

Webster Groves LIONS



SQUEAL

December 2023 Season 3 - Episode 6
The Christmas edition

Pancakes with Santa

December 16th started out like any other day. No it didn't. I lied.

December 16th started early. For some. I am not going to address those that get up before the crack of dawn for some unknown reason. It just ain't right.

But I digress.

We started getting to the new location at Eden Seminary about 7:30 to start setting up for the event.

The fire was started. (Yes. We actually had one of those. With a fireplace and everything). Tables were covered and set up. Cookies laid out. Crafts were prepared. Coffee and hot chocolate were made. The front staff consisted of Lions Jerry, Norma, Kathy, Sandy, Becky, Daisy, Ryan, Shayla, and Ivy. Money man Fred got everything set up for us in his area.

Back in the kitchen, the Sausage Wizards (Lions Scott and Bill) had begun their annual task of properly preparing personal portions of peppered pork patties for the possible plethora of patrons partaking in the present pheast. (Let me have that one). Lion Luke made his inaugural appearance at PWS and did everything from keeping pancake batter and hot chocolate flowing to keeping all our equipment clean for us. Lion Rob was flippin' flapjacks. Peddling pancakes. Griddling griddlecakes. You get the idea.

They started coming in about 9am, as advertised. Some stayed longer than others, but our new digs worked wonderfully. Last of the folks left about noon, all well fed, entertained with crafts, and decorating cookies and, of course, visiting with the Man in Red himself.

It was a fun day. Might even do it again next year.



*Jolly Old St. Nick was on his throne, on the job,
taking care of all the little ones that came to see him.*

(I think they came for the pancakes, but who am I to argue? - ed)

Featured Lion



Each issue, we feature a Lion. This issue the target is one of our newer members...

We would like to introduce you to Lion

Name - Luke Mobley

Married - Meggie Mobley

Children - Not yet!

Lives in - Webster Groves (Holly and Elm)

Pets - One dog, Scout - 13 years old; 1/2 Lab, 1/2 German Shepherd per the Humane society. (We're pretty sure there's a hefty amount of Pitbull also);

One cat, Suki - 10 years old; Calico.

Born and Raised - Born in Mt. Vernon, IL. Raised in Salem, IL. Went to St. Louis College of Pharmacy, graduated 2013, and have stayed in the St. Louis area ever since.

Childhood dream career - Cement truck driver/pourer.

Actual career - Pharmacist

What you like about your job - I am fortunate enough to work from home and have a great crew that I work with. I also like that I can request off for PTO and get it approved, unlike my previous jobs.

Something we don't know about you - For a while when I was in college, I thought it would be cool to do genetic research. So much so that I volunteered at a genetics lab at Wash U for a summer and also did a rotation there. We worked with zebrafish exclusively. It was a really cool learning experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. I don't think I'll ever look at a zebrafish the same, though...

Talents - I really like ping pong! I played a lot with my dad growing up and even have a tattoo of ping pong paddles in a non-scandalous area! (back left shoulder). I have a big 'ol ping pong trophy from when I was in high school. I could hold my own against ranked players back then, but now I only play here and there with friends (but they still make me use handicaps).

Free time - Yes please!

Hobbies - I like to do outdoorsy stuff whenever possible. A friend of mine's family has a cabin in Leasburg and we will go on float trips a few times a year. My preferred mode of transportation when floating is kayak. When it's nicer out, I head over to Maryville with a few friends to ride bicycles on some paved trails they have over there. I also love that we can access Grant's trail via bike from our house.

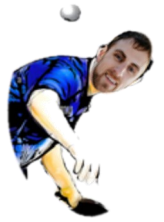
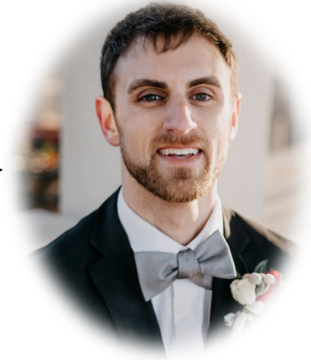
Proud Accomplishment - It's not my accomplishment, but I'm really proud of my wife for successfully starting her own chocolate shop.

Favorite Holiday - Halloween.

Favorite Food - I'm going with favorite food style and saying 'Cajun.' I like pretty much anything Cajun/Creole. My wife and I vacationed in

New Orleans once and I was in heaven.

Favorite Movie - Gattaca



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Football Luncheon

We were back at the barn for this year's Turkey Day luncheon. There were about 75 students and faculty in the house, er barn, and our crack



(Ya know, I may have misspoken. THIS is your Motley Crew .

staff of flippers, tongers, slicers, and servers snapped into action once again and fed that motley crew.

There was food for all, and the event went down as a success.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas

Child, through Samaritan's Purse, delivers joy to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box is packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items. With a budget of \$250, items are purchased for 10 boxes. Those items are then packed tightly into their respective boxes. *(I do not know how Lion Becky gets all that stuff in there.)* . These boxes are then dropped off at a specified location just before Thanksgiving, then they are sent to locations worldwide.



Afton School Backpack program

Much like Webster's Martha Hilden program, Afton school has what they call a Backpack Program. They stock their pantry with items they feel are necessary for some of their students in need. Some of their students are reluctant to take charity, so the program, at times, turns in to a covert affair where they take a more clandestine approach to delivering what is needed to those who need it. Our budgeted check for \$1000 came just in time to get the pantry restocked with food and personal hygiene items for the students in Afton schools



Webster Groves Police Officers Association

The WGPOA came to the Club with a request for a donation of \$125 for the purchase of a personalized tablecloth to be used for events for the promotion of their outreach association.

The first use of the new table adornment was the Holiday Open House in Old Webster on November 8th. It will be used for future events for years to come.



Our 2023 WG LIONS Christmas Party

was held at Pietro's this year. There were about 40 folks in attendance. Most of the regulars were there, and even a few we hadn't seen for a while .



One of the highlights of the evening was a Melvin Jones awarded to Larry the Younger. His nomination indicated that, in recent years, Larry had been a tremendous help before, during, and after carnival. This includes setting up, co-chairing on the grills for 4 days, towing trailers and tearing down. He is also integral to our BBQs, again, setting up plumbing, stepping in to do a great job Q-ing, and helping tear down and tow.



Peace Posters

There were 68 entries from Hixson and Rogers in this years Peace Poster contest. "Dare to Dream" was the theme for the students to use in their art work. The Webster Groves Public Library provided the location. The Club provided beverages and desserts for the students and their parents.



Over the past several weeks, the posters were designed, drawn, and submitted for consideration by our impartial, but totally cool and nifty judges., Lions Daisy (first year), Teddi, Sandy, Jerry, and Rob. Posters are judged on theme as well as visual impact. They are rated from 1 to 10 by each judge, then we bring in the math to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places between the two schools. Should any judge feel that there is a poster deserving special recognition, that poster may be given a "Judge's Choice" award. We had four such posters awarded this year. On top of the gift cards from Walmart awarded to each student, they are also given a high quality and "framable" certificate announcing their achievement.



In addition, we were able to award each schools art department a check for \$525.

WG Public Library 2023 Book Sale

On September 29 & 30th, the WG Public Library held their annual book sale. But on September 28th, they were in need of folks to help move boxes upon boxes upon boxes of books from the toms up to the meeting room where the sale was to be held.

That's where Lion Luke come in to the picture.

Laura Wherenburg, co-chair for the book sale this year contacted us for help. We were only able to supply one member to aid in their endeavor, but apparently the one we sent was enough.

Lion Luke apparently represented the Club quite well. Laura said that Lion Luke moved almost all of the boxes of books from storage to the library meeting room by himself.

He also reports that *"Everyone was super nice and we had a good time. Once we got a rhythm going, it went by quickly. Wish I could be here for them moving them back, but I'm glad I was at least able to help them with this part! Also, you thankfully can't tell in this picture, but I'm drenched in sweat. I recommend for at least one of our activities in the near future, we go with sweat-wicking shirts instead of cotton."*



Take note of the face poking out in the back.. It's our very own Future Lion Gene Steinman

Mo School for the Blind Holiday Extravaganza

This year, we again were asked to sponsor a student for the Holiday Extravaganza. The Club "adopted" a young girl, named Taylor Smith, through the MO School for the Blind. With a budget of \$200, Lion Teddi made the purchases and Lion Becky made the delivery.



2023 Bell Ringing

The Lions Club of Webster Groves once again supported the Salvation Army by "Ringing the Bell" at Schnuck's again this year. While I don't know what year this tradition started, it is clear that the club remains passionate about filling the need. Eleven club members worked a total of 16 hours over two days. Unfortunately there's no way to know exactly how much money was raised, the community was very generous as always. Thank you to all club members who participated. For those who didn't, plan on it next year!



(It should be noted that this event was a pet project for our own Lion Don Gerber. In the past few years, Lion Ryan has picked up the banner and made sure the event was a success. He is seen here with his wife, future Lion Gretchen. - ed.)

(It should also be noted that this event is so well known, even the Big Man in Red stopped by and worked the kettle. Himself. - ed,)



Featured Lion—Luke Mobley cont'd from page 2

Favorite TV show - Frasier (I hear they're doing a reboot!)



Favorite Music - This is a little out there, but when I'm working, I like to have "Retrowave" music in the background. It's a similar vibe to the theme from Stranger Things - electronic in an 80's kind of way. I also like "Electro Swing," which is swing music that also has some electronic elements mixed in.

I swear these are real things.

Why you like being a Lion - I'm from a small town where everyone knows each other. It's a bit too small for me, and I wouldn't move back for that reason, but sometimes I do miss the familiarity everyone had with each other. Coming to meetings and being around you guys in general reminds me a lot of the fond memories I had growing up.

Why you became a Lion - My wife and I don't have kids (yet) and I wanted to do something community-related with my free time. Saw the ad in the paper for the BBQ and the rest is history.



Anniversaries

January

Dakota Smith - 5

Quin Swederska - 14

Maria suiter - 16

Larry Suiter - 16

Ryan Whittington - 22

February

Tim Rabbitt - 18

Norma Wampler - 1

March

Max Burton - 22

Cheryl Davidson - 23

President's Message

Another year has come and gone. I am proud of our club for following our motto, "We Serve".

Thanks to all of the club members who assisted with all our fund raisers.

You all have shown that our club does not shirk its responsibilities to our community.

Here is hoping. the new year is better than the last.

Yours in Lionism - Lion Jerry Clubbs

One Final word—

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

~Oscar Wilde