



The Communiqué



**District 45 - Vermont Lions Charities
In Lionism, In Service, In Friendship**

July 2017

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District 45 of
Lions Club International

**District Governor
Walter Hastings**

(Heartland)

864 S. Windsor Street,
So. Royalton, VT 05068
Home 763-7730
Cell: 356-35203
Email: weh@myexcel.com

1ST Vice District Governor

Elizabeth “Liz” Fenwick

(Norshaft)

301 Mountain View Dr,
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
Home 379-7710
Email: eafenwick@gmail.com

2nd Vice District Governor

Vacant

Cabinet Secretary

Carol Greene

(Heartland)

P.O. Box 92,
So. Royalton, VT 05068
Home: 291-3750
Email:
vtlioncarol@gmail.com

Cabinet Treasurer

Brenda Seitz (Brattleboro)

724 Hinesburg Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301
Phone: 802-257-0907
Email: blseitz92@gmail.com

A Message from District Governor Walter Hastings

Hello Lions of District 45!

We hope you are having a great Summer! Hope you're having fun and thinking about how you can improve Lions everyday (ha ha).

Having just returned from the Lions Club International Convention in Chicago, I am excited about the upcoming year in Vermont District 45 Lions and hoping for a fun and productive year in Lionism.

International President Dr. Naresh Aggarwal's program is:

Our motto says it best—We Serve.

Service is the reason our global organization exists. As we enter our second century, we are evolving to meet the needs of our ever-changing world. We can show the world that solving our greatest problems is within reach if we work together for the common good.

The Power of We: Standing together in service. As individuals, we can only do so much. But when 1.4 million Lions work together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

The Power of Action: Transforming hope into action. Lions are active in communities all over the world. Let's take advantage of our global presence by engaging each Lion in service early and often.

The Power of Service: Making the impossible possible. It all comes down to one thing—service. Our purpose has always been to provide service to those in need. Solving our world's greatest problems is within reach if we work together. But only through service can we change lives and make the world a better place.

The Future is Now: The time to act is now. We can and we will make a lasting impact on our communities and the world. Join me in making this vision of our second century of service a reality.

I have chosen my theme for the year, Remembering the Past but an Eye to the Future. I strongly feel for the Lion's Club to survive we need to be proud of what we have accomplished and looking ahead to the future, we can continue to serve those in need.

We are in hopes you will join us on Sunday, July 25, 2017 for our Organizational meeting at Paine's Beach in South Royalton, hosted by Heartland Lions Club. We will meet at noon for lunch, discuss the upcoming year, and how we will reach our goals. All are welcome, please RSVP to CS Carol Greene by July 23, 2017. Immediately following the meeting, we will audit the books. You will find additional information in the Communiqué on the meeting.

Our first cabinet meeting will be on August 18, Vergennes, Legion Hall. We will have training for club officers and a speaker from LCI on Lions Quest. Be sure to check out other cabinet meetings listed in the Communiqué.

We Serve,

DG Walter

District 45

Calendar

July 2017

15	Twin State Soccer - Henniker, NH
20	Deadline to submit items for Communique
20/27	Thunder Road w/Green Mountain Camp - \$12
23	Organizational Meeting - Paines Beach - See Flyer for Details

August 2017

19	Cabinet Meeting - Vergennes, Legion Hall
20	Colchester Lions Club - Golf Ball Drop - Please See Attached Flyer
20	Deadline to submit items for Communique
26	Orleans Lions Annual Horse Shoe Tournament Fundraiser to be held August 26th at North End of Lake Willoughby

September 2017

9	Manchester Lions Club - Maple Leaf Half Marathon and 5K, Manchester VT www.manchestervtmapleleaf.com
20	Deadline to submit items for Communique
30	Hungry Lion Bike Tour Whitingham, VT www.hungrylionbiketour.com Tours from 10 to 75 miles

October 2017

20	Deadline to submit items for Communique
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November 2017

4	Fall Cabinet Meeting/LCI Super Raffle - Colchester
20	Deadline to submit items for Communique

December 2017

20	Deadline to submit items for Communique
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Calling all D-45 Lions serving on the cabinet

Organizational Meeting

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Time: Noon

*Where: Paine's Beach, 406 North Windsor Street,
South Royalton, VT 05068*

Cost: \$8

*We will have burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, pasta
salad, tossed salad, chips, and beverages including
soda, water and ice tea.*

Please RSVP to:

Vtlioncarol@gmail.com

Or phone: 802.291.3750

by Friday, July 21, 2017

Please join us!!!!





LIONS TWIN STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC

68 JACK WELLS ROAD, DANBURY, NH 03230



"Soccer for Sight and Hearing"

To: Lions of Districts 14N, 14H, and 45
From: LISSA

May 2017

Dear Lion: **On July 31st, someone will win \$1,000. Will it be you?**

You can only win if you play. You have 31 chances to win.

The people we serve, though the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of NH, Inc. and Vermont Lions Charities, are winning too, through your generosity and with your participation.

1 -- \$1,000 Winner on July 31st

- 1 -- \$300. July 1st
- 1 -- \$150. July 5th
- 1 -- \$200. July 15th Game Day
- 8 -- \$100. July 2,8,9,10,16,22,23,29,30th
- 19 -- \$50. July 3,4,6,7,10,11,12,13,14,17,18,19,20,21,24,25,26,27,28th -- \$10. Each ticket

Remember...there are: 31 chances to win multiple times.

Submitted by: Cheryl Powers, Director



We Serve

*Colchester Lions Club
Helicopter Golf Ball Drop*

GRAND PRIZE \$1,000

SECOND PRIZE \$300

THIRD PRIZE \$200

August 20, 2017, HIGH NOON
AIRPORT PARK, COLCHESTER

Balls dropped by Mansfield Heliflight Helicopter

ONLY 250 BALLS TO BE SOLD

First ball into hole (or closest to hole) wins \$1,000
Second ball into hole (or 2nd closest to hole) wins \$300
Third ball into hole (or 3rd closest to hole) wins \$200

Golf balls are \$25 each, 2 for \$40.

Will be sold up to 11:00 A.M. day of event

All balls sold will be eligible for raffle prizes

Drawn after Golf Ball Drop

For more information please contact Lion Ken Emery at
(802) 578-7483 or via email: kpemery1960@gmail.com or visit
Colchester Lions Club website: www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colchestervt

Colchester Lions Club **Voucher** Helicopter Golf Ball Drop
August 20, 2017 **HIGH NOON** Airport Park, Colchester
Balls dropped by Mansfield Heliflight Helicopter
Donation: \$25 for one ball, 2 balls for \$40 – ONLY 250 SOLD

GRAND PRIZE: \$1,000, 2ND prize \$300, 3rd prize \$200
All balls will be eligible for raffle prizes drawn after drop!!!

Vouchers will be assigned a golf ball number,
First come, first served, balls sold until 11:00 a.m. day of event.
You will be notified via mail, phone call or email of your number.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____ E-mail:: _____

Please mail voucher (copies acceptable) and money to:
Lion Ken Emery 146 Eagle Park Drive Colchester VT 05446
For more information please call Lion Ken at (802) 578-7483
Or via email: kpemery1960@gmail.com

Colchester Lions Club **Voucher** Helicopter Golf Ball Drop
August 20, 2017 **HIGH NOON** Airport Park, Colchester
Balls dropped by Mansfield Heliflight Helicopter
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Please mail voucher (copies acceptable) and money to:
Lion Ken Emery 146 Eagle Park Drive Colchester VT 05446
For more information please call Lion Ken at (802) 578-7483
Or via email: kpemery1960@gmail.com

Every Order You Place with Amazon can benefit Vermont Lions Charities

Amazonsmile

It's easy....

Type in <https://smile.amazon.com/>

On your first visit to AmazonSmile

(smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization (i.e., Vermont Lions Charities) to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Just remember to go to smile.amazon.com for all your future shopping.



Eye Glass Recycling Instructions

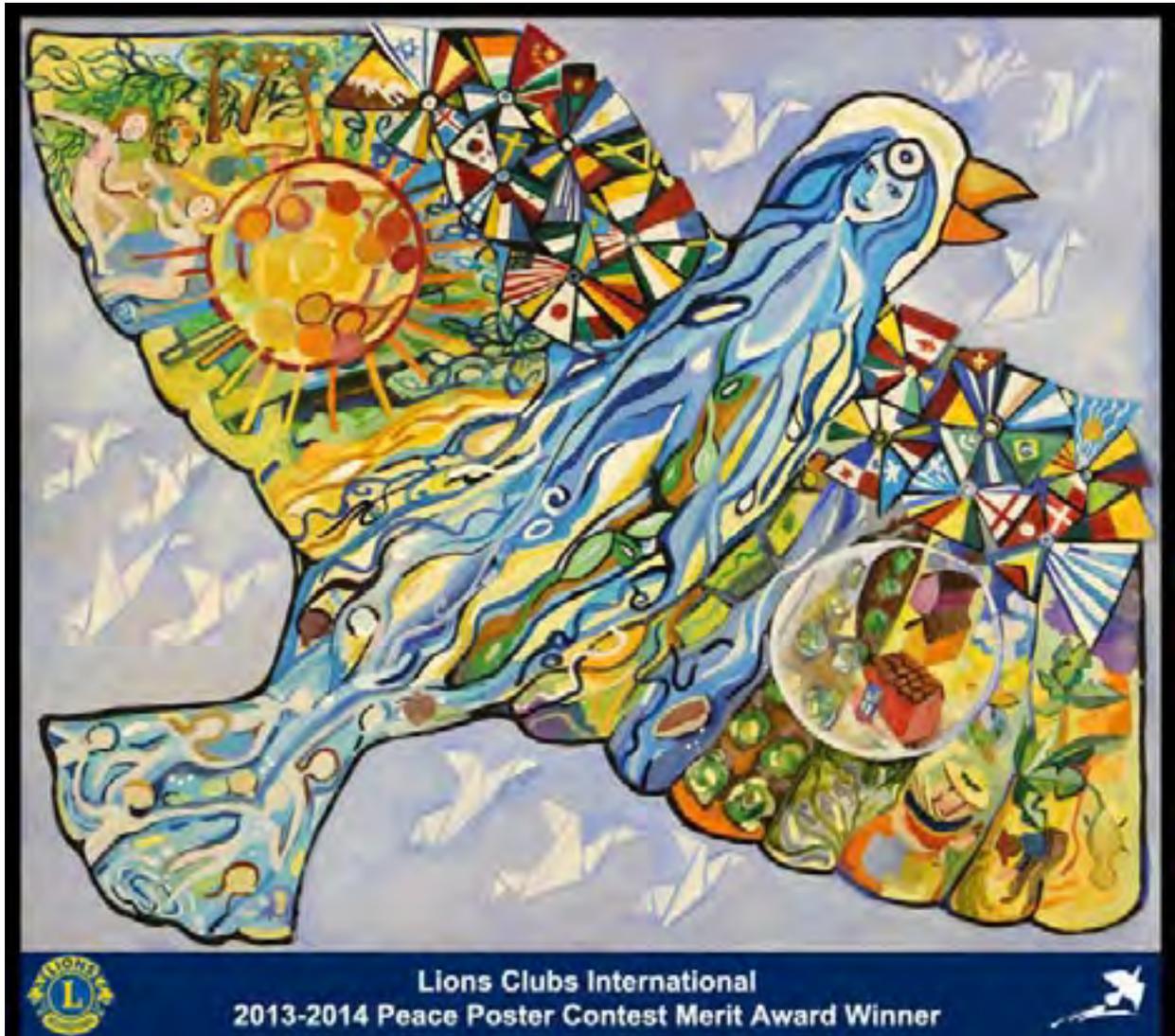
We need your assistance again. At the last Cabinet meeting clubs did a terrific job turning in their eyeglasses for recycling, but we made work for the Vergennes Lions because not all clubs prepped their donations as necessary.

- 1) We want eyeglasses not cases. Remove any eyeglass cases and discard or recycle the cases. We only need the eyeglasses to be turned in.**
- 2) Write your FULL Club Name and the count of glasses in the box on the outside of the box. These boxes will be transported in the back of a pickup at 72 mph...any loose note will be blown away...and at least one was.**
- 3) Seal the box firmly for transport. The box will not be opened until it gets to New Jersey so ensure that only glasses are inside.**

Finally many folks were asking for an address so that they could hand deliver their glasses. The district's glasses are being consolidated at Lion Brad Howe's home in Vergennes. The physical address (not the mailing address) is 125 Sunset Knoll, Vergennes, VT. Please call Brad at 802-759-2141 prior to delivering to ensure that he will be there to receive.

Lion Randy from Middlebury Lions will continue to transport glasses from cabinet meetings to Brad's home, so feel free to continue to bring them to cabinet meetings. You can even bring them to the spring convention, but those won't count for this year's total for competition purposes...but they will count toward next year's competition.

It's Peace Poster Time!



To all Clubs:

Lions International is celebrating thirty (30) years of sponsoring the International Peace Poster Contest. The theme for 2017-2018 is "The Future of Peace".

Please order your kits and contact your local schools or youth service organizations to encourage our youth to become involved in this contest to express artistically their interpretation of the "Future of Peace". We have certainly seen much talent from our youth over the past few years and hope you will consider introducing youth in your communities to the wonderful world of Lionism. It is never too early to get our youth involved!!

Thank you.

Lion Carmelita
Peace Poster Chair
2016-2017

D-45 Centennial Coordinator's Corner

Centennial Service Challenge

For nearly 100 years, Lions have changed lives in their communities and around the world. In celebration of our Centennial in 2017, Lions everywhere are being challenged to serve 100 million people. You're invited to join the celebration by helping us reach our goal. Your club can earn special Centennial recognition by hosting a service project that benefits Youth, Vision, Hunger or the Environment. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this historic event—start planning your next Centennial Service Challenge event today!



Centennial Membership Awards

The Centennial Celebration Membership Awards provides all Lions and Lions clubs the opportunity to earn special *Limited Edition* awards for inviting new members and helping to organize new clubs.



Centennial Community Legacy Projects

Connect with your community and build your Lion legacy by planning a Centennial Community Legacy Project during our Centennial Celebration. Legacy Projects are visible gifts to your community that commemorate our Centennial and create a lasting legacy of your service contributions.



Vermont Lions Vision Screening Results
Over 18,500 Children
Screened This Year!
September 1, 2016 - May 20, 2017

Club	Number of Schools	Number of Children	Number of Referrals	Number of Adults
Arlington/Bennington/ NorShaft	27	1,976	185	38
Barre	20	3,050	271	33
Brandon Forest Dale	10	413	40	
Brattleboro	1	8		
Castleton	12	1,648	180	18
Colchester/Essex	24	2,916	268	82
Enosberg	4	565	52	
Granville	2	108	13	
Georgia	1	63	5	
Heartland	1	140	17	
Londonderry Area	6	529	n/a	
Manchester	5	735	72	
Middlebury	26	1,309	110	12
Orleans	1	54	10	
Richford	3	564	61	33
Springfield	33	3,859	371	102
Troy & Area	4	384	30	
Whitingham-Halifax	2	210	19	
Williston	1	65	2	
Total:	183	18,596	1,706	318

If your Club's screening has not been reported here, please contact Phylis Porio at norshaftlions@aol.com

Thanks to all the Lions who participated in this project this academic year. You Roar!

Walk for Sight Results

June 17, 2017

Dear Fellow Lions;

Here are the final figures for each location of the Walk for Sight. I also listed separately the totals for each D-45 Club's generous contribution. As you will see, the proceeds are lower this year but still very beneficial to the cause and definitely appreciated by Vermont Lions Charities.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Your continual support for the Walk makes big strides in reaching out to areas in Vermont that would not be covered otherwise.

Just one more reminder of "Where there is a need there is a lion"

You are to be congratulated!

Prizes will be drawn and reported at a later date.

Thank you again.

Yours in Lionism,
Lion Jackie Dutil
2017 VLC-Walk for Sight Chair

Club News

Walk for Sight Results

D45 CLUB DONATIONS TO WALK FOR SIGHT 2017

CLUB	D45 CLUBS	LEO CLUBS
BARRE	730.00	
BENNINGTON	100.00	
BRANDON/FOREST DALE	4,540.00	
CASTLETON	350.00	
COLCHESTER	590.00	
ESSEX JCT.	370.00	
GEORGIA	225.00	
HEARTLAND	490.00	
JERICHO/UNDERHILL	650.00	
MANCHESTER LEO'S		495.00
MIDDLEBURY	600.00	
MMU LEO'S		200.00
NORSHAFT	622.00	
NORWICH	200.00	
ORLEANS	200.00	
SPRINGFIELD	250.00	
STRAFFORD	1,050.00	
TROY & AREA	130.00	
VERGENNES	105.00	
WILLISTON	60.00	
WINDSOR	280.00	

19 CLUBS	11,542.00	
2 LEO CLUBS	695.00	
MISCELLANOUS CASH	116.00	

TOTAL	12,353.00	
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Walk for Sight Results



Vermont Lions Charities

University Mall - *A Walk for Sight*

May 20, 2017

Reporting Form

COMMITTEE CHAIR: LION JACKIE DUTIL

WALK FOR SIGHT ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LIONS: Loreen Teer, PDG Betsy MaGee, Carmelita Belisle, Cindy Berg, PDG Ken Emery

HOST CLUBS – BRANDON/FOREST DALE, ESSEX JCT., COLCHESTER, & JERICHO/UNDERHILL

CLUBS MANAGING DIABETES & VISION SCREENINGS: COLCHESTER CLUB, JERICHO/UNDERHILL CLUB, MIDDLEBURY CLUB, ESSEX JCT. CLUB,, WILLISTON CLUB

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS:

Lions: Joyce Potenzano, Connie St. George, Mary Shields, Stacy Shields, Dianne Bouche, Burt Reynolds, Patti Reynolds, Sandy Brutkoski, Shirley Smela, Carmelita Belisle, Loreen Teer, PDG Ken Emery, Loreen Teer, Jackie Dutil, Travis LeBel, PDG Betsy MaGee, Dave LaRose

Weather Conditions: SUNNY, MID 70'S

Number of Sponsorship Forms: 30

Walk for Sight Results

TOTAL FROM SPONSORSHIP FORMS: \$ 7,340.00

Number of “Seemore” Dedications: 0

Total \$ from “Seemore” Dedications \$ 0

50/50 Raffle: listed in “other fundraising; \$ 116.00

Total # of Miles Walked miles 69.25

Total # of walkers 20

non-walkers 2

UNIVERSITY MALL VISION SCREENING:

SCREENED -

CHILDREN 49 (2 REFERRALS)

ADULTS 21 (2 REFERRALS)

DIABETES SCREENINGS:

SCREENED-

ADULTS 10 (4 REFERRALS)

Walk for Sight Results

OTHER FUNDRAISING:

Description	Amount Raised	\$ For VLC	\$ For Local Club
50/50 RAFFLE & CASH DONATIONS	116.00	116.00	

VLC AND CLUB ALLOCATIONS:

(Sponsor Forms with designations to VLC and Clubs)

	VLC	VLC	CLUBS
BRANDON/FOREST DALE	4,540.00	4,440.00	100.00
COLCHESTER	590.00	445.00	
		To GMLC \$ 145.00	
GEORGIA	225.00	212.50	
		To GMLC \$ 12.50	
JERICHO/UNDERHILL	650.00	325.00	
		To The Veteran's Place in Northfield, VT	\$ 325.

Walk for Sight Results

SPONSORSHIPS \$ 7,340.00

50/50 RAFFLE \$ 116.00

WALK FOR SIGHT TOTAL \$ 7,456.00

UNIVERSITY MALL WALK: \$ 7,456.00

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

Walk for Sight Results



Vermont Lions Charities
Downtown Barre - *A Walk for Sight*
May 20, 2017
Final Reporting Form

Host Clubs: BARRE LIONS CLUB

Committee Chair: TINA GOLON

Number of Additional Volunteers: 9

Weather Conditions: EXCELLENT

Number of Sponsorship Forms: 27

Total \$ from Sponsorship Forms: \$3,205.00

Number of "Seemore" Dedications: 0

Dollar amount of "Seemore" Dedications: \$ 0

Walk for Sight Results

VLC WALK FOR SIGHT 2017 RESULTS

TOTAL NUMBER OF MILES WALKED: 134.25

UNIVERSITY MALL WALK: \$ 7,456.00 Total – University Mall Walk

MANCHESTER WALK: \$ 1,692.00- Total – Manchester Walk

DOWNTOWN BARRE WALK: \$ 3,205.00 Total – Downtown Barre Walk

\$ 7,456.00 – University Mall Walk
\$ 1,692.00 – Manchester Walk
\$ 3,205.00 – Downtown Barre Walk

\$12,353.00

GRAND TOTAL-RECEIVED \$ 12,353.00.00
134.25 MILES WALKED

ALLOCATIONS: VLC \$ 10,784.50 CLUBS \$ 1,568.50

* UNIVERSITY MALL VISION SCREENING: 70 SCREENED -
49 CHILDREN (2 REFERRALS)
21 ADULTS (2 REFERRALS)

* UNIVERSITY MALL-DIABETES SCREENING: 10 - people screened
4 - advised to seek further testing

Walk for Sight Results



Vermont Lions Charities
Manchester Site - *A Walk for Sight*
May 20, 2017
Final Reporting Form

Host Club: Manchester Leo Club

Committee Chair: D G Pamela Nichols

Number of Volunteers: 12

Weather Conditions: sunny, beautiful

Number of Sponsorship Forms: 6

Total \$ from Sponsorship Forms: \$ 1,692.00

Number of "Seemore" Dedications: 0

Total \$ from "Seemore" Dedications: 0

Walk for Sight Results

VLC AND CLUB ALLOCATIONS:

Description	Amount Raised	\$ For VLC	\$ For Local Club
Norshaft Lions Club	622.00	311.00	311.00

Host Club Committee Members: Manchester Leo's, 1013 Rt. 30, Dorset, VT 05251

Other Clubs Assisting: D G Joe Wilson (Springfield Lions)

2nd VDG Liz Fenwick (Norshaft Lions)

Total # of Miles Walked: 37

Donation Jar - 0

GRAND TOTAL FOR MANCHESTER WALK: \$ 1,692

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!

Club News

Lions News

Colchester Lions Celebrating – Lions and friends joined together on June 7, 2017 to celebrate the 100th birthday of Lions Club. What a great time with friends/family having cake and fellowship and celebrating what we all enjoy, being a Lion! And no birthday party is complete without singing Happy Birthday!



Club News

New England Lions Council – On June 3, 2017 we were all challenged to be involved with a service project, all the same day. On this day, several members and friends worked at the Green Mountain Lions Camp, Cabot VT to get it ready for our campers, there were some 70 individuals taking part. While other Lions were working at the Special Olympics, Burlington VT. Many thanks to Lion Brian Steckley and his committee for making this experience possible.



Otter Valley High School students and their advisor help Lion Mary Shields plant flowers at 2 town parks before Memorial Day. Brandon Forest Dale Lions club helps support the maintenance and beautifying of Brandon. As you can see it was a cold and rainy day, perfect for planting!

Club News



Brother and sister Lions Patti and Burt Reynolds give dogwood trees to Leicester and Neshobe School 3rd and 4th graders for Arbor Day. They gave out 82 trees to students and staff to plant wherever they wish to make their world a little nicer! Brandon Forest Dale Lions club have had an active year helping our community.



Club News

The Granville Lions Club invites you to their Casual Furniture Sale which begins the first weekend in May and runs through Labor Day!

To prepare you for your visit, we would like to share with you some information about this unique area.

Granville, NY is a wonderful little Village/Town located on the NY/VT border. The Slate Valley consists of an area of land along the NY/VT border stretching about 26 miles north and south and about 7 miles east and west. The slate quarried in this small geographic region is regarded as the one of the hardest slates in the world and definitely the most colorful.

Find interesting selections and reasonable pricing!
Have your Lion Identification for an even better price!

GRANVILLE LIONS CLUB

CASUAL

FURNITURE SALE

Fridays 5-8pm & Saturdays 10-2 pm

OPEN: May thru Labor Day!

GPS & Sale address: Lions Lane, Granville, NY 12832

(Located behind the Post Office on Main St.) Phone: 518-642-1261

LTSSA



NE College
Heniker, NH
Saturday, July 15th, 2017
Girls Game starts at 4:00pm
Boys Game starts at 6:00pm

\$5.00

gets you in for both games

- The players are ready!
- The coaches and managers are ready!
- Are you ready to come to the LTSSA Soccer Games?

Calendar Raffle Drawings - 31 Chances to Win

Submitted by: Cheryl Powers, Director



Club News

NorShaft

The Norshaft Lions club in cooperation with the Post Offices in North Bennington and Shaftsbury are doing a Pictorial Cancellation. One will be done in Shaftsbury on June 30th and the other in North Bennington on July 5th. It is in connection with the 100th anniversary of Lions International and the opening and closing of the National Convention in Chicago. An announcement of the events will come out in a National Postal Publication called the Postal Bulletin.

A Pictorial Cancellation is a special cancellation stamper that is used to cancel out Postage Stamps. It is used on the day of the event and in some cases up to 6 months after the event date. Many collectors send stamped post cards and letters in an envelope for the Post office to cancel and return the letters and Post cards to the collector.

Carrie Houlihan, our new King Lion, has designed four specially designed envelopes. They have a stamp on them and two of them are canceled with the North Bennington stamper and two with the Shaftsbury stamper. We want to sell them as a collectable. The price has not been set yet. There will only be between 50 and 100 sets available. My connection with the Postal Service enabled me to work with new King Lion Carrie on this project.

Anyone who would like to have a letter or a Postcard cancelled you can send your letters to either the North Bennington Post office 05257, the Shaftsbury Post office 05262, or both. If you have any questions about these events you can call me at my office 802-442-2142.

Sincerely

Lion Michael J Ryan

Club News

NorShaft



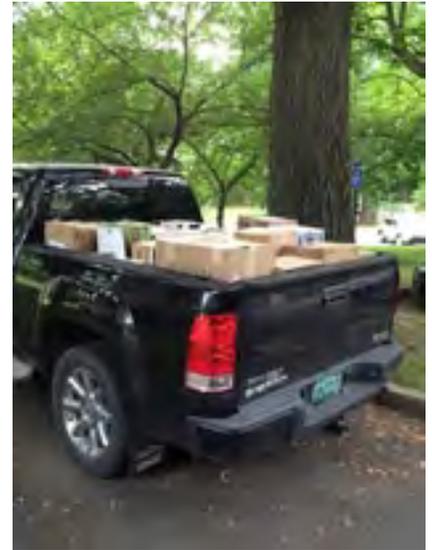
D45 Glasses Delivered to NJ Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

What a difference Lions make! Throughout the 2016/17 year D45 Lions collected about 15,000 pair of eyeglasses and June 14th they were delivered to the New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) in West Trenton. We were welcomed by Lion Alan Brewer, current President of the LERC and he kindly spent an hour showing us their operation and explained how we can help. First and foremost they are REALLY excited that D45 is sending them our glasses. Next the good news – They want ALL glasses. We can send them prescription glasses, readers, sunglasses, cataract shades, even broken glasses...everything with two ear loops. The only thing we can't send is glass cases. They process 1.2 million glasses each year. Cases slow them down.

Their process starts with an initial sort of incoming glasses. Prescription glasses that are undamaged are sorted for further processing. Damaged glasses and all non-prescription glasses are sorted into either plastic or metal recycling bins. They send the plastic and metal to California for recycling and use the funds earned to operate the facility. Their place is big...about the size of a football field. Their pile in the photo is the volume they typically process every six weeks. Even Walmart sends their glasses to the LERC.

Next step is to send the good prescription glasses through a sanitization process. Each pair of glasses is then measured with a lensometer, individually bagged with the prescription data, and finally stored by prescription until called upon for distribution. The measuring process is the most time consuming. It's more work than the Lions volunteers have time for so they got inventive. The LERC facility is located in a building provided by The Katzenbach School for the Deaf. Many of their students achieve their community service hours by assisting the Lions. Lions also partnered with two correctional facilities. Lions ship eyeglasses to the prisons and the inmates use the lensometers provided by the Lions to measure, record, and package the glasses - then ship the glasses back to the LERC. Brilliant!!!

I thought our pile was big



The LERC pile is bigger....



Lensometer



Stored by Rx



Lion Alan Brewer



The New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NJLERC) is a 501 (c)3 all volunteer organization that provides recycled eyeglasses to Lions and other mission groups who perform vision screening and/or eye examinations in developing countries and the United States.

The NJ LERC distributes 50,000 to 100,000 glasses annually.

Glasses are distributed free to Lions missions. \$5 handling fee per 800 pair to non-Lions missions.

Club News

Middlebury Lions Club



Pictured (L to R) Lion Heidi Cunningham, Evan Forbes, James Thorpe, Hunter Colmbes, Lucas Farrell, Reilly Lawson, Colby Benjamin, Emma Quesnel, Tristen Woods, Elizabeth Chamberlain, Lion Bill Cunningham, Lion Ron Counter, Lion Dave Morse.

The Middlebury Lions Club recently made a \$4,195 Lions Legacy Project donation to the Addison Central Teens (ACT) center. The funds will be used to upgrade the backroom of the Teen Center into a functional and inviting space that will be used primarily for teen programming. “When we renovated the warming hut we intentionally left the back room a blank canvas because we weren’t clear on what would best serve the community teens” ACT Executive Director Colby Benjamin said. “Clearly it was going to be used for programs, but since we had no experience in the space we had no clear vision. Now after a few seasons in the space we understand how to get the most from the space available.” One mission of the Middlebury Lions club is community youth engagement. Community members with additional ideas that can serve local teen needs are invited to attend a Lions meeting, speak with a Lion, or email the club at MiddleburyLions@yahoo.com. Colby expects the renovations to be completed this summer prior to school resuming.

MONDAY EDITION
 ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Vol. 29 No. 12 Middlebury, Vermont • Monday, July 10, 2017 • 32 Pages \$1.00



LUCIE WRIGHT HOLDS the pair of glasses donated by the Middlebury Lions Club that allow the blind woman to operate with more independence. A camera on the specs uses technology to recognize faces and text, translates the images into sound and speak into Wright's ear.

High-tech glasses help blind woman 'see'

Lions gift restoring her independence

By WILEY DUGRAY
MIDDLEBURY — Three years ago, Lucie Wright was told she would become blind. Four years ago, she did lose her sight completely and began training herself to live as fully as possible in her new world of darkness.

Thank it a couple years of technology she recently acquired, the Middlebury woman is enjoying some measure of independence.

In 2017, Wright, now 58, was diagnosed with chronic idiopathic macular degeneration, a rare disease she described as "retinitis of the eye." Typically, those who develop macular degeneration are older and have the inflammation it causes with macular, however, since her's was chronic, there was nothing that a variety of treatments from countless doctors

could do. "Would you had to live with it."

On some days, her vision could be fine, while during others, she could barely see her hand and would feel as though she was looking through a fog.

"Distractions would come and go and each time it would seem it would always affect different parts of the eye," she said.

Wright was able to fight through the disease and work as Registered Nurse in Burlington for 20 years. But eventually her loss of vision reached a point that she could no longer work. In the summer of 2010, Wright notified those in administration that, while past therapies did not work, she gave them such as.

By the fall, she could no longer see people's faces. By December, she could barely differentiate night from day. She became legally

blind. (See Wright, Page 2)

Wright

Wright, who was blind by the start of 2014, she fell down a flight of stairs and hit her head, causing a hemorrhage and the complete deterioration of her vision. She became completely blind.

More than three years later, Wright is still adjusting.

"I thought I was preparing myself for going blind but (I) really didn't have any idea," she said. "I didn't think I didn't do anything I should have."

For Wright, one of the hardest places to live her independence was at the Congregational Church of Middlebury, where she could no longer see the face of her fellow community members, or even read the church's bulletin board.

"When you become blind, the biggest thing you lose is independence," she said. "I used to be able to do whatever I wanted to. Everything is dependent on someone else being available to help me, to drive me somewhere, to help me with this or that."

After she became completely blind, Wright began attending meetings and workshops that taught her how to adjust. The staff she involved, but was committed to finding technologies or practices that may help her be more independent. After hours of research, she finally

found a piece of technology that could help her with an OxCam.

Powered by a computer of the same name in Israel, OxCam is a small camera that attaches to a pair of eyeglasses, it translates visual information into spoken words. The device uses computer vision, text and audio to identify certain products and then, using a small speaker positioned just above the wearer's ear, tell them what they're seeing.

When they're reading, it reads to the user. In stores, it provides the benefits of sight to those who cannot truly see.

"When they found the device online, the Wrights were amazed by the technology and looked into buying one."

However, one thing stood in their way: a \$1,500 price tag.

"There is no way we can afford the device," Lucie Wright said at the time.

THE LIONS STEP IN

Since its founding in 1917, the Lions Club has completed thousands of community service projects across the country and world. One of the club's most well-known projects is to provide services to those who are visually or hearing impaired.

Knowing the mission of the organization, the Wrights approached the Middlebury Lions Club last year and asked if it could



LUCIE WRIGHT

assist in funding the OxCam. In their response, the 75 members of the club took a vote and decided to fund the device in full. Wright could not believe their generosity.

"I started crying. I couldn't believe what they would agree to pay for this," she said.

She received the OxCam last week.

Now, with the help of the device, Wright says she is slowly starting to regain the independence that she lost. One aspect that has been particularly important to her is being able to recognize who is speaking to her at church.

"It gives people their voice back

cross up to me and I can say, 'Hi, George,' and they go, 'Hi, Lucie.' It's funny to me, but I tell them I'm happy," she said with a laugh.

APPROVES THEIR COMMUNITY

Ready, Wright is one of the Lions Club members who was inspired by Wright's story and wanted to make the gift to her. Wright, who is the club's past president and current membership chair, visited alongside club flight and Planning Committee Keith New to make it happen.

"Keith was assigned. He did a great resource and came to the club and said, here's our opportunity to help a local resident," Wright said.

Of all the donations the Lions have made in the last year, Wright and Wright's story moved him the most.

"We're all human. For me, to sit in a room with a woman who looks at you with pride and says, 'I'm really looking out the door in church because I'm reading the church bulletin and my hands went up to me and I can say, here are you doing — that's amazing,'" he said.

"You'd have to be amazed not to be touched by that."

Each year, the Middlebury Lions Club allocates more than \$7,000 for sight and hearing-related concerns. This year, according to Wright, the club spent over \$10,000.

Last year, the club covered 33 corrective glasses and three hearing aids to local individuals. They also

provided 1,220 pairs of eyeglasses and 17 hearing aids, many of which were set up in the hands of needy people all around the world. Much of the work is done in other Lions Clubs throughout Addison County, such as the Brandon/Fossilville and Vergennes Lions Clubs.

Each year, these clubs gather to support the Great Mountain Lions Camp, which, the more than 50 years, has brought together deaf and hard of hearing kids and teenagers from all over New England. This year, Wright said that 27 teenagers age 11 and older have signed up for the two-week session that runs from July 8-21. And 14 campers, age 8 to 10, have signed up for the youth session that runs from July 22-25. This year, the Middlebury Lions donated \$1,000 to the camp.

"More recently," she said, she has partnered with the Addison County School District to conduct eye screenings for children using White Aides spot vision screening cameras that were purchased by the Lions Clubs of Vermont. Volunteers screened 1,541 local students after visiting every school in the district. These screenings take 90 seconds, and provide at least one health indicator that parents can then share with their optometrist.

Wright said that this is all a part of the Lions' mission to serve their community. The club meets on the first and third Mondays of the month from 6:30 a.m. through 8:30 a.m.

Editor's Corner

A Quick Note from the Editor:

While Communique submissions will be accepted in almost any format, sending them via email, as an attachment, in a Word or PDF (JPEG for pictures) document is the preferred method. The Communique has become quite long in recent months and to streamline the editing process a print ready submission would be appreciated.

**Thank you in advance,
Lion Amy Herrmann**

Please follow these simple steps:

*****NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!*****

1st: When sending correspondence to be included in the Communiqué, please put 'For Communique' in the subject line of the email. Emails to communique@vermontlions.org are received by several Lions and we need to be sure that it is directed properly.

2nd: A quick Marketing 101 reminder: Be sure to include the 5 W's. Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? when sending information for inclusion in the Communiqué.

For example (and a shameless plug!): (Who)The Manchester Lions Club will be hosting (What) the Maple Leaf Half Marathon, a Top Ten Fall Event, on (When) Saturday September 10, 2016 (Where)The event begins at ends at the Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park, 340 Rec Park Road, Manchester, Vermont. (Why)Monies raised from the event are donated back to the community in the form of scholarships and donations. (How) For more information or to register please visit our website at www.manchestervtmapleleaf.com

3rd: Start advertising your event months in advance. Don't wait until the September Communiqué to promote a September event. Send the information as early as possible. I'll get it on the calendar and begin promoting it for you.

Lastly: Please submit items in one of the following formats: **PDF, Word, or JPEG**. Please help me get the Communique posted on time each month by submitting items early and in the proper format. I do have the ability to edit just about anything but would prefer print-ready submissions (in the interest of time).

All information/photos MUST be received by the 20th of each month.