



Webster Groves LIONS SQUEAL

December 2019 Vol 1 - Episode 3
- The Christmas special -

As I sit here by the warm fire, drinking my cup of hot chocolate, I think about the Webster Groves LIONS.

I think about the **pride** I have in our club.

I think about the **joy** I feel knowing that we can help so many people.

I think about the **happiness** we bring to the lives of the children we help at Christmas time with the Christmas gift donations.

I think about the **help** we give to students, starting a new school year, with school supplies donated by our Club.

I think about the **hope** we bring to a child fighting an immense battle with Pediatric Cancer.

I think about the **comfort** we bring to their families with the comfort bags.

I think about the person in need of glasses and the **happy** look on their face when we give the **gift** of sight for the first time.

I think about the kids at Pancakes with Santa and the **magic** and **wonder** that fills their eyes when they see Santa.

I think about the kids seeing the Easter Bunny and hunting for those candy filled eggs, and I see all the **smiles** on their faces.

I think about the Peace Poster Contest and what **peace** means to our youth.

I think about the **tradition** of The Football Luncheon, and how we celebrate the **goodwill** that it brings to those players, cheerleaders, and coaches.

I think about Baseball/Softball Opening day, and all the kids running the fields with such **excitement** for Spring (and to get that tasty snack after their game).

I think about Make a Difference Day, and all of those coming together to **serve** their community.

I think about the **togetherness** that Firehouse Open House brings to the community of Webster Groves.

I think about our First Trivia Night, and the **enjoyable** night spent with friends, and partnering with the Maplewood Lions for a night of **charitable** fun.

I think about our 94th Annual Carnival and BBQ, and the **gratitude** I feel for all of those who help at our biggest event of the year.

I think about our Monthly BBQs, and how I am **thankful** for those who help serve at these events.



Reminiscing over the past year makes me feel **grateful** to all the Webster Groves Lions for their hard work in 2019. I am **hopeful**, and my **wish** is that the year 2020 will be just as successful!

In my message to the club I have been dropping words that describe Christmas. These words are bold in my message. Look at these words. Yes, they describe Christmas, but these words also describe LIONS! The pride of our Club, and the joy and happiness that are felt helping someone less fortunate. The hope and comfort LIONS bring all around the world to those in need. The magic, peace, and wonder you see on a child's face when they smile at you in your LIONS vest. The traditions and service, the togetherness of our club working towards a common goal to help.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I look forward to seeing you all in 2020!!

President Lion Becky Speeler



Pancakes with Santa

A long, long time ago

As all you folks should know

Ol Santa started loading up his sleigh....

...But, in the meantime, back at the ranch,
he took time out his busy day to stop in
and visit us on Sunday, December 15th.

And, as luck would have it, we were hosting
over 100 folks at our Pancakes with Santa
Gala Event!

What a happy coincidence, right?

We all know that the kids were there for
the pancakes and sausages, I mean, who
wasn't?

Sure, there were cookies to decorate, and
other activities as well, but really,
seriously.....PANCAKES and SAUSAGE!

However, I digress.

Thst Jolly old Elf himself stopped in for a
visit with both young and old alike.

He spoke with all who listened, and listened
to all who spoke.



Probably told a few stories as well.

(Hopefully, he didn't spill any of the North
Pole secrets.)

Thanks to all those that came and helped at
the event.

And, as the last line of Gene Autry's song so
aply put it...

"Peace on earth, goodwill to all
And a very merry Christmas day"



*Our very own Merry Little
Band of Misfit Toys -*

*They set-up,
they cook,
they entertain,
they clean up,
they go home.*

*Lions Jerry and Teddi
not pictured.- ed.*

Comfort Bags

Our Club participated in the District Wide Service project. This project was making Comfort Bags for children with pediatric Cancer.

Our club donated funds to the district for this event.

We attended the district-wide event on Sunday, November 3rd, and it was an amazing day!



We were able to stuff 247 bags for the children. These bags were filled with various items, such as blankets, stuffed animals, socks, a journal or coloring books, and crayons or pens. The items were put into reusable bags, and taken down to Children's Hospital. The staff at the hospital was very grateful for what our district put together, and our Club was a part of that.

Thank you to the Club for donating funds to be used to purchase those

-Lion Becky



Workers at the hospital were all smiles, even after they had to bring in reinforcements for load, after load, after load, after load, of bags taken up the elevator for the kids.—ed.



Heard a joke the other day....

How many vehicles does it take to transport all of the gift bags the LIONS gathered for the St. Louis Children's Hospital?

Well, now we know. And it ain't no joke. (Looks like four and a half!) - ed.

Featured Lion

Our Featured Fellow for this Fine Festival is someone who we all know and love.

Or think we know.

Let's see what we can learn about him.....

Name: Santa Clause

aka: Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Père Noël, Papa Noel, Weihnachtsmann, Babbo Natale, Papai Noel, Ded Moroz, Noel Baba, Święty Mikołaj.

(I do get around a bit)

Married to: Mrs. Claus

aka: Jessica, Mary, Carol.

(She has a wild side as well)

Children: All the children all over the world.

(and those darn elves. Always underfoot, bless their hearts!)

Resides in" North Pole. Duh!

(What? Are you new here?)

Pets: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen. Wait! There's one little reindeer missin', Rudolph is his name.

*(I do have two others most folks don't know about. **Olive** and **AL**. But we don't talk about them. They're jerks. But they still made it into the song though.)*



Church: Any that will have me.

(I'm not picky.)

Born and Raised: Yes I was.

Childhood dream career:
Chartered Accountancy

Something we don't know about you: *(Wait! Isn't that why I'm filling out this form?)*

Talents: Driving really, really, really, really, really, fast.

Free time? *(Free what?)*

Hobbies? See previous answer.

Favorite Holiday: Easter

(It's nice to watch someone besides me have to haul butt!)

Favorite Food: Salad.

(It's actually lasagna, but I gotta find something to off-set all those milk and cookie trays!)

Favorite movie: A Christmas Story.

(I got to be myself in that one.)

Favorite Music: Reggae.

(Makes me think of warm, tropical beaches., and is far, far away from "Grandma got run over by a reindeer".)

What do you like about your job?: I only have to go out in nasty weather one day a year.

Operation Christmas Child

Each year, our Club participates in Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 168 million children, in more than 100 countries.

Our club fills plastic shoeboxes with various items, such as water bottles, coloring books, crayons, a stuffed animal, and other items.



These boxes are then sent all over the world so that a child can have a Christmas

gift. There are different ages for the children, and the boxes are filled accordingly. This year our club made 10 boxes.



Lion Becky

(Kudos to Lion Becky for being able to pack so much, into such a small space. - ed.)

2019 Webster Groves LIONS Christmas Party

December 12, 2019, 6:30 pm, found us beginning to gather, at Pietro's, for our annual Christmas Party. With 37 Lions, and future Lions in attendance, our room was quite full. That, of course includes the bar (a necessity with our group), and the buffet tables (again, another necessity with our group).

We feasted on some tasty treats, to include toasted ravioli with marinara sauce (a St. Louis must), chicken tenders, meatballs, deli sandwiches, pasta, and salad for those herbivores in attendance.

And cake, because, well, you gotta have cake.

Games were played, gifts were won, swapped, and stolen. Centerpieces were raffled.



On top of that, new toys were collected for a Toy Drive and delivered to the folks at Epworth Children and Family Services.

Many thanks to those who brought and donated to that worthy cause.

NEW VOICES LION SPOTLIGHT

Lion Gina Boettcher, Past Council Chairperson, has been a Lion since March 1999. 20 years! She has held numerous positions in two clubs, District and State Level. To say she is a very active and involved Lion is an understatement! Just look at her accomplishments:

Gerald LIONS Club - Tail Twister, Board Director, Secretary, Vice President, President, Immediate Past President

Beaufort Lions Club - Treasurer

District Level - Candy Day Chairperson, Directory Chairperson, Mid-South LIONS Sight & Hearing Chairperson, Zone Chairperson, District Convention Chairperson, Constitution and By-Laws Chairperson, Past District Governor Organization Chairperson, District Sight Chairperson, State & International Convention Chairperson, State Convention Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, 2nd Vice District Governor, 1st Vice District Governor, District Governor (2012-2013), Immediate Past District Governor

State Level - Vice Council Chairperson, Council Chairperson (2013-2014), State & International Convention Committee, Constitution & By-Laws Committee

Served on the Missouri LIONS Eye Research Foundation/Saving Sight board for 2 years as Vice Council Chairperson and Council Chairperson

Served on Mid-South LIONS Sight & Hearing Service - 4th Vice President, 3rd Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, Secretary of the Past President Committee, Case Services committee, Governance Committee, Meetings committee, Chairperson of the Past Presidents Committee

Although Lion Gina was challenged from the start by a club that would not allow women to join, her desire to be a Lion persevered, and we are grateful these 20 years later!

"My husband Terry (PCC) was a Lion in District 26-J (Owensville). I worked with him at several events and wanted to join. Unfortunately, at that time Owensville LIONS did not accept women. Terry sponsored me into the Gerald LIONS Club and transferred once the fiscal year ended in 1999."

When asked about a stand-out project, Gina tells the story that is one we all hope to experience, because it highlights the wonderful work of LIONS. As incoming President, Lion Gina attended a Mid-South LIONS Sight &

Hearing Service for LIONS Leaders Weekend.

"The tour of the facility was remarkable. PCC Terry and I went to a quarterly meeting in Memphis at Methodist Hospital and PDG Bud Dean asked Terry to serve on the finance committee. We were hooked! This organization helps the four state area (Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Western Tennessee). At one of the quarterly meetings I met one of our patients. Her name was Marissa. When she was a younger she was bitten by a dog. She lost her eye and it left her with a horrible scar. One day her teacher asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up and she said I want to be pretty. Now if that doesn't make you feel horrible. Mid-South was contacted and we were able to provide her with a prosthetic eye and corrective surgery for her eye socket and forehead. I had tears running down my face when she spoke and told us "thank you for making me pretty". That's when I knew I was doing the right thing!"

In addition to her early challenge with joining a club, LION Gina describes the personal challenges which LIONS have helped to overcome.

"My challenges have been, I was a very shy and quiet person. I hated to be picked to speak at school, I sat in the back of the room and tried to be a shadow. When I started getting involved with my club and the district giving reports, I would stutter and shake. As time went by it got a little easier. I still have some fears especially in front of a lot of people. But going through the steps to be District Governor, allowed me to break personal barriers pushing myself to speak to large groups. Being short you're always teased to stand up, now I can laugh with them."

As LIONS we strive to find that "button" that continues to inspire us to keep serving. Lion Gina found her inspiration in young girl.

"Those Marissa's out there. The ones who are less fortunate than ourselves. Every time I hear stories about children or adults who can't see. We perform surgery to help them and they come back to a meeting and tell us that we are the best thing in their lives."

What advice does Lion Gina have for young adults, or those of other diverse backgrounds, either who are currently LIONS and may need a little extra inspiration, or those thinking about joining LIONS?



"My advice is get involved, find a mentor, ask questions, no question is stupid. We think everyone knows what we know. But that's not true. I'm horrible about not informing LIONS about what I'm doing, or what needs to be done. If you don't like what you are doing, and prefer to do something else, talk to someone. The worse thing that can happen to those we serve, is for a Lion to quit."

Lastly, the one thing Lion Gina suggest to help give others "their voice" is "From the top down, we need servant leaders instead of authoritarians. We are all here, as volunteers, to serve others and we need the same from our leadership. No hidden agendas, no personal gain, simply, what can I do for you?"

This allows "their voice" to be heard, if no one listens, there is no reason to speak."

I'm sure you will all join me when I say December spotlight is inspirational and motivating. If we all take one thought from this story, it should be as a LION, no matter the position, we should do more listening, mentoring, and involving of ALL LIONS, not just new members. I think I will end this article with Lion Gina's words, which for me define New Voices...

"If no one listens, there is no reason to speak."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Lion Sandy Halama—New Voices Coordinator

Anniversaries

LION	MO	Years
Norma Belcher	Nov	18
Norma Belcher		18
John Gregory	Dec	9
Michelle Krabbe		9
Jack Lenk (June)		21
Mark Cereghino		29
John Gregory		9
Michelle Krabbe (Craig)		9
Jack Lenk (June)		21
Mark Cereghino		29
Craig Brown	Jan	1
Rebecca Brown		1
Dakota Smith		1
Tom Yohe		2
Christy Pershall		7
Quin M. Swederska		10
Larry Suiter		12
Maria Suiter		12
Ryan Whittington		18
Kelley Kastner	Feb	1
Mary Stovesand		5
Tim Rabbitt		14
Max Burton	Mar	18
Cheryl Davidson		19
Lee Keefer		53



November

Fred Yoder	6-Nov	Don Gerber	17-Nov
Dakota Smith	18-Nov	John Gregory	30-Nov

December

Kim Pepple	3-Dec	Barbara Schopper	8-Dec
Vicky Swederska	18-Dec		

January

Robert Halama	5-Jan	Tom Yohe	6-Jan
Becky Speeler	10-Jan	Missy Carr	10-Jan
Mary Stovesand	14-Jan	Bob Buerk	28-Jan
Harris Gerhard	30-Jan		

February

Dennis Donze	12-Feb	Michelle Krabbe	19-Feb
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March

Norma Belcher	6-Mar	Lou Schopper	20-Mar
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One Final word—

"Those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it."

- Chinese proverb