

Lions Club of Bloomingdale
P. O. Box 318
Bloomingdale, Illinois 60108-0318

The History of the Club

The Bloomingdale Lions Club was sponsored by the Bensenville Lions Club and was officially chartered on September 7, 1961. Some thirty-five members made up the charter roster and some of the real movers and shakers of Bloomingdale were a part of that group. Some names that you might recognize are: Roy Alumbaugh; Curt Barnes, Owner of Barnes Gravel and the Bloomingdale Township Road Commissioner; Ed Barber, later the mayor; Wally Geils, Owner of Economart; Ralph Johnston, a village and park district trustee after whom the Park District building is named; Charlie Kroll, owner of what is now Brodies; Al Mied, owner of Roy's Tavern where MacDonaldis now stands at Bloomingdale & Lake; George Mueller, Chief of Police; Bob Perry, Village Clerk; Werner Troesken, local developer; and Dr. Emil Zidek, just to name a few.

Over 300 men and women have been members of the club in it 45 year plus history.

What have the Lions been doing for all these years:

- Candy Day
- Community picnics at what was once Blecke Woods, now Medinah on the Lake and in the area where Westfield Middle School now stands. Pig Roasts and helicopter rides were featured.
- Pancake Breakfasts (Usually at DuJardin School. Lions would serve from six AM till noon and then spend the entire afternoon cleaning the floors of the spilled syrup and butter. Lionade was a featured beverage at the breakfast, but you will have to ask one of the old time Lions just how tionade was made.
- Casino Nights. This project required a huge amount of manpower but were very good money makers for the club until the arrival of the riverboats.
- Golf Outing in August at the Bloomingdale Golf Club
- Donkey Baseball in a field that is now Almalfis Restaurant

- Ele-Chick - A combination Fried Chicken Luncheon and large White Elephant sale at DuJardin School and Parking lot.
- Sand and Dirt Day - Personal Delivery of Sand and Dirt to your home
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Steak Fry

Whatever the project, the main focus was, is, and hopefully always will be, "To Serve the blind and sight impaired, the deaf and hearing impaired, and our community".

And just where does all the money from these fund-raisers go? First, it should be made clear, that funds raised from the public are restricted and must be spent on charitable activities. Funds used for the administration of the club, supplies, awards, stationery, postage, etc. is from the dues of the members and internally raised funds such as those raised by the Tail Twister.

- Eye exams and glasses for those irl need
- Hearing tests and Hearing Aids for those in need
- First Community Room in the lower level of the Village Hall
- Bob Homola Pavilion at Circle Park. (To be reconstructed soon)
- \$10,000 to the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute at the University of Illinois Circle Campus
- \$10,000 to help fund a professorial chair at the Institute.
- Over \$24,000 to Campaign SightFirst and now SightFirst II (A major project of Lions International to help cure preventable blindness, provide eye exams, glasses, surgery, etc., particularly in third world countries.
- Large print books to the Bloomingtondale Library as well as a magnifying reader
- Provided the funding for the software for the "Are You O.K.? program operated by the Bloomingtondale Police Department where subscribers, typically senior shut ins, are called daily to insure that all is well.
- Funds to Leader Dog School in Rochester, Michigan
- Funds to Hadley School for the Blind in Winnetka, Illinois
- Funds to the American Diabetes Association
- The Annual Bloomingtondale Lions Easter Egg Hunt

- Chicago Radio Information Service (CRIS)
- Lions of Illinois Foundation Projects such as:
 - Camp Lions for Blind and Deaf Youngsters
 - The Hearing Bus
 - Eyeglass & Hearing Aid Collection
 - Low Vision Screening Clinics
- SeptemberFest Scholarships
- Ski for Sight
- Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation in Wheaton, Illinois
- New York City 9/11 Relief Fund
- Christmas Baskets for the deserving

From 1900 through July of 2005, almost \$400,000.00 has been donated by the club to deserving causes.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED PAGES RELATIVE TO THE TYPICAL LIONS YEAR AND SOME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE CLUB.

Compiled: *05/23/08*

Lion Marv Roehlke - Historian

**LIONS CLUB OF BLOOMINGDALE
P. O. BOX 318
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108-0318**

TYPICAL LIONS YEAR

- Lions Year runs from July 1 through June 30

- Normally meet the first Thursday of each month, September through May, at the Bloomingdale Golf Club/Attitude adjustment at 6:30 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM. (No regular meetings are conducted through the months of June, July & August)

August	Bloomington Lions Swing for Charity Golf Tournament
September	Septemberfest
October	Spaghetti Dinner & Candy Day (Second Friday of October)
November	Usually no projects
December	Christmas Baskets & Club Christmas Party
January	District 1-J Bowling Tournament (Typically held at Stardust Bowl in Addison)
February	Usually no projects
March	Spaghetti Dinner and/or Easter Egg Hunt
April	Depending on calendar, could be same schedule as March Also District 1-J Lions Convention
May	Host Hearing Bus & Steak Fry. Sell Vidalia Onions
June	Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet

OTHER PERTINENT DATA

- The International Association of Lions Clubs, of which we are a member, was formed in 1917 by Melvin Jones. It currently has approximately 1,361,000 members in 45,000 clubs in 190 countries or geographical areas in the world. It is by far the largest service organization in the world.
- The Headquarters for Lions International is located with the boundaries of District 1-J at 300 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521-8842.
- There are 12 Lions Districts in the state of Illinois labeled 1-A through 1-L. District 1-C was split in two several years ago due to its geographical size and labeled District 1-CS for south and 1-CN for north. Both districts are in the southernmost part of the state. The Illinois Lions office is located in Petersburg, Illinois.
- The Bloomingdale club was chartered September 7, 1961 and celebrated our 45th Anniversary in 2006.
- Membership has recently been in the thirty five to forty range. It has been as high as 75 members. Current membership count as of May 2008 is 40.
- Over the course of the years, different projects are sometimes undertaken such as: Diabetes Day, Lions World Service Day, Blood Drives, Casino Nights, the hosting of the Lions of Illinois Foundation Hearing Bus, and other projects that come to the attention of the club.
- The Board of Directors of the club consist of the President, 1 st, 2nd & 3rd Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, four Directors, Lion Tamer, Tail Twister and the Immediate Past President. They are elected in April of each year and begin their term of office on July 1 of each year. The Secretary and Treasurer of the club are elected for two year terms in nonconsecutive years. Two of the Directors of the club are elected for two year terms in nonconsecutive years.
- There is normally list of both permanent and project chairman that each serve throughout the year. Typical permanent chairman are: Membership and Attendance Chairman (usually the job of the Immediate Past President), Sight and Eye Glass Collection Chairman, Hearing Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Publicity Chairman, Club Chaplain, and Historian/Parliamentarian. Each of the projects listed on the first page will have a chairman or two cochairmen and possibly a committee to organize the project.
- The club is one of eleven clubs in the Eastern Region of District 1-J. The district encompasses an area reaching from Woodstock on the Northwest to Darien on the Southeast and Richmond on the Northeast to Lee, Shabbona and Somonauk on the Southwest. There are approximately 78 Lions Clubs, 14 Lioness Clubs and 7 Leo Clubs in District 1-J. The District is governed by a District Governor that is also elected each year. The current District Governor is Lion Ron Fanqusaro, one of our own members. Lion Ron is the first Bloomingdale Lion to seek and achieve the office of District Governor.

- The Eastern Region of District 1-J consists of the following Lions Clubs: Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Elmhurst Evening, Elmhurst Noon, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Glendale Heights Barangay, Itasca, Lombard, Roselle, Villa Park, Wheaton, and Wood Dale.
- Within each of the five regions of the district, there are two zones and two Zone Chairmen, whose responsibility is overseeing the roughly 5 to 7 clubs in their zone. The Zone Chairman for our club is Lion Mario Gumino. One of our own members is also a Zone Chairman, Lion Perry Knutson.
- The Lions of Illinois Foundation, located in Sycamore, Illinois is the charitable arm of the Lions of Illinois. Individual Lions clubs are not eligible for tax exempt status, however the Lions of Illinois Foundation is a tax exempt entity. They run through their organization and on behalf of all the Lions clubs in Illinois, The Lions of Illinois Hearing Bus, Camp Lions (3 summer camps for blind and sight impaired and deaf and hearing impaired youngsters). The Foundation also serves as the interface with the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute, located at the University of Illinois Chicago campus. The building was built by the Lions of Illinois at a cost of \$5 Million several years ago on property donated by the University of Illinois. It is now recognized as one of the finest eye research facilities anywhere in the world.

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