

The
HEAD LION-ER

NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB

AUGUST 2019



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When ambition ends, happiness begins.

- Thomas Merton

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I retired 13 years ago and after going on three trips in the first six months, I got two hobby jobs, as an usher at the Kane County Cougars games and as a wine instructor at a local home brew store. One day at the ballpark, a group of District 1-J Lions were seated in my area. I struck up a conversation with one of the Lions asking what their club was all about.

As luck would have it, just prior to that day, Linda and I had a meeting with our financial planner who challenged us by asking what we were going to do for our community with our free time. I thought that was kind of nery on his part, since we were already committed with PADS, volunteer ushers for Paramount theatre, and my membership on the Aurora Downtown Board. Well, once I found out what the Lions where all about and having a grandson who is deaf, it seemed a perfect fit.

We walked in at one of the meetings and the rest is history. That financial

planner backed up his own words by volunteering along with his staff each year for packet pick-up. Ten years later, I can honestly say it was one of the most rewarding decisions we have ever made.

Remember WE SERVE

Lion Ken Strugalla, President

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I don't deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either.

- Jack Benny

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Club News and Guest Speakers

LISLE EYES TO THE SKIES

Over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, our club volunteered at Lisle's Eyes to the Skies Festival in conjunction with the Lisle Lions Club. For our efforts, the festival is donating money to our club based on total hours worked.

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Lions volunteers at Eyes to the Skies

A total of 15 members and 2 National Charity League volunteers worked the event for our club. There were a lot of good volunteers and happy festival goers.

WGN BLOCK PARTY

Our club participated in the parade at the WGN Block Party in downtown Naperville on July 12. More than 10,000 people were in attendance. Our club was one of 42 organizations who marched in the 1.5 block parade. Unfortunately, our club did not make it onto the TV broadcast. The 13 people from our club who participated still had a great time.

DISTRICT 1-J GOLF OUTING

The annual District 1-J golf outing was held at Hughes Creek Golf Course in Elburn. The turnout this year for our club was a bit low, with only six golfers. The weather was absolutely perfect and all of the golfers had a great time.



Naperville Noon Lions Golf Team

NEW MEMBER

On July 30, Ali Aijaz was introduced as the newest member of the club. Ali is a second-year medical student from Naperville. Welcome to the club Ali!



Lion Ali with his sponsor Lion Jim Woodring and Lion President Ken Strugalla

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**A somebody was once a nobody who
wanted to and did.**

- John Burroughs

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Luncheon Speakers

HESED HOUSE

Rebecca Einhaus was our guest speaker on July 2. She is the marketing and communications director for Hesed House, the second largest homeless shelter in Illinois.

Hesed House was opened in 1986 by six churches in Aurora. Today, they focus on three core programs. They have an overnight shelter, a day program, and a family shelter.

The overnight shelter is open from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM for adult men and women. They provide dinner, laundry, showers, and a place to sleep. The day program acts as a heating/cooling shelter and provides different services, like haircuts and job skills. The family shelter is the newest addition. This is for families only and provides specialty programs for family units.

Hesed House employs case workers to work with all guests. Volunteers serve three meals every day at the shelter. Across the street from the shelter is the Comprehensive Care Center providing additional services to the guests with an aim to get them out of homelessness.

In November, they started a new initiative called the Harbor. This program is directed at chronically homeless individuals. They provide stability by placing these individuals into dorm-like housing. The first four participants had a combined 100 years of homelessness. This

program has had positive results so far.

Every year, Hesed House helps over 1,000 people. They are a low-threshold shelter, only restricting access to sex offenders. They serve dinner to 125-170 people in the summertime, but more in the winter.

CURE SMA

On July 9, Kathy Heinrich was our guest speaker from Cure SMA. Kathy is a fifth-grade teacher in Plainfield whose son was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

SMA is the top genetic cause of infant death. It is caused by the lack of a protein that fuels motor neurons. The signal is lost causing the muscles to atrophy. Most pass away by the age of two. One in fifty people carry the missing gene and both parents need to carry to pass it on.

Cure SMA is a national organization based in Elk Grove Village. They work with families of children with SMA. They provide information to parents as well as organize conferences where other families can get together.

There is currently a great deal of research and testing of possible treatment options for SMA. In the last few years, two drugs have been approved that help stop the progression of SMA. Many other are still in development.

Kathy's mission is to raise awareness about SMA. She has

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even worked with her state house representative to include SMA testing on the newborn screening panel. This was successful and will be added in 2020.

BOB BERLIN

DuPage County State's Attorney, Bob Berlin was our guest speaker on July 16. Bob has been a prosecutor for 31 years and was appointed as the State's Attorney in 2010.

He reported that DUIs and Misdemeanors are down, but felony indictments are up. He stated that more than half of the felony indictments are against out of county residents.

Bob's office has worked to combat the opioid epidemic by providing treatment to certain offenders over jail. He tried to put nonviolent offenders into the drug court program which allows the offender to complete certain obligations and eventually have their cases reduced or dismissed entirely.

His office is committed to being very aggressive with drug dealers. He is even charging some with drug induced homicide when someone overdoses on that dealer's drugs. This is Class X felony with a possible sentence of 6-30 years.

The State's Attorney's office also helps collect unpaid child support. His unit is made up of four attorneys in one courtroom. Last year they brought in over \$40 million in unpaid child support.

PAUL ABELSON

On July 23, Paul Abelson was our guest speaker. Paul is a former journalist in the trucking industry. He started his career in trucking in the advertising and marketing sector. He became very involved in the trade organizations, which were the main source of information exchange.

In Paul's time in the trucking industry, he worked on safety regulations and fuel economy. He was involved in the red and white tape seen on all trucks now.

Paul informed our group that truckers are the safest drivers on the road. 75% of accidents involving trucks are the fault of the other driver. He also told us how driving hours are limited to improve safety.

JULIE AND GAVIN STAAB

Julie Staab and family made their annual visit to our club meeting on July 30 to give us an update on her son Gavin. Julie is Lion Al Knotek's daughter and Gavin has Angelman Syndrome. Julie and Gavin have been coming back year after year and the club has gotten a chance to see how far Gavin has progressed.

The Angelman Syndrome Foundation has been a big help to Gavin's family. They have helped to direct Gavin into the right medical care. Each year, Gavin travels to Boston to be seen by a group of medical providers specializing in Angelman Syndrome. Recently, a

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clinic was opened in Chicago and they are going to visit there next.

Gavin has made tremendous improvement since he last visited the club. He uses his talking device to communicate along with modified sign language. He can sight read about 100 words now. During the summer he spends part of each day learning with his brother and sister, who have both been a big help and role models for Gavin.

Gavin is able write his first and last name, something the doctors said he would never be able to do. He goes to private therapy each week and does therapy in school as well.

Gavin is entering the third grade this year. At school he has a full-time aid with him. About half of his time is spent with the typical classroom and the other half is spent in special education.

Outside of school, Gavin does much of what a normal eight-year-old does. He likes to swim and fish. He likes to play games and watch YouTube videos.

Gavin has inspired our club to get involved with the annual Angelman Syndrome Foundation walk at the Lisle location. As Julie and Gavin live in Iowa, they have taken on the challenge of starting a new walk location in Bettendorf, Iowa for 2020.

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**A single sunbeam is enough to drive
away many shadows.**

- Francis of Assisi

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on July 30, 2019 at Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Home in downtown Naperville. The following is a summary of the Board's actions and discussions. All members are welcome to attend the Board meetings, which start at 7:30 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held on August 27, 2019.

Approved the June 27, 2019 Club and Foundation minutes. Approved Club special meeting minutes of July 9, 2019.

Approved the Club and Foundation Treasurer's Report for the year ended June 30, 2019

Approved the Social Service Report for July. For the one month ended July 31, 2019 expenditures totaled \$5,981.

Approved the following donations:

- Boy Scouts, special needs - \$1,000
- Boy Scouts, other - \$2,000
- NAMI - \$1,000
- VFW, 0.1 mile walk - \$1,000
- Dive Heart - \$1,000

Approved the at-large membership of Ali Aijaz.

Accepted the resignation of James Baird.

Approved honorary lifetime membership for Lion Dick Griffith.

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Discussed membership for Lion Robert Brener. Lion Brener is a member of the Elmhurst Lions Club. In addition, he was seeking dual membership in the Naperville Noon Lions Club. Membership was denied as there is no membership category for a dual membership in two Clubs. He is, however, welcome to participate in all NNLC activities.

Discussed raffle status. Ace Hardware on Washington Street has terminated all raffle sales at this store for the remainder of the year.

Discussed NNLC participation in Lisle's Eyes in the Skies Festival. All hours worked by NNLC have been submitted and payment for services will be made shortly.

Discussed "Pizza Wars" fundraising event. Preliminary information has been obtained from Downers Grove Pizza Wars to use as a guideline. More information will be provided at future Board meetings.

Discussed installation of main eye glass collection box at Community Bank in Downtown Naperville. The Club and Bank have come to an agreement as to installation and will not wait for approval from the Naperville Post Office.

Discussed Candy Day. Street sales for Candy Day will be held on Oct 11 and 12 at three locations. Store front Candy Day sales will be held on October 12 and 13.

Approved table sponsorship in the amount of \$100 for the Lions of Illinois Foundation Annual Gala to be held on September 27, 2019.

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I have tried to know absolutely nothing about a great many things, and I have succeeded fairly well.

- Robert Benchley

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GUESTS

On July 2, Bill Wilson, husband of Lion Maria Wilson was our guest.

Jackie Rewerts, wife of Lion Paul Rewerts, was our guest on July 16.

On July 30, our club was joined by the Knotek clan. Lion Al Knotek's wife, Glenda, daughters Julie and Stacie, and grandchildren Connor, Gavin, Audrey, Lauren, Matthew, and Megan. On this date, Ron Luken was also our guest.

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To different minds, the same world is a hell, and a heaven.

- J. B. Priestley

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COMING EVENTS

August 6 – Dan Bulley from Naperville Community Radio Watch will be our guest speaker.

August 13 – Group visit to Loaves and Fishes at noon. Lunch will be provided. Loaves and Fishes is located at 1871 High Grove Lane, in

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Naperville. See Lion Chris Williams to sign up. There will be **no** regular luncheon meeting at Braconi's on this date.

August 20 – Beth Rottman from Project C.U.R.E. will be our guest speaker.

August 27 – Business Meeting.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following members have a service anniversary in **August** and they are:

Lion James Gilliard (5)
Lion Paul Rewerts (16)

The following members have a birthday in **August** and they are:

Lion Nick Stanitz – August 13
Lion Donna Kearney – August 18

Best wishes and congratulations to these members. If your information is missing or incorrect please contact **Lion Jane Bowers** to make additions or corrections.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August	6 -	Luncheon meeting at Braconi's
August	13 -	Loaves & Fishes visit
August	20 -	Luncheon meeting at Braconi's
August	27 -	Board of Directors meeting
August	27 -	Luncheon meeting at Braconi's

OFFICERS

President – Lion Ken Strugalla
1st VP – Lion Donna Kearney
2nd VP – Lion Bob Hull

Secretary – Lion Jane Bowers
Treasurer – Lion Bill Bleecker
Director – Lion Jim Ebers
Director – Lion Maria Wilson
Director – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Director – Lion Paul Rewerts
Director – Lion Tom Garvey
Director – Lion Linda Strugalla
Membership – Lion Tom Garvey
Immediate Past President – Lion Jim Woodring

Appointed Positions and Committee Chairs:

Dues Secretary – Lion Tom Garvey
Tail Twister – Rotating
Lion Tamer – Rotating
Chaplain – At Large
Social Services – Lions Donna Kearney & Denise French
Peace Poster Contest – Lion Karen Maxwell
Program Director – Lion Paul Rewerts
Donations Committee Chair – Lion Linda Strugalla
Diabetes Awareness – Lion Meghen Williams
Publicity – Lion Bob Hull
Hospitality – Vacant
Pizza Wars – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Candy Day – Lion Jim Ebers
Summer Raffle – Lion Ken Strugalla
Turkey Trot – Lions Glen Behnke and Donna Kearney
Sight & Sound – Lion Al Knotek
Counter Mints – Lion Steve Hertzberg
Investment Committee – Lions Bill Bleecker, Steve Hertzberg and Al Knotek
Newsletter – Lion Chris Williams
Social Media – Lion Chris Williams

If you have newsworthy information, please pass it on to editor/publisher *Lion Chris Williams* at **708-297-1987** or email **chris@pnlawoffice.com** This newsletter will be published monthly after the Board Meeting (4th Tuesday of the month). Cut off date for news information will be the 25th of the month.

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**Liberty – Integrity
Our Nation's Service**

**70 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR COMMUNITY
NAPERVILLE**

**NAPERVILLE NOON LIONS CLUB
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**Meets Tuesday – Noon (12:15)
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