2021-2022 Board of Directors

President                  Lion Jim Ehrmentraut
Past President            Lion Al Arilotta
1st Vice President        Lion Ruth Stewart
2nd Vice President        Lion Valerie Potocki
Treasurer                 Lion Randy Kehl
Secretary                 Lion Debbie Landers
Tail Twister              Lion Marty Molinari
Lion Tamer                Lion George Beldue
Financial Secretary       Lion Mel Sand
Membership Chair          Lion Jill Kohler
1 Year Director           Lion Mark Kohler
1 Year Director           Lion Bob Weitz
2 Year Director           Lion Joe De Leo
2 Year Director           Lion Nancy Neidrauer

--- Calendar of Events ---

Dec 5th  4pm Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Village Hall
Dec 7th  6:30pm Board, Business & Dinner Meeting at My Kinda Place
Dec 14th Multi-Club Christmas Party at Salmon Creek Country Club
              6pm Cash Bar — 6:30pm Dinner. See page 9
Dec 18th Noon—2pm Holiday Food Baskets at Riga Town Hall
Jan 11th  6:30pm Board and Business Meeting at My Kinda Place
Jan 25th  6:30pm Dinner meeting at My Kinda Place
Jan 30th  Winterfest & Chicken BBQ Churchville Elementary School 12-3pm
My Fellow Lions,

As I sit here trying to think of something profound to say in my last newsletter of 2021, well sometimes the wheel is turning but nothing happens. So I think I just need to say what is in my heart.

As the holidays are fast approaching, we need to take a deep breath and think about all that we as a club have accomplished this past year. I am not going to subject any of you to a month by month listing of your accomplishments. The one thing that I do want to bring to your attention is, with all the obstacles that were thrown at this club, we always found a way to work around them.

I have always heard the saying “From something bad comes something good.” Covid is for sure the BAD. Now for the Good, we have had to rethink our way of running this club. We became comfortable with zoom meetings, meetings in backyards, in garages, and then spreading out in a restaurant so we could be together but still feel safe. Are we done making changes? I hope not, change can be good.

We have had successful fund raising events, proving we can and will survive without a Country Fair. We have taken center stage in our community. We have supported many groups like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Leo Club, the Riga Library, the Village with the new Gateway Signs, the three food give-a-ways and the Fire Department. Have I missed something? I am sure I have. The one thing that I have witnessed over and over is the support from you, our members. There has not been one time when I asked for help or needed a volunteer that I was ever turned down. That is what is called family.

This next meeting on the 7th will be a busy night. We need to discuss the Winter Fest, the Wreaths Across America, our Christmas food distribution, a request to sponsor a candidate for Boys State and report from the Tree Lighting in the Village. This night we will be having a trifecta meeting: Board, Business and Dinner. I hope we can have a good turnout for this night as I will want input from all.

At this time I want to thank Mark and Doug for their hard work on the newsletters. I want to congratulate Debbie on her upcoming retirement on the 16th. And I am hoping to welcome Randy back in January.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Joy-full New Year.

Lion Jim
LEO Club news:
In the month for giving thanks, the LEO Club teamed with the school Student Council to conduct a food drive for the Open Door Mission. Collection was a super success; the students assembled all the food and filled numerous boxes and containers for the individual families. One student commented "I didn't know Churchville had such a big heart." Then they filled the Open Door Mission van with all the food collected.

December promises to be a busy month with several school fun events; the Wreaths Across America and our annual collection of personal hygiene items also for the Open Door Mission.
The October 31st Halloween Parade was a howling success as the largest crowd of Halloween Tricksters took to the streets for a fun walk along a circular route led by CFD Rescue 428 and Fairy Godmother Lion Verna. The day started at the Village Gazebo hanging ghouls from the rafters, lights all around and headstones in the gardens. The parade started at 6 pm.
The Parade finished at the Nancy L. Steedman Gazebo where the Halloween kids showed off their costumes for an extra prize and received a Treat bag of candy and games. Thanks to all Lions who helped with decorations and treat bag distributions, Dave Thomas from Riga Recreation for organization and treats, and the Churchville Fire Department for the Rescue Truck and traffic control.

Here’s some of the Fun in pictures —
The November 9th dinner was held at My Kinda Place, and after a hearty meal District Governor Curt Burdick, accompanied by his wife Lisa, talked about future leadership positions and the need to fill vacancies in Zone and Region Chairs. He also discussed his ongoing theme of “Serving with Passion” and urging Lions Clubs to reap the rewards of volunteering at Lions Camp Badger in Spencer NY, where he has spent many hours working on various projects. The final portion of the evening was DG Lion Curt installing two new members to the Club: Lions Diane Wilkinson and Doug Eisele. Congratulations Lions Diane and Doug!

The candidates repeat the Member Pledge as dictated by DG Curt.

Lion George looks on as Lion Doug shows his Certificate of Membership.

Lion Pins are affixed by Doug’s sponsor Lion George and Diane’s sponsor Lion Nancy.

Lion Diane gets a hug from Lion Nancy.

Dinner and Installation with District Governor Lion Curt Burdick

District Governor Lion Curt Burdick

Lion Lisa and DG Curt

Seated:
Lions Mel, Jim, Al.
Standing:
Lions Mark, Bob, Debbie, Marty, Jill, Joe, George, Ruth, DG Curt, Lisa
Saturday, November 20 was distribution day for the Club’s Thanksgiving Holiday Food Baskets. It was a cold and blustery, but sunny, day. The food basket recipients came to the Riga Town Hall between noon and 2:00 pm to receive their box along with apples, butternut squash, a five-pound bag of potatoes and a frozen roasting chicken. We received many expressions of thankfulness and appreciation for the Lions Club’s service to the community.

We served a total of 39 families. 60 families were sent a letter/application inviting them to join our Holiday Food Basket Project for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Those who responded were sent a postcard the week before distribution reminding them of the date, pick-up location and time.

Boy Scout Troop 133 assisted by placing the baskets, produce and meat in the recipients’ cars. Many thanks to Scouts Loren, Adrien, Jude, Josh, Micah, Nick, and Holly. And their adult support – Leader Courtney Monaghan, Jeremy, Tom, Eric. Lions Jackie, Gary, Bob, Doug, Jed and Diane also assisted.

Churchville Elementary School donated at least a truckload of canned goods through their annual food drive. Thank you, Lion Pam, for coordinating this! We are thankful for the students and staff taking part in this event!

Maier Farms donated butternut squash; Colby Homestead Farms sold us the potatoes at $.50 per bag; Whittier Road Fruit Farm donated four bushels of apples. The Mattil family donated turkeys. And we purchased the chickens from ANG Market. Canned goods were donated and left by community members in the various Lions Club food collection boxes around town. Thank you to everyone who donated food to our food pantry! If you would like to donate food for Christmas, please call one of the Food Committee members, or drop off your donation in one of the collection boxes in town.

Christmas Holiday Food Baskets will be distributed Saturday, December 18, so we will be packing those boxes very shortly. (We will also distribute Easter Holiday Food Baskets in the spring.)

Thank you to Lion President Jim for transporting food donated by CES to Lion Bob’s home. A big thank you to Lion Bob who has willingly stored canned goods in his basement! We also use his garage to sort and pack the boxes.

Thank you all for your support!
Food Committee
Lions Buzz, Deb and Linda
See next page for photos
You’re all invited …

to the Joint Lions Christmas Party to be held at Salmon Creek Country Club.
Cash Bar at 6pm, Dinner at 6:30. Prime Rib Buffet - Cost $25.
After dinner there will be a White Elephant Gift Exchange.
Bring along a $10 new or used item wrapped.
The 2019 Joint Christmas Party was loads of fun -