

The
HEAD LION-ER

NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2021



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**A person who won't read has no
advantage over one who can't read.**

- Mark Twain

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On August 26, 2021, the Naperville Noon Lions Club turned 73 years old, having been chartered on that date in 1948 by the International Association of Lions Clubs. It has been in continuance existence ever since. That got me to thinking about the history of our Club and Lions Clubs in general.

Our Club is 73 years old, but what is the oldest Lions Club in existence today? Research indicated that the San Antonio Founders Lions Club was organized on October 8, 1915. Yes, that is before Lions Clubs International was said to be organized on June 7, 1917, in Chicago.

Some historians indicate that the International Association of Lions Clubs was incorporated on October 24, 2016 in Evansville, Indiana. Others indicate the International Association was organized on June 7, 1917 at a meeting in Chicago

organized by Melvin Jones. Dr. William Perry Woods, a prominent medical surgeon in Evansville, who became the first President of the International Association, indicated that the meeting in Chicago with Melvin Jones never took place thus the Lions was organized on October 24, 2016 and San Antonio Founders Lions Club became a part of the new organization on October 1916. Could all of this be true?

When Braconi's was closing, I picked up our Club's charter, as it has become a historic document for our Club. Our Club was originally chartered as "THE LIONS CLUB OF NAPERVILLE." Somewhere along the way the name has been changed to the Naperville Noon Lions Club. I am not sure when this happened, but maybe it was to distinguish our Club from that of the former evening Lions Club.

The charter has been placed in a beautiful frame, which was made many years ago by former Lion William Frier (now deceased). When we can re-hang our charter, take a look at the frame and the detail that has gone into it. Did you know there were 50 original founding members, some of which are well known

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names in Naperville history, such as L. J. Kunsch, MD, Wilber O. Beidelman, Charles B. Friedrich, Harold Moser, and Edwin S. Wiesbrook, to name a few. Our Club has a great roster of founding fathers. Today we also have a great roster of men and women to keep the legacy of our Club going well into the future. In a couple of years, we will be celebrating a milestone of 75 years.

Remember WE SERVE

Lion Bob Hull, President

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**Only the wisest and stupidest of men
never change.**

- Confucius

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Club News and Guest Speakers

LUNCH MEETINGS

Our regular Tuesday luncheon meetings will be held at Aurelio's – Springbrook, located near the corner of Route 59 and 83rd Street. For the time being, the cost of lunch is \$20 per person, payable upon arrival to the club.

Aurelio's has provided us with a limited menu from which to choose and this menu can be printed before and brought into the meeting (check your email for a printable copy) or

additional copies will be available at Aurelio's. After making selections from the menu, a server will take your order and deliver your food when it is ready.

It is possible that the menu will change periodically or that our group may transition to a private buffet in the future. If there are any questions or if you have feedback to provide, please contact Lion Bob Hull.

LYMPHOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION WALK

On July 30, Lions Ken and Linda Strugalla staffed the registration desk for the Lymphoma Research Foundation Walk in Naperville – an event we also sponsored. It was a great event.



Registration desk with Lions Ken and Linda

ILLINOIS HANDS AND VOICES 5K RUN

On August 28, Illinois Hands and Voices held their 5K run at Phillips Park in Aurora. Our club sponsored the run and had a booth set up to provide information about our club. Our club also had two runners participate in the race, Lion Donna

Kearney and her husband, Brian. Both completed the race and finished first in their respective age groups.

NEW MEMBER

On August 17, our club inducted our newest member, Lion Jeff Harper. Lion Jeff was sponsored by Lion Ken Strugalla. Lion Jeff has been longtime friends with the Strugallas and has volunteered with us, sponsored our events, and bought raffle tickets in the past. Welcome to the club, Jeff!



Lion Jeff flanked by Lions Ken and Bob

BAKE SALE

Our club was selected to host the bake sale at the Naperville band concert on August 19. The music was great and the weather was beautiful. There were plenty of delicious baked goods provided by our members and we nearly sold out of everything.



The gazebo was full of sweet treats and plenty of Lion volunteers

The event earned our club more than \$1,200 to be used for our work in the community. Thank you to Lion Kathy Lukavsky for coordinating and all of the volunteers who baked and worked the event.

JANE BOWERS DAY

Our very own Lion Jane Bowers was honored by the City of Naperville. August 25, 2021 was Jane Bowers Day in Naperville. Lion Jane was honored for her years of dedicated service to the community following her retirement from the YMCA.



Jane Bowers Day Proclamation

Lion Jane was further honored at a reception at Naperville Bank and Trust on August 25 with about 100 in attendance.

Luncheon Speakers

DIVEHEART

Jim Elliott, President of Diveheart, an organization which he founded 20 years ago, returned to the NNLC on August 3 to update the Club on the recent activities of Diveheart. Jim, a former Lion, has spoken to the Club on many occasions previously with regard to his dynamic organization. Diveheart, which is headquartered in Downers Grove, is a 501(c)(3) organization. He thanked the Club for its many years of financial support.

He stated the mission of Diveheart is using zero gravity and what he termed adaptive scuba therapy. Diveheart strives to build confidence, independence, and self-esteem in individuals with both physical and cognitive challenges. When using the adaptive scuba program, individuals become pain free within one week. Kids with autism especially like the results from adaptive scuba therapy as water provides a great healing effect. He was very proud of the fact that Diveheart has not had any deaths since the inception of its programs. During the pandemic, because of limited in-person contact and travel restrictions, he has been working to update Diveheart programs, website, media relations, and their offices in Downers Grove. He hopes 2021 will be a more productive year and they will be able to return to their many programs.

One of the major projects he has been working on was the



Lion Bill Bleecker addresses the group to celebrate Lion Jane

Thank you Lion Jane for your work for the YMCA, the Lions Club, and the community as a whole. We are proud of you!

AVENIDA

Lion Bob Hull spoke with residents at Avenida on August 18 about our club and our mission. Perhaps this will entice some new members. Thank you to Lion Bob for your outreach efforts.



Lion Bob at Avenida

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

- Oscar Wilde

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development of a scuba mask that contains the ability to communicate with the diver. Because many of his participants are low vision or blind it becomes more efficient to be able to speak to the individual while under water rather than guide them by using visual effects. He had on display one of the new diving masks for Club members to see. They have also found a way to make use of old wet suits. Instead of throwing the suits away they have been able to cut them up, because of the thickness, and make coasters which they now sell to raise funds. He distributed samples of the coasters for the members to see.

Over the years, Diveheart has been working on constructing a deep-water pool to replicate the effect of open water diving. Land has been located, but the Illinois legislature has held up moving the project forward. Jim indicated that he hopes that this project will move forward this year. If so, it would allow the physical and psychological benefits of scuba therapy experienced in open water diving in a safe confined and controlled warm water environment.

KIDS MATTER

On August 10, Nina Menis, executive director of Kids Matter, was our guest speaker to update us on her organization. Celeste Wagner, a volunteer at Kids Matter, was also on hand.

Kids Matter has been around for 20 years and was started by volunteers at Edward Hospital as a means of

helping kids avoid destructive behavior. To serve this mission, they operate a number of programs.

They started a leadership academy in conjunction with the City of Naperville in 2020. The children involved get a taste of what it is like to serve on boards and commissions. They get to observe and learn what it means to serve on these bodies.

During the pandemic, Kids Matter developed and distributed stress relief care bags for kids. There were different versions for different age groups and included items meant to be used to relieve the stress that kids have been experiencing. These bags included coloring books, which were drawn by kids from the community.

They also sponsor a number of job and volunteer fairs to help kids find first jobs or volunteer opportunities. They run a crisis text line, which is available to kids in need and has already resulted in 10 saves.

Celeste Wagner is a volunteer who presents educational programs for Kids Matter on the topic of stress management. Celeste guided the group through a series of stress relieving exercises at the meeting.

EASTER SEALS

Courtney Brouna from Easter Seals of DuPage and Fox Valley was our guest speaker on August 17. She is the volunteer and community engagement coordinator.

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Easter Seals provides occupational, physical, and speech therapy to the disabled, among other services. Their services are available for individuals up to 21 years old, however, if there is a benefit being achieved, they will not kick anyone out of the program.

They have three centers that service the area, with one being in Naperville. The others are in Villa Park and Elgin.

COVID caused the facilities to be closed, but allowed them to transition some programs to become virtual. They reopened in July 2020 with a limited schedule and fewer appointments. They continue to enforce strict COVID safety rules.

They are hopeful that they will be able to return to in-person events soon, starting with their 5K run in October.

VILLA ST. BENEDICT

On August 31, Tonya Urkoski was our guest speaker from Villa St. Benedict. Tonya spoke with us about the independent living options available at Villa St. Benedict, which is located in Lisle.

They have an independent living building with apartments and villas. They also have an assisted living area and a memory care unit. They are not rental units as everyone buys into their space. This is preferable as when the resident leaves, 90% of the investment gets returned.

Tonya explained that it feels like a real community. They have a salon, spa, gym, art studio, and a bar/lounge, among other amenities.

During COVID, there were many restrictions on the community, which prevented residents from being able to visit. The various units were segregated. Villa St. Benedict made modifications to its programs and meals. Everyone had meals delivered and they worked to create socially distant social programs for the residents. Thus far, only two cases of COVID (both mild) were reported.

Villa St. Benedict also offers a respite program which provides a place to stay in the event caregivers need to be away for a short time. They also offer a no commitment trial period of 5-30 days in the building to see if it is a good fit.

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Good questions outrank easy answers.

- Paul Samuelson

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met via Zoom on August 24, 2021. The following is a summary of the Board's actions and discussions. All members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. The next Board meeting will be held on September 28, 2021 **in person** at Beildelman-Kunsch. A copy of the complete minutes can be obtained from the Lions Club Secretary.

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Approved the Board meeting minutes of the Club and Foundation for the July 2021 meeting.

Deferred approval of the Treasurer's Reports for the month of July 2021.

Approved the Social Service Report for the month of August 2021.

Approved the following donations:

- Easter Seals of DuPage - \$2,000
- Diveheart - \$1,000
- Judd-a-thon - \$1,000
- Brightside - \$1,450

Discussed membership. Lion Jeff Harper was installed in August. Dues are current through June 30 and contact is being made with potential new members.

Discussed new club t-shirts and dri-fit polo shirts. Lion Tom Garvey will investigate.

Discussed the Summer Raffle. We are in the final push. There are some tickets remaining to be sold.

Discussed Turkey Trot. Logo and shirts are in motion.

Discussed Municipal Band Bake Sale. It was a successful event with more than \$1,200 raised. Almost all items were sold.

Discussed Diabetes programs. New Diabetes Chair Lion Karen Doyle has ideas for how to expand the reach into the community.

Discussed club pins for 75th anniversary. Lion Steve Hertzberg

has a design and is working on the production.

Approved the purchase of QR code stickers to affix to our Lions business cards and the purchase of new business cards with QR codes once the old ones are depleted.

Discussed meeting locations. Walker's Charhouse is no longer an option. Approved having the August 31 meeting at Aurelio's.

Discussed the Southeast Zone Meeting which is scheduled for September 1.

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It is not so much our friends' help that helps us, as the confidence of their help.

- Epicurus

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LION SPOTLIGHT

This month, our Lion Spotlight is on Lion Kathy Lukavsky. Lion Kathy joined our club in 2019. She was introduced to the club by Lion Maria Wilson, a fellow member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church. After visiting our club, she felt that the club was made up of genuine, caring people devoted to helping those in need. She was impressed with the number of organizations we help and the tireless work we do, all while still having fun. She knew she wanted to join. She has transitioned to an active role as a board member and did a fantastic job coordinating the bake sale last month.

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Kathy was born in Rochester, Indiana and moved to Cicero, Illinois where she was raised. She is an only child and graduated from Morton East High School where she participated in Booster Club and Track Timers. She was also musically inclined, taking piano lessons from age 6 to 18 and spent time as an accompanist for the Boys Choir and Adult Choir of St. Frances of Rome in Cicero.

Kathy went onto Northwestern University in Evanston where she graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Literature. While at Northwestern, Kathy was a member of the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority.

Kathy met her husband, Dennis, on a blind date in 1969. Kathy's best childhood friend was dating Dennis' brother and introduced her to Dennis while she was in college. The two friends married the two brothers in 1971. Kathy and Dennis moved to Naperville in 1974 and have three children. Their daughter, Donna, 47, lives in Chicago and works as a family nurse practitioner. Son Timothy, 45, lives in Naperville and works at Mars Wrigley as a principal process engineer. Their youngest, Andrew, 42, is an associate director at Accenture and lives in Chicago. Kathy and Dennis have six grandchildren ranging from third grade to a sophomore in college.

Kathy worked as an accountant for several CPA firms in Chicago from 1971-2000. Her last two positions were with Thompson Consulting in Naperville and then with Strikeforce

Bowling in Melrose Park. She retired in 2019 at the age of 70.

Hobbies of Kathy's include yoga, which she has done every day for the last 13 years. She also enjoys gardening at home and at her church. She has also spent time as a church organist as a youth and for several years as an adult. Her favorite food is cheddar cheese. She is a dog lover and a loving grandma to her grandchildren.

Kathy and her family had a great family vacation this summer. Her children took Kathy and Dennis, as well as the rest of their families, to Folly Beach, South Carolina to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. She also enjoys cruises and last took a cruise to the fjords of Norway. Her next cruise is scheduled for this fall to the Canary Islands.

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**A great deal of intelligence can be
invested in ignorance when the need for
illusion is deep.**

– Saul Bellow

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GUESTS

On August 17, Julie Kulak was a returning guest of Lion Glenn Behnke. Chris Bennett was also a guest of Lion Kathy Lukavsky.

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**I don't think of all the misery but of the
beauty that still remains.**

– Anne Frank

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COMING EVENTS

September 7 – Summer Raffle drawing at our lunch club meeting. In addition, Eric Gardener from Loaves and Fishes will be our guest speaker.

September 14 – Mike Smith will speak with our club about DuPage Habitat for Humanity

September 21 – Gary Urwiler from Mooseheart will speak to the club.

September 28 – Business Meeting.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

Lion Diane Hollingsworth (11)

Lion Nick Stanitz (40)

Lion Ken Strugalla (13)

Lion Linda Strugalla (13)

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

Lion Maria Wilson – September 1

Lion Mark Rafferty – September 8

Lion Karen Doyle – September 12

Lion Donna French – September 14

Lion Christie Clark – September 26

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 7 - Luncheon meeting at Aurelio's
September 14 - Luncheon meeting at Aurelio's
September 21 - Luncheon meeting at Aurelio's
September 28 - Board of Directors meeting in person at Beidelman-Kunsch
September 28 - Luncheon meeting at Aurelio's

OFFICERS

President – Lion Bob Hull
1st VP – Lion Linda Strugalla
2nd VP – Lion Tom Garvey
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 Mike Brown
Director – Lion Kathy Lukavsky
Immediate Past President – Lion Donna Kearney

Appointed Positions and Committee Chairs:

Dues/Membership – Lion Tom Garvey
Tail Twister – Rotating
Lion Tamer – Rotating
Chaplain – At Large
Social Services – Lions Donna Kearney & Jim Woodring
Peace Poster Contest – Lion Karen Maxwell
Program Director – Lion Paul Rewerts
Donations Committee Chair – Lion Linda Strugalla
Diabetes Awareness – Lion Karen Doyle
Publicity – Lion Meghan Williams
Hospitality – Vacant
Pizza Wars – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Candy Day – Lion Jim Ebers
Summer Raffle – Lion Ken Strugalla
Turkey Trot – Lions Glenn Behnke and Donna Kearney
Sight & Sound – Lion Jim Woodring
Counter Mints – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Investment Committee – Lions Bill Bleecker, Steve Hertzberg and Al Knotek
Newsletter – Lion Chris Williams
Social Media – Lion Chris Williams
Adopt-a-Highway – Lion Glenn Behnke

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**

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

**NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB
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Naperville, IL 60566-0282**

**Meets Tuesday – Noon (12:15)
Aurelio's Pizza - Springbrook
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