

Crystal Lake Lions Club

FEBRUARY  
2026

# Lions PRIDE



## Express Entry, Steaks Sizzle At 26th Steak Fry

The Club has entered a new era in project fundraising as the 26th Annual Winter Steak Fry was a **huge** success. Steak Fry attendees were able to register online and purchase their tickets, Games of Chance, Heads and Tails game and even bid on the dozens of Silent Auction items with their phones. It all appeared to go seamlessly. With nearly a dozen check in stations there were no long lines at the CL Lions Club activity tent upon entering.

Great weather was also a blessing. The grill crew skillfully managed the hundreds of chefs under the club's magnificent flag hoisted up on the Whitey's crane. A neon cement mixer added great ambiance with music pounding in the background. Certainly The best place to be on a late January Saturday Night in Crystal Lake.

Inside the salad tables were beautiful and plentiful. One at each end of the room. Additional bars were added this year. There appeared to be no frustrating lines.

The games went great. Stacey Cruise is going to have a hard time not emceeing next year. She was persuasive in selling the last few Mystery Boxes. The final two gentlemen in the Heads and Tails game did not agree to split. One went home with \$1,000.

Lion Matt Eby's Ring toss game was popular. Whiskey and Bourbon were the high end targets.

The Silent Auction tables were tremendously done. Something for everyone. Every item/basket was sold.

The club once again represented well. We get tremendous support from our community. It will be felt when the Donations Committee meets in the future and will be able to give it back.

**INCREDIBLE RESULTS ON PAGE 2 !!**

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

## MEETING DATES

**Monday  
February 9, 2026  
Board Meeting  
Lou Malnati's  
6:30 p.m.**

**Monday, Feb. 23  
Program Meeting  
6:30 pm  
The Breakers**

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



Our recent Steak Fry was a tremendous success and a proud moment for us. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our guests, sponsors, and supporters, we raised over **\$100,000!** This achievement is a true reflection of the strength of our community and the collective commitment to helping our neighbors. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to every member of the Steak Fry Committee, who worked tirelessly over the past several months to plan, organize, and execute this event with excellence. Their dedication, teamwork, and countless volunteer hours made this outstanding outcome possible. I look forward to next year's 80s-themed steak fry!

As we look ahead, I'm excited for what's next for our club, including our spring meat raffle and our annual golf outing. These events not only help us continue our mission of service but also bring our members and community together in Lionism and fun.

Happy birthday Rob Cruise!

-Lion Kevin





Crystal Lake Lions Club President Kevin Byrnes addresses Winter Steak Fry guests. What threads!



Lion Tony Lamping giving free grilling tips



## 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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### **Crystal Lake Lions Club**

Post Office Box 48  
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0048  
[Crystallakelions.org](http://Crystallakelions.org)

Editor Lion Robert Moravec  
[moravecs3@comcast.net](mailto:moravecs3@comcast.net)

## Club Hears “Chatter Girls” Presentation



Alicia Marcos Birong was on hand at our January 26 program meeting to give a presentation on ChatterGirls in which she is the Founder and Executive Director. ChatterGirls is dedicated to fostering the emotional well-being of girls 8-14 by nurturing and empowering their confidence and self awareness. She created ChatterGirls to support young girls facing social pressures. The club presented Alicia with a \$500.00 donation for her continued success.

**[www.ChatterGirls.org](http://www.ChatterGirls.org)**

### **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]

## Club's Eyeglasses Donations Roar Past 50,000 Pair



Lion Bob Moravec will tell you that he has an unusual hobby. He collects used eyeglasses. He has been the Used Eyeglasses chairman since December of 2015. He has recently passed a milestone, **50,000 pair.**

Lion Bob has collection boxes set up all around town. Most are set up in optometrist offices, but other popular locations are at the library, city hall, Algonquin Township recycling center, and Joe's Barber shop. Club members also bring eyeglasses to the meetings. The Crystal Lake Lions work with the Lions of Illinois Foundation to recycle the glasses. The collected glasses are cleaned, sorted and distributed to people worldwide who cannot afford eyewear.

# CREATIVE ARTS DONATION



Crystal Lake Lions Club donated \$1,000 to Creative Arts in Crystal Lake in January. The funding will go for scholarships for students.. Shown above from left to right: Lion Derek Benton, Lion Bob Moravec, Coordinator Scott Little and Creative Arts Director Sam Sieber. Lion Rob Cruise was also on hand taking the photo and delivering the check.



## VETERANS Path to Hope™

*Formerly TLS Veterans*

805 S. McHenry Avenue Suite D

Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

Phone: 815.321.HOPE (4673)

Fax: 815.322.2742

[www.veteranspathtohope.org](http://www.veteranspathtohope.org)

### Board of Directors

Cliff Jackson, *President*

Bob Boncosky, *Vice President*

Mary Miller, *Treasurer*

Michele Gill, *Secretary*

Lori Boyle

Ed Dellheim

Jennifer Miller

Dan McGrath

Brett Kinney

Chris Jackson

Christopher Stride

M.J. Hodgins

Stan McCracken

Laura Franz

*Executive Director*



December 1, 2025

Crystal Lake Lions Club

Randy Funk

PO Box 48

Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0048

Dear Randy,

On behalf of the veterans and staff at Veterans Path to Hope, I am sending our heartfelt thanks for your recent donation of **\$1,500**.

Generous donations like yours make an impact in veterans' lives every day, and allow us to meet their essential needs, including the following examples:

- put down a security deposit on a safe and warm apartment
- make necessary repairs or pay for essentials such as utilities to stay in their current home
- buy work boots required for their new job
- ensure our weekly veterans dinners continue to provide consistent connection and gathering for local veterans.

We could not help as many veterans as we do without your help.

Your compassion and generosity help us honor the bravery of our veterans not just with words, but with action by providing food, housing, employment, furniture, counseling, support groups, transitional living, outdoors programs, and caregiver respite to veteran and military households in need.

If you know a veteran family that may benefit from our services, please ask them to call or stop in at our drop-in resource center.

Thank you again for your support of local veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

*Laura Franz*

Laura Franz

Executive Director

*Randy and  
CL Lions -  
Thank you  
for being so  
generous!  
Laura*

YOUR DONATION IS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION; IT MAY BE USED AS A TAX DEDUCTION. THIS LETTER CONFIRMS RECEIPT OF YOUR DONATIONS AND THAT VETERANS PATH TO HOPE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY GOODS OR SERVICES IN CONSIDERATION, IN WHOLE OR PART, FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION. VETERANS PATH TO HOPE IS A 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION (EIN 36-4104887).

*We provide veterans in need and their families the services necessary to experience hope and achieve success.*





**WEL-  
COME  
TO  
STEAK  
FRY 26**

**Silent  
Auction  
Tables Went  
On and On...**



**Calm  
before the  
storm.**



**FIRE  
UP DEM  
GRILLS**



**Lion Matt Eby and  
Brittany work the  
Ring Toss Game**

**Lion Tim Carone  
presents \$\$\$ to  
drawing winner**











**Lion John Dewey ^**

**Lion JT**