed the preliminary fiscal year end June 30, 2018 audit report. The final audit report will be available for the March 2019 Board meeting.

Approved the Social Service report for February 2019. For the eight months ending February 28, 2019 expenditures totaled \$64,254 for completed cases.

Approved the following donations:

- Camp Lions - \$1,000
- National Federation of the Blind - \$10,000
- St. Baldrick's Foundation - \$1,000
- Longwood School - \$500
- Angelman Syndrome Foundation - \$250
- Illinois Hands and Voices - \$250

Discussed donation to Senior Home Sharing in the amount of \$1,000.

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This donation was deferred until end of the Foundations fiscal year.

Discussed donation to Hear Us. This donation was deferred until the March 2019 Board meeting.

Discussed possible new members that were referred to the Club from Lions Clubs International (LCI). Membership Chairman will follow up with these possible new members.

A letter was submitted to Naperville Municipal Band to participate in the Bands annual bake sale. The Club will know by late March or early April if the Club will be selected to participate.

News releases have been sent to various media groups regarding the Clubs participation in Feed My Starving Children and the Club Excellence Award.

Approved a \$250 donation to District 1-J in support of the convention hospitality room.

Approved a \$50 registration fee to participate in the Rotary Club's International Service Summit to be held on April 6, 2019.

Approved the Club providing volunteers for Lions District 1-J diabetes grant

Discussed changes made to the City of Naperville SECA grant and how it affects the NNLC annual Turkey Trot.

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**A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition.**

**- William Arthur Ward**

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### **GUESTS**

On February 12, Jackie Rewerts, wife of Lion Paul Rewerts was our guest. Paul and Jackie were celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day they met.

District 1-J Governor Lion Susan Galvez was our guest on February 19. In addition, Mary Kosinski was our guest. Mary is a friend of Lion Donna Kearney and a potential new member.

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**Time passes irrevocably.**

**- Virgil**

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### **COMING EVENTS**

**March 5** – Speaker TBD

**March 12** – Rebecca Ruff and Ann Nikchevich will be our guest speakers from Naperville Christian Academy

**March 19** – Group visit to Child's Voice in Wood Dale. There will be no regular meeting at Braconi's. Please contact Lion Chris Williams if interested in attending Child's Voice.

**March 23** – St. Baldrick's Day at the Naperville Marriott. See Lion Donna Kearney to volunteer for registration.

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**March 26** – Business Meeting.

**April 5-7** – District 1-J Annual Convention at the Naperville Marriott.

**April 6** – International Service Summit. Our club will have a table and will need volunteers. See Lion Jim Woodring to sign up.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

- Lion Bill Cornish (12)**
- Lion Chris Williams (10)**
- Lion Mark Rafferty (5)**

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

- Lion Rick Butz – March 2**
- Lion Dick Lehman – March 3**
- Lion Paul Rewerts – March 8**
- Lion Dick Griffith – March 13**
- Lion Jim Burner – March 17**

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

- |       |      |                               |
|-------|------|-------------------------------|
| March | 5 -  | Luncheon meeting at Braconi's |
| March | 12 - | Luncheon meeting at Braconi's |
| March | 19 - | Visit to Child's Voice        |
| March | 26 - | Board of Directors meeting    |
| March | 26 - | Luncheon meeting at Braconi's |

## OFFICERS

- President – Lion Jim Woodring
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Lion Ken Strugalla
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – 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 – Lion Karen Maxwell
- 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 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month). Cut off date for news information will be the 25<sup>th</sup> 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  
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