

The Illinois Lion & Leo

MD1 e-Magazine (Full) Vol. 8 - Issue 7, January 2021



The Norris City Lions Club sponsored a Christmas Home Lighting contest



Thoughts from the Council

Chairperson:



Hello Lions and Leos of MD-1. I hope you are all healthy and well.

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season!! The calendar has flipped to 2021 – and boy it is good to put 2020 in the rearview mirror! The beginning of a new year provides a couple of opportunities for us as Lions.

One opportunity is that it marks the halfway point in our Lions year. That is always a good time as a club and organization to take stock of how the first half of the year went and to adjust for the second half of the year. This year that task is complicated by the impact of COVID-19 on everything but can still a useful exercise for your club to complete.

In line with that – the second opportunity is to set some goals for 2021. As individuals many like to make new year's resolutions. In the case of our clubs, they

can set or update goals for the rest of this year to best serve their communities.

Since January is World Hunger Month, one goal for your club could be to hold a drive-through food collection effort. Many of our pantries have been severely stressed due to the pandemic and the higher demand placed on their supplies. This project can be done in a safe manner so that there is no contact with the public. The person donating opens their truck or hatch and the Lion removes the donation and shuts the vehicle.

A great example of a successful effort was completed by the Roselle Lions Club. They held a drive through food collection and gathered over 6000 donated items and collected another \$2500 in cash donations for the local food pantry.

MD-1 will be holding a virtual forum on January 24th from 1:00 to 4:00. It will be on Zoom and limited to the first 100 that sign up. It will be recorded as well for those that cannot make it. It will cover various items that can help us as Lions and Clubs survive and thrive in the current pandemic environment.

A couple of the topics are how to fundraise and how to deliver service in this current environment. 3rd International Vice President Patti Hill will be the keynote speaker. I urge you to consider signing up – here is the link to do so:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44ACAB2BAAF9CF8-md1>

If your club is not meeting at all, please consider using a free version of Zoom to at least get your club together to talk. If Zoom is not your cup of tea check out FreeConferenceCall.com as an option. You can check on how our members are doing and discuss things your club can be doing to help people in the current environment.

In closing I want to thank you for all you are doing to serve your communities. Thank you for reading.

MD-1 Council Chairperson Joe Vinyard
jvinyard1@comcast.net

FROM GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CHAIR:



Experience best practices in virtual Lionism. Gain insights from noteworthy Lions. The pandemic has impacted so much of what we do as Lions, but it cannot keep a good Lion down. On January 24, 2021 from 1:00-4:00pm CST,

join Lions from around the state and beyond by attending *MD1 Virtually Speaking*.

Register at [Lions of Illinois MD-1: MD-1 Virtually Speaking \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44ACAB2BAAF9CF8-md1)

Space is limited to 100 participants. Do not procrastinate. Those attending have a chance to win one of four \$50 gift cards. Must be present to win. Register now!

**Session One: FVDG Gail Anton, 1A
What Do I Do....I am a Speaker at a Virtual Meeting.**

Join FVDG Gail for tips and tricks to increase your confidence when presenting in the virtual world. Have some fun along the way as you become more comfortable with public speaking from your computer. Topics include:

- Embracing technology, you really have no choice if you want to succeed.
- Reviewing basic Zoom rules of the road.
- Knowing your topic, own it.
- Handling stage fright, we all get it.

P.S. FVDG Gail always does a spectacular raffle at her presentations....so you do not want to miss!

**Session Two: DG John Barsanti, 1J
Whose Rules? E-rules!**



MD1 Virtually Speaking

January 24, 2021

1:00-4:00pm CST

Join Lions to experience best practices!

Lions are SERVING even during the pandemic!

AGENDA

Welcome, 1:00-1:05pm

Session One, 1:05-1:30pm: FVDG Gail Anton, 1A

What Do I Do?....I'm a Speaker at a Virtual Meeting

Session Two, 1:30-1:55pm: DG John Barsanti, 1J

Whose Rules? E-rules!

Session Three, 2:00-2:30pm: PDG Lori Bennett, 1M

Virtual Fundraising: Real Money

Session Four, 2:30-2:55pm: PDG Ken Novak, 1BK

Our Service Journey: Riding the Storm Out

Keynote, 3:00-3:45pm: Third Intl. Vice President Dr. Patti Hill

Closing Comments, 3:45-4:00pm

Register Now! Space limited to 100 Lions!
[Lions of Illinois MD-1: MD-1 Virtually Speaking \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A48A8A829F0f0110)

DG John will share information about electronic meeting rules, electronic elections, pitfalls, e-platforms and in the one-minute left, the changes from the 11th edition to the 12th edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

Session Three: PDG Lori Bennett, 1M Virtual Fundraising: Real Money

To provide service, clubs need money. The pandemic has put a damper on many of our tried-and-true fundraising activities. Join PDG Lori as she shares the latest and greatest ideas for virtual fundraising. Yes, it can be done!

Session Four: PDG Ken Novak, 1BK Virtual Service: Riding the Storm Out

The lifeblood of Lionism is service. But how do we serve amidst the pandemic? PDG Ken has some answers for safe, socially distanced service. Clubs are being creative. Needs are being met. Take an idea back to your club!

Keynote: Third International Vice President Dr. Patti Hill

Vice President Dr. Patti Hill is a dynamic speaker with a passion for service, leadership, and membership. VP Patti will share her expertise with attendees. Enlightened Lions can and will make a difference, especially during these challenging times. Do not miss this opportunity to hear VP Patti!



**Lions of Illinois, INC.
Synopsis of Actions 2020-2021 Council of Governors
December 5, 2020
Via Zoom**

Synopsis of Actions:

1. Motion: to approve the agenda
Action: Motion carried unanimously.
2. Motion: to approve the September 12, 2020 Council of Governors (COG) Meeting minutes as presented.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.
3. Motion: approve the minutes from the November 2, 2020 Executive Committee meeting
Action: Motion carried unanimously
4. Motion: approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020 Executive Committee meeting

Action: Motion carried unanimously

5. Motion: accept the financial report as presented

Action: Motion carried unanimously

6. Motion: approve a virtual forum on January 24th limited to 100 members

Action: Motion carried unanimously

7. Motion: provide funds to support a virtual MD1 Forum not to exceed \$500

Action: Motion carried unanimously

8. Motion: COG recommend approval of the resolutions at the MD1 Convention

Action: Motion carried unanimously

9. Motion: approve all the reports as presented

Action: Motion carried unanimously

10. Motion: accept the proposal from E-Time Pay in Mokena, Illinois for payroll processing for 2021

Action: Motion carried unanimously

11. Motion: the February 2022 COG Meeting be held at the Holiday Inn East Peoria and to accept their proposal

Action: Motion carried

12. Motion: accept virtual meetings such as Zoom as face to face meetings cannot be held currently and that committee chairs must follow all existing protocols for meetings even in the virtual format

Action: Motion carried unanimously

13. Motion: approve an in person gathering for the FVDG at a time in the future under the supervision of GLT Jama Wahl

Action: Motion carried unanimously

14. Motion: COG go into closed session

Action: Motion carried unanimously

15. Motion: approve what was discussed in closed session

Action: Motion carried unanimously

16. Motion: moved to adjourn

Action: Motion carried unanimously



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Persons interested in the position of Chairperson of the Council of Governors for the 2021-2022 Lions year are being sought.

To be eligible, a candidate must be a Past District Governor, having served as an MD-1 Governor with one of the previous five Council years (2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021) or be a sitting Governor on the 2021-2022 Council. The Council Chairperson for 2021-2022 also must be from a District other than the current Chairperson's District (District 1-BK). More information regarding eligibility is available at www.Lionsclubs.org.

The duties and responsibilities of the Council Chairperson are detailed in the Lions of Illinois Constitution and By-Laws and the Policy Manual, both of which are posted on the MD-1 website, www.illinoislionsMD1.org.

Candidates must send a letter of intent and a resume to the State Office to be received no later than March 31st, 2021 in order to be considered for the position. The mailing and email address for the State Office is listed below. Applicants will be advised by mail, e-mail or telephone of the time and location of their interview.

LIONS OF ILLINOIS, INC.
828 South 2nd Street, Suite 101
Springfield, IL 62704
sst@illinoislionsmd1.org



Lions of Illinois

The Sixth Power of Friendship

1601

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Applicants for State Committee Chairpersons for the 2021-2022 Lions year are being accepted.

To be eligible to serve as a Chairperson of a State Committee, a candidate shall have served at least one year as a district appointee to the State Committee he/she seeks. This requirement may be waived by the District Governors Elect if no application is received with the appropriate requirement of if they are not in favor of any applicant.

Positions are for a one-year term unless denoted otherwise. A brief description of the duties and responsibilities of each State Committee Chairperson may be found in the Lions of Illinois Policy Manual, which is posted on the MD-1 website, www.illinoislionsMD1.org, along with a list of the current State Committee Chairpersons. Candidates must send a letter of intent specifying the State Committee Chairperson position being sought and a resume to the State Office, which is to be received no later than **March 31, 2021** in order to be considered for the position. The mailing and e-mail address for the State Office is listed below. Applicants will be advised by mail, e-mail or telephone of the time and location of their interview.

Applications are being accepted for the following State Committee Chairperson positions:

Global Service Team
Global membership Team
Global Leadership Team
Campaign & Liaison
Constitution & By-Laws
2022 International Convention

Information Technology
Leo & Youth Activities/Quest
Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP)
2022 State Convention
State Magazine

Applications also are being accepted to fill positions (1 or 2 depending on expiring terms) on the **Finance Committee**, which is a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024.

Applications also are being accepted to fill the **Council Parliamentarian** position, which is for a one-year term.

Please submit letters of intent and resumes to:

LIONS OF ILLINOIS, INC.
828 South 2nd Street, Suite 101
Springfield, IL 62704
sst@illinoislionsmd1.org

Membership Moments

By MD-1 GMT Coordinator
Barb Stewart



It is hard to believe that we are already half-way through our Lions year. Lots of exciting things are happening in our Districts! District 1-A has added two new Lions Clubs. A third new Club has just been approved to charter! Please help me in welcoming the **Silvis Lions Club**, the newest Lions Club chartered in District 1-H. But wait – there is more! District 1-J has two more charter applications pending for new Clubs! There is at least one other District not mentioned yet that is also close to submitting a charter application for a new Club. This means that there are 3 newly chartered Lions Clubs with at least 3 more on the horizon in MD-1! This is extraordinary news considering the challenges we have faced due to pandemic restrictions. These District Governors, District GMTs, and the rest of the leadership teams are to be commended as they have persevered in their contributions to keep our organization going. THANK YOU!

Unfortunately, even with the addition of these newly chartered Lions Clubs, our overall membership numbers are struggling to be maintained. There are only two Districts currently showing a neutral/positive net growth (1-CN with a +7 and 1-H holding at 0). All other Districts are currently showing a net loss in their membership. Within MD-1, we currently have 12,853 Lions. This is a net loss of -266. To date, we have added 395 Lions and lost 661 Lions. It is a real possibility that we may lose a few Clubs and more Lions yet this year.

What does that mean for our future? We need YOUR help! EVERY Lion in MD-1 should be asking their friends, family, neighbors, business associates, etc. to join a Lions Club. If even 3% of our current membership sponsors a new Lion, we will have more than made up our current losses.

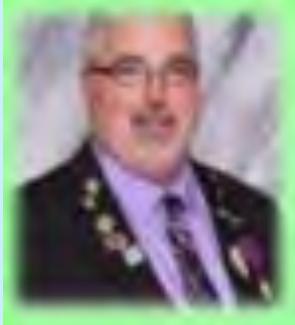
I notice recently in reviewing reports that there is one Lion who has repeatedly shown the true definition of Lionism and is showing no signs of slowing down as he has continued to accomplish a lot this year. **Lion Erv Safranek of the Paw Paw Lions Club** (1-D) has the longest service as a Lion in MD-1 (member since May 1946). This year alone, he has sponsored 2 new Lions. THANK YOU LION ERV! To the rest of the MD-1 Lions, we should use this example as a bar for us to reach by having each of us sponsor at least one

new Lion by June 30th. If you or your Club is struggling to find new members (or with anything else), please reach out to your District leadership team for assistance. These Lions are in place to

help you. Let us see what we can do with the second half of this year as it pertains to membership!

Have a safe and Happy New Year! Thank you for your service!

We are Halfway There...



PCC Darren Van Duyn – MD-1 NAMI Champion
jionsleader68@yahoo.com

Happy New Year Lions!!! Let us all pray and hope that 2021 finds us all getting back together to enjoy the fellowship and fun that we are all used to.

At this time of year, we are looking at our numbers from the first 6 months of our year and seeing where we need to go. From here on, as I mentioned in my last article we will no longer be known as North America Membership Initiative. The initiative is now known as the Global Membership Initiative, same great program, just a different name. With the many successes of the initiative (GMI), the program was rolled out globally instead of just in North America. This will hopefully turn the membership trends of

our entire organization towards the upward trend.

Now is the time to take a good long look at our District/GMI goals and see where we have excelled and where we need to focus the last 6 months on. I will tell you in your Champion's opinion, this initiative is working and will continue to work as long as we keep the focus and continue to move forward. As GMT Barb will update you all on, our numbers do not look all that desirable, however, we have already started more clubs in MD-1 than what we have in the past 5 years. I believe that we would not have put such focus on starting the clubs had it not been for the initiative. Let us keep going. The goals that each one of our District had set creates a good start to what I believe will be a good turnaround in the membership trends in MD-1.

Along with looking at our current goals, our FVDG's need to look at the goals and plans for their year as District Governors.

Hopefully with the thoughts of the initiative in mind, and the help of your Governor teams and GAT teams, you can all create a long-term plan in your Districts. Share these plans with all so that your success is measured District wide. When the initiative was rolled out it was said that this is not a one-year thing, but a long term, on going initiative that can and should become a way of life for the Lions of MD-1.

With the last 6 months of this Lions year ahead of us it is now time to dig in and make things happen. We know that COVID has limited some of us to accomplish certain goals. We as Lions always find a way, and that is what I am asking of you. Find a way to start at least 1 new club in your District, find a way to add new members in the clubs that are struggling; Find a way to improve the member experience in the clubs in your Districts; Find a way to improve the Leadership in your Districts.

Always keep in mind that there are numerous resources already created for you by our awesome teams at Lions Clubs International. Visit the North America Membership Initiative page on www.lionsclubs.org for your needs. You all also have Champions in your Districts that you can reach out to and I am always here for you. I had recently been invited to participate in a focus group of all MD

Champions. This was initiated by Lion Mark Piva from MD-4 in California. There was a lot of things shared from Champions from Nebraska, Wisconsin, California, and of course Illinois. We plan to try to do this monthly so stay tuned for some new and exciting things from these meetings.

In closing I just want to say THANK YOU for a great first 6 months, and I look forward to the great things that you all will accomplish in the next 6 months of the year. It will take all of us to turn the trends around and as Lions of MD-1 we can do it. Once again, Happy New Year to you all and if you need anything, make sure you reach out and let me know. I AM HERE FOR YOU!!!





Christmas LOVE & CHEER

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

BOB AND BRENDA
AND OUR FAMILY



The time is near to start a New Year. So, let's be ready!

May everyone stay active and healthy. Safe travels in 2021!

Brenda and I along with our family wish you and your family
a Healthy and Happy New Years.

ID Bob and Brenda Block, 2019-2022





Join Our Team

Most people are ready to welcome the year 2021. We celebrate renewal as we begin another year, and we are at the half-way point in our Lions year. Goals we made in July need to be re-evaluated. The Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service committee is two and one-half years into the campaign to raise \$300 million for Lions Clubs International Foundation. We are over half-way to that goal. A goal is important, but more service to hungry children, people with diabetes and cancer, and people who have faced natural disasters are the real reason for giving to our International Foundation. Lions have embraced Campaign Sightfirst and Sightfirst II in the past. The need still is there even after 95 years of serving as Knights of the Blind, a child goes blind in the world every minute. Is your club part of the team? Have you helped personally? Each person on the list below is asking you to join us in Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service.

You can do this by donating at lionsclubs.org/en/donate. You can also TEXT LCIF 243-725. Or contacting your district Chairperson:

1-A: Lion Joan McMillan, R: (708) 389-590, C: (708)539-3297 govjonimac@gmail.com

1-BK: Lion John Joseph Honiotes, PDG, R: (815) 725-6307, C: (815) 508-9746 johnjoseph1bk@gmail.com

1-CN: Lion Lydia Ellis, PCC, C: (618) 980-7482 serve2dgillinois@yahoo.com

1-CS: Lion Ruben Owen, PDG, C: (618) 317-5106 rso1119@hotmail.com

1-D: Lion Duane Shaw, PDG, C: 815-745-3339 dcshaw1945@gmail.com

1-F: (Co-Chair) Lion Tom Lippert, DG, C: (847) 812-3727 tlippert54@gmail.com

Lion Susan Hasting, C: (847) 651-1056 sucitysu@comcast.net

1-G: Lion Jerry Eiffert, C: (217) 854-7909 jeiff@frontiernet.net

1-H: Lion Al Henning, C: (309) 333-5274 allenhenning@ymail.com

1-J: Lion Ed Carter, PDG, C: 630-330-1341 edward0022@att.net

1-M: Lion Kevin Mendenhall, PDG, R: (618) 553-1776 kmendy1@yahoo.com

MD1 STATE WINNING PEACE POSTER 2021



1-M

Mattoon Lions Club

Parker Spear

Age 11

Grade 6

Mattoon Middle School

Peace is in Your Hands

This is the artwork for the winning state pin design for the 2022 convention. Please include in the next state magazine:

The winning pin design was submitted by PDG Lori Bennett.





The Bartlett Lions Club has an ongoing nonperishable food collection. The Club collected 63 pounds of food and donated it to Wayne Township Food Pantry. Our next collection will be donated to Hanover Township Food Pantry.

In photo: Lion Randy Zbasnik



The Genoa Lions have donated \$400 to the Genoa Area Community Food Hub a program of the DeKalb County Community Gardens. The "Big" check was

presented to Ms. Haleigh Hunger of the Hub on Tuesday (11/24) by lion President Hector Feliciano and Lion Virginia "Gini" Baker. Volunteers were preparing to distribute food and other necessary consumables to residents experiencing food insecurity, often due to the adverse impact of Covid-19, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. The remodeled Hub opened earlier this year and the Genoa Lions wanted to welcome this initiative to help serve the Genoa area residents. Please contact Haleigh H. at (815) 761-7313 if you want to donate time or money to this vital cause.



Waukegan Little Fort Lions share Candy Day effort Little Fort Lions, Waukegan had a highly successful Candy Day Friday & Saturday, October 9th & 10th. Thought you might like to see how we collected money and distributed the candy in a safe manor during Covid-19 times. Our volunteers all wore masks and gloves while keeping social distance. Thanks go to our Club President, Russ Nixon, for making these donation boxes and candy distribution trays.

New Vision Screener Opportunity for District 1-F



District 1-F Lions make Plus Optics Vision Screener available to all clubs throughout the district.

As a member of the optical profession for 50 years and a Lion for 35 years, PDG Lion Alan J. Barack reports that the device can screen someone in less than a minute and will tell the screener whether the person being screened needs vision help.

The device will print out a number that can be given to an eye doctor to help the doctor refine the person's prescription for a pair of eyeglasses. This device can be used on anyone from age 1 to 60.

Lion Alan would like to acknowledge the following donors for their contributions in helping to obtain the Plus Optics Vision Screener:

Lion Terry Scherman
The Fox Lake Lions Club
The Arlington Heights Lions Club
PDG Lion Kathleen E. Marusich

Lion Alan obtained the device and is graciously making it available to any club that wants to use it.

If you or your club would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. With enough donations, Lion Alan says a second unit can be purchased for \$5,200. That way Lion Terry Scherman and Lion Alan will each have a unit that they can bring to any club meeting or event.

This is a great piece of equipment to have and use to help in the screening of children. It is so easy to use. If you want any more information or a demonstration, please let Lion Alan or Lion Terry know.

You may contact Lion Terry at 847-912-3825 or tsherm14@aol.com. Or Lion Alan at 815-575-6160 or alanlionsclub@aol.com.



The Sycamore Park District along with the **Sycamore Lions** will be hosting Cookies with Santa at the Sycamore Community Center. The Sycamore Park District has asked for Community Support to decorate their Christmas Trees. On December 2, 2020 8 Lions decorated a tree at the Community Center Patio in preparation for the Sycamore Park District & Sycamore Lions Cookies with Santa Event was scheduled for Friday 12/11 and Saturday 12/12.

The Sycamore Lions Club is finding ways to safely stay active in our community. The Sycamore Lions Club teamed up with the Sycamore Park District during the Cookies with Santa event held on 12/11 and 12/12. The Lions participated in the Community Tree Decorating contest. In December of 2020, the Sycamore Lions donated to the following organizations: Lions Club held a food drive and donated non-perishable goods to the local food pantries

\$500 to Sycamore United Methodist Church Food Pantry
\$500 to Salem Lutheran Food Pantry
\$500 to Spartan Food Pantry
\$500 to Goodfellows
\$500 to Dekalb County Toys for Tots

DURAND LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS During Pandemic 2020

Durand Lions have been active serving their community during this pandemic.



In the Spring, PID Russ Sarver and Lion Sue replaced several Lions emblems on the street signs that have faded since the club donated the signs to the village in 1997.



Just recently, PID Russ, with the help of his granddaughter Valerie Volkert, repainted the wooden carving in front of the Otter Creek Historical House in Durand. The carving depicts eagles, a racoon, gray squirrel, and otter, all of which are seen frequently in and around the village. The Lions Club is one of the Historical Society's supporters.

Send a car photo -- LIF Virtual Car Show

You can participate in the LIF Virtual Car Show this winter by posting a photo of your car on the LIF Facebook page. Post your picture between Dec. 3 and Feb. 3. The winner will be announced on



Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. There will be first, second, and third place winners for each of the 10 districts. Those 30 winners will be sent to LIF for the three top choices.



Do not throw that old and broken string

of Christmas Tree Lights in the garbage, recycle them. The **Genoa Lions** are collecting your old, used, burned out, or extra Christmas Tree light strings again this season. Look for the red cans, adorned with Christmas lights and Lions Club logos, starting the week of Nov. 19th through the end of the year. The can at Drew Kuhn's Christmas Tree stand in front of the Masonic Temple in Genoa has been moved downtown to Santa's House but the receptacles at Tobinson's Ace Hardware, and Genoa City Hall on 2nd street are still there. The Genoa Lions thank these establishments for their continued support of this program. Genoa Lions Chad Pacey, Todd Merritt and Gene Bradford oversee this initiative and can be reached at GenoallLions@gmail.com.



In support to the Salvation Army, **Hardscrabble Lions of Streator** Life Members, PID Bud Wahl and Lion Mark

Ferguson rang bells. Other club members joined the efforts, providing ringing from 9:00am-8:00pm on November 28th. All ringing was done outside and wearing masks.



PEACE POSTER The winner of the 2020-2021 Peace Poster contest was Josie Kircher, Grantfork Elementary, Highlands, Illinois Local Quilt Shop Owners Present Lions Club with collection of used eyeglasses and hearing aids. Pam Farmer, Sew Sweet Quilt Shop and Sue Fox, Times Square Sewing present Fred Roberts of **Franklin Lions Club** and Tom Atkins and Susan Nolls of Jacksonville Lions Club with used glasses and hearing aids they collected during the annual Central Illinois Quilt Shop Hop along with thirteen other shops. The theme of the Shop Hop was Double Vision. Along with the donation of glasses and hearing aids to give each shop's local Lions Club the group also made a monetary donation also. This picture is just a small portion of glasses collected!



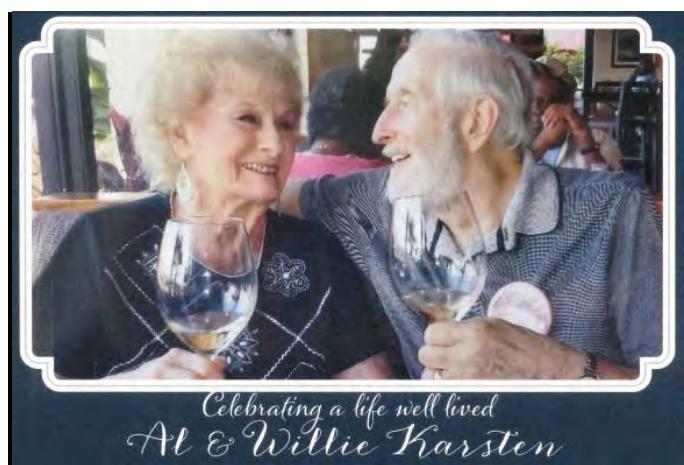
Each year the **Highland Rotary Club** has a December Citrus sale. The **Highland Lions** use this as an opportunity to partner with another community service club and to bring some healthy good cheer to residents of local care facilities. Pictured are Highland Lions Dennis Foehner and Gene Redman who accompanied Lion President and photographer Ed Campbell to deliver a case of oranges to a local facility.



LIF Full Board Online Meeting &



LIF Executive Board Online Meeting on November 7, 2020



Please let's celebrate the lives of long-time Northfield Lion Al Karsten District 1-F PDG 1986-87, and Willie Karsten,

Willie contracted COVID from a medical procedure and Al then also became ill.

They both lost their short battle in August 2020 - - - Al 8/23/2020 and Willie 8/10/2020.

Willie's daughter Barbara Blaski is planning maybe a memorial sometime this Spring no doubt in Lake/Cook County, please contact her at her address below, I will do so and inform the Lions.

Please check out the cool pics attached,

Barbara Blaski; 504 Hillcrest Lane
Lindenhurst, IL 60046



The Leaf River Lions held a "Drive Thru" for Veterans Day to raise funds for the Veterans Drop Off Center in Rockford. The day was great and the

turnout even better. Serving Brats and All Beef Hot Dogs had everyone commenting on how good they both were. On Thursday, December 10 the Lions presented a check to the Veteran's Drop Off Center for \$ 1,000.00.



Delivering the check representing the Lions were, (at left) newest member, Lion Elizabeth McKinstry, PCC Paul Lindstrom and Lion Terri Lindstrom.



The **Amboy Lions Club** is staying busy during the pandemic by giving back to the community. The Club recently donated \$300 each to local area food pantries:



The Baptist Church Food Pantry,
St. Patrick's Food Pantry, and the



Amboy Fire Department Food Baskets. These donations have been ongoing to these organizations for many years. This is just another way in which the Lions can serve and support community. In other news, Lions Roger Wittenauer and Jim Travi got into the Christmas spirit by

hanging the holiday wreaths at the two Amboy welcome signs. Preliminary plans are starting up to hold another community health fair event during the fall of 2021. The Health Fair planned for 2020 had to be canceled due to the Covid-19 Virus. Lions Club Scholarship applications for graduating AHS 20/21 seniors will be made available through Amboy High School Counselor, Rob Wissinger, in mid to late January. The Club would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy new year.



On November 23rd **Oregon Lions** President Grant Afflerbaugh presented a check for \$1,000 to Oregon VFW Assistant Quartermaster Stan Asp. This

Donation from the Oregon Lions Club will help defray the costs of the Christmas Baskets that will soon be distributed by Oregon VFW Post 8739.

The Oregon Lions are proud to have an ongoing partnership with Post 8739 and meet twice a month at that location in Oregon. Thanks to all the members of the community who support Lions charities and who make such donations possible.

Photo: Oregon VFW Assistant Quartermaster Stan Asp (left) and Oregon Lions President Grant Afflerbaugh who is presenting a check for \$1,000 from Oregon Lions to help funding for Christmas Baskets distributed annually by the Oregon VFW.



Veterans Update 2020

The Veterans are doing well "Thank You

to the Lions clubs that keep visiting" that means a lot to the Vets. Keep in mind your club can visit and have lunch or dinner "you can bring it and serve it if you like" the Veterans always appreciate the company! Presently the Vets are only having lunch and dinner Monday-Thursday due to the Covid 19 crisis!

Covid 19 has us all doing things differently this year so let us try a couple of new methods and be inventive in your thinking, I know you are good at that!

Another suggestion was large jars or containers taking donations to purchase bus passes for the Vets to use to get to Doctor and other appointments. These are given out by Pat Ambrose on a as needed basis. She keeps a tight rein on the passes! Passes can be purchased from the RMTD Bus Depot office for \$1.50 each!

Let us keep in mind that we have a lot of vets that spend the brutal winter months outside while we are snug in our homes! So!! anything your club can do to support them with visits or food or collections I know it will be greatly appreciated!

With the many things we as clubs are planning on doing this year please let us keep the Veterans in our minds and hearts, they were there for us and it is

now our turn! If your club would like Mary and I to visit and talk about our passions Veterans and or Leader dog let us know we would love to visit your club.

Thank you,

Lions Dennis and Mary Nelson 815-847-9339. Pat Ambrose cell phone 815-713-8843

directorveteransdropincenter@gmail.com



The **Norris City Lions Club** sponsored a Christmas Home Lighting contest. Photos of the winners are shown. Each winner received a monetary gift. (One picture is on the



cover of this magazine)

The Chester Lions Club purchased a pair of eyeglasses for a child.



The **Clarendon Hills Club** inspired five other Lions Clubs to support People's Resource Center's mission to feed neighbors. Now, frozen, and fresh grocery items can be delivered to PRC without worrying about them melting or going bad. Thank you to the **Wheaton Illinois Lions Club, Bloomingdale Lions Club, Naperville Noon Lions Club, Darien Lions Club of Darien, IL,**

and Westmont IL Lions Club for their help.



(l to r) **Bartlett Lions** Joanne Watson, Andy Watson, and Randy Zbasnik gave their time and effort at the Wayne Township Food Pantry. They helped distribute 100 Thanksgiving dinners to Wayne Township families.

Westmont Lions Club observed "World Diabetes Day". They wore blue and distributed flyers on "Awareness and Prevention of Diabetes" to more than 50



people that includes their neighbors and community. The blue circle on each Lion is the sign of World Diabetes Day.

Remember all the restaurants and small businesses that you've asked for years and years to donate to your clubs, events, and organizations? They're calling in a favor. Answer the call.

Aurora Evening Lions Club posted this on its Facebook page. Think about it — isn't it true?



Elgin Lions Club newest member, Lion Miguel Gonzalez (c), sponsored by Club President Lion Gary Hearn (l).



The **Geneva Leos** had, as one of their projects this year, gathered food items to be included in the Blue Star Mothers program of sending personal care item packages to our deployed service men and women throughout the World.

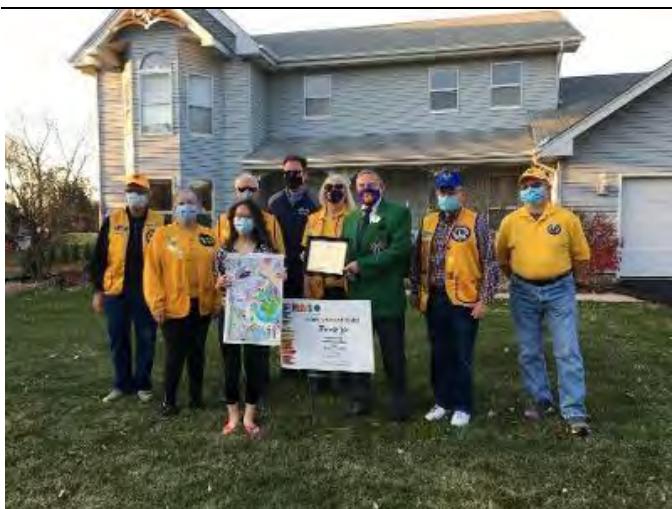


Geneva Lions President, Jim Johnson, is shown presenting Nancy Brecht, Blue Star Mothers, a check for \$250. The Lions were pleased to present this check in support of their Leos Club at Geneva High School. The Leos had, as one of their projects this year, gathered food items to be included in the Blue Star Mothers Program of sending personal care item packages to our deployed service men and women throughout the World. Also

in the picture are Bill Minderman (l), Treasurer of the Geneva Lions Club, and Gary Hedge (r), Treasurer of the Geneva Lions Club "We Serve" Foundation.



Aurora Noon Lions collected donations of winter clothing for Wayside Cross Ministries to restock the racks. Due to the pandemic, Wayside was unable to accept donations of used clothing this spring when people normally clean out their closets.



District Governor Lion John Barsanti (c) met with the **Bartlett Lions Club** and the School Principal on November 5, 2020, to award the winning 2019-2020 Peace Poster Award to Beverly Yu (front). Her beautiful artwork will be framed and hung in the school so that others can be inspired by her work



In November, the Roselle Lions teamed up with Maddie's Mittens for a winter clothes drive. Lions collected 30 bags of hats, gloves, coats, and other winter items.

Naperville Noon Lions concluded its 2020 Annual Raffle with a drawing on December 1. On hand to draw tickets was State Representative Grant Wehrli (l) and



Raffle Committee Chair Lion Ken Stragulla (r).



Naperville Noon Lions Club Pres. Lion Donna Kearney and her husband Brian ran their "Virtual Turkey Trot" on Thanksgiving morning. This year, participants ran their favorite course from November 14—29 and reported their results and pictures to the Lions Club.

Algonquin Lions inducted a new member at the club's Tree Lot! A first?? New Lion Robbie Hansen (l) and sponsoring Lion Bill Moore (r).



An email was sent to **Bartlett Lion** Joanne Watson, Secretary & Membership Chair, by fellow Lion Brian Coak, stating a father and son were interested in the Bartlett Lions Club. The son lives in Bartlett and was having his phone repaired at Tekkies, which is owned by Lion Brian Coak. Lion Joanne Watson sent each of them an email and told them that the Bartlett Lions Club was having a Zoom General Meeting in two days and they were invited to join. Lion Anil Patel, the father, said he would be able to join the meeting. This is when Lion Joanne Watson learned that Lion Anil Patel was a member of the Mokomoto Lions Club in Botswana, Africa. It was 2 AM Central

Africa Time Zone when Lion Anil Patel joined the Bartlett Lions Club Zoom meeting. Lion Anil Patel gave a short presentation about his club and his district. Later that month, Lion Anil Patel made the offer for Lion Joanne Watson, Secretary, and President Lion Andy Watson to attend the Mokomoto Lions Club Zoom meeting. Lion Andy Watson gave a short report on what the Bartlett Lions Club was doing and some comments about District 1J.

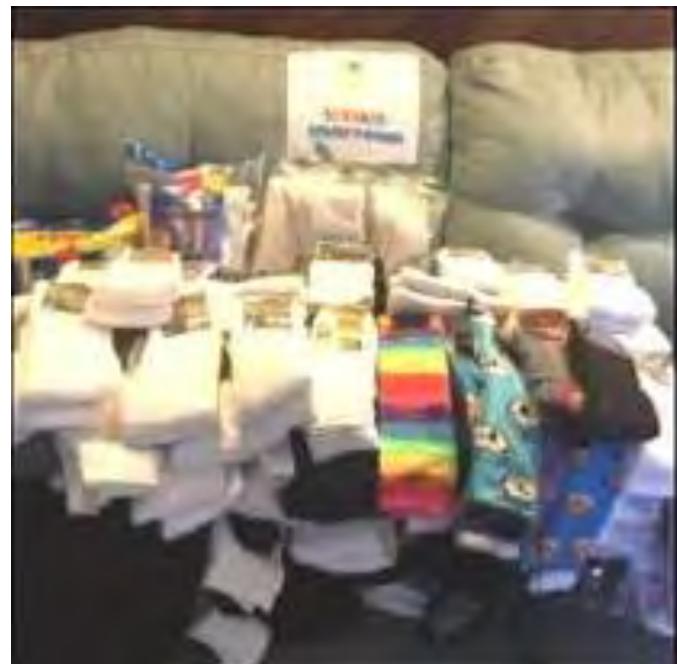


Aurora Noon Lion Susan Koepke (one of 16) volunteered for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign in Aurora "to rescue Christmas for local kids."

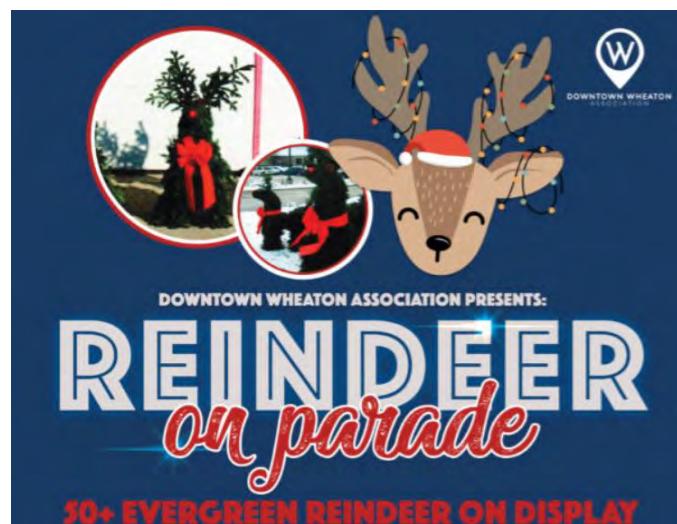


Villa Park Lion Pat Prusa crocheted

eleven twin-sized afghans and donated them to the Tinley Park Lions Club's 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace' service project. Items went to boys and girls in need. Here, Tinley Park Lions Club President Steve Vick (in their club's black vest) loads his vehicle with the donated items.



Results of **Roselle Lions Club's** "Socktober Campaign." There's gonna be lots of warm feet, thanks to the Lions!!"



The **Wheaton Lions** took part in a program sponsored by the Downtown



Wheaton Association by purchasing and decorating an evergreen reindeer. Naturally, ours had to be wearing a vest, glasses, and a subtle tribute to Candy Day.



The **Crete Lions Club** built 30 student desks for virtual learning at home for residents in our community.

10 desks were donated to the two elementary schools in Crete and were given to students in need. The other 20





were distributed to area families. We accepted donations to offset the cost of materials and supplies, we were also given donations of lumber, all of which allowed us to break even on this project. Lion Sandi Smigel and her husband Bill purchased and donated the Lions Club





logo branding iron that was used on the desks!

Our members volunteered their time to make the desks, a total of 140 hours was put in by 12 different people to make this happen. We held 2 assembly/build parties and fun was had by all. Thank you to everyone involved in this rewarding

project (and yes, we will be building more).

Crete Lions President, Mike Hakenjos.



Congratulations to **Paris Lions** Brad Cash, Amy Hill and Ron Stickler on achieving their Guiding Lion Certificate. These members not only serve their communities but help other clubs as well.



Congratulations to **Paris Lions Club** President Ron Stickler for receiving the Lions of Illinois Foundation Fellow Award for dedicated service to others. Presented by District Governor Bill Wallpe.

Congratulations to Lion Norm Wilson of the **Paris Lions Club** on receiving the



Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for continued dedication to service to those in need. Presented by District Governor Bill Wallpe and CST Brad Cash.

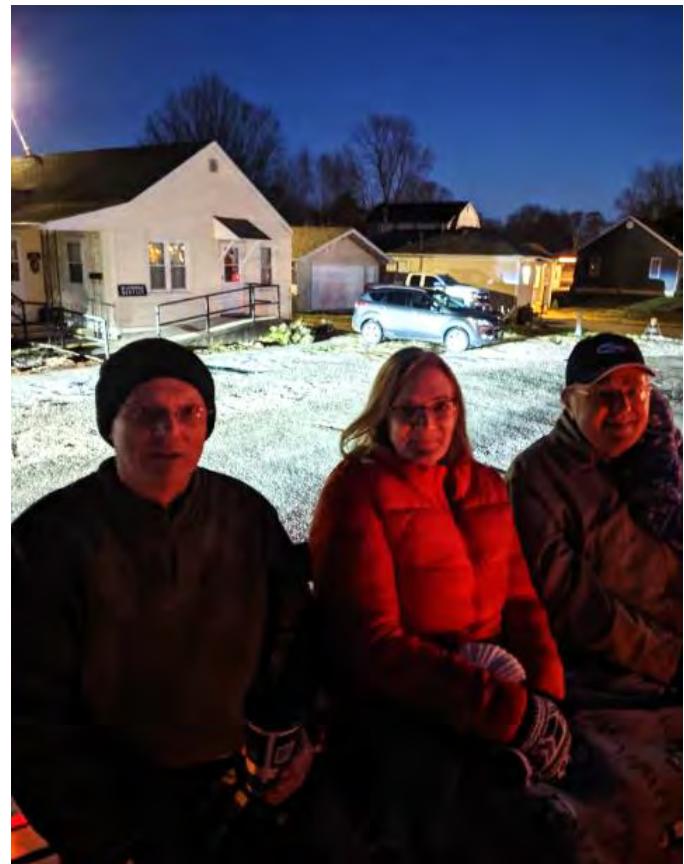


Arthur Atwood Lions Club President Chris Mast presents a donation from the Club to Arthur Volunteer FireFighter Willard Herschberger for the Fire Department's annual Food and Toy Drive.



Members of the **Arthur Atwood Lions Club** stuff Christmas cards for local first responders and essential workers. Shown (starting on the near left) are Lions Jim Fleming, Roger Harris, Tim Mast, Doug Kitchen, Stan Harris, Tyler Houser, Mark Krutsinger (only his hand is visible), and Gary Stutzman.

Lions Stan Harris, Jann Harris, and Roger Harris along with approximately 15 additional Club and family members rode a wagon in the annual lighted Christmas parade. Afterwards, Lions Jim Fleming and Carol Gudausky hosted them and more Club and family members for chili, sandwiches, dessert, and fellowship.



The **Highland Lions** selected a Peace Poster winner from each of its schools.



A total of forty-seven poster candidates were judged. Each of the finalists earned a gift certificate. The posters of Ella

Marron, Morgan Dressler, and Josie Kircher competed at District 1G. The poster of Josie Kircher from Grantfork Elementary earned District 1G honors. Lion Dan Grandame is the Peace Poster chair from The Highland Lions Club.

This year has been especially difficult for Lions Clubs in providing services for their communities as well as raising funds to support those services. Since 1947 the **Pekin Lions Club** has been providing food to the needy of the community and surrounding area. Last year we provided 250 families with two boxes of food, one non-perishable and one with perishable items. Boxes collected by the Pekin Lions Club throughout the year were provided for packaging all the food both at ValuCheck and on site. The non-perishable food was packaged by our grocery partner ValuCheck. The perishable food items were packaged at the distribution site on the day of distribution. There was a lot of coordination that took place to bring this all together. We needed ValuCheck to order all the food, boxes to package the food both at ValuCheck and at the distribution site, a trailer to bring the items to the distribution site, help the day of distribution to put the boxes together and package the perishable items as well as placing the items in the recipient's vehicle.

This year the Pekin Lions Club found a way to continue their annual Christmas



(Notice the trailer on the upper left, a vehicle coming through to pick up their basket center left, a group of Lions and friends packaging the perishable items in the middle, and trays of bread on the right.)



(You will notice, this year, there is no truck, no boxes, no bread, no packaging, limited Lions distributing the food vouchers, and still 235 families served.)

Basket project given the roadblocks we encountered. Many issues were faced this year: ValuCheck could not guarantee they could obtain the large quantity of food needed for the baskets, G&D

Trucking could not provide us a truck this year, the requirements to stay safe and healthy by following social distancing guidelines, as well as a few other minor roadblocks. In working with ValuCheck

we decided to provide a food voucher rather than actual boxes of food. This would eliminate the need for the truck and the need for a large contingent of helpers to package the perishable items the day of the distribution. Following this process, we were able to provide 235 families with a \$50 food voucher to be spent on the type of food they need rather than a random list created by us.

The two photos show the distribution method in years past as well as the distribution this year.

The Sparta #140 District Leo's have had a remarkably busy December 2020 and what a great way to finish a unique year!

This month the Leo's are collecting food for the local IMPACK center. This is a local center of volunteers who feed up to 120 kids a day all run on grant money and donations. The Leo's have set up donation boxes around our town and they pick up the food donations there and take to IMPACK. The children fed here every day would otherwise go without.

The Leo Lair was recently moved from the Sparta Lincoln School to a temporary location at the Sparta Lions Club Hall. Due to COVID, the Lions have not been able to rent our hall out so they agreed to let the Leo's have their Liar there until

a permanent location can be found or a building purchased.

The Leo's have been collecting donations for the Liar and held 2 open houses the month of December, serving around 280 families in Sparta, New coats, warm clothing, hats, scarfs, gloves, clothes, and household items were donated and given out at the open houses. The Leo's worked hard to sort and display all the donations. (I have pictures if you want copies)

The Leo's received some very generous donations this month and are planning on using the money for a permanent location or part of it to do a fund raiser to go towards a permanent location. The Leo's would like to have planned times each month that the Liar can be open to better serve the communities in our area.



Morris Lions Club recently met with Eric Fisher at We Care to donate \$1000 in grocery cards to help provide local families with food for this Christmas. Fisher noted that the need for assistance

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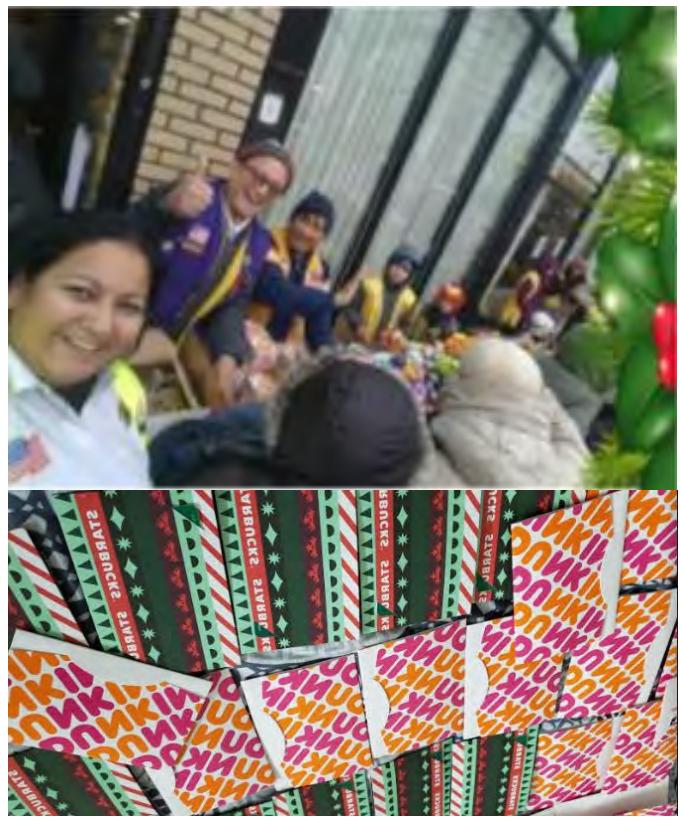
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is greater this year than ever, so Lions increased the amount normally donated. Fisher also pointed out that more families are requesting assistance with rent, and without the Bell Ringing program, We Care is especially grateful for monetary donations to help with this program. Anyone wishing to donate is encouraged to contact We Care. Morris Lions Al and Judy Miller and George Roebuck present \$1000 in grocery cards to Eric Fisher of We Care to help with food assistance this Christmas.



Help with Hunger food and gas cards to needed familys and most kids and Elderly doing 2020 Christmas. Feel so good when we see smile on them and thanking



us. Some was crying, we felt sad. Never seen our ILLINOIS like this before in last 45years. – Hina Trivedi, Chicago Indi-US Lions Club.



The **Orland Park Lions Club** is honored



to team up with Orland Township to spread Christmas cheer.





Orland Park Lions selling Christmas Trees as their Annual Fundraiser.

Oak Lawn Lions:



We have had quite the busy day at our



Food Pantry! We purchased 50 Hams at Jewel-Osco to go out to our families tomorrow morning. Twisted Fig Soaps generously donated over 240 beautiful, handcrafted luxury soaps. 7-Eleven ran a promotion where their customers could get a free frozen pizza with purchase, or donate it, and we got those pizzas! Oak Lawn Lions Club gave us two turkeys and 3 very generous grocery gift cards, to

help with our distribution tomorrow! One of the food teams from St Barnabas gave our pantry some much needed, beautiful, fresh produce! We also had contributions continue to come in from those participating in our Reverse Advent Calendar! Thank you to all who donate, in all kinds of ways, to help us feed our community!!



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