



# The Grand Island Lion

## September 2025

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



### Upcoming Events:

Wednesday September 17th  
Lions General Meeting  
Guest: Lions International Director Bill Iannacone  
BLC 6PM Cocktails Dinner 6:30

Wednesday September 24th  
Lions BOD Meeting  
Location TBA

### President's Message

We are off to a great start to our Lions year with a successful White Cane Fundraising Drive. Thanks to all Lions who participated and especially Ann Fahning for coordinating the two-day event.



Coming up is our first meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Buffalo Launch Club. Social time 6:00pm dinner to follow 6:30pm. Our special guest will be Lion Jenny Bagen's brother Past International Lions Director Bill Iannacone. Let's all plan on attending. Cost is \$32.00 per person.

The BOD has decided to resurrect the phone committee to inform members of upcoming meetings and events. Joining this committee is a great way for new members to get acquainted with fellow Lions. With enough volunteers it would only require contacting 3 to 5 Lions per event. Please contact LP Tom or Lion Annie Carlson to sign up.

The membership contest will go on again this year with the Lion signing up the most members winning the pot of \$\$\$ and possibly other prizes. Those who wish to participate must pony up \$5.00. Get your sawbuck to Lion Danille, Lion Sarah or LP Tom by the end of September. Last year's winner, Lion Susan, will receive her prizes plus \$45.00 cash at the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is one caveat. Our club has more than one Tom, only one Dick but no Harry. Bring in a Harry, Harold or Harriet and you're an instant winner!

Stop by the Buffalo Launch Club on September 5<sup>th</sup> for the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Niagara Frontier Antique & Classic Boat show. Let's show some Lions support as many of the boat club members have supported our Kid's Picnic for many years.

See you in September,  
Lion President Tom Rusert



Our hearts go out to Lion Anne Fahning and her family on the sudden loss of her husband Bob. Although Bob was not a Lion he supported our club at many events. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.



**Lions Kids Special Picnic Held at the Buffalo Launch Club on July 16th 2025**

Angelina Blundell (in pink) along with Olive and Tommy Rusert Take turns wearing the Lions costume at our Kids Picnic on July 16th at the Buffalo Launch Club

**Lions Kids Special Picnic**







300 W. 22nd Street  
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August 2025

Dear Club President:

Congratulations to you and each of your club members on earning the enclosed \$1,000 Per Member Average banner patch, recognizing your club's cumulative support of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in 2024-2025. As you know, Lions are increasingly called upon to meet the needs of vulnerable populations in communities both near and far. The support given from your club will help provide Lions the ability to reach these populations and improve the lives of individuals both young and old.

LCIF supports critical humanitarian needs in 208 countries and geographic areas around the world, with initiatives as diverse as the communities being served. Donations from your club, along with thousands from around the world, may help provide a vaccination to a child in the developing world or give food and shelter to the homeless after a disaster strikes their community. Where there is a need, there is a Lion – and LCIF.

Display this banner patch with pride and remember that it is a symbol of your dedication to serving the world community.

Yours in service,  
*Dr. Patti Hill*

Dr. Patti Hill  
Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation  
Immediate Past International President



Serving a world in need.

**Niagara Frontier  
Antique & Classic Boats, Inc.**  
**46th Annual Boat Show**

*Commemorating the  
**200th Anniversary  
of the Erie Canal***



**Featuring the Erie Canal Boat  
Seneca Chief  
& Boats Built on the Niagara Frontier**

**September 6, 2025**  
**10:00AM – 4:00PM**  
Buffalo Launch Club, Grand Island, NY



**Congrats to our Club!**

**A great event!**





On Aug. 7, Lions Tom Witkowski and Mary Vari were present at the annual National Night Out event at the Town Commons.



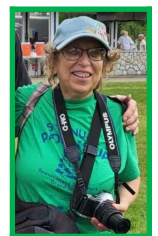
Three recent Grand Island High School graduates were awarded Lions Club scholarships on July 24. Alyssa Pizur and Grace Carpenter were both awarded \$1,500 Service Scholarships. Alyssa plans to major in biology at St. John Fisher University. She plans to become a pediatric orthodontist. Grace plans to study biochemistry at Houghton University. She intends to become a physician. In addition, Pavneet Toor was awarded a \$1,000 Outstanding Character and Effort Scholarship. She intends to attend SUNY Buffalo to prepare for a career in law.



Lions Club members serve hot dogs at the annual Paddles Up event, held at Beaver Island State Park. This year's event was on July 26.



Photos and reports submitted by Lion Alice Gerard







Photos courtesy  
of Lion Jeanine  
Justen and Alice  
Gerard.



**Grand Island Lions Club Members assembled to march in our Independence Day Parade.**





#### White Cane Days results!

Through the generosity of our community and visitors to it, we raised \$3,020.08! This includes contributions from our generous donors shopping at Tops, drivers who stopped to give at the Stony Point and Staley locations, and supporters who donated through Venmo. Every dollar invested helps make our community—and the world we share—a better place.

Our thanks to all of them and to our brave Lions who withstood the beautiful weather to help make a difference we are known for. Pictured above: Lion Jeanine Justin collecting donations in front of Tops Markets

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 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

Thanks to Lions Tom Rusert, Donna Lavalley, Alice Gerard, Tom Witkowski, Jeanine Justen and Anne Fahning for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the October Newsletter is Friday September 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://www.facebook.com/groups/GILIONSCLUB>



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Timothy Pelletier  
Alice Gerard