




# The Grand Island Lion

## April 2024

[www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com)

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**      **BOD Open Nominations & Review Slate for '24-'25**  
 6:30 pm at Bridgeview Tavern, 971 East River Road  
 Open meeting: Bring a friend or r relative who may be interested in the Lions!  
 General Meeting & BOD meeting

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**      **Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Ellden's at River Oaks**

**April 24<sup>th</sup>**      **Akron Lions Club-Lion John Diggs Election of our '24-'25 BOD**  
 6:30 pm at Howard Hanna

Hello Lions. . . . .

April is going to be a busy month. Western New York is expecting many visitors for the Solar Eclipse viewing on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>! I have been reading the articles in the Dispatch and am looking forward to viewing this exciting event from my backyard. Hope everyone has their special solar eclipse glasses.



I can't believe it's that time of year again but at Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will have open nominations from the floor for our 2024-2025 Board of Directors. Our club still is looking for a few members to fill some BOD positions. Please contact Lions Shelia or Tom Rusert. The elections will be held at our April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner is on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are hoping each member will make a cash donation or donate a gift certificate or a bottle(s) of wine to help our large basket raffle. Please contact Lions Anne Fahning or myself regarding these donations. Help will be needed by ALL MEMBERS. We need some help with setup on Monday morning and then everyone at Ellden's by 4:00 pm. Please remember to ask your friends, family and neighbors to buy tickets to this important event for our club. Remember they can dine in or do take out. Please watch for important emails regarding this event.

At Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting our guest speaker will be Lion John Diggs from Akron Lions. He will be presenting a new fundraiser idea for our club to consider.

Welcome Home to us "snowbirds" who have returned from the South.  
LP Kelly



It is of great sadness that we learn of the passing of Chie Doring. Chie was the wife of long time Lion Floyd Doring. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Please get the word out. Our April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be open to the public to attend. Bring a friend. Bring a relative. We are looking for new members and what better way than bringing someone to a meeting to see what we do.

When: April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Where: Bridgeview Tavern, 971 East River Road  
Time: Cocktails 6:30 Dinner at 7PM





On Tuesday March 12th, Tops Markets celebrated their grand reopening of the Grand Island Store after major renovations. As part of their community commitment, Tops manager Mike Maio presented the Grand Island Lions Club with a donation of \$1000. Tops Markets continually supports the Lions, helping with the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser and the Kids Special Picnic. Shown from the left are Lions Dick Crawford, Tom Rusert, Maio, and Lion Jim Ryan.

#### WIN-WIN-WIN-WIN!

Congratulations to the Town of Wheatfield Lions for winning the top prize of \$5,000 in the Super Hero raffle sponsored by the Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation. Congratulations to Ron Polito of the Olean Lions for winning \$250. Congratulations to all the clubs and individuals who participated in the raffle. Without you, 175 grants helping nearly a quarter-million kids across New York State would not have been possible. With your participation, more grants will be available to help even more kids enjoy the things that Lions can bring into their lives. Whether it be a playground benefiting thousands or special eyewear helping one child, you will be there in their thoughts and in their hearts. The third win goes to our District 20N for purchasing the most tickets of any district across New York State! For that, our district will receive \$250 for a yet-to-be approved child-related project. Awesome!



Our fourth win goes to the kids. That is our sole purpose. Our founders, PIP Al Brandel and Lion Dr. Maureen Murphy, saw to it that their work experiences with the best and the worst that can happen to children could be transformed in continuing the good that is inside each and every one of us. Our thanks and deepest appreciation go to all of you. They and all of you are all winners!

Lion Tom Witkowski  
 First Vice-President  
 Grant Committee Chair  
 Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation  
 iontom20n@roadrunner.om



**55th ANNUAL GRAND ISLAND LIONS CLUB**



**MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 5 PM - 8 PM**  
**ELLDEN'S GRILL AND BANQUET**  
**201 WHITEHAVEN ROAD**  
**GRAND ISLAND, NY**

**DINNER INCLUDES MEATBALLS, BREAD & SALAD**  
**\$10.00 ADULTS \$5.00 KIDS 7 & UNDER**  
**EAT IN OR TAKE OUT**  
**BAKED GOODS SALE, CASH BAR**  
**WE WILL HAVE OUR POPULAR 50/50**  
**AND BASKET RAFFLES**

**WE ARE ACCEPTING PRE-ORDERS!**

**SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO PRE-ORDER:**  
**facebook.com/groups/GILIONSCLUB**  
**or CALL LION DICK CRAWFORD AT 716-818-6992**

**Help us to help others!**  
**We will be collecting non-perishable food items and diapers for**  
**The Neighbors Foundation.**

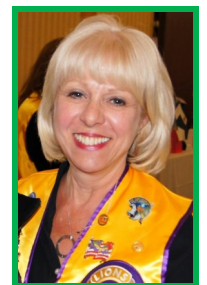
Spaghetti dinner artwork courtesy of Put-In-Bay (Ohio) Fire Company



**WE SERVE**

Thanks to the members who have already contributed to this year's Basket Raffle. Our member paid baskets are the largest and most desirable at the Spaghetti Dinner. As a result they bring in several hundred dollars towards the Kids Picnic in July! Please Venmo or Zelle me whatever amount you'd like to add to the fund. If you'd prefer a gift donation, that would work too. Or just give me a call and I will arrange to pick it up. 100% participation would be fantastic.

Yours in service  
Lion Anne Fahning



## GRAND ISLAND VISION SCREENINGS UPDATE

Happy to report that vision screenings have been completed at all public elementary schools and at St. Stephen's on the island. This was followed with screenings at both Island Kids Child Care Center campuses. A total of 816 children, aged six months up to with 6 years, were screened with 62 being referred for various sight robbing anomalies such as near- and far-sightedness (myopia and hyperopia, respectively); blurred vision (astigmatism), gaze (strabismus - misaligned eyes), unequal refraction, e.g. 20/20 in one eye, 20/200 in the other (anisometropia) and anisocoria (different sized pupils). These screenings yielded a referral rate of 7.6%. Statewide, an uptick of referrals is being witnessed at 20% this year compared to 12.7% last year.



Why the disparity? Poverty plays a key factor especially where children are living. Diet is another. Other factors exist, such as genetics and the amount of screen time children are exposed to, causing these issues. Now it's up to the parents to ensure their children and themselves are getting vision exams annually. With the kids, it is far easier to correct their vision issues now before they get older where uncorrected problems become more permanent.

My thanks to our district's Lions who helped at Sidway and to our Lion Janine who screened at Huth and Kaegebein. Much thanks to the school district staff, the school nurses, the teachers who were a great help in their classes and the parents who allowed us to screen their children at Island Kids. Jack and Jill and hopefully all the other day cares and pre-Ks will follow suit.

One side note: a Sidway teacher came up to me and told me about the wonderful work we Lions do for kids. That was a very nice compliment. Then she dropped a bombshell when she told me that she remembered I screened her class when she was in first grade at Sidway! Wow! Reminds me of the Fiddler song that said "I don't remember growing older; when did they?" LOL

Thanks to Lions Tom Rusert, Anne Fahning, Dick Crawford, Tom Witkowski, Jim Ryan, Shelia Ferrentino and Kelly McGarvey for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the May Newsletter is Friday April 26th. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Lion Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher at: [grandislandliondave@gmail.com](mailto:grandislandliondave@gmail.com).

Visit us at: [www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com).  
See our facebook page at: <http://>

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**



**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**

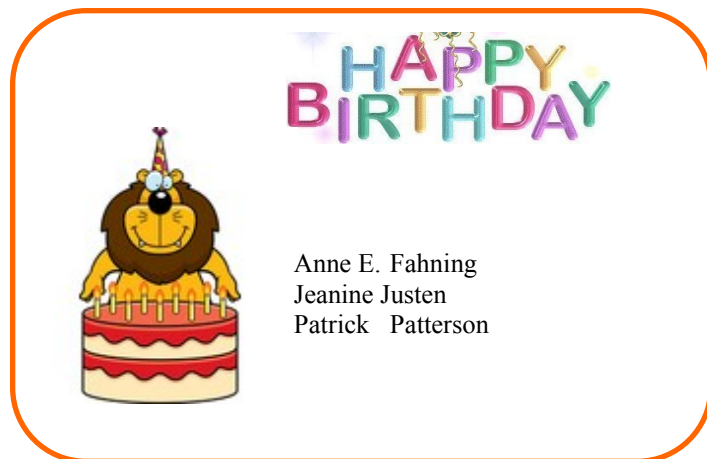
Stuart Sports has many styles and colors of polo shirts along with other apparel available. Stop in and peruse their catalogs and request that the Grand Island Lions logo be applied to your selection.



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



Anne E. Fahning  
Jeanine Justen  
Patrick Patterson