

Lions' Gazette

2021-2022 Issue 3

September



Grafton Lions Club

P.O. Box 0211
Grafton, WI 53024
<https://www.graftonlions.com>

Dan Harris - President

Mike Hennig - Secretary

John Krueger - Treasurer

Rose Sauers - Membership

Tim Kohlwey - Programs

Darrel Blank - LCIF
Coordinator

Rusty Meyer - Leos Liaison

Dave Antoine - Marketing

John Gassert - Newsletter

Lions International
www.lionsclubs.org

Wisconsin Lions
www.wisconsinlions.org

District 27-A2
www.lionsdistrict27a2.org

WI Lions Foundation
www.wlf.info

Find us on 

Prez Sez

Dear Fellow Lions,

Recently we celebrated our 75th anniversary with a warm and entertaining banquet held in Port Washington. My sincere thanks to those Lions who diligently and successfully organized this event and traced the long and productive history of our club. Lions Darrel Blank, Dave Antoine, Tom Krueger, Bob Lauer, Dorothy Reindl, Jack Reindl, and Dan Montaine led this effort. I had the good fortune to trace our long and storied history by reading the minutes of every meeting ever held through 1995. History is a passion of mine and although this was time consuming, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I discovered that everything I have been taught about Lions in my short time as a member rang true. Lions are about service and commitment to service. The commitment of our club was and is instrumental to the building of the prosperous and beautiful community we know today. We will continue that commitment to making life in our community, surrounding communities and indeed, the world a better place. That's what Lions do.

Lion Dan Harris

President

Treasurer's Report

August 28, 2021

Administrative Account:

- We have 87 members. We have 11 members who have not paid yet.
- We paid \$1,091 toward 75th Anniversary Party after reconciling expenses and payments toward dinners.

Activity Account:

- Golf Outing: Budgeted to make \$8,000
- Centennial Park/Gala budgeted income of \$3500

Contingency Savings Account:

- \$17,000 of this fund is earmarked toward improvements to Grafton Lions Park.

Leos Account: \$164.41

- They deposited \$100 in past month from sales at Centennial Park

Cook-Out for the Grafton Fire Department

For the past 54 years, the Grafton Lions have hosted a Cook-Out for the Grafton Fire Department to thank them for the service they give to the community. This year we also invited the Grafton Police Department. A delicious meal was provided, and each attendee received a raffle prize donated by members of the Grafton Lions Club.



Annual Golf Outing/Fundraiser

The 23rd Annual Grafton Lions golf outing/fundraiser was held on August 23th at Edgewater Golf Club. The event was very successful with 80 golfers participating. Thank you to all the lions who helped plan and run the event.



A Lion participating in the putting contest



The Start!



The best Score Team



Grafton Fire Department Ball Drop

75 YEARS of GRAFTON LIONS CLUB

**A very special Thank You to the Lions who planned and organized the
Grafton Lions 75th Anniversary event!**

Dorothy Reindl
Darrel Blank
Tom Krueger
Slava Krol
Dan Montaine
Dave Antoine

GRAFTON LIONS CLUB 75 YEARS of HISTORY

The history of the Grafton Lions Club is a long and storied one. Although this is our 75th anniversary, our story really goes back 85 years to when the club was initially founded in 1937. Its first meeting was held at the 'Old Grafton Hotel' (now the Hotel Grafton Apartments) on November 30, 1937. The club was chartered in 1938 with a charter party held on February 2, 1938 at the Grafton Hotel. Dues were a whopping \$6.95 cents compared to current dues of \$75 per year. Alfred H. Mintzlaff belonged to one of Grafton's founding families and was elected as the club's first president. Membership that first year totaled 23. By comparison, in recent years club membership has grown as high as 111.

A Post War Club

The club held regular meetings through World War II but discontinued briefly at the end of the war. It was re-formed in 1946-47 with Carl Erdmann as president thus creating the current 75th anniversary of the present charter.

There have been 74 different presidents including many significant people in Grafton history including Ralph Zaun, John Long, Alfred Kohlwey, Bob Lauer, and many other recognizable names. The leadership of the Grafton Lions Club has been the leadership of individuals who nurtured and developed the thriving community that exists today. The 1947 regeneration produced a club of elite businessmen, 23 in number. This was a time when only one member per business/occupation was permitted by the Club. Over the years the Club has produced five (5) district governors and three (3) Wisconsin Lions Foundation presidents. The Club has three (3) lifetime members including Carl Erdmann, Al Kohlwey and Bob Lauer. Lifetime Membership is an elite member category that can be conferred to a club member who has maintained active membership for twenty (20) years or more and rendered outstanding service to the Grafton Lions and Lions Club International (LCI).

A New Focus on Fundraising and Youth Activities

The Club continued its success throughout the 1950's with membership peaking at 36. During this decade the Grafton Lions actively supported many youth activities, including Boy Scouts. Other projects included a youth Christmas party and improvements in library facilities.

A new focus on fundraising began at this time also with the club sponsoring a stand at the Ozaukee County Fair. A highlight of 1958 was an outing to Milwaukee County Stadium to watch the World Champion Milwaukee Braves play baseball. By 1959, more attention was being paid to support local school activities. The first sponsorship to Badger Boys State happened that year. During this period of time the cost of a meal at club meetings was just \$2.00 and the budget report at one meeting that year showed a balance of \$3.00.

Lime Kiln Park and the Grafton Medical Clinic

The 1960's saw the Grafton Lions Club become involved in the community in some major ways. In 1963 the club was instrumental in initiating discussion to save and refurbishing the Village's old lime kilns for their historical value and as the focal point of a future village park. Today, Lime Kiln Park is one of Grafton's greatest assets. Six years later the club again became involved with a community initiative to bring a much-needed medical clinic to Grafton. A 'foundation' was formed to facilitate financing this project and the Lions began a 2-year fundraising effort in concert with other major donors to bring this project to fruition. Known as the Grafton Medical Clinic, the facility served the Grafton community from 1973 until closure in 1986 after which the proceeds from sale of the property were redirected to fund a scholarship program for high school seniors that continues to current times.

The club served the community in many other ways in the 1960's. The Grafton Lions began to reach out to children in need of eyeglasses and other vision items. Donations were made to Wisconsin Lions Camp and the Lions continued to support Badger Boys State. The Grafton Lions also began a tradition of recognizing and hosting the Grafton Fire Department volunteers with an annual picnic in appreciation for their community service that continues today, 54 years later. This was all accomplished with a membership that stood at 25-30 and an average account balance of \$1000.

A New District Governor and, Annual Chicken Roast Elevate the Club

The 1970's saw two milestone events for the Grafton Lions Club. In 1975, club member Al Kohlwey became Grafton's first District Governor serving both the Grafton Lions and District 27-A2 Lions with distinction. Then in 1976, discussion was held, and the club moved forward with a chicken barbeque as a new fundraiser. Over the years the annual Lions Chicken Roast in early June has continually been a top fundraiser for the Club and in more recent history has raised from \$7,000 to \$8,000 each year - all of which is donated back to the community.



A Growing Membership

In the 1980's as the community of Grafton grew, so did the Grafton Lions Club. By 1985 membership had grown to 40 members. This led to new fundraising success with a pancake breakfast and the long-time and profitable sale of light bulbs. With this added success came plans to build a band shell at Mill Pond Park (now Veterans Park) and the opportunity to offer a scholarship to a Grafton High School student. There was time for fun too. The Lions would and continue to march each year in the Grafton Christmas Parade including display of a very real-looking marching lion. (A club member in an authentic furry lion suit.)

In 1990, the Grafton Lions Club was incorporated, and the Club began an initiative to beautify the community through planting of trees and shrubs at the intersection of Hwy 60 and Hwy 57. The Lions annual chicken roast and other fundraisers continued to be held and kept the club members busy but not too busy to take on a new fundraiser – working a concession stand at Bradley Center events in Milwaukee. These fundraisers allowed the Lions to “raise the bar” with its funding support which included donation of a baseball scoreboard to Grafton High School.

Annual Golf Outing Arrives

In general, the 1990's in Grafton represented another period of growth for both the community and the Lions Club. By 1991, membership had increased to 74 and would eventually reach 85 members by 1994. This decade saw new fundraisers and a substantial increase in the club's budget balance. It was during this time that the Lions held its first Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser at the Squires Country Club in Port Washington. The golf outing, now in its 23rd year, has been and continues to be one of the club's top fundraising events each year. With the added funds the student scholarship fund began to grow. The club also provided capital improvements to the community such as the construction of restrooms at Veteran's Park.

Community Group of the Year Honors and Lions Moving Forward in the New Millennial

In 2000, the Grafton Lions were honored and chosen as the ‘Community Group of the Year’ by the Grafton Chamber of Commerce. Although the Lions never seek the ‘spotlight’ or recognition for what they do, this was an honor for the club to be recognized so publicly.

In 2005, a fund drive was initiated to secure ‘naming rights’ and assist the village of Grafton with implementation of improvements to a new village park on the west side of Grafton. That Park is now known as Grafton Lions Park. The dedication was held in May 2012. Since that time, the Lions have continued to dedicate funding annually toward further improvements to this park.

In 2008, club membership changed in a very positive way with the induction of its first female Lion. The club has maintained an active female membership ever since and now boasts a total of six (6) female Lions including one serving on the board of directors.

In 2010, the Grafton Lions with help from Cedarburg Lions began a new service project – transporting eye tissue to the Lions Bank of Wisconsin and to local hospitals. Transporters have been nicknamed the “Cornea Express” and take great pride in bringing ‘the gift of sight’ to those in need. Over the last 10 plus years, the club averaged almost 10 transports for every 10-day period assigned including over 600 service hours and 20,000 miles logged.

In 2014 news, the Grafton Leo Club was sponsored by the Grafton Lions and chartered by the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). The Leo Club is a school-based organization of students age 12 to 18 with purpose to promote Lionism through service hours to the community. Grafton Leos’ membership most recently numbered 73 high school students and has become one of the largest Leo groups in the state of Wisconsin.

The “Best” in Service to Others

Over the years Lions have always represented ‘the best’ in service to others. There have been many Grafton Lions Club members who have been selected as the Grafton Outstanding Citizen of the Year. In addition, there have been many Grafton Lion members who have served the community in local government leadership roles including as village president, village trustees and as department heads with the village of Grafton.

The Grafton Lions continue to be active with many service projects including Vision Screening, Eye Glass Collection/Recycling, Eye Tissue Transport, Wheelchair Ramp Construction, Highway Clean-up, and Yard Clean-up for the elderly to name just a few.

The Grafton Lions have served and supported thousands of people over the past 75 years and are proud of the many accomplishments and service to the Grafton area. Grafton Lions and Lions everywhere live by a common motto: “WHERE THERE IS A NEED, THERE IS A LION”. The Club began this way 75 years ago and remains just as committed today to its Mission of Service.

September Birthdays

Lisa DeLorit 1
John Krueger 21
John Gassert 24



Jeff Schoen 14
Renee Boos 22
Scott Zimmermann 28

LOOKING AHEAD



September 7	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting There will be a special Message from Lion President Dan Harris
September 21	Membership Dinner Meeting A special Speaker will be Debbie Krueger on the History of Grafton
October 5	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting
October 19	Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced
November 2	Board of Directors and Membership Dinner Meeting
November 16	Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced
December 7	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting
December 21	Annual Christmas Get-Together (Maybe – Chair Still Needed)
January 4	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting
January 18	Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced
February 1	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting
February 15	Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced

March	1	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting
March	15	Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced
April	5	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting
April	19	Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced
May	3	Board of Directors meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting
May	17	Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced

If you have questions or would like to add to the calendar, contact Lion John Gassert