

Crystal Lake Lions Club

JULY 2025

Lions PRIDE



**OUR
95th YEAR !!
Since 1931**

MEETING DATES

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHARGES INTO 2025-26 TERM

Crystal Lake Lions Club newly installed board members pose for photo at the June 9 Installation and Awards Dinner at Cucina Bella. Lion President Kevin Byrnes has an able bodied crew ready to work.

Planning sessions are scheduled for Monday, July 21 and Monday, August 11 at the Downtown Rookies. Meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. (Lionism) , 6:30 (Down to business).

Summer Board Meetings

**Monday, July 21
Monday, August 11
6:00 p.m. Lionism
6:30 Meeting
Crystal Lake Rookies**

No regular meetings are held in the summer however the Board will meet two times to plan the 2025-26 Lions year. All members are invited to attend Summer Board meetings but no meals will be served.

Lion President



Lions,

Happy 4th of July to everyone, and thank you to those who volunteered to give their time to help with the setup of the Independence Day parade at City Hall! Another big thank you to everyone who volunteered to proudly carry our flag down the parade route and endured the refreshing downpour! I heard a lot of cheers from the community for our Lions Club, which was a testament to the service we provide. Thank you to Lion Sharon for organizing a great induction dinner and to Lion Tony for graciously hosting us! During the following year, we will be celebrating our 95th anniversary of the Club. With your continued selfless service, it's my intention for us to make it a milestone year for our fundraising activities and giving back to our community. Below is the speech that I gave, which highlights my goals for the year:

It is with profound gratitude and a deep sense of honor that I stand before you today, newly sworn in as your president. To be elected to this role by all of you—dedicated members who embody the spirit of service—is a privilege I hold dear. I am humbled by your trust and inspired by the legacy of our club as we approach a remarkable milestone: our 95th year in existence!

As I step into this role, I pledge to work hard and diligently for the Club. Every decision I make will be guided by the best interests of our club and our beloved community. Our mission, as Lions Clubs International states, is “to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.” This, paired with our motto “We Serve,” will guide us. I'll uphold the Lions Code of Ethics—resolving doubt in favor of fairness, fostering true friendship, and giving freely to aid those in need.

This 95th year is a special one, a time to celebrate our history and strive harder than ever. I have three key goals to grow our club. First, recruiting membership. We're a family of 59 Lions, but in this milestone year, let's make it a record-breaking effort, inviting new members who share our passion for service!

Second, we'll modernize and grow our base of donors, aiming for a record year in fundraising to honor our 95th anniversary. Growing our fundraising efforts will help us supply vision exams, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and support local non-profit partners like the Crystal Lake Food Pantry, Big Brother & Sisters, and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Let's expand our reach to fuel these causes like never before.

Third, we'll continue our service to the community and strengthen our bond in Lionism. From marching our giant flag in parades to saving the Shop with a Cop program, we transform lives. In our 95th year, let's deepen this impact, uniting in friendship and mutual understanding which are core Lions values.

Fellow Lions, I'm here to serve alongside you, building up our legacy and creating a spirit of understanding for humanitarian needs. Let's make this 95th year extraordinary—a record year of growth and giving. We Serve!

-Lion Kevin



LIONS CODE OF ETHICS

TO SHOW my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to that end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

TO SEEK success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

TO REMEMBER that in building up my business, it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

WHENEVER a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action toward my fellow men, to resolve such doubt against myself.

TO HOLD friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

ALWAYS bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor, and means.

TO AID my fellow men by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

TO BE CAREFUL with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

LION BOB YOUNG NEW MEMBER



The Crystal Lake Lions Club welcome Bob Young as our newest member. He was sworn in at the June 9 Installation and Awards Dinner. Lion Bob had attended previous meetings and is looking forward to participating in the club's activities. He has a haircutting business at the Square in Woodstock across from the movie theatre.

GOLDEN LION AWARD To Crystal Lake Lions Club



The Club received the Lion Lynn Raske GOLDEN LION Award. The was presented by our Zone Chairman Lion Pam Palmer at the June 9 Installation and Awards Dinner. This was in recognition for superior efforts from our club and District 1-J. Lion President Rob Parrish accepted the award.

2025– 2026 Club Officers

President	Kevin Byrnes
1st V. P.	Tony Colatorti
2nd V.P.	Chris Morgan
3rd Vice Pres.	Darren Boyk
Secretary	Dan Johnson
Treasurer	Rich Yelle
Tail Twister	Jim Zambon
Asst. T T	Griff MacDonald
Lion Tamer	Matt Eby
Asst T. John Matlachowski	
Director	Rob Parrish
Director	Brennan Markee
Director	Doug Lomen
Director	Rob Wood
Director	Randy Funk



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PAST PRESIDENT'S PRESENTATION TO LION ROB PARRISH



Lion Rob Parrish has served as our club president for the past two years. He was recognized with a parting plaque presented by incoming president Lion Kevin Byrnes.

Pride (prid), *n.*, *v.*,

- 1 a high opinion of one's own worth or possessions.
- 7 **group of Lions**
- 8 any large or impressive group—v.t. pride
- 8 Oneself, be proud of. [Old English pryde, proud]

ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

JULY 6, 2025

Our Club had a big role in setting up, check-in, lining up units in order, orderly disbursement, and then marching our big flag in the large community parade. Great execution!



Lion Jim Zambon checks in parade participants at the Boss Lot entry. In the golf cart is Lion John Dewey who was the glue to the entire parade set up along with Lion Rob Parrish. Worked with the Chamber of Commerce folks.







July 6, 2025. About a mile into the 1.8 mile parade route, it started to rain. And we say **RAIN!** Water ponded up on the top side of the flag and the parade marchers were beyond soaked. All marchers stayed in good spirits though. Our parade entry continues to be one of the most popular in the parade.

The rain soaked flag was taken to the Nunda Township facility to be hung and dried. Thanks Lion Parrish. Thanks Lion Randy Funk for assembling the flag marchers.

Thanks to all parade marchers who endured the elements.

Let's do it again.

**Lions Clubs International. 1.38 million Lions worldwide.
49,599 total clubs.**



Another Lion Rob Cruise Birthday celebration.

CAR SHOW NEXT MONTH!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Lion of the Year Lion Mike Gasparaitis



Crystal Lake Lions Club **Lion of the Year** was presented to Lion Mike Gasparaitis at the June 9 Awards Dinner. Lion Gas was quite surprised but well appreciated by the large crowd on hand.

Lion Gas was chairman of the new Downtown Car Show. His enthusiasm with the Golf Outing committee was contagious. Always ready to lend a helping hand made him one of the club's most valuable members.

Congratulations Lion Mike Gasparaitis !!

