The retreat of winter’s cold weather and the emergence of the first signs of spring can only mean one thing: it’s time once again for the Saddle River Valley Lions Club Annual Car Raffle! In case you’re wondering why you should support this endeavor – one of the club’s three major fundraising projects of the year – here are the top ten reasons why you should definitely buy tickets for this year’s car raffle!

**REASON #10:** Wouldn’t you look great riding around town this summer in a brand new 2019 Ford Mustang Coupe? The lucky winner this year will be the envy of the neighborhood driving home in this sleek, black sports car with its retail value of $28,710!

**REASON #9:** Tickets are only $10 each with every penny of the raffle’s profits goes where it should. 100% of net proceeds from every Saddle River Valley Lions’ fundraiser is distributed directly to the charities that the club supports with none of the money raised being used to meet administrative expenses, a cost borne by the Lions themselves.

**REASON #8:** Your odds of winning are much better than any lottery! Consider these probabilities. The current odds of winning Mega Millions? 1 in 302,575,350. Likelihood of hitting the PowerBall jackpot? That’s 1 in 292,201,338. Getting it right in New Jersey’s Pick 6? One in almost 14,000,000. The Lions Car Raffle? Better than one in just a few thousand!

**REASON #7:** Whether you purchase a book of ten or just a single entry, buying tickets is easy! You can either (1) purchase directly from any Lions Club member; (2) use the handy order form found on our Facebook page; (3) visit the Lions’ website www.SRVLions.org; (4) email us at SRVLionsClub@gmail.com; (5) or even call us at (201) 954-7601.

**REASON #6:** Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs across more than 210 countries and geographical areas around the world. Founded in 1917, the organization is best known for fighting blindness but the club also performs volunteer work for many different kinds of projects – including caring for the environment, feeding the hungry, and aiding seniors and the disabled.

**REASON #5:** You can feel really good about yourself knowing that your raffle ticket purchase will help Lions achieve the mission stated in their motto: “We Serve.” Lions’ service projects also include support of youth programs, including its highly successful Leo Clubs, as well as numerous civic and educational organizations who provide direct services to people in our local communities.

**REASON #4:** By consistently acting with honesty and integrity, the Saddle River Valley Lions Club has earned its reputation as a name you can trust.

**REASON #3:** The Saddle River Valley Lions Club is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501C(3) non-profit entity. And in an age when social service agencies and organizations have had to severely cut back on the services offered to those in need due to reductions in funding, the Saddle River Valley Lions Club has been able to lessen the impact of these service cuts by raising and distributing more than $2.5 million dollars since its inception.

**REASON #2:** Lions are your friends and neighbors and, like you, Lions want to make life better for everyone in our community. Chartered in 1958, for the past 61 years the Saddle River Valley Lions Club has been an integral part of the communities from which its members are drawn: Allendale, Mahwah, Ramsey, Saddle River, and Upper Saddle River.

And the top reason for buying tickets in the Lions Club Annual Car Raffle?

**REASON #1:** Wouldn’t you look great this summer riding around town in that brand new, 2019 Black Ford Mustang Coupe? So is this the year you win? It could be, but as the saying goes, “You’ve got to be in it to win it!” And at only $10 a ticket, why not?

The Saddle River Valley Lions Club sincerely appreciates and thanks you for your past support and hope that you will help us to make this their biggest and most successful car raffle ever. Purchase just one ticket or buy multiple books of ten, but please do it today and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well.

And don’t forget to mark your calendar for the big drawing! Although the winner need not be present, the Saddle River Valley Lions cordially invite you to see the Grand Prize Drawing which will be held at 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, 2019 (the last night of the Annual Lions Carnival) in Lions Park in Upper Saddle River.
Fact: One in 10 New Jersey residents – more than 900,000 people – are food insecure, meaning that they do not have an adequate, consistent supply of food.

Fact: Every day, more than 815 million people worldwide do not have enough to eat and go to bed hungry.

Fact: Each year hunger kills more people worldwide than tuberculosis, malaria, and AIDS combined.

These were some of the facts that were included in a recent announcement letter from MD16 Leo Club committee chairman, Lion Dr. David Verducci, in which a new statewide program initiative called New Jersey Leos Fight Hunger was introduced.

In this message, sent to all of MD16’s Leo Club presidents, faculty advisors, and Lion liaisons, Verducci stated that “in a land of such plenty, the scourge of hunger is unconscionable and will only end when every one of us lends a hand. I am therefore asking that every Leo Club in the state consider joining in this effort by engaging in at least one service project designed to help fight hunger between now and World Hunger Day (May 28, 2019).”

The initiative was developed directly in response to a presentation made at a Lions state meeting earlier this year by Ms. Michelle Jansen of the Community Food Bank Of New Jersey (CFBNJ). Speaking in her capacity of the organization’s Director of School Programs and Community Outreach, Jansen told the Lions that by joining in this effort “your participation will help to reduce the large number of our neighbors across New Jersey who go to bed hungry each night.”

Aware that fighting hunger has long been a goal of Lions International, Verducci, speaking on behalf of MD16’s Leo program, immediately responded to Jansen’s request by pledging to partner with the CFBNJ “to do our part to fight hunger and food insecurity.” New Jersey Leos Fight Hunger was soon after created, it being a direct result of a collaboration between Verducci and Jansen.

In his letter of announcement, Verducci said that “the decision whether to participate is a completely voluntary choice” as is the specific selection of a Leo Club’s Fight Hunger project. Based on recommendations from Jansen, he added that projects “might range from anything such as an educational activity to food collections to financially supporting a statewide food bank or a local food pantry.” Clubs already involved in projects fighting hunger were simply encouraged to continue to engage in their current activity.

To assist Leo Clubs in the development and implementation of their New Jersey Leos Fight Hunger project or activity, a ‘toolkit’ was developed by Jansen and her CFBNJ team and made available to all MD16 Leo Clubs. The toolkit not only contains many project / activity ideas but also included implementation strategies as well. Also sent to the Leo Clubs were numerous hunger-related resources published by Lions Clubs International. These include such items as press releases, videos, and graphic materials as well as various activity planning tools.

Across New Jersey the response has been strong and immediate. To date, almost half of the state’s Leo Clubs now have either a hunger project underway or in its final stages of planning.

Typical of the feedback received so far came from Kevin Yourison, the Leo Club faculty advisor at Pennsauken High School. He wrote with pride that his Leos have already “collected over 1,400 pounds of food which is being donated to the Food Bank of South Jersey.” In the same vein, Overbrook Leo Club faculty adviser Pia Paolo said that “although our club runs a Thanksgiving food drive each year we will now continue collecting food on an ongoing basis to donate to our local food pantry. In addition, we will spend time volunteering there next month.”

Daytop Village Leo advisor Gerri LoSapio, who also happens to be a Lion herself, took it a step further saying, “Thank you for this wonderful information! This seems like a project that is very doable for our group and something we can also engage in with our sponsoring Lions Club!”

The meaningfulness of this initiative was summarized by Jansen when she said “together we can make a real difference, but your help is needed to make this happen.”

To get your own Fight Hunger toolkit or for more information about how your Lions and Leos can be part of this important service program, please write to Lion David Verducci at NJLeoClubs@gmail.org or Michele Jansen at mjansen@cfbnj.org
DEAR LIONS,

Disasters strike all over the world, seemingly every day. Sometimes, significant disasters occur in different areas all at once. During times like this, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is able to offer support to local Lions Clubs International for their disaster relief work.

In the past few weeks, several of our constitutional areas have experienced devastating tragedy. Catastrophic floods are overwhelming the central United States and parts of Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

In the US, hundreds of levees were breached and entire towns have been destroyed. The land and the farmers whose livelihood depends on it are devastated. In Nebraska alone, livestock and crops losses are expected to reach $1 billion. It will likely take years to recover from this disaster.

In the days immediately following the disaster, LCIF awarded five Emergency grants totaling US$50,000. The gravity of the situation has become more apparent, and your foundation has responded with another US$50,000 Major Catastrophe grant for all affected regions.

In Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, thousands of people are missing in the wake of Cyclone Idai. The death toll cannot even be estimated right now. Residents of these countries are in dire need of food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sanitation.

To assist local Lions in their relief efforts, LCIF initially awarded two US$10,000 Emergency grants. As the devastating effects of this disaster have become more apparent, your Foundation has responded again with a US$50,000 Major Catastrophe grant for the affected countries.

We are only able to offer this assistance because of your generous support. Your donations to LCIF’s disaster relief fund enable us to provide Lions with the tools they need to help those who need us most.

For all the reasons you serve, please give.

Sincerely,

Dr. Naresh Aggarwal
Chairman, Lions Clubs International Foundation
Gudrun Yngvadottir
International President, Lions Clubs International

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DEAR DISTRICT GOVERNORS,

Your support of Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service is very important to me.

Recently Campaign 100’s Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Past International Presidents Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada and J. Frank Moore, III wrote to you to sharing the results of Worldwide Report Day. During Worldwide Report Day, area leaders from around the world shared their progress in raising funds for Campaign 100. Many shared that their efforts would be more effective if supported by their district governors.

Please join me in making Campaign 100 a personal priority. Specifically, I would ask that you:

1. Include your support for Campaign 100 when speaking with other Lion leaders and in your presentations. Your endorsement and promotion at conventions, council and district cabinet meetings, club visits and other venues is very important.

2. Invite your LCIF district coordinators to participate in your district cabinet meetings. Ask for a presentation and to be trained on Campaign 100 so that all may learn more about this important campaign to empower Lion service.

3. Encourage every club to participate. There are many ways to support Campaign 100 including as a Model Club, 100/100 Club, through a fundraiser or by allocating a gift from the club treasury. Learn more about club participation options.

4. Finally, encourage every Lion to join the effort. Where possible, ask Lions to consider a personal gift of US$100 each year. Otherwise, encourage them to raise the equivalent of this amount through fundraising events and activities in their communities.

Campaign 100 is an expression of our motto, “We Serve.” Through Campaign 100, we will increase Lion service in our communities and worldwide. Together we will increase our service impact, fight diabetes and expand our global causes as we continue the humanitarian efforts of our Foundation. Campaign 100 – and your personal support – makes it possible.

My district governors, I need your help to bring this important initiative to all Lions clubs. Every Lion should have the opportunity to hear about Campaign 100 and consider their response to our global effort. Please take action today. To make your own contribution, please visit www.lcif.org/donate.

In Friendship,

Gudrun Yngvadottir
International President
Lions Clubs International
DEAR GLOBAL ACTION TEAM MEMBER,

As we begin the 3rd quarter of the 2018-2019 Lion year, I want to thank you for your commitment to the Global Action Team and our one-team approach.

Service is the “heart” of the GAT and leaders like you are the “head” that drives our impact. You lead our members, the “arms and legs,” who directly provide service to communities around the world. All these parts work together in harmony, supporting action and empowering service.

The GAT does not exist without movement. Now is the time for action.

Sincerely,

Kajit Habanananda
Past International President
Chairperson, Global Action Team

THE POWER OF ACTION
The Windy City Lions made significant progress in increasing and retaining members over the past seven months. What was their secret? Uniting leadership, membership and service within the Global Action Team to help leaders grow, enhance the member experience and better serve their communities.

LEADERSHIP
Exciting updates to the Leadership Development Institute Grant program will be rolled out over the coming months. The new timeline for applications will be from May to August 2019.

MEMBERSHIP
Club membership chairs and district governors can qualify for a Presidential Award by increasing gender parity in recruitment efforts from March 1 to April 30, 2019. Get all the details about the District-Level Award at the link below. Club membership chairs will receive the criteria by email.

SERVICE
“We’re all heading towards one goal—a better world—yet we are all taking different paths to get there.” International President Gudrun Yngvadottir shares her own thoughts on the significance of the Service Journey.

SPOTLIGHT ON CAMPAIGN 100
50-plus years. More than US$1 billion in grants. And this is just the beginning! Explore LCIF’s largest fundraising campaign, and learn how LCIF grants empower Lions to increase their service impact in support of our global causes. As GAT leaders, share LCIF’s impact in your community. Global giving has a powerful local impact!

If you have questions or would like to share a GAT success story with Lions International, contact globalactionteam@lionsclubs.org.
Lion Varsha Naik from Menlo Park Lions club and Navrang Dance Academy of New Jersey celebrated "International Women’s Day" on March 8, 2019 in AKBAR Edison, with a Zumba fitness charity event. The event was attended by many women from all walks of life. Health and fitness is an important part of women’s life and what better way to celebrate this day with fitness goal.

Zin Lion Varsha Naik, charter president Menlo Park Lion club 16 J and a licensed Zumba instructor along with instructor ZIN Sumathy Iyer lead the 90 min Zumbathon to support Lions Club International Foundations (LCIF) Diabetes Awareness program.

Music has no language and when we use music for health and fitness it helps with physical and mental health believed Ms. Naik.

We need to support each other and come together to fight for Diabetes. Dance can be a wonderful medium that can bring awareness and positivity. We are trying our best to raise funds for this cause.

The proceeds from this event will be donating to Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) program “we believe in giving back to the society and this event was a perfect way to celebrate womanhood and donate to a worthy cause says Lion Varsha Naik.

We believe that all women should consciously make an effort to take care of their health as strong and healthy women make a healthy society!!

Navrang Dance Academy in Association with Menlo Park Lions club have always done such social cause events and plan to offer more opportunities to the community to participate and make a difference.
Menlo Park Lions Club founded in 2014 and since then every year the club is organizing “Love Peace and Harmony” Art competition for the children in the Month of February. This activity for children was introduced by Charter President, Lion Varsha Naik. Since then every year it is organized in the month of February as Valentine day activity for children. Children are innocent and their creation is with a clear thoughts without any influence. They can understand and showcase the love and importance around them. With knowing the meaning of love and peace and how harmony itself plays a role in creating Peace and Love these children will turn into the great citizens.

This year Love, Peace and Harmony art competition organized by Menlo Park Lions Club 16 J on February 23, 2019, at Minnie B Veal Community Center.

Club President Lion Prashant Karnik and secretary Lion Varsha Naik with core team decided to serve 100 children.

The response was overwhelming, we had 100 kids took part in the biggest art competition in NJ said Club Secretary Lion Varsha Naik.

This was a fundraising event for the club and every year the club has decided to sponsor graduation for one hearing impaired child.

The competition was held in four groups.

Mrs Sangeeta Bhagat and Medha Kulkarni were the Judges for the contest.

Following participants were declared as winners.

**Group 1** (3 to 5 years) - Aashray Neelamkavil, Ira Shree
**Group 2** (5 to 8 years) - Aaroh Sarapotdar, Riddhma Gupta
**Group 3** (8 to 12 Years) – Sourish Kumrawat, Debduti Chattergiee
**Group 4** (12 to 16 Years) – Kaitlyn Thomas, Prisha Maggu

**Best Art** – Sanika Godbole

Club Secretary Lion Varsha Naik spoke about Lions Club and the story behind introducing this activity five years ago.

Club President Prashant Karnik spoke about the need of awareness within young children about Love, Peace and Harmony. He also mentioned that young brains perceive same information and interpret it differently. One of the ways for children to showcase their thoughts is through art. He appeals all the children and their parents to spread the word among their friends, families, and communities for participating in this event next year in order to reach our goal. He also mentioned that there is a need of organizing these types of competitions all over the world.

District Governor Lion Armando Guerra, CC Lion Mahesh Chitnis, about 20 club members and volunteers from other organization made this event very successful.

Treasurer Lion Pratibha Nichkawade thanked all the participants and their parents.

Thanks
Varsha Naik
WALDWICK LIONS CLUB WELCOMES DISTRICT GOVERNOR RUTH MOLENAAR

By State Advisor Jack Romano

The Waldwick Lions Club welcomed District Governor 16-N Ruth Molenaar to their general membership meeting on Wednesday March 27, at the Allendale Bar & Grill, in Allendale N.J. PCC/SA Jack Romano, who accompanied her, introduced DG Ruth to the Waldwick members as Waldwick borders Midland Park, PCC Jack knows all the club members. DG Ruth greeted each member with her traditional “Hug!”

King Lion Mike La Torre called the meeting to order with his gavel as their bell is out for “repair.” Each Lion introduces himself or herself (yes there is one female member), with King Lion Mike being the last to introduce himself at roll call. As is their tradition he was soundly booed!

The Waldwick Lions has a unique ‘ramp’ program whereby club members will build a ramp for an individual who cannot navigate or otherwise ambulate steps into or out of their home. The ramps can last for a short period of time until that individual recovers sufficiently to walk, or be made available for an extended period based on that person’s incapacity.

There are two upcoming events, the first being the 100th anniversary of the Borough of Waldwick, which will take place at the historic Waldwick train station on Wana maker Ave., on April 7, 2019. The Lions will staff an informational table in an effort to recruit new members. There will also be an appearance of “Leo the Lion” to delight the children, as well as food trucks and music.

Their second event is their officer installation dinner will be on Sunday June 30, where their 2019-2020 officers will be installed.

In addition, we discovered that one of their members, Lion Greg Bjork, has entered into the 21st Century by saying goodbye to his flip phone for a new state of the art I-Phone which he has no idea how to use! Please see the accompanying poem, Eulogy For My Flip Phone.

The meeting also featured a great discussion on membership extension and project planning.

SA Jack Romano received a $1000 check donation for Camp Marcella presented by Lion Joe Scarry.

As each Waldwick Lion left the meeting, DG Ruth wished them well with a final “Hug”.

EULOGY FOR MY FLIP PHONE

I met you March 9, 2013 in Boston after your predecessor froze on the windowsill at Christopher’s Haven. Not even the full submersion in my 10’ deep pool or my neighbor’s pool or while being capsized by an attack by a Vole to my privates while in my kayak in the Adirondacks could destroy your character.

As cliché as it sounds, you never fully appreciate what you have until you don’t have it anymore. I personally consider the demise of my Flip Phone to be tragic. As part of my grieving process I feel obligated to share this heartfelt eulogy about my Flip Phone.

I miss you every time I go to check my pocket and you aren’t there. It’s impressive you never received a single scratch or crack in the time we’ve been together.

I would go as far as saying you are totally irreplaceable, you will always hold a special place in my heart. RIP Flip Phone.

I will however not miss pressing the 7 key 4 times every time I texted an “S!”
District Governor 16-J Armando Guerra, along with three other honorees, received the Homefirst Hero Award at the Evening of Thanks dinner held at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains N.J. on Wednesday April 10, 2019.

According to Reverend Ronald C. Thomas, President of the Board of Trustees, Homefirst, “Each year, Homefirst recognizes and honors the people, businesses, and organizations who have been extremely generous with their time, talent and treasure to enable us to offer the services we provide to nearly 2,000 children, men and women throughout Union County.”

Each honoree in their own way has contributed to the Mission of Homefirst which is “To deliver comprehensive solutions to homelessness by providing transitional, supportive and permanent housing, homeless prevention assistance, and family support services to strengthen families and build communities.”

Armando Guerra, District Governor Lions International District 16-J is being honored for his contribution to humanitarian relief. Through his efforts, District Governor Armando assisted in leading a team/mission to the Dominican Republic to provide health and vision screenings, building parks, supporting eye hospitals, and assisting youth, and for his leadership in the community, where through his real estate firm, he has helped families purchase homes, since 2005.

Introduced by Elizabeth Cubanos Club Secretary Elizabeth Cano, who herself is part of the Evening of Thanks Committee, DG Armando told the attendees of his family’s struggles when first emigrating to the United States and how through perseverance, and hard work, his father was able to turn their first home purchase into a series of real estate investments. District Governor Armando stated, “Today I am honored and blessed to be an honoree/Homefirst Hero. I receive this award on behalf of the Lions in the State of New Jersey and also for my wife Horleida and my children Armando Jr. and Carolina for their support and love. Picture below are MD-16 Fellow Lions supporting and congratulating DG Armando.

The other Homefirst Heros are Benjamin Serna, an eight-grade student from Cranford N.J., who organized a Halloween costume drive for children at the Plainfield N.J. Family Support Center, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, District 20, New Jersey, being recognized for her community advocacy, and Mayor Adrian Mapp, City of Plainfield New Jersey for his efforts to rebuild that city’s economy and providing opportunities for all Plainfield residents.

A special award honoring past Homefirst Board President Lawrence Woodruff, was accepted by his widow and son.

The evening’s festivities concluded with a rousing Gospel Music performance by Levitical Friends, who had everyone clapping and standing at their tables in appreciation of all the Homefirst Hero honorees.
As the King Lion stated in his message, Lions Karen, Loretta, Billy, John and Rich raised $355.00 at Stop & Shop on St. Patrick’s Day weekend. Those who didn’t buy tickets made kind donations; many were aware of the event, and planned on attending. One was the son of our late and well-remembered Lion, Bob Carpentier. It was fun reminiscing with him!

King Lion Rob Budinich of the Harrington Park Lions emailed us that the Harrington Park Lions will be joining us at our breakfast:

We are delighted to join you folks on Sunday and render some assistance. We have spread the word and hopefully some of our friends will be attending as well. I for one look forward to a fun morning! As do we all, King Lion Rob!

You know that increasing, retaining and engaging your members is the key to a healthy club and impactful service. With the right resources, your club can celebrate new members and current members while engaging in meaningful service in your community. That’s why we’re offering you a special opportunity to receive a service grant when you add new members in April.

Here’s how the service grants work:

• Add new members in April – Clubs will have an opportunity to receive a special grant for new Lions who are reported during April 2019.
• Apply for a grant – Clubs can apply for a Service Grant for New Members, which awards a total of US$35 for each new member in two equal installments on December 31, 2019 and June 30, 2020 club statements if new members stay active.
• Engage new members – Funds should be used to plan activities that engage new members in service so they have a great onboarding experience in your club.

These service grants will allow you to invest directly in your new members so you can make their first year a memorable one. Don’t miss this incredible opportunity to grow your club’s impact by inviting new members in April and inspiring a lifetime of service.

In friendship,
Gudrun Yngvadottir
Your International President
LEEDS was founded in 1977 as a project to support local Lions clubs in our district and their communities. Our mission is limited to early detection and swift corrective action for common disorders related to vision, hearing, blood pressure and diabetes. Since 2009 LEEDS has focused on student Vision Screening, and we made tremendous progress with our member clubs below. LEEDS.

During the 2017 –2018 school year the LEEDS clubs listed below collectively performed over 52,000 vision screenings in District 16L schools and referred 5,000+ students for an exam by a vision professional. Welch Allyn SPOT Vision Screeners enable comprehensive vision screening for all students in just seconds per student. SPOT also make it possible to screen nonverbal and students with other challenges.

In 2018 LEEDS acquired 10 additional SPOT Vision Screeners which are targeted for the Nurses Vision Screening Program. LEEDS provides training, documentation and support to run a vision screening in local school leveraging school nurses. Member clubs in district 16L can schedule a SPOT screener to screen students as volunteers or provide a contact to coordinate leverage nurses to screen students.

LEEDS success could not have been possible without our member clubs, the support of LCIF and the District 16L Charitable Foundation Board of Trustees.

THE LEEDS MEMBER CLUBS ARE:
Allentown, Colts Neck, Eatontown, Freehold Township, Hightstown-East, Windsor, Howell, Lakehurst Manchester, Medford Lakes, Middletown Township, Neptune, Oceanport, Pemberton, Stafford, Toms River, Toms River Visionary, West Windsor.

LEEDS runs a single event each year called the LEEDS Parade of Checks. All funds raised are dedicated to our mission of early detection and corrective treatment targeted at vision, hearing, blood pressure and diabetes disorders. In the 2018 – 2019 school year we initiated a new hearing program that if successful would be available across the district.

If you would like to participate in our programs LEEDS Parade of Checks for more information Contact John E. Allen PDG, 732-928-5863 –johnallen11@optonline.net or Larry Caminiti, President, 732-778-4701 –larry.caminiti@gmail.com
On Monday March 18 the Allentown Lions Club presented three Thermal Imaging Cameras (over $12,000) to the Hope Fire Company. These cameras are critical life-saving equipment that helps protect our firefighters and safe lives in our community. Through the generosity of the Allentown Lions Club/Foundation and the Lions Club 16L Foundation this critical lifesaving equipment is donated to The Hope Fire Company.

In our mission to provide sight to others these thermal imaging cameras will provide sight to the brave firefighters of our community. The Presentation include our Lion District 16L Governor Kara Schnure, Allentown Lions included 16L 2nd vice district governor Al Mottola, Lion and 16L zone chair Rob Strovinsky, Lion and 16L zone chair Doug Both, Lion Kevin O’Neil, Lion Biff Searing, Lion Dave Strobino, and Lion Neil Linzmayer.
Leos have been helping us understand their views on membership since early 2018. The feedback we’ve collected so far has been extremely helpful, and we want to see that it continues.

Do you have an idea about a membership pathway for Omega Leos or an interesting story to tell about being a Leo or working with Leos?

Visit lionsclubs.org/leos to share your thoughts, and while you’re there, explore some other valuable resources about the impact Leos have on our organization.

Another year of huge success as the Albert J. Carino Boys Basketball Club & The Lions Clubs of South Jersey held a fundraiser on Sunday, March 24 at Rutgers University in Camden. The 8th grade All-Star game started at 1:00 PM and the High School All-Star Game started at 3:00 PM. It has been a long running District program (42 years) and contributions by the clubs and proceeds raised at the games help fund scholarships. Chairperson PDG Bob DeLambily thanked all of the clubs for their support. DG Kara, PDG Bill Sauser, Lion Jack Hughes and Lion Linda Baile worked at the ticket booth. Presented the certificates to players and coaches.

Lion Jack Hughes, 16-L DG Kara Schnure and PDG Bob DeLambily.

Student, President William G. Thomas and DG Kara Schnure.
West Milford Lions Club President, Barbara Corsaro, is pictured with Mike Pacala, President of Camp Marcella. Mike is accepting donations collected by West Milford Lions of toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, dental floss and soap for campers to use this summer.

West Milford Lion John McCarthy is presented with Diamond Centennial Award by PID Dr Robert Moore.

West Milford Lions Holiday Brunch at Lafayette House.

The New MyLion App
100 Years in the Making. Coming in July.
Barbara Corsaro, Family Coach for JDRF poses with Stacey DiArchangel, JDRF Development Manager and Matthew Corsaro, as Team Miracle for Matthew receives certificate for its fundraising efforts in 2018.

Matthew receives a medal for raising over $1000 for JDRF.
There have been many firsts for the Lionistic year 2018-2019. We have seen our first woman International President, Gudrun Yngvadottir elected at the 2018 International Convention in Las Vegas NV. We have our first Latina District Governor in Ruth Molenaar in 16-N, who was also honored by the Newark N.J. Public Library as their first Cultural Preservation Honoree. We also have the New Voices Women’s Initiative, an effort to seek male/female parity in Lionism.

Adding to our year of “firsts” is the District 16-N themed Cabinet Meeting, Women’s and Leo’s Night!

As March is Women’s History Month, honoring the achievements of women in society, what better way to celebrate this by featuring Women in Lionism at this District/Cabinet meeting. District Governor Ruth asked 4 women, PCC Elspeth Moore, PDG Paula Tarantino-Maione, Lion Marie Nieto, Second Vice District Governor Candidate, 16-N, and Lioness Joyce Casillo, who have been involved in Lionism for many years to speak about their experiences as trailblazers in an association which until 1987, was solely the bailiwick of men.

**PCC ELSPETH MOORE**

Lion Elspeth stated that she was honored to speak about women in Lionism. She was a Lioness until 1987, when she became a member of the West Milford Lions Club, sponsored by Lion Barbara Corsaro. That club wanted women who believed in the mission of Lions to make their communities better. She moved through the various chairs and club officer positions, eventually becoming District Governor of the former 16-A in 2002-2003, while also being named as the State of New Jersey Teacher of the Year. She was elected as Council Chair in 2009-2010.

She met DG Ruth about 5 years ago and considers her a model for what we do as Lions. She also commiserated with DG Ruth since during her Council Chair year, her Bell also vanished! “As women Lions and leaders in our association, we are a positive force inspiring other as DG Ruth inspires us all.” She has demonstrated this by raising over $1700 with more to come for the Miracle for Matthew/JDRF cause.

For our Leo’s, they fill our hearts with their service projects and accomplishments. As they make the world a better place for us all. Look for mentors in your continuing service as Leo’s and eventually Lions.

**PDG PAULA TARANTINO-MAIONE**

Lion Paula got involved in Lionism, through a turkey! She was asked by Lion Ed Lucas to cook Thanksgiving dinner at St. Joseph’s School...
for the Blind, in 1982, and has done so for approximately 33 years. She became a Lioness in 1984, transferring to a full-fledged Lion in the now defunct Secaucus Lions Club in 1987. At first men were afraid of the women and in her estimation, it took years to accept women as their equals. Lion Paula became the first woman president of the now defunct North Bergen Lions Club, the first woman cabinet secretary under District Governor Al Knaub, the first woman District Governor of then District 16-A in 1999-2000. Lion Paula stated, “Belonging to Lions is like belonging to a family”. We are all brothers and sisters and Lions family.” We also help others especially with vision issues. It is a great experience and never give it up.

SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR CANDIDATE

MARIE NIETO

Lion Marie comes from a family of Lions. Her father Manual Perez and husband, PDG Jose are members of the West New York Leones Cubanos de Hudson. Lion Marie became the first woman initiated into that club in 1997. Her mother, Magnolia was their first woman president. Lions are a family committed to helping others. The payment is to make someone else’s life better. Lion Marie was accompanied by club member Louisa Cardenas, who stated, “We are dedicated volunteers comprising of storing Lions members.”

LIONESS JOYCE CASILLO

Lioness Joyce Casillo is one of two charter members of the Chester Lioness Club which was sponsored by the Chester Lions Club in 1985. They are the only Lioness Club in Multiple District 16. They currently have 30 members ranging in age from mid-40’s to 94 years young. Officially they are listed as an activity of the Chester Lions Club. And activity does not even begin to outline all the projects and services provided by the Lionesses. These women are one of the most active and participatory clubs in New Jersey. From sponsoring lunches at Camp Marcella to advocating for battered women, to assisting at the Chester Lions Oktoberfest, to sponsoring the Festival of Tree among other activities, the Chester Lioness Club maintains a full schedule of events. In the words of Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

This meeting also emphasized how LEO Clubs are active in their individual schools and communities.

Lion Dr. David Verducci MD-16 Leo Chair and LCI Leo Advisory Panel Member spoke about the goals of improving communication with all Leo Clubs in MD-16, as well as Lions clubs and MD-16 leadership, and to improve Leo Club data through inputs into MyLCI. This will be accomplished through written communication, direct conversation with Leo advisors and interactive video conferencing using ZOOM.

As April is Leo Club Awareness Month Dr. Dave is asking all clubs to support the Third USA/Canada Leo Leadership Forum July 24-28 in Mesa AZ.

LEOS PRESENTING WERE:

OJAS CHITNIS – EDISON VISIONARY LEO CLUB.

Leo Ojas spoke about this cyber club and some of their service activities including hunger by serving Thanksgiving dinners to the homeless, sight by sponsoring vision screenings to the Dominican Republic, skills obtained through Lions University, youth with the recent Leo leadership conference, and networking with other Leos in MD-16 and internationally.

NATALIA MANCERO and YENA LIM – NORTHERN HIGHLANDS H.S. LEO CLUB

Leos Natalia and Yena spoke about the service activities at the Northern Highlands H.S. club including volunteering at local churches, participating at the SRV Lions carnival, book drives, Tomorrow’s Children’s Fund at Hackensack Medical Center, making crafts for children at Valley Hospital, Ridgewood N.J., and food drives for the benefit of the Center for Food Action in Mahwah N.J. This are but a few of the activities of this Leo club.

Faculty Advisor Bernice Reesbeck, a former social worker for the borough of Fair Lawn N.J., stated that she always could depend on the Fair Lawn Lions Club for help when needed. Faculty Advisor Kim Kender stated, “the students at Northern Highlands have a passion for service.”

As women continue to be an important part of Lionism, we are hopeful that this new tradition will continue in District 16-N.
International Director Candidate Jeff Gans addressed the Lions of District 16-N at the recent District/Cabinet meeting on Thursday March 14, 2019 at Segovia/Meson restaurant in Carlstadt N.J.

PCC Jeff informed us that he attended his first International Convention at age 5 in Atlantic City N.J., and has attended 17 International Conventions to date. He became a member of the Camden Lions Club in 1984, sponsored by his father. He achieved the office of club president in 1989. His first Melvin Jones fellowship was awarded in 1990. He is a Progressive MJF.

He was elected as District Governor of the former District 16-C in 1997-1998. In 2005 he became a Life Member of the Camden Lions Club. Furthering his Lionistic credentials he was elected as Council Chair MD-16 for the 2011-2012 Lionistic year, and continues to serve as State Parliamentarian from 2013 to present.

PCC Jeff received the Harold P. Nutter Distinguished Service Awards in 2017 at the MD-16 State Convention in Atlantic City. In fact, PCC Jeff actually knew PIP Nutter as a child.

As a declared candidate for the position of International Director, PCC Jeff is one of 11 candidates in CA-1 USA vying for 6 open positions. As an attorney and expert on Lions Constitutional issues, PCC Jeff feels that there is a strong possibility he will be elected at the International Convention in 2019 in Milan Italy.

PCC Elspeth Moore thanked PC Jeff for attending the District 16-N Cabinet meeting. She informed us that PCC Jeff is one of only 13 Humanitarian Partners in CA-1 donating over $100,000 to LCIF!

As PCC Jeff is a pre-eminent pin trader and collector, he presented our newest Lion, Natasha Fernandez from the Jersey City/Hudson City Lions Club with three pins representing different time period of his home club, the Camden Lions Club, the first club in the State of New Jersey. He also gave a Camden Lions Club pin to each of our three Leo presenters, Ojas Chitnis of the Edison Visionary Leo Club, and Natalia Mancero and Yena Lim of the Northern Highlands H.S. Leo Club.

Let us all support PCC Jeff in his quest to become an International Director.
Here is your monthly update from Leader Dogs for the Blind to include in your club and district newsletters. Please share with Lions, Lioness and Leos. View the update.

Each year, Leader Dog serves members of our armed services who have lost their sight. Your clubs and districts make this happen at no cost to the client. Leader Dog is not funded by government or insurance monies but by donors such as you. Thank you!

Together We Serve,

Lion Beth Slade
Director of Lions Engagement

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You are cordially invited to
98th Lions MD16
Convention Reception
Thursday Evening, May 16th 2019
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Irish Pub & Inn
164 South St James St.
Atlantic City, NJ
(Just 4 blocks North of Bally’s)
$20.00 per person
Appetizer and Buffet Dinner, Cash Bar
(Casual Attire)

Please join us for the
Convention Kickoff Party
Welcoming guest of honor,
Patricia Vannett, International Director

-RSVP-
To PDG Dayl R. Baile
atools52@aol.com 856-456-0620
Check payable to: MD 16 Lions
(Mailed to) 52 Baynes Ave. Gloucester, NJ 08030
All checks must be received by May 11th, 2019
Reservations after May 11th may not be accommodated
To my friends and family,

As you have been a supporter of my work with the Saddle River Valley Lions Club in the past, I’m writing today to ask that you continue your support of the Lions’ ongoing efforts to fulfill its motto: We serve. Our mission of service is directed to the improvement of the lives of those suffering illness, hunger, or any one of a host of other maladies causing so much suffering in today’s world.

But of all the areas in which Lions do charitable work at its core remains its determination to aid the blind and visually impaired, which as most of you know, is a cause personal to me. I know what it is like to face the possibility of blindness. Believe me, it’s a terrifying prospect. In my case it took three major surgeries but much of the sight in one of my eyes, at least, was restored. But for every fortunate individual like me, there are dozens who aren’t so lucky.

That’s why I became a Lion in the first place, to help to the best of my ability those who haven’t been as fortunate as I. So, yes, the Lions’ mission is very personal to me.

As I prepare to complete the last few months of my second term as the Saddle River Valley Lions Club’s president, I can look back on the club’s history with pride. Over the course of its 61 years of existence, the Saddle River Valley Lions Club has already raised and given away over $2.5 million dollars! In fact, this year our small local club will donate more than $75,000 to various charities that aid those afflicted with health-related issues as well as to the blind and visually impaired. In addition, the funds we raise also help to support a variety of programs throughout our local communities including many school-based youth programs and student scholarships.

The money used to finance our service projects is obtained through a number of fundraising activities, the largest of which is this, our annual car raffle. The prize this year is a 2019 Black Ford Mustang valued at $28,710! Tickets remain reasonably priced at only ten dollars each and are available in books of ten. Please continue showing your support of our service projects by participating in this year’s raffle.

To purchase tickets, simply complete the attached order form and send it along with your check. I will personally see to it that your tickets are sent by return mail. Please remember that absolutely 100% of our net revenue goes directly to the charities supported by the Saddle River Valley Lions. We as members pay all of our administrative costs through member dues.

While I hope you will consider buying one or more books of ten tickets, on behalf of my fellow Lions, I thank you in advance for whatever support you can give. Whatever its size, know that your contribution really does make a difference.

With appreciation and best wishes, I remain

Your sincerely

David

Lion David C. Verducci, Ph.D.
2017-2019 – President
Saddle River Valley Lions Club
2017-2020 – NJ Leo Clubs Committee Chairman
MD16 – New Jersey Lions
2018-2020 – Lions Clubs International Leo Advisory Panel
LCI – Constitutional Area I
2017-2019 Zone Chairman
SRVLionsClub@gmail.com
DCVerducci@hotmail.com
(201) 390-7702
NEW ADDRESS FOR STATE OFFICE
MD-16 New Jersey Lions
30 Knightsbridge Rd #525, Piscataway Township - NJ 08854
Telephone: (732)747-9440 • Fax: (732)352-1411

RIVER EDGE LIONS “DINING TO DONATE”
SCHEDULE JANUARY THRU JUNE

MAY 2019
-Fri, May 3 – Wayne Lions hosting their Annual Beefsteak Dinner and Tricky Trey at the Brownstone, $75 contact Chair Charlie Tumminello or Lion Joe Balzarotti at 973-696-3916 or EMAIL at JBALZAROTT@AOL.COM


-Sun, May 5 – Hillside Lions Pancake Breakfast. 8 to 12 noon. Adults $7.00 - Children 12 and under $3.00. Columbia Club of Hillside, 1220 Liberty Avenue, Hillside, NJ.

-Sun, May 5 – Kearny Lions Club. Pancake Breakfast – 8 to 11 AM $10.00 per person. Applebees, 175 Passaic Avenue, Kearny NJ.

-Fri, May 10 – Bergenfield Lions & Boy Scout Troop 139 hosting their annual Spaghetti Dinner & Tricky Tray at St Anthony Orthodox Church, 385 Ivy Lane, Bergenfield – 5-8 p.m. $10 adult, $5 Child (6-12), child 5 & under free. See or contact Rick Chittum for more info or tickets 201-244-6761 or cell 201-966-5677.

-Wednesday thru Sunday – May 15 to May 19, 2019 – Franklin Lakes - Wyckoff Lions Club Carnival. Wrist band days are Wednesday and Sunday $30.00 each. Carnival to be held on McBride Field across the street from The Market Basket in Franklin Lakes. Rides, games, food!! Fun for all ages!!

-Thur-Sat, May 16-18 – State Convention, Bally’s – Atlantic City.
-Tues, May 21 - Belvidere Lions Club’s annual $10,000 raffle at the Belvidere Manor, 689 Water St. Belvidere. Only 250 tickets are sold at $100.00 per ticket. Two people per ticket are admitted to the drawing and winners need not be present to win. A light dinner is served and the raffle begins promptly at 7 p.m. Other cash prizes are awarded totaling $2,500.00. The raffle is usually over by 8:30 p.m. There are less than 25 tickets remaining to be sold. For more info or tickets see Bradford DAYBRADFORDD@GMAIL.COM

-Wed-Sun, May 22-26 – 3rd USA/Canada Leo Leadership Forum in Mesa, Arizona.

JUNE 2019
-Sun, Jun 2 – Annual Pig Roast & Barbeque – Camp Marcelia – Relax and celebrate your labors.

-Sun, Jun 8 – Jersey City/Hudson City Lions Club, Pancake Breakfast, 8-10 AM. $10.00 per person. Applebees Hudson Mall, 701 Route 440, Jersey City, NJ. Information 201-961-5010.

-Wed, Jun 12 – Golf Outing held by Mt Olive Lions at Farmstead Golf Club in Lafayette, NJ. - Cost of $150 per player. - golf, carts, lunch, dinner and lots of prizes. For further detail contact Lion Drew Van Dam cell 201-874-5930 or e-mail golfnut137@aol.com

-JULY 2019
-Fri, Jul 5-9 – International Convention in Milan, Italy
-Wed-Sun, Jul 24-28 – 3rd USA/Canada Leo Leadership Forum in Mesa, Arizona.

SEPTEMBER 2019
-Sep 19-21 – USA/CDA Forum Spokane, Washington

Individuals, who would like to be added to/deleted from this list to receive “Lions Only” business and events in your clubs, let Rick know rchittum16n@aol.com
Our club did it again! We marched at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade this afternoon for the nth time. The success of the parade is a manifestation of the power of prayers - the rain stopped in the morning and the drizzle was long gone before the parade started.

I would like to personally thank our members who came to be part of the parade - Lions Chris, Gary, Felipe, Alvin, Theresa, Ivy, Meriam, Connie, and Tina. Of course, it was great to have with us the Eyemobile, with Lions Kevin and Dawn from the district cabinet. We had great fun and camaraderie among us and, aside from the good weather, we were graced by the presence of our special guest - Sommy (?), the Lion - who joyfully paraded with us ;) and gave joy to everyone, esp. the little kids. I am sure he will be visiting us again in the future.

For those who were not able to join us, we missed you and we hope you’ll get the chance to participate next year. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our involvement in the community and broadcast who we are and that WE are here to SERVE.

Visit our Club Facebook and website to see more.

YIL,
Lion Rogel
Our insect piton of races was done by our mayor Al Anthony.
We have at least 5 to 6 special needs children participate and share the Easter Egg hunt first time.
We did engage the parents and kids with some questions around Easter during the races.
Our Livingston Leos participated and there were 5 Leos.
Livingston Lions were 8 people.
We had a turnout of approximately 120 to 140 people over all.
As they say when there is a need there is a lion we serve.
Any Lion in any district may submit photographs with captions/articles by email to the ‘Contributing Editor’ in their respective district. Please include your contact information. Text can be formatted in MS Word or PDF, or in an email. Photographs must be taken in digital format, either with a standalone digital camera or a smartphone.

**THE CONTRIBUTING EDITORS ARE AS follows:**

District 16-N: **Lion Ruth Molenaar, DG** - Newark Borinquen Lions Club; Email: Ruth.molenaar@aol.com
District 16-J: **Lion Phyllis Johnson, CS**, Cranbury Lions Club; Email: news16j@njlions.org
District 16-L: **Lion Karen Ressler, PDG**, Westmont Lions Club; Email: news16l@njlions.org
District 16-N: **Lion Dennis Brubaker, PDG** - Photographer - Wood Ridge Lions Club
Contributing Writer Editor: **IPCC/SA Jack Romano**
Contributing Writer: **Leo Ojas Chitnis**
Graphic Design - **Yuly Romero**

The contributing editors will review submissions and select corresponding pictures for publishing. Articles and photographs will be forwarded by the contributing editors to the Editor Lion Ruth Molenaar, DG, **Chairperson of NJ Lions Digital Newspaper Committee**, who will review, edit and format the articles and photos as needed for the newsletter.