



From the Desk of the DG

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season so far!! What a year we have had as Lions. I am so privileged to be a part of such a great organization, we really do great things, big and small, I am proud of you all. Keep up the good work you do everyday.

As we approach 2024 we all have great hopes and ambitions, membership is a focus of ours this year as well as keeping our current membership healthy and happy. We are on our way to having a positive membership year. Let's not lose focus now and keep up our efforts to grow each of our clubs. Please reach out to me or our team for any information or help you may need.

Our Winter forum is fast approaching, we will be packing meals to support our global cause of Hunger, we will be packing 23,500 meals on January 13th at the January Forum. Please come on down to Barre and help us out. Boxes are still available for sale. If you or your club would like to purchase them for your local food pantry, please contact CS Tanya and get your orders in. After we are done with the meals we will have our January Cabinet meeting. We will have a presentation by DG Pricilla Laurin for our neighboring New York, our Westerly District. If you have not registered, please let CS Tanya know so we can get you registered and have enough food to feed everyone. All are welcome, but food will be for the registered members.

My District Governor calendar is filling up fast. If you have an event that you would like me to attend please reach out to me so i can get it on my calendar. I would like to visit for meetings and all the other fun and service oriented things your clubs do.

A note for all, the district will not be accepting eyeglasses at any forum in the immediate future, we do not have a lion that can coordinate the collection of them. If your clubs collect them, it will be the responsibility of the club to get them to the recycling facility to be recycled. You will just have to let CS Tanya know how many were sent in. If someone would like to step forward and take this responsibility over please reach out to me and I will fill you in on the responsibility. Until that time, DO NOT bring eyeglasses to the forum, you will be taking them home.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 13th of January! Happy New Year from my family to yours!!

Lets ROAR
DG Travis



Arlington & Manchester Lions

What a great weekend Manchester Lions had with help from Arlington and Tri Mountain lion's clubs! 11 trips to the North Pole over two days! Many happy, holiday travelers got to meet Santa, Mrs Claus, all the elves and Conductors!



Arlington King Lion John, Peace poster chair Sue and DG with The second place D 45 peace poster winner 2023



Heartland Lions

Elves from Heartland Lions made and distributed the candy bars with gloves at the Santa Parade.



Colchester Lions

Colchester Lions Club closes out 60th year with tree sale and dinner with Santa



Lions Club members at their Christmas tree sale. Pictured here is: President Jeff Fontaine, former president and eyeglasses assistance coordinator Lion Jerry Stears and former president Lion Ken Emery.

Three members of the Colchester Lions Club sat in a warming hut in the Joann's Uniforms and Embroidery Works lot last night, for their annual Christmas tree sale.

President Jeff Fontaine, former president Ken Emery, and former president and eyeglasses assistance coordinator Jerry Stearns huddled by a space heater, awaiting customers. Proceeds from the tree sale will go to the club's general fund for community service-oriented projects.

However, while this is only the 16th tree sale, the local Lions Club chapter is about to close out its 60th year in operation — an important milestone for all its members.

To read the rest of the story by Ella Ruehsen (staff writer) please visit their website:

https://www.colchestersun.com/news/colchester-lions-club-closes-out-60th-year-with-tree-sale-and-dinner-with-santa/article_2da06a2e-8efc-11ee-9834-6770a00848b6.html

(poster with permission from reporter)

Tree Sale

PDG Betsy MaGee & PDG Ken Emery



PDG Ken Emery & Essex Jct Lion Tom Stone



Orleans Lions

On Dec 9th the Orleans Lions Club held their annual Childrens Christmas Variety Show and Santa, though it's been 4 years since the last show was done.



Essex Junction Lions

Lions Linda Stone, PDG Betsy MaGee and friend Laurie Lavallee serving at the Annual Christmas luncheon in partnership with the Essex Rotary



Lions Linda Stone (front left) and Steve Jurnak (front center) serving along with Essex Rotarians



Holiday Party



Barre Lions



The Barre Lions Club and the VT Fil-Am Branch Club, recently held their Holiday party at The Mutuo. Members and friends brought toys for the CVMC adopt a family program.

Vermont Filipino-American Lions

Service Project – delivered Christmas cards and chocolate candies to the residents of Barre Garden Nursing Home and Woodbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in Berlin.



Windsor Lions

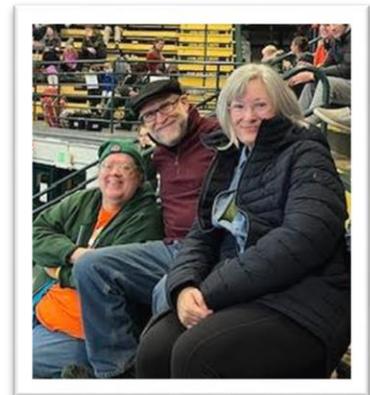
Lion Natalie Frost reports -- The Windsor Lions Club is concluding their participation in the Trex Recycling Challenge.

In just a year and a half, our volunteers helped divert from the waste stream over 6,500 pounds of plastic film. We received 12 park style benches which are now in use by six local groups. Individuals can continue recycling plastic film by bringing small amounts of this type of plastic to the bins at most local grocery stores.



Lions outing at UVM Hockey Game

District 45 Lions took time to enjoy an evening of awesome UVM Hockey and raising some funds for D45. We were able to raise \$284 during the 50/50 of which district 45 received the full \$142 as UVM donated their portion of the 50/50 (originally, we were going to split the 50% with the Victory Club at UVM). Keep watch as they are looking forward to a future Hockey game!



Hero of the Gut award is accepted by IPDG Kathy Dorman, for DG Travis Wood who was not able to attend.

This award is for the Hometown Hero who has gone and beyond the community.

Thank you, DG Travis, for all you do for D45 and Lions!



Vergennes Lions

PDG Larry Simino shares Vergennes Lions "Wrap up" Successful 2023

2023 was a very successful year for the Vergennes Lions Club. It started out, under the leadership of President Debbie Brace, with a scholarship fund drive and a car raffle with both exceeding their goals. Memorial Day, which is organized and run by the American Legion, was. Also, a success with the Leo Club helping with popcorn sales.

In addition to the many fundraisers the club has, its many projects include building ramps on people's homes, eye testing school children throughout the Addison Northwest District Schools, helping pay for eye exams and glasses for those in need, helping with hearing aids for needy folks, donating to Bixby Library, Boys and Girls Club, John Graham Shelter, Special Olympics, Addison County Elderly Services, Addison County Counseling Service, Wayland's Wish at Addison County Home Health and Hospice, emergency fuel needs by those in need, Rescue Squad, scholarships for four VUHS seniors going on to college, etc.

One of the highlights in the spring were four very deserving civic leaders being presented with Melvin Jones Awards, named after the 1917 founding leader of Lions Clubs International. One of those receiving the awards were former police chief George Merkel, for his tireless efforts to strengthen the police service in Vergennes and the area. Much credit went to the chief for bringing a department known for chewing up chiefs up to a very professional organization. He was also recognized for working with school students, Addison County Diversion Program, and others. The second recipient was Liz Ryan, for her work with Sweet Charity getting folks to donate items and then working to help women in our communities. The third recipient was Gerrienne Smart, for her many years of work to help restore and reactivate the Vergennes Opera House. The fourth recipient was Tim Cowan, a 15-year Lion who has served as president and has led club efforts to serve Vergennes.

As the new Lions' year started, President Macky Gaines took over leadership with a plea to the membership to try to get new members. For 69 years, Lions have served the greater Vergennes area and more members are needed to carry on the many projects. One of the projects that has expanded over the years is the support of the Vergennes Community Food Shelf. At this point, most churches and organizations in our community help in this effort. There have been food collection days in the spring as well as near Thanksgiving with the Rotary Club helping.

For the first time, the club did an online auction, which proved to be very popular and successful. It is planned to continue this in the future. The recent "Cash for Christmas" raffle was very successful with the winner, Adam Paquin, taking home over \$3,000, with the club also earning \$3,000.

The final project of the year was the Toys for Kids (Christmas) which took place this past weekend at the Addison County Home Health and Hospice facility on Meigs Road in Vergennes. 460 children received at least two toys, as well as mittens, hats and scarves. Sincere thanks go to the hundreds of people who donated so much. In addition to thanking ACHHH staff members Maureen, Jamison and Emma, chairperson Sue Hayes expressed her thanks to WOW Toys, Vermont Teddy Bear, Green Mountain Foster Bikes, Vergennes Police Department (donated bike helmets), Rack 'n Reel, and the Vergennes Rotary Club for their donations of toys. Lion Sue also recognized and thanked Kinney Drugs, Shear Cuts and Zen Dream Space, Jackman Fuels, Gaines Insurance, Ferrisburgh Bakeshop and Deli, Tractor Supply, Dollar General, and One Credit Union for having collection barrels out for collecting the toys, as well as the American Legion Auxiliary and Addison County Eagles Auxiliary for donating toys and money.

In addition, with the assistance of the Vergennes Rotary and the kindness of the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, 30 children stopped by on Sunday to pick out gifts for their parents or caregivers, and to wrap them. Parents who have received these gifts in the past say that their kids want them to open these presents first on Christmas morning.

So, thanks to all who helped make 2023 a very successful year, and we look forward to your help in 2024. You certainly make the Vergennes area a special place to live. *Thank you!*



Manchester Lions – Lighted Tractor Parade

Manchester Lions brought Santa to town at the annual lighted tractor parade.



MELVIN JONES NOMINATIONS



Reminder for each ticket purchased by a Club or Lion member, a nomination for an individual (Lion or community member) to receive a Melvin Jones Fellowship can be made. Deadline to nominate is January 31, 2024 (NO EXCEPTIONS). Please email your nominations to PDG Merry Souza at pdgmerry@gmail.com.



VERMONT LIONS CHARITIES

At the November meeting I am happy to report that Lion Woody Stoddard was elected to another three year term as Treasurer and PDG Ken Emery was elected to a three year term as Secretary, heartfelt appreciation for them both for their commitment. Many thanks for VDG Deb Savery for her dedication and commitment for her past years as Secretary. The proposed Constitution and By Laws changes that were presented were also approved.

VLC has had a very productive and busy year. We were very fortunate to have received numerous donations for Flood Relief which were utilized for assistance to workers during the flood, families and food pantries. We continue to provide much needed eye glasses, assisted with a cornea transplant, continued with cancer stipends, in addition we are completed our first assistance with the Miracle Ear Hearing Program.

On behalf of the entire VLC board have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Yours in Lionism
PDG Merry Souza
VLC President

If you are interested in attending the NELC meeting on Saturday, January 6, and not yet registered please contact NELC President, Lion Dom Branco (liondbranco@verizon.net)



New England Lions Council (NELC) "Serving the Needs of the Districts of New England"

2024 NELC "Winter Weekend"

Theme: *Celebrating Service*

January 5-6, 2024

Radisson Hotel Providence Airport, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886 / 401-298-2294

Rooms only \$119 Plus Taxes/Fees until December 17, 2023.

Call the Hotel Direct @ 833-626-1023 or the number above and ask for

New England Lions Council Room Block. Or Click/Paste this web link:

www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/G9666871

Recently Renovated Hotel near Providence airport. Offers free parking has a Bar, Restaurant, Fitness Center, Wi-Fi

Friday night we can arrange a get-together at a local Restaurant. Just let President Dom Branco know.

Saturday, 1/6/2024 7:30 - 9:30 Registration

7:30 - 9:00 Breakfast - Cowesett Room

Sat. 9:30-10:30 - Goddard Room - New England VIP Fishing Tournament - Ken Barthelemy

Sat. 10:45-11:45 - Goddard Room - Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc - Mark McGrath

Sat. 9:30-10:30 - Cowesett Room - Introduction to the LCI Portal - GAT Leader PDG Dawn Rice-Norton

Sat. 10:45-11:45 - Cowesett Room - LCI Constitution and By-laws - IPID John Youney & ID Steve Middlemiss

Sat. 12PM Luncheon Featuring LCI's 3rd VP Mark Lyon

Saturday, 1:30 PM Business Meeting - Updates & New England Governors' Reports

Saturday Breakfast: -The Continental - Assorted chilled juices, fresh baked breakfast pastry served with assorted jams, marmalade and whipped butter. Freshly brewed coffee and specialty tea.

Breakfast at \$22 x _____ Total = _____

Sat. Noon Luncheon: Buffet of Salad Station, Seasonal fruit salad, Roast Beef & Swiss cheese Sandwich on a potato roll, Turkey Breast and American cheese on a mini croissant, Tuna salad wrap, Potato Chips, Fresh Baked Cookies & Brownies, Soft Drinks, Bottled Water, Herbal Teas, Caffeinated and Decaf Coffees.

Lunch Buffet at \$40 x _____ Total = _____

Grand Total = _____

NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____ DIST/MD: _____

POSITION: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Make Check Payable to: NELC
Mail Check/Form to: Treasurer Norm Hart, PDG
181 Port Road,
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Meal Registration Deadline: January 2, 2024

Questions/Special Diet Needs to: NELC President Dom Branco, PDG @ Cell/Text: 401-714-2819 or: liondbranco@verizon.net



ATTENTION
Fellow D-45
Lions!

Vermont Lions D-45

THE MONEY TREE

Benefit Vermont Lions Charities

"THE MONEY TREE" RAFFLE IS BACK! THIS FUNDRAISER IS FUN AND TICKETS ARE EASY TO SELL!
We have covered this tree with \$500.00 of VT Lottery Tickets! There will be three prizes: Raffle's First Place drawing wins all VT Lottery Tickets plus the tree, 2nd Place prize is \$200.00 cash and 3rd Place is a \$100.00 cash prize. All net proceeds will go into VLC's General Fund to cover growing demands for Sight and other D-45 Club requests. The cost of one raffle ticket is \$10.00 or 3 tickets for \$25.00. Envelopes containing raffle tickets will be mailed directly to D-45 Club Secretaries. For additional tickets or any questions about the raffle, please contact PCST Bruce Savery. You may contact Lion Bruce by phone: 802-289-1696 or email: bsavery29@gmail.com.
IMPORTANT! Please return all sold tickets with checks made out to Vermont Lions Charities to: Lion Bruce Savery, 137 Maple Ridge Road, Chester, VT 05143 by the deadline: April 22nd. The prizes will be drawn on May 5, 2024 at Spring Convention to be held at the Fireside Inn in West Lebanon, NH. Please be sure to mail these in on time. Also, please bring or send along by another Lion, any unsold tickets to this meeting.

Thank you again for your support. We sincerely hope that D-45 Club members enjoy participating in this fundraiser. Be assured your efforts will reach far beyond D-45 Club areas, contributing assistance where Vermonters do not have the added benefit of a Lions Club.

Thank you for your consideration and hopeful participation!
Yours in Lionism,

PCST Bruce Savery



LIONS SERVICING OUR GLOBAL CAUSES



DIABETES



ENVIRONMENT



HUNGER



VISION



CHILDHOOD CANCER

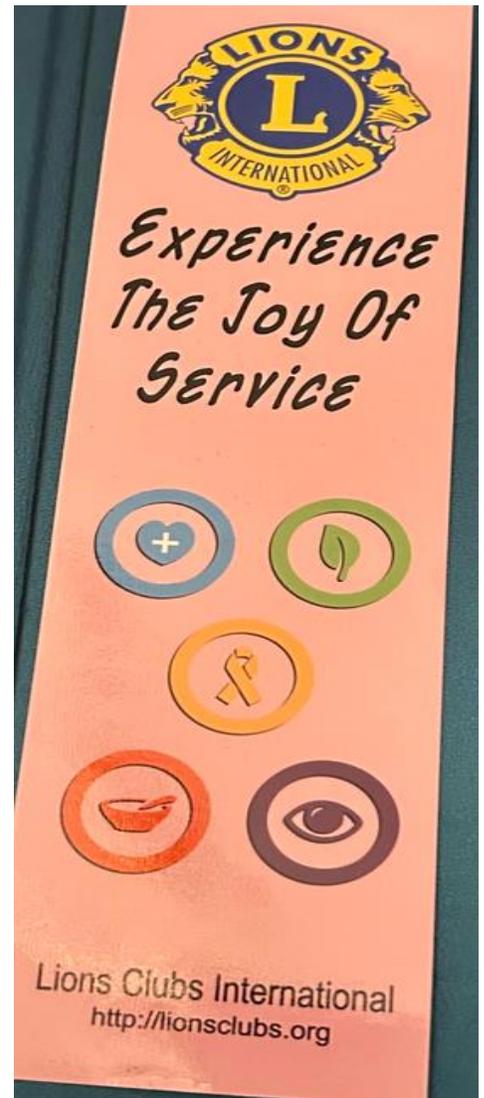
Winter Forum
Canadian Club, Barre, Vermont
Saturday, January 13, 2024



Tentative Schedule

Winter Forum
Canadian Club
Barre VT

8:45-9:10	Coffee and Breakfast
9:10-9:15	DG Opening
9:15-11:00	Honorary Meeting
9:15-10:00	Food Packing
10:00-10:45	Food Packing
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-11:15	Food Packing
11:15- 12:00	Clean Up Food Packing
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-3:00	Cabinet Meeting





Outreach Food Case Order Form

Date of Packaging and Pick Up is January 13th at the Canadian Club in Barre Vermont. This will be done at our January Forum.

Two ways to purchase:

Send your order Form and Payment to CS Tanya Letourneau. Make Checks payable to Vermont District 45.

1. Come enjoy the Forum and help package the food, and take your club boxes home with you.
2. Send your forms and payment and check the box to donate to the Vermont food Bank and we will get them there.

Our Goal this year is to package 23,500 meals, this year's meal is cheesy Macaroni And Cheese. We look forward to all your help making this very important service project a huge success.

Will attend and take the food cases home with me

Please donate our boxes to the Vermont Food Bank

Cases ordered X \$77.00 per case

Total enclosed \$





January Forum Registration Form
 8:30 am-3:00 pm
 Saturday January 13th
 Canadian Club
 414 E Montpelier Rd
 Barre VT 05641

Name: _____
 Club: _____
 Position: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____
 Please indicate food Allergy, and special requests: _____

Cost \$25.00 per person Please make checks out to Vermont District 45 Lions

Deadline for registration is Monday January 2nd. Any reservations after will be accepted, food will not be guaranteed if you register after the 2nd.

Please mail checks and registration forms to CS Tanya Letourneau 55 Jericho RD Essex Junction Vt 05452





January Cabinet Meeting
January 13th 2024
Canadian Club Barre VT

Meeting Called to Order- DG
3 Point Opening
Introductions- CS Tanya
Roll Call- CS Tanya
Minutes of the Secretary Minutes- CS Tanya
Minutes of the Treasurer Report- CT Loreen
Honorary Report- IPDG Kathy
VLC- PDG Merry
LCIF Super Raffle- PDG Merry,PDG Betsy
Global Leadership- PDG Pam
Global Membership VDG Deb, 2nd VDG Brenda
Peace Poster Contest Results- Forum Coordinator Sue Toth
Vision Report VDG Deb Savery
GMLC Lion Patricia
Speak Out Contest PDG Ken
Twin State Soccer
Membership Minute
Old Business
New Business
Questions on committee reports
Lions ROAR
Fundraising
DG Closing Remarks
Adjournment





THE LOUISVILLE PACSETER

Louisville 2024
SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2024

The Latest News & Information for the 2024
USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

OCTOBER 2023

SAVE THE DATE TO SET THE PACE

STEVE SHERER, GENERAL CHAIRPERSON

I am truly honored to be General Chair for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, September 5-7, 2024. We are off to a great start due to the foundation that was set in Reno, Nevada, last month.

Thank you to our General Chair Lion Jama Wahl, Host Committee Chair Linda Wagner-Griffin, and their committees for a great Forum in Reno. There were outstanding seminars and dynamic speakers. Nearly all who attended had a great time. The fellowship and exchanging of ideas that takes place at the Forum are the greatest reasons for attending, and Reno was no exception.

We have put together a great committee and there is no time to rest. We have made our initial trip to Louisville and the planning has already begun to put on a quality event next September. The Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC) is a great facility and will house all the Forum events, except for the delegation breakfasts. The education team is already putting together the list of seminars to be presented. We have great speakers and events planned and will outline them in future newsletters.

The headquarters hotel is the Galt House, which

is the only hotel with a river view in Louisville. It is within walking distance of the convention center, and you can use the enclosed walkway on the second floor. The only street to cross is to enter the KICC. In fact, all five hotels under contract for the event are within walking distance and shuttle transportation should not be necessary.

Please keep up to date on all info about the Forum at our website www.lionsforum.org. Registration is also now open on the website.

We promise to put on an outstanding Forum and look forward to your being in Louisville next September, where we, like the racehorses at Churchill Downs, will SET THE PACE to leadership and service.



Future Host Cities

2024 Louisville, Kentucky

2025 Atlantic City, New Jersey

2026 Memphis, Tennessee

2027 Huntsville, Alabama

Deadline is

March 1,
2024



Speak Out Contest 2024

Topic: "Changing the World—How can we shrink our footprint?"

To all Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and fellow District 45 Lions.

At the District 45 Spring Convention, to be held the weekend of May 3, 4 and 5, 2024 at the Fireside Inn, West Lebanon, New Hampshire, District 45 will once again host our 'Speak Out' (otherwise known as Speech) Contest. At the Spring Convention 2023, we had 5 students participate representing 5 club in the District, with knowledge of 2 other clubs having hopes to have participants without success. The following is some key information for this year's contest:

- To be held the Saturday of Spring Convention (May 4, 2024). Contest will start at 11 (subject to change), with lunch to be served after all participants are done. Prizes are to be awarded after (or during) lunch.
- Judges will be one per region plus a guest judge.
- Subject for the 2023 - 2024 contest: 'Changing the world - how can we shrink our footprint.'
- Prize money will be as follows: \$800 for 1st, \$550 for 2nd, \$400 for 3rd, \$300 for 4th, \$250 for 5th, \$200 for honorable mention - 3 maximum. Total of \$2,900. Part of this money is coming from Vermont Lions Charities.
- District would pick up the costs of lunch for contestants only. Club chairs would need to pick up their own lunch costs.
- Clubs are asked to pick up the costs of meals for families and friends.
- Deadline to enter District contests is April 6, 2024 (based on District contest being May 4, 2024).
- Maximum number of participants will be 8 with preference of 2 per each region.
- IF there are more than 8 clubs within the district participating, a 'runoff' will have to be held in the Region that has more than 2 to determine who can go to the district contest. This 'runoff' must be held no later than 2 weeks prior to the district contest, (being no later than April 20, 2024). There would be NO prizes for this runoff. If there are only 8 clubs in the district that are able to participate then there is no issue.
- All clubs are responsible for their own contests and prizes.
- Please let me know by March 1, 2024 IF your club is interested in hosting a speech contest, DO NOT hesitate to reach out to me for directions / suggestions in hosting your contest.

In Lionism, Past District Governor Ken Emery, Speak Out Contest Chair





Use the above QR code to order by paypal.



Heartland Lions Club

Cordially invites you to our 17th annual
"Truckload of Love"



Valentines Dinner-Dance

February 10th 2024

5:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Social hour begins at 5:30 pm

Dinner served at 6:15 pm

Dancing from 7:00 pm until 10:30 pm

Live music provided by *Club Soda Band*

Many door prizes including a
\$500 Cash Grand Prize

Fireside Inn

25 Airport Road

West Lebanon, NH 603-298-5900

Discounted room rates available. \$109.95 if reserved by
January 25th

*Tickets: \$125/couple (advance purchase only,
please make purchases by February 1)*

All proceeds go to local charities.

Please contact:

HeartlandLionsClub@charter.net





President's Message Changing the World with International President Dr. Patti Hill

Dear Lion,

Every day, we're changing lives for the better. With every life we change, we are Changing the World. The best part of our mission is that we're doing it together, as a global community of caring and dedicated Lions and Leos.

The greatest gift we can give is our care and our kindness, and our kindness means even more to people and families in need during the holiday season. You can make the holiday season brighter by planning a project to fight hunger in your community or make a gift to our global foundation, LCIF. Your contributions will make a profound difference in someone's life.

Yours in service,

Dr. Patti Hill
International President



Start Planning Your Lion 2024

Now's the time to start planning for a great 2024. Here are some things you won't want to miss.

- **LionsCon awaits** – Join us for the biggest Lion event of the year, the Lions International Convention in Melbourne, Australia from June 21-25, 2024. Early bird registration ends on **January 12**, so [register now](#).
- **Experience LDUN** – Celebrate our partnership with the U.N. and join conversations shaping the future of service at Lions Day with the United Nations. [Learn](#) how you can be a part of this special event in New York City on March 1, 2024.
- **Earn recognition** – Don't miss your chance to earn recognition through the [Lions International Marketing Award](#). Review the criteria and submit your application by February 1, 2024 for your chance to win US\$2,000 and a special award.

Start building your 2024 calendar today!



Dear Lion Leader,

We are continuing to make progress toward the new Lion Portal and are grateful to the Lion testers playing such a critical role in this project. At the October board meeting, several additional factors were identified that necessitate additional development and testing time. As such, we have determined that our January 2024 launch is no longer a realistic target. We will update our digital products page to reflect this update.

Our priority remains creating a positive user experience for our Lions, and we appreciate your support and collaboration as we diligently work toward this enhanced digital experience — together.

Sincerely,

Sue Ben
Chief of Technology
Lions International

District 45 – Calendar

Would you like to see your club highlighted?

Club news or articles due on or before the 25th of each month

Please email information to:

communique@vermontlions.org

Date	Hosts-Event	Location
January 6, 2024	NELC Winter Meeting	Raddison Hotel 2081 Post Road Warwick, RI
January 13, 2024	Winter Forum/Meal Packing	Canadian Club Barre, VT
Food from the Heart	District 45 Clubs	
February 10, 2024	Valentine's Dinner/Dance Heartland Lions	Fireside Inn & Suites W Lebanon, NH
March 16, 2024	Spring Forum	Evening Star Grange, 1008 East West Road Dummerston, VT
May 3-5, 2024	D45 Spring Convention Speak Out Contest	Fireside Inn & Suites W Lebanon, NH
May 17-18, 2024	NELC Spring Weekend	Vermont, TBA

