

Crystal Lake Lions Club

Lions PRIDE

JUNE
2026



Crystal Lake Lions Club Mourns Lion John Landon



The Crystal Lake Lions Club lost a legendary Lion on June 5, 2026. Lion Landon joined the club in March of 1982. His sponsor was Lion Jon Peterson. He could be the most decorated Lion in our 95 year history. He was club president in 1988-89. He always had a passion for serving Lions in Crystal Lake and in District 1-J. He was elected District 1-J Governor for the 2004-2005 Lion year. His theme that year was , "Organize, Communicate, Publicize".

Lion John Landon was a two time Melvin Jones Fellow and also received the Lions of Illinois Foundation Fellow. Serious recognition in the Lions Club's world.

Most of us in the club who knew Lion John will remember him as a great friend. Whether inducting a new member or sharing a beer, he was always right there to support you with his great Lion wisdom. **He Served.**

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

MEETING DATES

No regular meetings are held in the summer however the Board will meet two times to plan the 2026-27 Lions year. All members are invited to attend Summer Board meetings but no meals will be served.

Lion President



As we close another remarkable year for the Crystal Lake Lions Club, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every Lion who contributed their time, energy, and talents to our fundraising efforts and community events. Whether you volunteered behind the scenes, sold tickets, secured sponsors, attended meetings, or simply stepped up whenever help was needed, your dedication made this an incredible year of service. Together, we have continued our mission of giving back to our community and improving the lives of those around us. Our accomplishments this year are a direct reflection of the commitment and generosity of our membership.

I would also like to recognize several outstanding recent achievements. Congratulations to our Golf Committee for an exceptional tournament that netted an impressive \$15,000 after expenses, providing significant support for our charitable efforts. A special congratulations goes to Lion Brennan Markee on being named Lion of the Year. This honor is well deserved and reflects the tremendous work Brennan has done behind the scenes to ensure our largest fundraisers were successful. His leadership, dedication, and willingness to do whatever is needed have had a tremendous impact on our club and our ability to serve others. Thank you, Brennan, and thank you to all of our Lions for making this year one to be proud of.

As we look ahead, I encourage all members to volunteer for our upcoming Fourth of July Parade. Lion Cruise needs help with parade setup and Lion Imhoff is looking for marchers to join us in carrying our flag and representing the Crystal Lake Lions Club at our most visible event of the year. Your participation helps showcase our commitment to service and strengthens our presence in the community we proudly serve.

We Serve,

Lion Kevin Byrnes

Your 2026-27 Crystal Lake Lions Club Board of Directors



Complete List on Page 4



**NEW
CL LION
RYAN
GERGEN.
Welcome!**

New Crystal Lake Lion Ryan Gergen (r) gets pinned by sponsor Lion Tom Drez from the Lemont Lions Club. He was sworn in by Zone Chairman Lion Trevor Mock at the June 8 Crystal Lake Lions Installation Dinner.

2025– 2026 Club Officers

President	Kevin Byrnes
1st V. P.	Greg Imhoff
2nd V.P.	Griff MacDonald
3rd Vice Pres.	Matt Eby
Secretary	Dan Johnson
Treasurer	John Dewey
Tail Twister	Rob Cruise
Asst T.T.	Diane Pozniak
Lion Tamer	JT Matlachoski
Asst Tamer	Bob Moravec
Director	Rob Parrish
Director	Brennan Markee
Director	Doug Lomen
Director	Rob Wood
Director	Jim Zambon



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Tornado Relief To Lena Lions Club

The club voted at the May 11 meeting to donate \$2,000.00 to the Lena Lions Club to assist with tornado relief from a storm that rocked their community. Lion Tony Colatorti witnessed first hand the damages done to this town in northwest Illinois. Lion Tony has already gathered water and food to bring to Lena. He will also present the club check to the Lena Lions Club to distribute as needed.

CL Lions to assist at Horizons for the Blind Annual Picnic June 20 Veteran's Acres

The Crystal Lake Lions Club will once again be assisting Horizon's for the Blind with their **annual picnic** at Veteran's Acres Park. This well attended event will feature food and entertainment . Always a good time. The Lions participation will include preparing the food, serving and assisting the visually impaired guests. Set up begins at 11:00 a.m. Lion Rob Parrish is the coordinator and really could use your help. Contact Lion Rob at 815-378-4459 and volunteer. Wear your Lions gear. Beer and Brennan Markee on grill!.

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 NOTES....

Community Sign. The Crystal Lake Lions Club community sign was the topic of discussion at the last meeting. Located in McCormick Park on Route 14 the club has operated the sign for many, many years. The club is looking to transfer ownership to The City of Crystal Lake.

Scholarships The club has presented four scholarships to deserving students at each of the four high schools in District 155. Last month's Pride newsletter noted that the each scholarship was for \$2,000.00. This was incorrect. The correct amount was \$3,000.00. See last month's newsletter for a list of names of the winners. Congratulations.

Club Clothing. A special shout out goes out to Lion Brennan Markee for his efforts in implementing the club apparel ordering site. Members had the opportunity to select from a diverse collection of shirts, hats, sweaters. Even pink for the ladies. These were distributed at the Installation Dinner.

Home of the Sparrow. The club voted to donate \$250.00 to Home of the Sparrow to support their June 6 event.



Lion President Presents Year End Awards

At the June 8, 2026 Installation and Awards Dinner held at Cucina Bella, Lion President Kevin Byrnes presented many year end awards. Lion Kevin cited a tremendous Lions year with great results. The club continues to be one to be proud of with great Lions.

LION OF THE YEAR

Lion Brennan Markee

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

RECIPIANTS

Lion Rob Cruise

Lion Dan Johnson

Lion Tony Lamping

Lion Rob Parrish

Lion Griff MacDonald

Lion Tim Carone

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Lion Bob Moravec





Lion of the Year Lion Brennan Markee



Lion Rob Parrish

**Lion Griff
MacDonald**



More Awards.....



Lion Tony Lamping

Lion Rob Cruise



Lion Dan Johnson

CRYSTAL LAKE PARADE, JULY 5
NEED LIONS FOR MARCHERS
NEED LIONS FOR PARADE STAGING

Our giant flag is always a star entry in the city's 4th of July parade. This year the parade will be held on the 5th of July starting at City Hall on Woodstock Street. ChairLion Greg Imhoff is looking for volunteers to help carry the flag. Friends and relatives are invited as we need around twenty people. There is also a need for people to help stage the float and entries preparade. The parade starts at 1:00 p.m. Marchers should be there by 12;30 p.m.. Wear you Lions apparel if you can. The Crystal Lake's Annual Independence Day Parade will celebrate the 250 Anniversary. The parade starts at City Hall and runs down Dole Avenue to Crystal Lake and the Dole Mansion. Contact or text Lion Greg Imhoff at 815-814-3300 to say you'll help or have questions.



**ANNUAL
GOLF
OUTING
JUNE 1,
2026**







Lion John Landon