



# The Grand Island Lion

July-August 2022

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**Upcoming Events:**

★ July 4th 2022

★ Independents day parade

★ Details for the Lions participation will follow.

★ July 20th 2022

★ Special Kids Picnic

★ Buffalo Launch Club

★ August 26-27 2022

★ Lions White Cane Drive

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Dear Lions,

Summer weather is upon us and hopefully everyone can get out and enjoy the area festivals and summer vacations they have planned.

Speaking of planning the SPK picnic committee is busy finalizing activities for the many wonderful children that are planning to attend the event on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Buffalo Launch Club. If you have not signed up to volunteer please get a hold of Chairperson Lion Shelia, or show up at the Launch Club on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. We will be planning the 2022-2023 year in July or August. If you know of or have an idea for a speaker, please contact me.

The annual white cane sale is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Tops and Northwest Bank. This club fundraiser needs all members to help, to take a shift or two at one of the locations. Don't forget to ask a neighbor, business acquaintance or relative to join the Grand Island Lions Club.

Membership is the key to an active and prosperous club to continue to help those in need.



Lion Dick



**WE SERVE**



Awards Chairman Lion Paul Bassette (left) and Lion Dave Chervinsky stand with Robert J. Uplinger recipient Lion Paul Krupa at the Lions June 8th Installation Dinner.

The Grand Island Lions Club held their Installation and awards Banquet at the Buffalo Launch Club on Wednesday June 8th. Past District Governor, Lion Jeff Jarvis installed our Board of Directors for the 2022/23 year. Pictured from the left, are Lions Jarvis, Dick Crawford (President), Anne Fahning and Tom Rusert (Directors), Jim Ryan (corresponding secretary), Paul Bassette (director), Tom Witkowski (Treasurer), Donna Lavallee (Recording Secretary), and Kelly McGarvey (First Vice President). Not present were Lions Second Vice President Shelia Ferrentino, Director Henry Lobl, and Lion Tamer/ Tail Twisters Ashley and Tom Digati.

The Lions also gave out various awards. Lions outgoing President, Paul Krupa, received The Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award. Established in 1993, the award honors outstanding Lions and non-Lions or organizations who perform exemplary service to a Club, District, or community. These honorees possess the highest examples of Lionistic character, ideals, purpose, and service. Over his 25-year career Lion Paul served two clubs in New York State, was Grand Island Club President twice, and served on many committees and programs.

Lion Tom Rusert and Community leader and former Grand Island Town Supervisor, Mary Cooke received The Lions Club International Foundation Melvin Jones Award. The award is the LCIF's highest honor and is given to a lion's member or citizen for outstanding humanitarian service. Lion Tom is a long time Club member and former Club President who has, during his 24 years of service, spearheaded Lions donations to the Neighbors Foundation, collecting many thousands of dollars' worth of food and donations over the years. He is instrumental in growing the Club as Membership Chairman, bringing in new members on a regular basis. He has maintained a key role with the Lions Special Kids Picnic, using his boat to give children the thrill of a boat ride, and is one of the chief cooks at the Lions Spaghetti Dinner. Mary Cooke is a longtime community leader who has taught Life and Careers to many students, served as President of our Library Board, Relay for Life, and the Grand Island Historical Society. She is a former Grand Island Councilwoman and Town Supervisor. She is a lector at St Stephens Church and has volunteered at Trinity United Methodist Church's Clothing store and helps with many clothing drives.



Lion Tom Rusert holds his Melvin Jones Award at the Lions June 8th Installation Dinner. Past recipients with him are Lion Paul Bassette and Lion Anne Fahning.



Grand Islands Mary Cooke displays her Melvin Jones Award. Seen with her are Lion Paul Bassette (left) and Lion Tom Witkowski.




I would like to thank my nominators for selecting me for the Organization of Past District Governors' Leadership Award recently presented at the 2022 Convention in Niagara Falls. I am excited and humbled receiving this awesome recognition. Thank you!

Lion Tom Witkowski

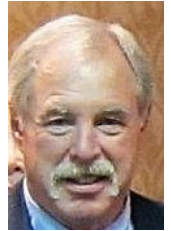
Pictured l-r: Grand Island Lion Tom Witkowski, PDG Organization officers Secretary Fred Rieger, Immediate Past President Joan Scott, President Maria Sierra)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Paul	Bassette
Mark	Frentzel
Paul	Krupa
Anne	Ryan
Shelia	Ferrentino
Donna	Lavallee
Kimberly	Pressley



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 account.**



**Donations for the Neighbors Foundation were way down for May and June and nothing at the installation dinner. The Foundation's needs are year round so I would encourage our members to drop off any Tops gift cards, food items and checks/cash to me and I will deliver to them.**

Thanks to Lions Tom Rusert, Tom Witkowski, Donna Lavallee, and Dick Crawford for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the September Newsletter is Friday August 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).



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Lion Tom Rusert