



**District Governor's Newsletter  
January, 2021**

I am writing the newsletter in the middle of December. **We have made the decision to have a virtual Midwinter meeting**, on January 30, 2021. We have roughed out our schedule and we expect to start at 9:00 am and finish before 3:00 pm.

We will try to have the same things that an in-person meeting would have, minus the good food. We plan to have a business meeting, a Youth Speech contest, a talk by an International Director, with question and answers.

We are also having a **“parade of checks”** where each club can let us know who they are donating to for the Midwinter. They can then mail the checks to CST Jim Allen at [jballen6766@yahoo.com](mailto:jballen6766@yahoo.com). Jim will then tally the checks and forward to the various charities.

We will also have the President of Mass. Lions Eye Research Fund, Roland Grenier, address the gathering. Unfortunately our theme of Dr. Seuss will not be in service.

Built into our schedule are breaks after each session as well as a lunch break. So if you can only join us for part of the day, the schedule will be publicized ahead of time.

We have **surveyed** the clubs in our District and we have found out most clubs are not meeting. A few clubs have had in person meetings; but the state mandating groups to meet 10 or less, seems to have affected all the clubs. Some clubs have done Board meetings on Zoom. Most of our older members are not in favor of virtual meetings



**Jack Walsh District Governor 33-Y  
Walsh10010@gmail.com**

The **membership statistics** for this fiscal year:

July 1 <sup>st</sup> membership	912
New members	11
Members lost	(45)
Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> membership	878

**Help Wanted.** We still do not have a Vice District Governor. Next year. **To be a Vice District Governor**, you must have been a club president, served on your club's Board of Directors, you must also have been a Zone Chair or a Cabinet Secretary Treasurer. If you know of someone in your club, please let us know. We need your help!

The **state convention**, to be held in April, **has made a decision to meet virtually**. It was felt that even if we were allowed to meet in person, many members might not be willing to attend an in person event. .

**Agawam Lions** have another **community service project**. One of our former members, **Dusty Harrison**, now a California Lion, sent a video of a project the Auburn Lions of California had undertaken, making desks for remote learning. Lion Frank Terramagra found some plans, online and improved on them.



Shown is the first desk produced at Lion Dick Lanier's workshop. **Frank Terramagra and Dick Lanier** cut some pieces. Also shown at the Home Depot is Dick Lanier with the Home Depot manager, with the first truckload of lumber. The initial goal of 20 desks has now risen to 150 based on response.

Another idea for a fundraiser. The **Agawam Rotary Club** recently held a **virtual auction**. They collected donated items and services from community businesses and held the auction over several days. They used an automated system to display the items, manage the bidding process and take credit cards. They had a pickup location, or the goods could be delivered. Most items seemed to have a retail value of around \$50. A good idea on adapting in these COVID times.

**Mass. Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.** donations have been down since the pandemic. For the year ended June 30, 2020 **donations totaled \$620,484**. Normally they collect around 1 million dollars. Donations are down this year, also. Pennies and Journey for Sight are also expected to be down and that is where individual Lions can help.

Put a large jar on your night stand and put you loose change in at the end of the day. Please donate these funds to Mass. Lions Eye Research Fund; it may save someone's vision.

As we age we may end up with Age Related Macular Degeneration. It has happened to me and I no longer have the central part of my vision in one eye. When I first joined the MLERF Board of Directors, I wore glasses but had normal vision otherwise. Your donation now may help research that could save your vision as you grow older. Every dollar donated goes directly to eye research.

## **TALES OF THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL UPDATE**

**December 2020  
By John Youney**

(Endorsed candidate for LCI director 2021-2022)

Well, my campaign status continues to be Karol's and my home! I am sure that all of you can appreciate the situation, as after all, we are in this together. The pandemic has reared its head in a second wave, or is it just the backlash of the first wave striking as we became worn out

taking precautions? Maybe history will have an answer.

Meanwhile, there are the tantalizing hints of promise! Vaccines might get to us....at least in a few months for us who are healthy and not in congregate housing. And we pray all first responders and medical providers get the first round available. Now that would be a wonderful Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza or Druid Solstice gift!

The great part of this campaign season is the chance to see the operation of your district at the action level! Many of you include me on the email list of newsletters and announcements. What I see there are Lions! Lions still doing what we do - We Serve! is what we do. Lions have found new ways to do service while keeping safe. The need has never been greater in most of our lifetimes and we are rising to meet their needs.

Many clubs have done just what my own club did the Saturday before Thanksgiving. We often collected food in the past at club meetings and supplemented the food with a cash donation. But since we have abandoned in person meetings since the ramp up of the pandemic here in Maine, we needed a new way to help our two local food cupboards. That is especially true as they both reported increased patronage and bare shelves! So my club ruthlessly stole from the example of many clubs - a drive-through food collection in the municipal parking lot next to the Chamber of Commerce. A great success, and even had numerous cash donations in the can which was sent to the cupboards as well.

Last month I had reported in this column that SD 41 Maine's cabinet meeting was scheduled in-person but I feared it would become virtual. Unfortunately, the ramp-up in positivity ended the in-person event, but we had great attendance (probably better than if we had been in-person!). I hope my written fear was not the jinx DG Bunny!

On November 30, I was able to attend two distinct meetings. That new-found ability is a positive coming from our current norms. After reading the newsletters, I get to see some of the players behind those reported Lions projects. My first stop was in the "Awesome" MD 33A advisory with DG Denise and her team. I was thrilled to watch the presentation of the New Voices awards. What an honor to learn of the outstanding service of these Lions. My next stop that evening was DG Marcel and the gang at MD 33N. They were visited by MD33 GMT Chair Lion Andy Porter (who was visiting four sub-districts that evening) as he discussed Massachusetts' membership progress, and then followed that with LCIF updates. That was followed by a fascinating presentation on diabetes By Dr. Joanna Mitri of the Joslin Institute. But what we gain with technology also has its drawbacks as we are learning how to function electronically. When the doctor finished and sent the control back to Marcel, it did not do as expected! When she left the meeting, she closed the entire Zoom! Marcel scrambled to get some of the team back to finish the meeting! Another teaching moment this year!

Most of January and the winter is promising to continue virtually, if for no reason other than the inability to secure reliable sites to have our old normal events. And we must be safe as well! So we will see you on the trail at some point - virtually if not in person. But optimism is raging rampant, please register for Montreal 2021! We shall gather there!

And for this month, Happy Hanukkah, Enjoy Solstice, Happy Kwanzaa, enjoy Omisoka ... and in Karol's and my tradition - Merry Christmas

**PS:** Go to the campaign website!  
[www.lionjohnyouney.org](http://www.lionjohnyouney.org)

## **MD 33 Training Opportunities**

### **Emerging Lions Leadership Institute**

**When:** Friday March 12th - Sunday March 14th

**Cost:** Less than \$100

**Lions** interested in stepping up for Club Leadership Opportunities

If interested please email the following:

MD 33 GLT John Babb

[bsfbsd@comcast.net](mailto:bsfbsd@comcast.net)

The three day ELLI is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Understand the significance of assessing community needs
- Recognize the reasons people resist change
- Identify strategies for supporting a team as a team leader
- Understand the strengths and limitation of your own communication style
- Identify the components of effective meeting facilitation
- Recognize the dimensions of diversity
- Understand and support the mission of Lions Clubs International Foundation
- Utilize Club Quality Initiative to achieve club success
- Meet your fellow Lions, and share in their experiences

**Please RSVP no later than 28 February 2021**

## **Regional Lions Leadership Institute**

**When:** Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>

**Cost:** Less than \$100

**Lions** who have completed Emerging Lions Leadership Institute

If interested please email the following:

MD 33 GLT John Babb

[bsfjd@comcast.net](mailto:bsfjd@comcast.net)

The three day RLLI is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Encourage club members to pursue leadership roles within their Lions communities.
- Familiarize club leaders with the operations, issues, and opportunities of their clubs.
- Fr- Promote leadership skills critical to the success of their position.
- Foster a deeper understanding of how to better serve clubs. Meet your fellow Lions, and share in their experiences

**Please RSVP no later than 28 March 2021**

**Merry Christmas and Happy 2021!**