

The
HEAD LION-ER

NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB

FEBRUARY 2025



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The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of
appreciation for goodness.

- Dalai Lama

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2025 is off and running and while our major fundraising events are a few months away, the club is still busy with service events.

On Tuesday, February 11, the club will help Operation Support our Troops with a "care package" packing event for active-duty service members. Lion Ellen Wolff is coordinating this event. Thank you, Lion Ellen. We will pack from 10:00 - 12:00, followed by a box lunch from Belgio's. This should be a fun event and it will offer a nice change of pace from our normal Tuesday meeting.

In March, Lion Maria Wilson is helping to organize two packing events that the club will help with for the Feed My Starving Children organization. If you have not participated in the past, please consider joining this year. We are a major sponsor of this event, and this is a well-run and highly productive couple of hours. Look for a sign-up

sheet with details to follow. Thank you, Lion Maria, for taking the lead with this event.

The club's biggest challenge remains membership and hands-on service events offer a great opportunity to invite a prospective member to participate. Maybe you have a friend from church, a neighbor, or a friend that would enjoy helping out? Let's try to have a few guests attend each event. Lion Tom can provide support and follow up

Let's have a "Super" February and keep up our strong momentum.

Remember WE SERVE

Lion Bill Cornish, President

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Advice is like snow – the softer it falls,
the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper
it sinks into the mind.

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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Club News and Guest Speakers

DISTRICT 1-J BOWLING

The District 1-J Bowling tournament was held on January 19 at Fox Bowl in Wheaton. Our club participated with two teams. Lions Gary Vician, Dave Cleveland, Steve Hertzberg, and Steve's son-in-law, Brian Mathews made up the Hertzberg Hackers (a name that is now being used across multiple competitions). Lion Tom Garvey and his ringers, Ernesto Monoz and Ingrid Wilmoth, made up the second team and won the day 2,412-2,163.



2025 Lions Bowling Team

Lion Steve was quick to blame the loss on his injured foot despite having the high scorer on his team. Brian had a great three-game series of 735. He had seven strikes in a row in one game!



The happiest people seem to be those who have no particular cause for being happy except that they are so.

- William Inge



Luncheon Speakers

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Our presenters on January 7, Elsi Ramos and Michelle Ault, are both members of the National Federation of the Blind and are both visually impaired. Elsi is a 30-year-old junior at Lewis University studying early childhood development as a major.

Elsi and Michelle discussed the BELL (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) program. They discussed the importance of Braille in day-to-day living experience for the visually impaired. This includes activities like getting into an elevator, finding the correct washroom, and working in a classroom.

In an age where the development of computers and smart phones has made communication so much easier, Braille is still an important tool. Elsi discussed a new phone app called "Be My Eyes" that allows her to take a photograph and the app will explain what is contained in the photograph in words.

Elsi discussed her loss of vision due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. She had normal vision as a young child and slowly lost her sight as she got older.

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Michelle and Elsi discussed the mission of the National Federation of the Blind: to raise the expectations of people with blindness. The BELL program is an important part of that mission.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

On January 14, Cedric Williams from the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Illinois was our guest speaker. He is the director of community engagement.

The Boys & Girls Clubs is a local organization that serves 37 different sites and grades K-12. They provide after school care/activity, before school care/activity, and summer programs. Their mission is to enable young people to reach their full potential.

They focus on the hierarchy of needs. The first thing kids get when they arrive at the program is a snack and a safe space as food and safety are the most basic of needs. They focus on social and emotional learning to help deal with emotions in a positive way.

The after-school programs include a power hour for kids to get their homework completed. They focus on reading and academic success, as well. When the kids are older, they get exposed to workforce readiness programs.

The local organization serves 3,000 children. 45% of their funding is from philanthropy. Families are charged for their services on a sliding scale, based on income.

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

Lion Steve Sroka and Jamie Cutler were our guest speakers on January 21 to discuss Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB). Lion Steve has presented to our club many times. Jamie was here for the first time and was able to talk with the club about her firsthand experience with FFB and her son.

Lion Steve discussed the new research that FFB has helped to sponsor. They are currently funding 87 grants to 70 institutions and they are on the susp of curing blinding retinal disease. He was proud to announce that they are approaching \$1 billion in total funds raised as an organization.

Lion Steve told the club about free genetic testing available for individuals who have been diagnosed with a retinal disease. This testing helps create a database to help match people with clinical trials and also to identify genetic markers for diseases.

Jamie talked to the club about her son, Ari, who has a 1 in a million retinal disease that was not caught on the regular genetic testing. She was directed to FFB, which helped to change Ari and her family's lives. She was so happy to find a community that understood what they were going through and could provide information and assistance. Ari has also been brought into a clinical trial, which she hopes will be

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ready for him when he is a little older.

- Boys & Girls Club - \$500
- NCTV 17 - \$1,000

Jamie has become an avid volunteer for FFB and so has her daughter, Nota. Both have done a lot of work on the Chicago Vision Walk and will be working on the 2025 Vision Walk scheduled for June 1 in Elk Grove.

Discussed Membership. Lion Garvey continues to follow up with potential new members. All members are paid up except one.

Discussed Turkey Trot. We are waiting on one more invoice. Prospective 2025 sponsors are already being worked on.

Discussed Operation Support Our Troops. Lion Wolff coordinated the packing event for February 11, 2025. We will pack from 10:00 – 12:00 with lunch meeting to follow.

Discussed Spring Plant Sale. We do not currently have a location for delivery. Currently looking at St. Timothy’s parking lot.

Discussed meeting HDMI Cable. A cable has been purchased to connect the TV to a computer for presenters.

Discussed presenters and confirmed that the club should avoid presenters giving a sales presentation or running for office.

Discussed Styrofoam recycling. Lion Woodring reported that he has been contacted by the City of Naperville to staff the upcoming recycling event.

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When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt.

- Henry J. Kaiser

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met at Pomegranate on January 28, 2025. The following is a summary of the Board’s acts and discussions. All members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. The next Board meeting will be held on February 25, 2025. A copy of the complete minutes can be obtained from the Lions Club Secretary.

Approved the Board meeting minutes of the Club and Foundation for its regular meeting on December 3, 2024.

Approved the Treasurer’s Report for months ending December 31, 2024

Approved the Social Services Report for December 2024/January 2025.

Approved the following donations:

- Foundation Fighting Blindness - \$7,500
- National Federation of the Blind of Illinois - \$10,000

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Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye.

- Helen Keller

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GUESTS

On January 21, Lion Hina Trivedi and her friend Meghna Bansal were our guests.

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Every failure is a step to success.

- William Whewell

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COMING EVENTS

February 4 – Dan Lobbes from the Naperville Conversation Foundation will be our guest speaker.

February 11 – Club field trip to Operation Support Our Troops Packing event in Lisle from 10:00 – 1:30. The location is 1989 University Lane, Suite A, Lisle, IL. Packing to take place from 10:00 – 12:00 with regular Lions lunch meeting (Belgio’s box lunch) to follow on-site. See Lion Ellen Wolff to sign up.

February 18 – Keri Sarota will speak with the club about Dare2tri.

February 25 – Business Meeting.

March 8-9 – Feed My Starving Children packing event at Benedictine University. See Lion Maria Wilson to volunteer.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

Lion Jane Bowers (25)

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

Lion James Gilliard – February 1

Lion Ali Aijaz – February 2

Lion Bill Hamik – February 10

Lion Barb Brauer – February 15

Lion Darryl Kirkland – February 21

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

- February 4 - Luncheon meeting at Pomegranate
- February 11 - Luncheon meeting at Pomegranate
- February 18 - Luncheon meeting at Pomegranate
- February 25 - Board of Directors meeting
- February 25 - Luncheon meeting at Pomegranate

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OFFICERS

- President – Lion Bill Cornish
- 1st VP – Lion Glenn Behnke
- 2nd VP – Vacant
- Secretary – Lion Jane Bowers
- Treasurer – Lion Bill Bleecker
- Director – Lion Dave Cleveland
- Director – Lion Ellen Wolff
- Director – Lion Steve Hertzberg
- Director – Lion Ken Strugalla
- Director – Lion Kathy Lukavsky
- Director – Lion Dianne Morr
- Immediate Past President – Tom Garvey

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Appointed Positions and Committee Chairs:

Dues/Membership – Lion Tom Garvey

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Tail Twister – Rotating
Lion Tamer – Rotating
Chaplain – At Large
Social Services – Lions Donna Kearney &
Jim Woodring
Peace Poster Contest – Vacant
Program Director – Lion Paul Rewerts
Donations – Lion Linda Strugalla
Budget – Lion Ken Strugalla
Diabetes Awareness – Vacant
Publicity – Lion Jim Ebers & Dianne Morr
Hospitality – Vacant
Pizza Wars – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Candy Day – Lion Dave Cleveland
Summer Raffle – Lion Bill Cornish
Turkey Trot – Lions Glenn Behnke and
Donna Kearney
Sight & Sound – Lion Jim Ebers
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
Comfort Toys – Lion Ellen Wolff
Flower Sales – Lion Karen Maxwell
Lions Little Library Project – Lions Meghan
Williams and Paul Rewerts

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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**

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

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

**Meets First 4 Tuesdays – Noon (12:15)
Pomegranate Restaurant & Café
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Aurora, IL 60504**



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