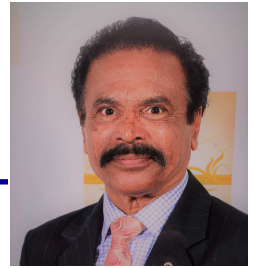




LIONS District 20 R-1

DG MATHAI CHACKO



Greetings to my Fellow Lions of District 20 R-1,

Last month we had a great convention which changed many records of our district convention history. We embraced *the power of we*, International President Dr. Naresh Agarwal's theme, and the quote by Helen Keller *Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much* and we made it. Our chief guest and key note speaker, International Director Ardie Klemish and her husband PDG Ken Klemish, were with us for three days. We visited West Point, VCB and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. ID Klemish spoke at the social on Saturday. She made her presentation and gave out awards on Sunday at the Convention. The Director was very much impressed with our activities and the well-planned convention. I congratulate our Convention Chair PCC Angelo, VDG Carl, CS Giuseppe, CT PDG Dennis and all the team members for doing a superb job. I thank each one for their contribution and or presence and made it an outstanding convention. A detailed report by the convention chair has been emailed to all the clubs and to everyone with email on their membership record. I also thank everyone who attended the social on Saturday and or the Convention on Sunday.

On October 23rd, we had our district full cabinet meeting and finalized the convention programs and the district social on 11/4 & 11/5/17. Thanks to Haverstraw Hispanic Lions club for hosting the cabinet meeting. The Zone and the Guiding Lions should submit the first quarterly report due in October to LCI and to the District Governor.

On October 27th-28th we had the 2nd MD 20 council meeting in Binghamton, NY. The council has selected PDG Ed Stano to be the MD 20 GMT coordinator. The GMTs are there to help our clubs and District with any membership related issues. These people will also be following up on membership reporting and retention of members. The council also appointed Diabetes chair PDG Liz Walker and Reading action chair VDG Marianne Treamaroli.

As the holiday celebrations begin and our 2nd quarter comes to a close, let us concentrate on our other important areas such as leadership, membership and service. The MD-20 convention will be held on May 4-6, 2008 in Rochester NY. We are looking for members to serve on various convention committees. (cont'd page 2)



lions20r1



@lions20r1

<http://www.e-district.org/sites/20r1/index.php>

District Governor message

Cont'd. from page 1



Our district must grow more Leaders to lead the district. As you know our 1st Vice District Governor position is still vacant. We desperately need more Lions to come forward and take leadership positions within our district. I congratulate Lion Jack Ciaramella who attended the MD-20 Lions Leadership School in October at the Double Tree Hotel in Binghamton. I also congratulate PDG Dennis Hardy one of the two coordinators of the Institute. This program is very educational and productive. I hope that more Lions from our District 20-R1 go to this excellent leadership program. Please contact our District GLT PDG Michael Bryceland for help with leadership and training activities of clubs within the district. This includes online training for the new club officers and the Guiding Lions.

Our District has to reach the minimum required membership of 1250 for our district. It is encouraging to note that most of the clubs are working very hard towards this goal and bringing in new members. During my club visits I was honored to induct new members in many clubs. My sincere thanks to the clubs who believe in *the power of we*. While that is encouraging we are facing a membership retention problem. Our membership as of July 1st, 2017 was 1,068 members. We are now at 1,063 members. We have added 50 new members, but we have dropped 52 members and lost 3 members due to death. Also, it is sad to see that, three new clubs chartered just over a year ago dropped 44 of their members during the last 12 months. I asked our GMT Barbara Chuck and Zone chairs and the Guiding Lions of the new clubs to work closely and help those clubs who have faced the membership drop. PCC Angelo and IPDG Dina are working on rebuilding two additional diminishing clubs. We need to work together and harder to bring in new members and more importantly retain the current members to be a stronger district.

Our District is heavily involved in various Service Projects. Please continue to support and help the many hurricane victims and other natural disaster victims. Thank you, clubs and Lions, for your help. This year each District and clubs should have a Service coordinator. PCC Angelo is our District's Global Service Team Coordinator. If your club does not have a Service coordinator please elect one soon. I have visited more than half of our clubs by this time. At every meeting, I hear of the service projects that clubs are doing, but when I review reports on MyLCI, the projects are not being reported. Many clubs have done a Centennial project. Your new club service chairperson or Secretary of your club must report it to LCI. If you do not know how, please call and we will help you. Also, please send the news to me and the newsletter editor for publishing in the website and Newsletter. If you have inducted new members please send their details and a photo for publishing in the newsletter.

Wishing you and your families all the best regards for a happy holiday season.

Yours in service

DG Mathai Chacko

[Web: Dist 20-R1](#)

Celebrate the Gift of Lions

From IP Naresh Aggarwal



Why be ordinary? Why be an ordinary Lion or club or do an ordinary project? In the December issue of the Lion magazine, we salute great clubs, projects and Lions. I'll let you in on a secret, and telling you this also will perhaps head off a common reaction to this issue: "Why did you not profile my club? Our project? This Lion I know? Talk about greatness!"

Well, we could have profiled any number of clubs, projects and Lions. It was hard to choose and narrow it down to these few. There are so many great examples of Lionism.

In planning this issue, we tried to be diverse in terms of geography and gender, mirroring the diverse reality of Lionism. There is room in 36 pages for a limited number of stories. We weren't concerned so much about rankings or degree of greatness as to be representative.

Worldwide, Lions serve energetically, innovatively and, most importantly, effectively. We change lives and improve communities. We see a need and fill it. We exemplify what writer George Bernard Shaw shrewdly observed: "Just do what must be done. This may not be happiness. But it is greatness."

Actually, Shaw was half-wrong in our case. Serving others, as Lions know, does bring happiness. Doing good is its own reward. We gain so much by giving to others. So in this wonderful holiday season, marked by the giving of gifts, let us celebrate who we are and what we do. We Lions are a gift to the world.

Naresh Aggarwal

Lions Clubs International President



Lions Clubs of New York and Bermuda MD 20 and R-1 Charities, Inc. Annual Meeting—Nov 5, 2017

**Dedicated to the memory of Past District Governors
 Ray Icobelli and Dick McFadden**





Convention Report

Submitted by
PCC Angelo Purcigliotti
Convention Chairman

- 1.** ID Ardie Klemish (Iowa) and her Partner in Service, PDG Ken Klemish arrived on Thursday, November 2nd.
- 2.** On Friday, November 3rd, ID Ardie and PDG Ken accompanied by DG Mathai Chacko and Lion Usha were given a guided tour of West Point. That evening they attended a welcome dinner at Rini's Restaurant in Elmsford. Attending the dinner were: DG Mathai and Lion Usha Chacko, PCC Angelo and Lion Ellen Purcigliotti, CS Giuseppe Coco and Lion Krista, CT PDG Dennis Hardy, IPDG Dina Ciaramella, PDG Maybelle Twohie and PDG Karl Wallburg.
- 3.** On Saturday, November 4th ID Ardie and PDG Ken visited the new \$9.4 million dollar Vocational Rehabilitation Center (VRC) at Visions/VCB in New Hempstead, Rockland County. The visit was hosted by PDG Maybelle Twohie. In the afternoon they visited Guiding Eyes for the Blind (GEB) in Yorktown. The visit was hosted by PDG Ed Klotz and PCC Angelo Purcigliotti.
- 4.** That evening, 40 Lions attended the first District Social held at the La Quinta Inn in Armonk. Wine, sandwiches, wraps, crudites were served. The charge was only \$10 per person. ZC Carole Hoerter made all the food arrangements and the wine was provided by PCC Angelo. Each Lion introduced themselves and briefly described what their clubs were doing. The Cold Spring Lions presented 5 MJF awards and Bedford Village presented two. VDG Carl assisted by ID Ardie and Bedford Hills President, Bob Collins led the group in Lion's Celebrity Jeopardy. It was a fun evening and everyone agreed that we should do it again next year.
- 5.** On Sunday, November 5th we held our District Convention at the Double Tree in Tarrytown. This year's Convention was dedicated to PDG Dick Mac Fadden and PDG Ray Icobelli both Blauvelt Lions. Highlights included our annual Memorial Service honoring our deceased Lions, a special Leo Program, 30 exhibitors, 4 workshops, a 30 prize raffle and a "Dining in the Dark" experience assisted by 10 members of the Westchester Council for the Blind. We were entertained by blind musician, Milton Koja and heard from two great speakers, Mary Mc Loughlin (Diabetes Awareness), and Motivational Speaker, Cheryl Mc Neil Fisher who was also blind.
- 6.** The high point of the Convention was a moving and inspirational address by our visiting ID Ardie Klemish. DG Mathai reported on the State of the District and presented a PMJF to PDG Maybelle Twohie and a MJF to Bedford Hills President Bob Collins.
- 7.** DG Mathai has sent thank you letters to all 30 exhibitors, 5 seminar presenters, 22 Club Presidents, our blind musician and two speakers! He is also sending thank you letters to the 30 groups and individuals who donated gifts to our raffle.



HONOR ROLL OF THOSE WE LOST THIS YEAR

District 20 R-1 Memorial Service

November 5, 2017

PDG Raymond Icobelli
Blauvelt Lions Club, 49 years*
PDG Dick McFadden
Blauvelt Lions Club, 40 years
Lion Ed Drake
Cold Spring Lions Club, 3 years*
Lion Richard Lawrence,
Mount Kisco Lions Club, 7 Years*
Lion Elaine Smith
Pound Ridge Lions Club, 18 years*
Lion Larry Smith
Pound Ridge Lions Club, 40 years*
Lion Fedora DeLucia
Somers Lions Club, 18 years*
Lion Louis Dursi
Somers Lions Club, 23 years*
Lion James Mortellaro
Somers Lions Club, 35 years*
Lion Shirley Lewis
Stony Point Lions Club, 10 years*
Lion Phillip Pellicci
Yorktown Lions Club, 19 years*

* denotes years of service

SOMERS LEOS TAKE THE PLUNGE

Raise over \$25,000 for Special Olympics of NY



In an astounding show of support, Somers Leos took out all the stops for the Special Olympics Westchester Polar Plunge Fundraiser on Saturday November 18, 2017, with a team of 71 members. About 36 Somers Leos jumped in the water to support the Polar Plunge and although the temperature outside was about 47⁰f, the Leos ran into the freezing cold water at Glen Island Park, NY.

Special Olympics New York has 68,547 athletes training and competing year-round in 22 Olympics-style sports. Athletes and their families or caregivers are NEVER CHARGED to participate! It costs \$400 to support training and competition for one athlete for one sports season. The Somers Leos achievement means they were able to sponsor just over 62 athletes for an entire season!



Somers Leo coordinators Paul LaSpina and Tracy Reimann were on hand to cheer on the team and Lion Paul even took the plunge himself! "The enthusiasm and accomplish-

ment of the Leos was so inspiring I wanted to help them celebrate their success" said Lion Paul, President of the Somers club.

There were a total of 20 Teams that entered the Westchester event. The Somers Leos took the top prize for most funds raised by a public school generating just over \$25,000 for Special Olympics.

Top Fundraisers for the Somers Leos Team were:

Max Caron, Danielle Cucchiarella, Ryan Elliott, Nicole Iervolino, Karlene Kurtz, Katrina Kurtz,

Brandon LaSpina, Luke Phalen, Gabby Preni, Matthew Reimann, Ryan Renzulli and Alexis Ruiz.



Additionally, for his work on the Polar Plunge, Team Captain Brandon LaSpina was nationally recognized by Disney/ABC Television Group and Youth Service America with their "Be Inspired Grant" for kids and families making a positive impact in their communities.



"We received an overwhelming number of wonderful applications, and your project, Polar Plunge- for Special Olympics, stood out to us as one of the best in the country." wrote Sara Pope, Youth Partnerships Manager at YSA (Youth Service America).

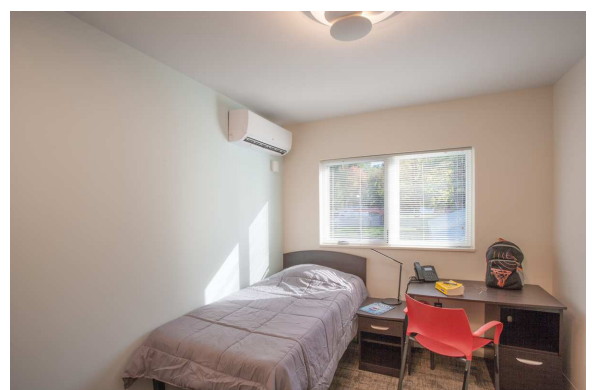
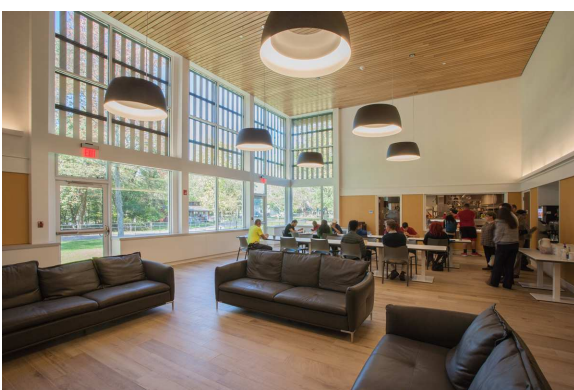
Lion Paul said the idea to participate came about after discussing it with his son. Brandon thought it would be a great idea to entice our high school to join the party and not make this a LEO only event, and off we went with outstanding results. We originally set a goal of \$6k since we were first timers. As you can see that quickly turned into over \$25,000! One of our LEOs has a brother who is a Special Athlete and he led us into the water.

The Somers Leos graciously acknowledge the overwhelming support they received from their families, friends and the Somers and surrounding communities.

To learn more about the Polar Plunge and Special Olympics go to: http://events.nyso.org/site/TR?fr_id=1380&pg=entry

VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a nonprofit rehabilitation and social service organization. VISIONS purpose is to develop and implement programs to assist blind and visually impaired people of all ages to lead independent and active lives, and to educate the public to understand the capabilities and needs of people who are blind and visually impaired.

The annual [GivingTuesday](#) is over, but the needs of thousands of individuals who are blind continue. While the day- and we thank everyone who made their contribution to VISIONS - has passed, you can still make your contribution to VISIONS by visiting <http://www.visionsvcb.org/visions/support/donate/> blind children and adults training for independent and successful lives. VISIONS services are provided free of charge for the primarily low-income population we serve. Our vision is for everyone to see what is possible. Please help the possible become reality.



On a beautiful mid-summer afternoon on August 6, with nearly 200 people in attendance, VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired proudly launched the brand new VISIONS Vocational Rehabilitation Center program with a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

VISIONS short-term, residential Vocational Rehabilitation Center is the first and only VRC in New York State for blind youth that offers intensive, pre-employment training consistent with new federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements for students with disabilities in transition from school to work.

The new VRC, on the 37-acre campus of VISIONS Center on Blindness/VCB, enables blind New Yorkers to remain in the state for training, reducing costs for out of state travel and training. The NYS Commission for the Blind (NYSCB), part of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services is a strong supporter of the VRC project. Training, room and board costs are primarily funded by VISIONS contract with NYSCB. There is no cost to the blind students or their families.

Nancy Tate Jones, President of the Board of Directors of VISIONS said, "I would like to thank the Trustees of VISIONS Fund for the Blind that contributed over \$4 million to the VRC project and Governor Andrew Cuomo and the state of New York that provided a \$1 million grant from the Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program. The Barker Welfare Fund and Lions Clubs International Foundation also made substantial grants to the project. My colleagues on the Board, Burton and Harriet Strauss, Jr., along with 100% of VISIONS board members have contributed to the successful capital campaign."

VISIONS Executive Director and CEO Nancy D. Miller said, "The grand opening of the new VRC is the culmination of years of planning to create a training program for blind youth in New York State. The VRC graduates will be 'job-ready' candidates for employers. The VRC has 32 beds and accommodates blind trainees with dog guides, blind wheelchair users and those with varied health conditions including diabetes."

The first class of students attended and completed their one-month VRC training in August and a new class of 14 blind students who started on September 5, 2017 is currently in session. The students are all age 18 to 21 years old. They are enrolled in vocational training classes and internships at Rockland County BOCES or SUNY Rockland Community College. Most of the students will be certified as nursing assistants or teaching assistants or will complete community college classes that will allow them to transfer to a 4-year college by January 2018.

One student, Darius, is thoroughly enjoying his work experience internship assisting the chef at the Center while taking college classes. Another student Samantha is immersed in taking courses on line. John, a long distance runner, understands the commitment required by enrolling in this 100-day intensive program. But he shared that his limited work experience prior to the VRC will not get him the kind of career he is seeking. He is looking forward to graduating from the VRC program in January and getting a well paying job.

YOUNG ADULTS WITH VISION LOSS WANT TO BE EMPLOYED

Join **VISIONS** in our mission to help young adults with vision loss begin to identify occupational interests and develop an action plan for reaching their career goals. Our students are looking to overcome barriers to succeed in vocational training and job placement.

VISIONS vocational rehabilitation center (VRC) is a newly built 16,000 square foot, two-story wheelchair accessible building designed specifically for residential programs for youth and adults with vision loss. Located on the 37-acre campus of VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB) in Rockland County, NY, the VRC offers a state of the art technology and computer center, experienced, and a caring supportive program staff, all with high expectations for the students.



Students from VISIONS are seeking employer partners in Rockland County to host workplace tours, allow job shadowing and/or short term work experiences (2-3 months part-time) of their workplaces so that students can be exposed to potential careers and jobs, build occupational knowledge, learn about the education and training needed for entry in the industry, observe adults in a workplace environment, and foster an understanding of the business's workforce and its contributions to the community.

Workplace tours are a big part of work-based learning opportunities designed to help students gain experience and insight into real-world careers. Work place tours typically last from a couple of hours to half a day; a workplace tour is a modest investment of time that may make a real difference in the students' future education and career choices.

Job shadowing in the community provides students with realistic views of a specific job, observe employees on the job, have a valuable mentoring opportunity and allows students time to ask questions.

Short term work experiences a work based learning experience is a structured, time-limited, career preparation activity in which students are placed at a workplace for a defined period of time to participate in and observe work first hand within a given industry. Internships provide students the opportunity to learn by doing real work and being productively engaged in the workplace.

VISIONS is happy to work with employers to plan a workplace tour, a Job shadowing opportunity or short term work experiences (2-3 months part-time) that will be convenient for you, your employees and of great benefit to our students.

If you are unable to host a tour, give a Job shadowing opportunity or a short term work experience (2-3 months part-time) we are also looking for guest speakers.

For more information please contact

Anisio Correia, Senior Director, acorreia@visionsvcb.org - 845-354-3003

Carmen Thorne, VCB PR Coordinator, cthorne@visionsvcb.org - ext. 107

CROTONVILLE LIONS

Charter Night—100 Members for 100 Years

LARGEST CLUB EVER CHARTED IN MD-20



The Crotonville Lions Club celebrated their Charter Night on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. The club was chartered on June 20, 2017 with 109 members by PDG Steve DeName with assistance of Pablo Romano, LCI New Club Consultant, Bob Collins President, Bedford Hills Lions Club, Jack Lofaso from Valhalla Lions Club and Mary Ann Sniffen, President of the sponsoring Club, Croton making Crotonville the largest club chartered in all of New York

State as well as the United States.

Thanks to the dedication of PDG Steve DeName, Pablo Romano, Bob Collins and Jack Lofaso, this club was formed in just three weeks with signed and paid applications, allowing for them to be chartered in the Centennial Year of Lionism, 100 new members for 100 years. The Crotonville Lions Club was previously associated with another charitable/service organization and decided that Lions Club International was a better fit for them.



At their Charter celebration members from Croton, Ossining, Hen Hud, Bedford Hills, Yorktown, North Rockland, Pearl River, Long Island City, Nanuet and Rockland Regional Lions Club were all on hand to “lend a hand” during the pinning ceremony helping to pin all of our new Lions



and congratulate and welcome them to this awesome organization. The new officers were sworn in by Pablo Romano, LCI New Club Development and the Croton Lions Club presented them with their bell and banner. PDG Steve DeName presented them with their gavel on behalf of the 20-R1 PDG Association and IPDG Dina Nejman Ciaramella presented the new President with their Charter. The new members were all sworn



in by PDG Steve DeName. As is tradition, members of the visiting clubs from 20-R1 presented Crotonville with donations to help “get them on their way”.

LIONS SEE TRAINING



Lions SEE Training
Saturday, January 20, 2018
Community Church of Little Neck
46-16 Little Neck Parkway
Little Neck NY 11362

Main Speakers

PID Dr. Ed Cordes, Head of Lions Kidsight USA

Lion DR. James Reynolds, Head of the Ross Eye Institute

Registration 9 am

Training starts 10:00 am

Representative from PlusOptix and Spot Vision have been invited

Lunch will be available for purchase

Please RSVP

Lion Laverne Harrison 917-543-5716

The mission of Lions SEE, Inc. (Screening Eyes Early) is to decrease childhood blindness through early detection and treatment of the most common vision disorders that cause Amblyopia; insuring that all children of New York State will be able to SEE their future.

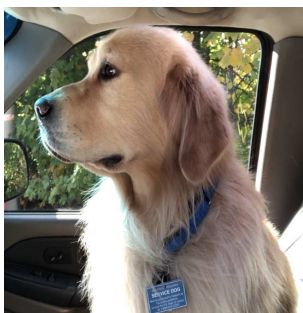
The Future of Peace

From PDG Maybelle Twohie, Peace Poster Chair 2017-2018

Future of Peace by the Artist Alicia Huong of Armonk was selected as the winner of District 20 R-1 Peace Poster contest for 2017-2018. Alicia was also our district's winner last year. Armonk Peace Poster chairperson is Lion Secy Phyllis Padow-Sederbaum.

DG Mathai has submitted our entry to the MD 20 Lions Chairperson. We do not expect any results until the end of the month. The international winner will be announced in February 2018. We thank everyone involved in this effort.

Suffern Lions

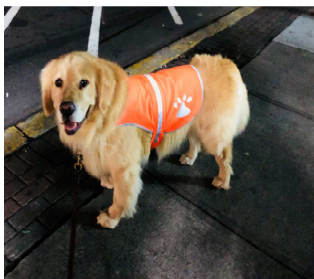


Meet MAX Suffern Lion's newest member and mascot. Max joined the club in October at Suffern's White Cane Sale and was instrumental in helping raise funds for Guiding Eyes and LCIF Hurricane Relief outside Acme Supermarket in Mahwah NJ. After all, who could refuse that beautiful face.

Max is a certified service dog and lives with Suffern Lions John and Kulya Gloria. Once his training is complete, he will receive a permanent assignment. Until then, Suffern is proud to claim him as their own.



(left) Max proudly wears his Lion vest as he greets shoppers at Acme.



Max stands proud at Acme, while Lion Barbara Blumhof accepts donations. Lion Lenny Chiat looks on behind them. Also on hand at the event were Lion Pres Lois Hagen, Lion Frank Hagen, Lion Isabel Haggerty, Lion John Gloria, Lion Emma Kemp.



Max walked in the Suffern Holiday Parade on December 2nd.

Art In the Park Piermont Lions

Lion Julie Artrip Cawley and
Co-Secretary Patricia Ables
selling raffles



Co-Secretary Betty Ann Rossano, Lion Brian Cawley,
Treasurer Loretta McCauley, Lion Julie Artrip Cawley,
second row PDG Maybelle Twohie, PDG Dennis
Hardy and President D ennisHardy

Contest prizes and some artwork!!!!



Flame the Band Concert and The Edmeister at Tioga Downs Saturday, February 10th 2:00-4:30pm

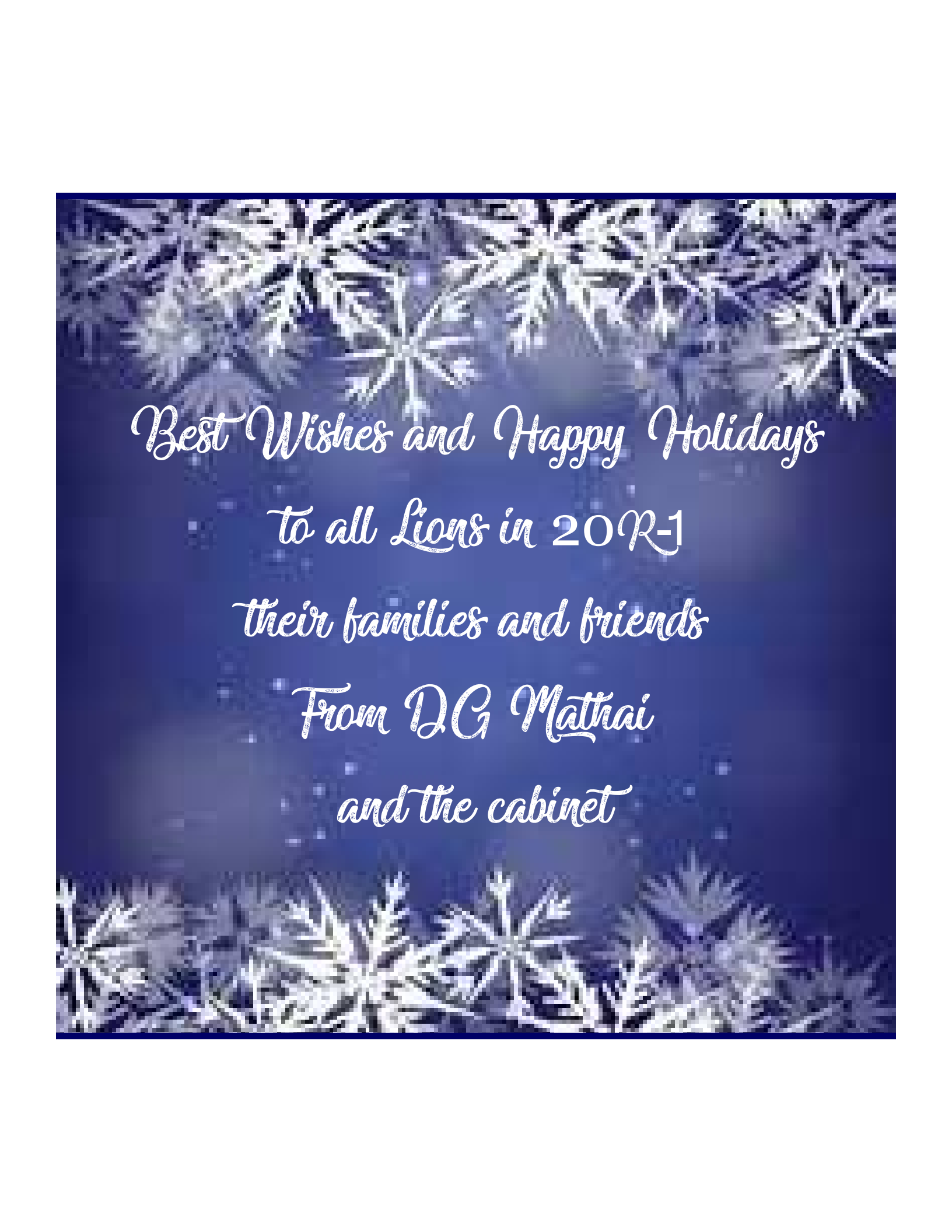
Lions Camp Badger is sponsoring this groundbreaking event to be held at Tioga Downs Conference Center & Casino, 2384 W. River Rd, Nichols, NY 13812. Come see for yourself that individuals with special needs hold unlimited potential when given the opportunities and supports necessary to succeed! We are proud to offer “Flame”, a ten member band ensemble where all of the members have disabilities, but they do not let their challenges define them! “Flame” has performed internationally, and they are truly excited to bring their talents to our community. You can learn more about them at flametheband.com.



This special afternoon of entertainment promises to be fun-filled, family friendly, and enjoyable for all. Be prepared to be inspired, to laugh, to cry, and maybe even to dance a little! This event is guaranteed to make you realize and appreciate the potential in all of us.

All corporate and individual donations will fund band member salaries and expenses incurred on performance day. These contributions will also make it possible for our Campers to enjoy this special activity at no cost. Donors will be recognized in social media, newscasts and articles, and at the event itself. Ticket sale proceeds will support our ongoing efforts to provide summer camp to individuals with functional differences at Lions Camp Badger.

Find more information on our website: www.LionsCB.org or Facebook page: @CampBadger



*Best Wishes and Happy Holidays
to all Lions in 2021
their families and friends
From DG Mathai
and the cabinet*



Lions 20r1 community

<http://www.e-district.org/sites/20r1/index.php>



@lions20r1

Send a Card to:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington DC 20307-5001

If you can't send them to Walter Reed take one or several to your local American Legion, VA facility, VFW, JWV, or any other veteran organization.

Bring a smile to a vet. They deserve it.

**Don't forget to save your used holiday cards
to send to St Jude Children's Foundation.**

Please contact Suffern Lions Lois and/or Frank Hagen
if you have donations for veterans.
845-357-6079.

District Governor

Mathai Chacko
lionmathai@yahoo.com

1st Vice District Governor

2nd Vice District Governor

Carl Anderson
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Cabinet Secretary

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Cabinet Treasurer

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IPDGDina Ciaramella

dinastacy@hotmail.com

LCI provides Liability Insurance for your Lions events. Go to:

<http://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/resources/insurance/certificate-insurance.php>

