

Crystal Lake Lions Club

DECEMBER
2025

Lions PRIDE



LIONS SHINE AT FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



The Crystal Lake Lions Club entry in the Festival of Lights Parade was just terrific. The Black Friday event drew big crowds in Downtown Crystal Lake. A great representation of Lions and families made the parade route fun to be a part of.

Float architect was Matt Eby. He did not miss any details with the lights and colors. Earlier in the day, there was a Toys for Tots collection at Ormsby Motors. The Smash'D rolling kitchen was also there to provide tasty burgers for donators.

The Crystal Lake Lions Club delivered again!

Special announcement on page 10 !

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

MEETING DATES

**Monday, DEC. 8
HOLIDAY PARTY
6:00 p.m.
Cucina Bella
Algonquin**

**No Program Meeting
This month.**

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



Fellow Lions,

As we enter the heart of the holiday season, I want to take a moment to celebrate the tremendous work our club has accomplished over the past two weeks. First, congratulations to Lion Johnson and everyone who helped make our Fall Raffle a resounding success. We grossed over \$10k, an incredible achievement that reflects the dedication, energy, and generosity of our members and community.

On the day after Thanksgiving, we hosted our annual Toys for Tots Drive-Thru. While attendance was a bit lower than last year, our impact certainly wasn't, as we collected one and a half refrigerator boxes filled to the top with toys. These gifts will brighten the holidays for so many children, and that is something every Lion should be proud of.

Immediately following the toy drive, Lion Eby worked his magic once again, building an absolutely outstanding parade float! Thanks to his vision and the help of many Lions who pitched in, our float won the **Best of Theme!** A huge congratulations to Matt and to everyone who contributed time, creativity, and elbow grease.

Looking ahead, I'm excited for our upcoming Christmas Party. Please remember to RSVP to Lion Sharon so we can prepare for a wonderful evening of fellowship and celebration. And of course, the question on everyone's mind remains: *Who will take home the title for the ugliest sweater this year?* I have no doubt the competition will be fierce!

Thank you all for your continued service and Lions spirit. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in Crystal Lake.

Yours in Lionism,

Kevin Byrnes

President, Crystal Lake Lions Club



Lion Jason Lee Newest Member



Lion Jason Lee was welcomed into the club at our November 10 meeting at Lou Malnati's. We last seen Jason at a recent presentation to the club from "Gigi's Playhouse". Lion Jason liked what he saw in our club and is ready to become a quality member.

WELCOME LION JASON LEE

GOLF OUTING JUNE 1

Golf Outing chairman Lion Tony Lamping announces that 2026 Golf Outing will be held on June 1, 2026. The new venue will be Red Tail Golf Club. You can be part of this entertaining committee by contacting Lion Tony at 815-341-2675. We will be looking for 128 participants. That's 32 foresomes.

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	John Dewey
Tail Twister	Jim Zambon
Asst. T T	Griff MacDonald
Lion Tamer	Matt Eby
Asst T. J T	Matlachowski
Director	Rob Parrish
Director	Brennan Markee
Director	Doug Lomen
Director	Rob Wood
Director	Bob Moravec



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ELF ON THE SHELF



Yet another birthday for Lion Rob Cruise?!?
Lion Rob shown here posing in front of the
Lions Club float. In the parade he was driv-
ing Santa Claus in the fire truck.

A supreme honor.

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]

LEADER DOG VISITS NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

Stella, a good looking black lab Leader Dog trainee visited the Crystal Lake Lions Club November 10 meeting at Lou Malnati's. Stella's handler is Lion Laura Mock from the Island Lake Lions Club. A lot of work and patience goes into this program.

Stella was such a good pup that she avoided having to stand for the Taitwister at the end of the meeting!



FALL RAFFLE

NUMBER 48 STILL HANGING

Another impressive crowd gathered at the DOLE on Friday, November 21 for the annual Crystal Lake Lions Club Fall Raffle. There was \$10,000 in prizes awarded. Participants were treated to a tremendous appetizer buffet provided by Cucina Bella. There was also a live band that added a new twist that was well received. Lion Chairman Dan Johnson worked really hard on this one. 200 tickets were sold by the club at \$100.00 each. Hats off to all who sold tickets. Magic was again performed by emcee, "Mr. Microphone" Lion Jim Zambon. He only has two rules, and everyone was cooperative. Lion JT Matlachowski worked the display board and Lion Bob Moravec kept track of numbers pulled. The last number pulled from the drum was #48. This coveted capsule eluded 99 pulls and was the grand prize winner.





CLUB DONATION TO OPTIONS & ADVOCACY

Last month the club presented a check to Options & Advocacy for \$1,000.

Lion JT Matlachowski is shown with the check to Options Executive Director Winter Noe. The Crystal Lake Lions have been a supporter of this outstanding community organization in McHenry County. They are based in Crystal Lake.

www.optionsandadvocacy.org



\$5,000 To CL FOOD PANTRY!

Club's \$5,000 donation to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry will provide \$20,000 in food buying power. Just in time for the holidays.. WE really SERVE





FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE
THE "COOL" CREW
November 28, 2025

FLOAT TROPHY WINNER !!
BEST OF THEME:
CRYSTAL LAKE LIONS CLUB



**Crystal Lake Lions Members and Family
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year !!**

Crystal Lake Lions Club
HOLIDAY PARTY— DECEMBER. 8
CUCINA BELLA
6:00 p.m.

CRYSTAL LAKE LIONS CLUB

PRESENTS



26TH ANNUAL

WINTER STEAK FRY

SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST, 2026

CRYSTAL LAKE HOLIDAY INN

THREE OAKS ROAD AND ROUTE 31

**WE SUPPLY THE 16OZ STEAK
YOU GRILL IT!**

**DINNER INCLUDES: SALAD, BAKED POTATO, BREAD & BUTTER
(LET US KNOW IF YOU PREFER SALMON OR CHICKEN - WE WILL PROVIDE)**

**ONE LUCKY TICKET PURCHASER
WILL WIN A \$750 CASH PRIZE!**

DINNER: 6-9PM

DISCO CIRCUS: 9-11:30

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT GO TO THE CRYSTAL LAKE LIONS CLUB AND HELPS FUND OUR EYE GLASS PROGRAM. OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS, 375 CHILDREN AND ADULTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED EYE EXAMS AND GLASSES. APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 HAS BEEN SPENT ON THIS PROGRAM IN THE PAST 5 YEARS.