



Webster Groves LIONS SQUEAL



January 2023 Vol 3 - Episode 3
The new year commeth—whether we want it or not!



2022 Webster Groves LIONS Christmas Party

The WG LIONS Christmas party was held on Dec 8th at CJ Mugg's.

After a wonderful spread of appetizers, Club members enjoyed Christmas trivia and other word games. Those on top of their game received some tasty prizes, courtesy of Lion Fred.

An ornament exchange and drawing for mini Christmas tree centerpieces rounded out the festivities and fellowship.

The night ended with our annual collection of toys to be donated to the Salvation Army.

It was a Merry night!



Featured Lion

Each issue, we feature one of our LIONS. This Lion is not new. In fact he is our longest running member, hitting 64 years this June.

With that, I give you Lion Don Gerber.....

*Name: Lion Don Gerber

*Married to: Future Lion Gretchen Gerber

*Children: 8 of those, 20 grands, and 5 great-grands

*Lives in: Frontenac

*Pets: Amos and Andy were part of our family for 13 years.

*Born and Raised: St. Louis and Philadelphia

*Career: Funeral Home owner—Retired

*What you like about your job?: Loved helping those in their time of need.

*Something we don't know about you: 93 years young!

*Talents: Senior Olympic swimmer—Gold medalist

*Free time: Presently residing at Garden View Care Center in Valley Park

*Hobbies: Any water sport. Coached the Navy Swim Team while in the Navy during the Korean War.

*Proud Accomplishment: My work in the funeral Home and helping people in their time of need.

*Favorite Holiday: Christmas

*Favorite Food: King Crab - *Wait! What?*
(*What about all those broken hotdogs?*)

*Favorite Music: St. Louis Symphony

*Why do you like being a Lion?: The friends.

*Why did you become a Lion?:
Wanted to help people and the community.





December Service Project

For our December Service Project we collected toys at our Christmas Party for the Salvation Army. We collected 2 boxes full with over 20 toys ranging from Barbie Dolls to Monster Trucks. This is such a rewarding service project because these toys will go to children who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas gift.

- Lion Becky



NEWS FLASH! - Webster Groves Lions are Ding-a-Lings!

Every year, the Webster Groves LIONS ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Webster Schnucks.

We do 1-hour shifts, and welcome customers as they come in, and wish them a Merry Christmas.

Some people sing carols, some make it a family outing with children and husbands ringing too and Santa even comes to ring the bell.—Lion Becky

Editor's Note - This has been an event that Lion Don started, but has been under the weather of late, and unable to take the helm. Special thanks to

Lion President Ryan for running the show again this year.

Thank you also to those who came in to ring those bells. Rumor has it that Lions Norma and Bill, Dottie and Scott, Ryan, Fred, Greg, Kim, Pat, Becky, Jerry and Future Lion Leslie all helped.

Special THANKS to Lion Jerry and FL Leslie for covering for those of us who were unable to make our shift.

October BBQ

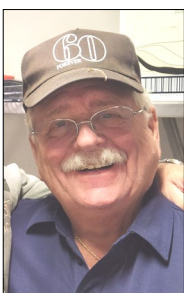
Our last BBQ of the year was a successful one!

We had great help with volunteers both from Webster, and other Clubs.

What made this BBQ special, is that Lion Bill Belcher BBQ-ed for the last time.

As a tribute, he took his hat that he has been using since his first BBQ and he threw it in the fire.

Lion Becky said a few words as we watched it burn.



Thank you Lion Bill for your dedication to the BBQs. I'm sure the bean crew will love to have your help this coming BBQ season.

Editor's note - The guy that you see in this picture is Lion Bill. The photo was taken AFTER he retired from the big Qs, thus the smile.

He now dons a new hat to cover what he has been covering for oh so many, many, years. Lion Bill says he does intend to continue to work the smaller events, such as Pancakes with Santa and Football Luncheon.

Governor's Visit

Governor Leon visited our club on November 10th 2022. Accompanying the governor was 1st Vice District Governor Paul Carr, 2nd Vice District Governor Michelle Foster, Secretary Sandee Marshall, and Treasurer Dennis Hemsath.

After a nice meal, and getting our business out of the way, Governor Leon presented a number of Milestone Chevron's for years of service. Governor Leon went on to talk membership, and getting our club in front of the public as well as LCI. Think about family members, friends, and coworkers, for potential members. Utilizing social media, Facebook, Instagram, and websites, we can get our image and message out to the public. Possibly establish a QR code to take interested people directly to our website.



We should also use the large pool of volunteers we have at our events, like the Boy Scouts and Young Life, to draw potential members. Another idea from Governor Leon is the use of cards with our information printed, which can be handed out at events and fundraisers. Keeping the card simple allows changes to be easily made as needed. Lion Vicki Enders, membership chair, is available to help as needed.



Governor Leon thanked our club for all our hard work, and donations to many good causes. He then presented President Ryan with his banner.

- Lion Sandy

Upcoming Events on the District Calendar:

Midwinter Forum - Doubletree Facility - February 3rd and 4th

District Convention - Doubletree facility - February 17th and 18th

State Convention - Branson, MO - April 21st and 22nd.

LIONS Hearing

Did you know LIONS provide hearing aids for citizens in need?

Our District has a contract with Beltone locations around the area to provide testing for, as well as the fitting and supplying, of hearing aids. Lion Sandy is the District Chairperson and point of contact for assistance. Similar to the process of requesting eyeglasses, individuals may request support by filling out the application on the 26M2 website and sending it with supporting documentation to Lion Sandy. If you know of anyone in need, or have any questions, give Lion Sandy a call!



2022 Pancakes With Santa

For the last several years, the Webster Groves LIONS have sponsored a "Pancakes with Santa" event for the community of Webster Groves.



"Sausage grillers extraordinaire"

*I'm told they put a bit of themselves into everything they do.
(I'm not sure how to take that...-ed)*

At this event, we have delicious pancakes and sausage, milk, coffee, hot chocolate, and water.

We have crafts such as making reindeer food, decorating a Christmas cookie, and a reindeer foam craft.

The kids can take a picture with Santa, and leave him a note too.

This is such a fun event where we get to talk with people in the community, and the parents get to hear about all the wonderful things the LIONS do.

We have families who come every year, and one even said this is their favorite Christmas tradition. - *Lion Becky*



Santa and....not Mrs. Claus
(This must be one of those "Don't ask, don't tell situations -ed)



**2022 Pancake crew - end of shift
None the worse for wear.**
(Yeah.....They looked like this when they started.-ed)

Service Projects

The Webster Groves Lions have had a busy year with Service Projects. We try to have at least one a month, the last meeting of the month is when we do these projects usually. It's such a fun time to come together with club members to do something so rewarding for others.

This year we painted friendship rocks to leave for someone or to give to a friend when they need to be cheered up.

We assembled Pediatric Comfort Bags for children at Children's Hospital who are suffering with Cancer. We stuffed the eggs for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

We assembled Backpacks of Hope for children entering foster care, so when they get placed in a house they have a backpack with clothes, blanket and a stuffed animal along with personal hygiene items. These were taken to DCFS to be used at their discretion.

We hosted our Scholarship Night.

We put together backpacks with school supplies for the Webster Groves and Affton School Districts.

We assembled Celebration of Life Bags for the Down Syndrome Association, these are given out to families when their child has a Down Syndrome diagnosis.

For Halloween we put together treat bags to be given out at the WGPD and WGFD safety day as a trunk or treat.

We supported the Turkey Day Game and had the annual Luncheon and we collected toys for Toys for Tots.

It's been a busy and rewarding year for Service. I look forward to continuing our Service Projects as we move into 2023. We couldn't do any of the Services Projects with our all the club support. I thank you all for your hard work and dedication to service.

Lion Teddi Speeler

Anniversaries

| | | | |
|------------|---|--|---|
| January - | Christy Pershall—9yrs Larry Suiter—14yrs | Dakota Smith—3yrs Maria Suiter—14yrs Tom Yohe—4yrs | Quin M. Swederska—12yrs Ryan Whittington—20yrs |
| February - | Tim Rabbitt—16yrs | | |
| March - | Max Burton—20yrs | Cheryl Davidson—21yrs | |

President's Message

Hello Webster Groves LIONS Members!

The Club has experienced a great 2022, and I want to thank each of you for your contributions. We are a smaller club these days, but we continue to do great work!

The highlights of the year have included:

- Awarding of WGHS Student Scholarships
- July 4th Carnival
- Five Successful Monthly BBQ's
- WGHS Turkey Day Football Luncheon
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Pancakes With Santa
- DG Lion Leon Hove's Governor's Visit
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing Fundraiser
- Public Safety Day
- Regular Service Projects



As we enter a new calendar year, I know we will again rise to meet the need of our community to promote our mission: "We Serve". If you have ideas related to fundraisers, membership, speakers at a meeting, or events, please reach out to me or one of the board members. We have the leaders, teams, and talent to make them happen.

I hope to see each of you soon at our January business meeting on the 12th, or Peace Poster Award Ceremony on the 26th.

Happy New Year!

- Ryan Whittington

One Final word—

"Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you.

Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in a world all of your own."

- Albert Schweitzer