



We Serve

FULTON LIONS CLUB

This is Who We Are.

This is What We Do.

The Fulton Lions Club was chartered in 1953 and has approximately 55 members. The club is part of Lions Club International and the New York State/Bermuda Lions Clubs. The club raises money through various activities and distributes this money in the community. The primary missions of the Lions Club are sight and hearing related projects. This includes assisting community residents with eye exams, eyeglasses and hearing aids. In addition to sight and hearing, the club donates money to dozens of worthy organizations in the community.

FUNDRAISING:

Duck Derby: Founded in 1989 by Lion Past President Don Charbonneau, this event is held each year on Labor Day at the Canal Park (behind the Tavern on the Lock Restaurant). Tickets are sold at a cost of \$5.00 per piece (\$20 for 5) with each ticket assigned a duck number. The number is placed in turn on a rubber duck. At 3:00 p.m. on Labor Day, thousands of these rubber ducks are dumped into the Oswego River Canal. They are then floated to a finish line using PVC piping which is placed into the river. The first duck to reach the canal wall wins a first prize of \$2,000 with approximately thirty additional prizes awarded. The last place duck holder receives season tickets to either S.U. football or the Syracuse Crunch. We also sell food, pull tabs and run raffles throughout the day. Entertainment is provided. It is a great end of the summer party. Members are needed to sell tickets and work at the event. Local businesses are solicited for raffle prizes and sponsorship money. It is our second largest fundraiser of the year. This event is currently chaired by Lion Past President Don LaBarge.

Lions Loot Sweepstakes: Founded in 2003 by Lion Past President Bill Conners, this event is held in mid October of each year at the Fulton Polish Home. 1000 tickets are sold for \$50 a piece. Of the \$50,000 taken in, we give away prizes totaling \$31,000, including a grand prize of \$10,000. Planning for this event takes place all year with ticket applications mailed out in March. We typically hold two early bird raffles on April 1st and July 1st for early ticket buyers. 2008 was the first year we sold all 1,000 tickets. In addition, we hold a number of raffles on the day of the event and sell pull tabs. Members are expected to promote the sale of tickets and assist on the day of the event. The event is currently chaired by Lion Diane Sokolowski.

H. and Mary Dowd Chicken Barbecue: This event is held in early February of each year at the Fulton Polish Home. Money raised at the event is put into the Harold "H." and Mary Dowd scholarship fund. "H" was a valuable member of the club that passed away in September of 2005. His wife Mary, an honorary club member, passed away in 2008. A scholarship fund was established in "H's" memory in 2006 and Mary's name was added following her passing. 300 chicken dinners are sold at the event. Although there are no pre-sale tickets, members are expected to promote the event and work at it. The event is currently chaired by Immediate Past President Lion Dr. Brett Tallents.

Pancake Breakfast: Held on Palm Sunday at the Fulton Polish Home, this is one of the Club's longest running events. Over 500 people are served each year. A 50/50 raffle is held in conjunction with the breakfast. This is a labor intensive event, with club members expected to help with the pre-sale of tickets and work the day of the breakfast. The event is currently chaired by Lion Nick DeGelorm.

White Cane Sale: This fundraiser is held in late April of each year. Members, in teams of two, setup at the doors of local businesses and collect money for sight preservation projects. Person's who donate, typically \$1.00, are given a white can sticker. We usually have teams at 3 locations, including Wal-Mart, Struppler's and at least one other location for 4 hours on Thursday and Friday afternoons/evenings, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Members are asked to work a 2 hour shift at one of these locations. The event is currently chaired by Lion Past President Leo Chirello.

Memorial Day Salute: This event is held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Memorial Day Holiday. Founded in 1982, it is a joint effort of Fulton's four service clubs, the Kiwanis, Lions, Noon Rotary and Sunrise Rotary Clubs, as well as the Fulton Veteran's Council. Each service club appoints two to three members to serve on the organizing committee. Planning for the event begins in the fall of each year. The event has its own web site, www.fultonmemorialdaysalute.com, and is funded through an advertising/sponsorship booklet. Members of the committee solicit ads and sponsorships from local businesses and organizations (last year over 150 ads were sold). The committee organizes the entertainment, parade, rides and fireworks. Each service club operates a food booth at the event, with profits split equally among the four service clubs. The VFW runs the beer booth and splits the profits with the Memorial Day Salute

Committee. In addition to having members on the organizing committee, the club has it's own Memorial Day Salute Committee which organizes and arranges staffing for the food booth and parade float. The Fulton Memorial Day Salute Committee is in the process of applying for 501(c)(3) status through the IRS, which will allow contributions to the event to be tax deductible. The Chairman of the Fulton Memorial Day Salute Committee is Lion David Guyer.

Cellular Phone Collection Project: This is an ongoing project, with club members asked to collect old cell phones which are sent out in bulk for reimbursement. To date this project has earned over \$600 for the club. Collection boxes are available from the Chairman of the event, Immediate Past President Lion Dr. Brett Tallents.

DONATION RECIPIENTS:

Below is a partial list of organizations we donated to from 2007 to the present:

Aurora
Boy Scout Troop 715
Cancer Society
Catholic Charities Food Pantry
Child Advocacy Center of Oswego County
Lions Finger Lakes Hearing Foundation
Fulton Athletic Boosters Track Festival
Fulton Historical Society
Fulton Public Library
Fulton Wrestling Club
Fulton Youth Hockey Association
Guiding Eyes for the Blind (seeing eye & service dogs)
Literacy Volunteers of Oswego County
MD-20 Lions Youth Band
NYS & Bermuda Lions Foundation
Oswego Industries
Salvation Army - Food Pantry
Campaign Sight First II

The club also spends over \$3,500 a year in youth scholarships and approximately \$5,000 in sight and hearing related projects. In the past, the club has also made major donations to the Vision Research Center in Syracuse and University Children's Hospital. The majority of our money is spent locally, with occasional funding to state organizations and Lions Club International programs.

PROJECTS:

In addition to raising and distributing money, the club believes it is important to be actively involved in projects that benefit the entire community. In the past, the club has adopted the C.V. Abbott Park, engaging in a yearly clean-up there, as well as assisted in the construction of the disability friendly playground at Voorhees Park. In early May of 2009, King Lion Steve Chirello arranged for the club to assist in the cleanup of Oswego Falls Park, located on South First Street in Fulton.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Fulton Lions Club Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Tavern on the Lock Restaurant. All club members are welcome to attend board meetings. By attending board meetings, you can learn about the internal procedures of the club. Most major financial decisions are made at these meetings. The Board consists of the following members:

President (King Lion)

1st Vice-President

2nd Vice-President

3rd Vice-President

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Lion Tamer

Assistant Lion Tamer

Tail Twister

Assistant Tail Twister

Membership Chair

Immediate Past President

Directors (four with each serving a two year term, staggered)

Board members for the upcoming year are determined at a meeting of the Past Presidents and Incoming President at a meeting held in March. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the incoming president to determine his board slate, with the input of the past presidents. Once the proposed board is determined, it is read at three regular dinner meetings in April and May. Individual members can challenge for a board seat at which point an election would be held for the seat in question. There is no restriction as to how long a board member can serve, however, the President typically only serves a one year term, with Vice-President's moving up a slot each year.

PAST PRESIDENTS:

STANDING COMMITTEES:

The standing committees do the bulk of the work related to our fundraising and other activities. They should meet on a regular basis with the chairperson of each committee reporting back to the membership at board and regular meetings. The following are a list of our standing committees:

Calling Committee: Charged with dispensing news and calling members about upcoming dinner meetings.

Membership Committee: Charged with developing strategies to recruit new members.

Long-Range Planning Committee: Made up of the Board of Directors and chaired by the President, this committee is charged with developing long-range plans and strategies for the club.

Public Relations Committee: Charged with promoting the club and its activities through the local media.

Social Activities Committee: Charged with developing fun activities to promote socialization and camaraderie among club members and their families.

Program Committee: Charged with organizing programs and speakers for club meetings.

Awards Committee: Charged with organizing recognition for club members that takes place at the June Installation Dinner.

Scholarship Committee: Charged with management of our two scholarships, the John Scaringi Scholarship and the "H." and Mary Dowd Scholarship.

Convention/Youth Band Committee: Charged with coordinating our club's participation in the State Lions Convention held each spring and our support of the Lions Youth Band which plays at the convention.

Sight and Hearing Committee: One of most important committees, it is charged with the management of our sight and hearing activities in the community, including outreach, evaluation of need and financial assistance. The club also collects used eyeglasses & hearing aids which can be given to the committee chair. There is an eye glass & hearing aid collection box at Waby Opticians and there will soon be one at Wal-Mart. The club also has portable collection boxes available, which may be placed at local businesses.

Technology Committee: Charged with exploring how technology can benefit the club, including the use of our already established web site.

The Following Committees are charged with organizing specific fundraisers:

Duck Derby Committee

Lions Loot Sweepstakes Committee

“H.” and Mary Dowd Scholarship Chicken Barbecue Committee

Pancake Breakfast Committee

White Cane Sale Committee

Memorial Day Salute Committee

MEETINGS:

In addition to the monthly board meetings, the club has regular dinner meetings from September through June which usually are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Below is a month by month list:

September: Two meetings

October: Two meetings

November: One meeting (2nd meeting canceled)

December: One meeting - Christmas Party (2nd meeting canceled)

January: Two meetings

February: Two meetings (1st meeting is the sweetheart dinner, encouraged to bring your spouse or S.O.)

March: Two meetings

April: Two meetings

May: One meeting (2nd meeting is setup of food booth for Fulton Memorial Day Salute food booth at Fulton Community Center - Thursday night before Memorial Day weekend).

June: One meeting - Installation Dinner (2nd meeting canceled)

July: No meetings

August: No meetings

Although attendance at all meetings and events is encouraged, realistically we all have busy lives and cannot attend everything. Service can come in many ways, including serving on committees. Perfect attendance awards for the year are given at the June Installation Dinner to members who attended all the dinner meetings. You can make up missed dinner meetings by attending a board meeting, working at an event or attending a committee meeting. Members of the calling committee automatically earn perfect attendance. You may be excused from a meeting due to work obligations or illness. It is

the members obligation to advise the secretary of an excused absence and also attendance at a makeup meeting.

OTHER INFORMATION:

The club has an active presence on the world wide web at: www.fultonlionsclub.org
Our webmaster is Lion Steve Bero.

The Fulton Lions Club is part of New York State and Bermuda Lions Multiple District 20. We are part of District 20Y1 which runs from Oswego County south to the Pennsylvania state line, including much of Central New York and the Central Southern Tier. There are over fifty clubs in our district. Fulton is the one of the largest and most active clubs in our district.

As a member of the Lions Club you will receive magazines from both NYS/Bermuda Lions and Lions International.

DUES:

All members (except life members and the Secretary) are required to pay yearly dues of \$55.00. This covers the cost of state and international dues. Dues notices are sent out in July of each year.

All meetings begin with:

LIONS PRAYER

Where Lions meet be present Lord,
To weld our hearts in one accord.
To do thy will, Lord make us strong,
To aid the weak and right the wrong.

All meeting end with our closing song:

'SMILE AWHILE':

Smile awhile and let us part once more
With the echo of a lions roar.
Ringing loudly as before
In the name of Lions service.
Let our hands be ever, ever gripped
Man-to man, the clasp of fellowship.
And in that spirit we'll remain
Till we meet again.

(TOOT! TOOT!)

MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP AWARD:

The highest honor that a Lions Club member can achieve is a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Melvin Jones founded Lions Clubs International in 1917. Clubs may obtain a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award by donating \$1,000.00 to the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), which is the humanitarian arm of Lions Clubs International. The following is a list of Melvin Jones Fellowships awarded by the Fulton Lions Club.

Ross Mirabito (deceased)
Harold "H." Dowd (deceased)
Harlan Collins (deceased)
Robert Ingersoll (no longer with club)
Kenneth Collins (no longer with club)
Paul Foster
Donald Charbonneau
Wallace Corzette
Gerald Ware
Leo Chirello

CONCLUSION:

Thank you for your interest in the Fulton Lions Club. Membership in the Fulton Lions Club is by invitation only. If you have questions or would like to complete a membership application, please feel free to contact any club member.

Updated: 03/12/09