

EASTON LIONS CLUB



Easton Lions Club, P.O. Box 1032, Easton, MA 02334-1032
Editor: Nancy Sullivan, nsullivan01@verizon.net

Where there's a need,
there's a Lion.



March Lions Newsletter
Will carry Auction News
In meantime – check our
Website

President's Message

“Our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.”
(Martin Luther King, Jr. “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”, 1967)

Facing the “challenge of change” certainly rings true as we approach our 31st Charity Auction. This year, we have two huge changes: a new home at Stonehill College, and an **online auction that starts February 19th**. Before looking at these challenges, I want you to think about this question: During the deepest dark of night, what do stars do?

The online auction has the potential to engage more people and viewers to our flagship Charity Auction on March 5th.

The new location at Stonehill's Pettit Atrium is great, but it too adds some new “wrinkles”. Lions will need to adapt to the new environment. We will need lions to help volunteers and bidders get to where they need to be. The “Confirm Team” and the “Pick-n-Pay Team” also have new challenges needing to integrate the online winners with the live auction results.

Dale Kerester and crew have laid the ground work for our success. Now, it's up to all of us to jump in to help make that success happen.

Amos Keddem is leading the manpower charge. Please respond to him and ask how you can help (amoskeddem@keddem.com, 508-238-0751).

Get on the Matrix!!!!!!!

LUX ET SPES



STONEHILL
COLLEGE

31st
ANNUAL
CHARITY
AUCTION

MARCH
5TH



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President's Message, Continued

The next challenge is our preparation for **Recognition Night**. This event spotlights what Lions do, “We Serve”, and honors people who have provided outstanding service to Easton in a variety of ways. There are 9 areas to which you can nominate someone from Easton. We need your help to spread the word about nominations; so, please share this info to all family, friends and colleagues. Nomination Forms are on our website, eastonlions.org/recognition. Many thanks go out to Lion Marilyn Cyr, our most recent Melvin Jones Fellow, for making the 46th year of the event a possibility.

In the year ahead, our Club will have countless challenges to overcome. We can look back to see the good we've done, or we can look forward and accept the challenge. Remember, our Club won “The Most Outstanding Club in the World” award for our outstanding work in meeting “The Challenge to Change” in 2008. We continue to rise to that level of exceptionality.

In taking on these new challenges, we will have successes and we will have failures. Through it all, we will grow as individuals and as a Club, and our community will be better for it.

So, back to the question:
“What is it that stars do?”...**They Shine!..**

I look forward to seeing our Club continue to shine as we meet the challenges ahead.

Matthew Cioffi, President

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME

We continue to add new members in this our 85th year serving the Easton Community. Since October, the Lions Board of Directors voted in four new members to the Easton Lions Club. We are proud to announce and welcome the new members **Craig Barger, Mike Reardon, Allan Harris and Kathy Malone**, wife of former Lion Bill Malone who passed away last summer. We also welcome more recent member, **David Howe**.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Our Club gives members opportunities to advance worthy causes, serve with friends and become leaders in our community. This Club means a lot to our members, but it means a lot more to the people **"We Serve"**. In that spirit, Club President Matthew Cioffi has recognized four Lions for their service as **Easton's Lions of the Month**.

November:

Catherine Sutton was honored for her endless efforts and participation in all of our Lions events this fall including working on the Food Committee and donating funds for the "Thrift Store Tent". She took on each task with the exuberance and smiles that showed the true heart of a Lion.

December: Two Lions

Lynn Kingsbury took our raffle baskets at the Holiday Festival to the "next level!" AND her drive to get sponsors and raffle items at all of our events was exceptional.

Jim Abate jumped right in to lead the subcommittee for the Holiday Festival Program Book and worked on getting the ad sponsorships on very short notice. How fortunate we are that he shared his expertise to make the Program Book even better!

January:

Andrew Parker was awarded Lion of the Month for his work as our new Chief Lion Tweeter. In two short months, Andrew increased our monthly impressions by 20-fold, garnering over 4,000. He also has been one of several welcomed and welcoming new "luggers and tuggers" at The Lions Thrift Store.

THANK YOU, AGAIN, FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CLUB...MAKING BETTER BETTER.

From Jon Morgan



Fellow Lions,

The 2016 Easton Holiday Festival is officially "in the can" ('er, the film production term, not the trash can)!!! "It's A Wrap!"

Over two Saturdays, our courageous tam lugged and tugged to make sure all items were securely put in storage for their long winter's nap. We fielded a crew on Saturday, January 7th, of **John Mallers, Ram Penumarthy, Harry Somers, Bill Palmer, John Barry, Jim Abate, Tony Cabral, Stanley Borgeson, Ray Morrell, Mark Vinocoor, Josh Jacobs, Mike Pietrowski and Jim Lee (and I know I am forgetting someone !!!)** Sadly, we were not able to secure a machine to lift up the large display houses; so, that had to wait a week.

But...it was worth the wait!!! **David Howe** generously provided a front-end loader and an operator to help us on Saturday, January 24th, and in about an hour and 15 minutes, it was all wrapped up. The enthusiastic gathering of Lions watched **Dave Howe's equipment operator, Joe,** skillfully nestle the houses into the storage trailers so that Mike Looney (of Looney Transportation) could pull the trailer back to its storage place. Our Lion's efforts were led by **John Mallers (who put in many additional hours putting away items from the from the Festival), Darcy Hunter (who brought his friend, John), Harry Somers, Rich Freitas, Dennis Gutman, Nick Fornaro, John Barry, Rob Goodrich, Stanley Borgeson, Andrew Parker and Ron Handverger.**

We couldn't do this without such great and generous Lions and the support of our Town.

Thank You !!!!

FROM AUCTION LEADER,

LION DALE "Make the Sale" KERESTER



SUNDAY

MARCH 5TH

2 - 7 PM

GREETINGS Lions and Friends!

Ready or Not...the Auction will be upon us in two weeks!!!!!!

Where is the Auction?

We are very excited and grateful to be holding the TV live auction at [Stonehill College in the Shields Science Center \(in the beautiful Pettit Atrium\)](#). Our good friends at Stonehill College have welcomed us with open arms. Thank you [Mike Pietrowski](#) for making this happen!!

What is this that I hear about the Auction ON LINE?

Yes. This is a new feature this year. We will be selling certain of the items (generally, the lower retail value items) during the Online Auction only. Online bidding will run from February 19 to March 5th (Online Bidding will close at 4 PM on Sunday, March 5th.) The rest of the items will be sold during the live televised auction on Sunday, March 5th, from 2 -7 PM, as usual.



How do I bid for the items being sold Online?

Easy Peasy! Go to the auction website (www.EastonLionsAuction.org), click on "Preview Items on Bidding for Good", then click on "Register to Bid" (at the top of the screen) and fill in the requested information: name, email address, phone number...and create a password. Registration is free and secure. You will then be able to submit our bids (for the items being sold Online) from February 19 until the Online bidding closes on March 5th (4 PM). (You will ultimately need to enter a credit card number before you can bid, so that the winning bid can be processed.)



When can I start to preview items?

Your trusty item Admin and Website Team have items available for viewing NOW!! **BUT Keep checking**, as more items will continue to be added in the weeks to come!! You can also preview the items in person at Stonehill College at the Shields Science Center on Saturday, March 4th, from 2 – 4 PM.

Do we need more donations?

You bet. Our Solicitation Team has been hard at work bringing in wonderful donations from our generous donors, but we always welcome new donations!! Maybe you know someone who has some sports tickets? Tickets to an upcoming show? Or maybe a vacation rental? How about dinner with a local personality? Special parking spot? Remember, the earlier the donation comes in, the more exposure the donor gets on our Auction Website (www.EastonLionsAuction.org). Any questions? Contact Lion Steve Hoffman (hoffman5000@comcast.net) or send an email to auction@EastonLions.org.

How is all this happening? Because we have an incredible team of Lions members and friends who have been working their Lions' tails off!! Putting on a live televised Auction is no easy feat, and we are fortunate to have a dedicated team who devote their time, efforts and talents to make it all come together. THANK YOU LIONS AND FRIENDS!!!



EASTON LIONS CLUB

IT'S A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

EASTON, MA – January 27, 2017

On Friday, January 27th, the Easton Lions, through their Easton Lions Thrift Shop, partnered with the Old Colony YMCA in Easton to donate enough items to fill a 15 foot truck for the YMCA D'Haiti (a new YMCA being built in Jacmel, Haiti). The Lions Thrift Store crew loaded the truck with clothing and shoes for children and families. Items included desks, chalk boards, tables and chairs, 30 children's bicycles, a medical bed, cots, tennis rackets, baseball gloves, bats and helmets, lacrosse equipment, soccer and basket balls, tennis rackets, garden tools and construction equipment, and miscellaneous household goods. Folks from the YMCA in Easton then drove this truck down to Ridgewood, New Jersey where it will be combined with others to fill two huge cargo type containers going to the YMCA D'Haiti.

The containers are part of a unique construction system in which they will be emptied and then used as part of the structure for a new YMCA in a very destitute part of Haiti that has not received much by way of aide after the terrible 2013 earthquake and the horrific hurricane that devastated that poor island nation last year. The contents of the containers will be used by the community in Jacmel. The new building, which will be built in part from the containers, will enable the YMCA D'Haiti to continue providing life-changing programs and initiatives like:

- Literacy Programs for youth and adults
- Academic Enrichment
- Sports and Arts Programs
- Leadership Development Programs for building leadership in the community.

EASTON LIONS DONATE ITEMS FOR THE OLD COLONY YMCA “D’ HAITI PROJECT FROM THE EASTON LIONS CLUB THRIFT SHOP



Lions Thrift Store Crew Chief, John Mallers, with Lion and Easton YMCA Executive Director, Serah Selmon



The Easton Lions and the Easton YMCA are organizations whose missions serve our community and care about people; making it easy to come together in this collaborative effort to help our family in Haiti. To learn more about the Old Colony YMCA in Easton, visit their website or contact their Executive Director and fellow Lion Serah Selmon at sselmon@oldcolonyynca.org.





Smith Farm at Borderland *Easton Lions Club Centennial Legacy Project* & *The Avery Lee Williams Family Farmhouse Renovation Challenge*

Through the generosity of the Easton Lions Club, in support of their Centennial Legacy Project, and of the Avery Lee Williams Family, Smith Farm at Borderland State Park is launching **the Easton Lions Club Centennial Legacy Project**

& **The Avery Lee Williams Family Farmhouse Renovation Challenge** to help renovate the Asahel Smith Farmhouse. The Easton Lions Club and Mr. Williams have teamed up to match the funds we raise up to \$20,000. – making a total of \$40,000. Available for construction costs related to the physical structure of the farmhouse.

Matthew Cioffi, President of the Easton Lions, says of his desire to get involved with Smith Farm,

"It was nearly 20 years ago when I first saw the Smith Farm homestead. My family and I had recently moved down from Vermont. On a brisk winter day, while skiing at

Borderland, I saw this quaint old farmhouse far across the field for the first time. As I approached the farmhouse, I began to see its character. I wondered how old the farmhouse was and who once lived there and maintained the fields and fences years ago. At that time, I figured it would eventually fall and become another piece of history lost to time. Over the years, I've learned more about Smith Farm and its history. On my recent hikes through the trails, I've been watching the progress on the farm's restoration. It truly is a Zen-like island within Borderland, providing a respite area for all who walk these grounds. I am very glad that the Easton Lions can be a part of the project during our 85th year serving Easton and the Centennial year of Lions Club International. I look forward to the day, very soon, when the house is restored for all to enjoy, inside and out."



Beyond the goal of raising \$40,000 in cash donations, Smith Farm will actively seek in-kind donations of supplies and materials to help toward project completion. [The Farmhouse Renovation Challenge will last until May 31, 2017 with the goal of raising \\$40,000 and breaking ground this Spring \(2017\).](#)

In addition to the support of the Easton Lions Club and Mr. Williams, Smith Farm has secured a significant partner in [Clarke Construction](#) for renovation efforts. [Clarke Construction \(Trevor Clarke, President\)](#) will complete the physical structure and woodwork restoration of the Asahel Smith Farmhouse. [Alongside contractor Ernie Smith](#), who approached Smith Farm through our [partnership with our Veterans who are members of American Legion Post 7 in Easton, MA](#), Clarke Construction will serve as our contractor on the Asahel Smith Farmhouse. This is a unique and fantastic partnership and we are appreciative of all the contributions these generous partners will make to the history of our town. However, to make the Farmhouse Renovation Challenge a success, we will need the support of the Easton and area town communities, businesses, wellness groups and citizens who have an interest in preserving history AND in providing a place of wellness at which all can take advantage. Certainly, anyone who has had the fortune of spending time at Smith Farm knows the value of its serenity, location and programs that will continue to run throughout the coming year.

One such developing partnership, which will benefit from the Asahel Smith Farmhouse renovation is Smith Farm's partnership with The Center for Integrated Wellness (CIW), located at the VA Boston Healthcare System's Brockton Campus. Smith Farm will be providing space for the Center to offer their creative treatment options, such as art and music therapy and building a Veteran's Community Garden to help area veterans, who face mental health challenges. Smith Farm will make the facility available to CIW as an alternative site for their existing programs – providing a serene and peaceful setting for Veterans who seek creative pathways to mental health and physical wellness.

Smith Farm's engagement with Veterans was a catalyst and driving force for the involvement of [Avery Lee Williams](#): *"I have been aware of Smith Farm since I was a kid. In the late 1940's and early 1950's, I was a regular at Borderland as a camper. We lugged our jungle hammocks and fishing gear to the dam area and spied on the Ames offspring as they rode around in a Ford jalopy. Since then, as a poor example of an Army veteran (I was a Company Cook), I have developed a special feeling for those with PTSD. I am Post Commander of Post 7 American Legion in Easton and, as such, I've been witness to the toll PTSD takes on those who have served us."*

Continued next page.

SMITH FARM, Continued

Please help the Smith Farm Trustees and staff reach their goals for renovation of this historic property located at Borderland. The Easton Lions Club and the Avery Lee Williams Family will match donations up to \$20,000 so that the project can reach the total of \$40,000 needed for renovation construction.

Donors wishing to support this worthy cause may donate safely Online either through the Smith Farm website at www.smithfarmheals.org, or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SmithFarmAtBorderland. Donations will also be accepted by checks made out to Smith Farm at Borderland, Inc. and mailed to Carrie Crisman, Smith Farm Curator, P.O. Box 22, Norton, MA 02766. For further details, call Carrie at (508) 889-8889.

IMPORTANT DATES



- **March 15th** – Deadline for Recognition Night Nomination Forms
- **March 27th** – 3d District Cabinet Advisory Meeting at Holy Ghost Hall, 545 Middleboro Ave, East Taunton
- **April 12th** - Election of Officers
- **April 22nd**- “Junk Day” at DPW
- **April 26th** – Induction of New Members
- **May 10th** - Rookies Night (TBC)
- **May 20th** - Lions Pride Math Challenge
- **June 14th** - Installation of Officers
- **June ...**Easton Legacy Days
- **June 28th** – Annual End-of-Year Celebration Cook-Out

QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE

Jackpot will be over \$1,300.00



By Ginny Ando, Paul Lemieux and Stan Borgeson

EYES ON THE WEB EASTONLIONS.ORG HAS A NEW LOOK

If you’ve not visited our Club’s website recently, you may want to take a look!!

It has a fresh new face. The layout is quite different; especially on a smartphone where the content now utilizes the whole screen. You’ll also see more photos of our events and Lions members used on our main pages.

President Cioffi is still refining some layout templates for posts and sidebars. And, there’s still some content that needs updating. He could use some help publishing content and events. The backend now uses a Wordpress CMS (content management system), so it’s much easier to maintain than before. If you are interested in helping Matt Cioffi out, or learning more, please shoot him an email, or call him anytime.

FYI: We continue to honor our 2008 award by meeting “challenges to change” in the direction of now using several forms of outreach in social media:

- Three Facebook pages
- Two Instagram accounts, and
- A Twitter feed.

This issue of the
Easton Lions Newsletter
Is sponsored by
Kat Malone
In Memory of Bill Malone



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