



# The Grand Island Lion

## January 2013

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The split club is now \$63 and counting...



Hi Lions and Happy New Year!

This is a new year and with new venues for our first two months. At our regular meeting on September 26, the suggestion was presented to form a branch club on the Island to consist of prospective and current members who are unable to attend our evening schedule of meetings. At that time, the membership present felt that we could not adequately endorse a branch club due to our community

being too small to support a branch club and there would be an insufficient number of people to form committees and a board of independent directors among other factors. However, this group could serve as a committee as part of our current club. In that light, we agreed to have our first two meetings held at noon in January and February in order to accommodate prospective and current members who could not normally attend an evening meeting.

Therefore, please invite those individuals who would enjoy being of service to our community. 32% of non-member respondents in a Lions-sponsored research project are interested in service with nearly 60% of that number being women. According to the survey, primary prospects would desire involvement relating to networking, family relationships, local causes, causes external to their communities, and casual (occasional) involvement. Find out what their interests are and if they are interested in learning more about us and what we do. Inform them that they are under no obligation to join and their first lunch or dinner is on us. We do a lot of work in our community, most of it primarily geared toward children from pre-school to twelfth grade: eye screenings, peace poster contest, scholarships, Special Kids' Picnic, Sight Night, and Miracle League. We also work and collect funds for numerous causes we have judiciously endorsed: Blind and Charity Fund, Neighbors Foundation, Journey For Sight, Camp Badger, Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service and numerous others. If you stumble upon describing some of these, please ask a committee member or me to describe it to you.

Therefore, ensure you read our meeting changes in this issue. Gently urge a colleague or family member to attend these key meetings and let's grow more in members and service.

Sincerely, President Tom



### Upcoming events:



#### January:

**WE SERVE**

**Wednesday Jan. 9th:**  
**Lions General Lunch Meeting**  
**Say Cheese Pizza**  
**1771 Love Road**  
**Time 12 Noon**  
**Speaker Larry Austin**  
**Grand Island Dispatch**

**Wednesday Jan. 23rd**  
**Lions General Meeting**  
**Buffalo Launch Club**  
**Cocktails 6:30 Dinner 7PM**  
**Speaker District Governor John Shaffer.**  
**Board Meeting to Follow.**

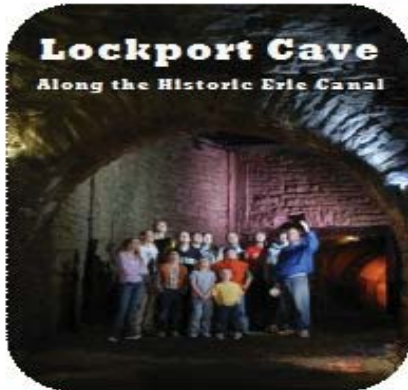


On December 12th our Grand Island Lions Club held our annual Christmas Party at the Grand Island Holiday Inn. Lion Fred Ruocco was the Master of Ceremonies and entertained our Club with seasonal songs and much merriment. During the party our club raised \$500 to be donated to the Neighbors Foundation for their annual holiday fund drive.



Lion Fred and better half Tammy wrap up our party with Christmas songs and a gift wrapping contest.

# CHILLY CAVE TOUR FOR CHARITY



**Lockport Cave**  
Along the Historic Erie Canal

The Newfane Lions Club is sponsoring an event at the Lockport Cave in order to raise money to help those in need this holiday season.

Put on your boots and bundle up for an hour-long, historic *walking* tour of the Erie Canal, Lockport Locks, and the Lockport Cave, a hydraulic race tunnel that was blasted out of solid rock over 150 years ago.

Suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

*100% of donations collected will go directly to the Sister Mary Loretto Community Soup Kitchen in Lockport.*

**Tours:**  
December 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>  
January 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Lockport Cave parking lot at  
**5 Gooding St.**  
Just north of the Pine St. Bridge over the locks



Please direct all inquiries to Kevin Burkwit, Manager of Historic Tours at the Lockport Cave and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Newfane Lions Club, at: [kcburkwit@roadrunner.com](mailto:kcburkwit@roadrunner.com)

This looks like a fun event to attend. I'm planning on going on January 6th. If there's enough interest, we could consider carpooling there and maybe take in a late lunch afterwards. Let me know! Lion Tom Witkowski

## Member Highlight- Paul Bassette

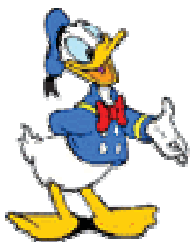
Lion Paul joined the Club in November, 1974. The following year he became Lion Tamer, a position he has held 3 times.

His other service offices (which he has held numerous times) have been Lion Twister, Board Director, Membership Chair, Recording Secretary, Chairman of White Cane Days, Zone Chair, Peace Poster Chair, Scholarship Committee Chair. He is a trusted resource for Lion Constitution and Bylaw information. Paul served as Club

President in 1999 after serving as Vice President for 2 years. He has been a Robert Uplinger and Melvin Jones Awards recipient. Paul has achieved 17 years of perfect attendance. When you want a job done Paul can be relied upon to bring Club members together and get it done.



Lion Annette



A large group of Taliban soldiers are moving down a road when they heard a voice call from behind a sand-dune say, "One Marine is better than ten Taliban."  
The Taliban commander quickly sent 10 of his best soldiers over the dune whereupon a gun-battle broke out and continued for a few minutes, then silence. The voice then called out, "One Marine is better than a hundred Taliban soldiers." Furious, ... the Taliban commander sent his next best 100 troops over the dune and instantly a huge gun fight commenced. After 10 minutes of battle, again silence.  
The Marine voice called out again, "One Marine is better than one thousand Taliban."  
The enraged Taliban commander mustered a thousand fighters and sent them over the dune. Cannon, rocket, and machine gun fire rang out as a huge battle is fought. Then silence.  
Finally one wounded Taliban fighter crawled back over the dune and with his dying words told his commander, "Don't send any more men, it's a trap. There are two Marines."  
Lion Dick

Thanks to Lions Tom Witkowski, Dick Crawford and Annette Lobl for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the February Newsletter is Thursday January 31st. 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).

Please visit our web site:  
[www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com).

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Allen Ackerman