

# THE LIONS ROAR

The Official Newsletter of the Manitowish Waters Lions Club

Manitowish Waters, WI 54545 <a href="https://www.mwlionsclub.com">https://www.mwlionsclub.com</a> Feb.-Mar. 2023



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#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, its midwinter in the Northwoods and while many of you are traveling in warmer climates right about now, I'm still in MW and enjoying what our winter landscape has to offer.

#### **Colin Tibbits**

We had a good turnout at our January dinner and were graced with a great presentation by Colin Tibbits on his trip to Pasadena with his band mates. Colin called and asked me if he could thank our club in person for supporting him and his bandmates on their once in a lifetime trip to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena and I said "by all means"! He was great!!

#### Camp Jorn

We also had Camp Jorn's new executive director Trueman Hoffmeister join us for our dinner meeting and he will be joining our club shortly! Welcome Trueman.

#### **Membership Battle**

A couple other quick things....
We are in a battle with Minocqua
Lions club for the most new

members to join between Jan 1 and June 1 2023. We are tied with them with 7 new members so far, in 2023. This contest is open to all the clubs in our zone, which is the Northern half of Wisconsin. We are looking at adding 4 new members this month so it looks like we are going to give Minocqua a run for their money!

The February dinner meeting is the 21st (annual zone meeting) and this year its being held in Hurley. So, far 5 of us are going to head up to Hurley for dinner. Anyone else that wants to go let me know.

#### No March Meeting

Being that many of our local restaurants are closed and many of you missing from the Northwoods in March, we will not have a March dinner meeting.

## North Lakeland Bucks Hockey Last but not least...

At our January meeting I read out loud many of the thank you notes we received for the donations we made throughout the year. I recently received another thank you letter from North Lakeland Bucks Hockey Program for our generous donation this past year...It says it all.... I think you will enjoy it....!

By the way, this is Dave Hamilton's first Lions Roar. Thanks Dave!!

Cheers, Mike McKeon





## **Lakeland Bucks Hockey**



Hello Lions Members!

We wanted to reach out to give you an update on how the hockey season is progressing and some details of what we see in our future.

#### **Two U8 Teams Formed**

First, the season so far has been filled with many proud and exciting moments but has also come with some challenges. We currently have 20 players in the program and have formed two U8 teams with different skill levels. It was, as you can imagine, a little bit of a learning curve the first few practices getting all 20 kids into their gear and on the ice moving through different drill

stations. That combined with some weather cancellations made for an interesting first few weeks of the season!
Through all this though...the kids made huge strides in their abilities. At the first practice, almost half of the 20 skaters were using skate aids, and by the 3rd practice no skate aids were to be found on the ice.

#### **First Game**

As we started January, we looked forward to hosting our first game. This grew into quite the event after other teams ran into scheduling issues and we all decided to meet at North Lakeland's rink. With 6 teams, multiple games, and around

100 spectators, we were thrown in the deep end right off the bat. Our kids got to experience what it was like to play a game, what it takes to get better, and all the while with huge smiles on their faces playing their first ever North Lakeland Bucks hockey games. Practices the last few weeks continue to get better and the advancement of the kids is nothing short of amazing. Kids that couldn't skate are now working on stopping and change of direction, puck handling, and passing to teammates. It is incredible to see where we have come in 2 short months -12 practices and 5 games.

As we look toward the rest of the season, the month of February brings a few more games and practices. We'll see how long the ice holds out and will continue to practice as long as we can.

#### **Summer Camp**

Heading into summer, we are looking into holding a dry-land camp for any kids that would like to work on stick handling, shooting, and agility to help when they get back out on the ice next year. We are also planning for fundraising opportunities - two Music in the Parks and hoping to get a spot in the Trigs Brat Stand come May 1st. We are exploring putting together a 4th of July float to build more awareness of the program, and potentially raise funds. Fundraising in the fall is still up in the air - we have a few ideas but are open to opportunities that we can take part in.

#### **Expanding the Program**

As we look to taking the ice next year, we are considering having a U10 team, a U8 team, and a Learn to Skate/Learn to Play program to get young kids involved and off on the right skate. With the potential U10 and our U8 program, we are planning on renting ice down at Lakeland so our kids can start skating at the same time all other teams do. This will provide an additional 10 or so practices for our kids to continue their development and help keep pace with other programs in the area so we are

competitive in games. We are also planning a large U8 Mite Jam next year to showcase our area and help raise funds for our organization.

#### **Some Unknowns**

On the organization side of things we have a few large unknowns that have come about which has led us to be cautious with any dollars spent this year and raise as much as we can to ensure the stability of the program. First, next season our lease of the rink will not be a handshake, one dollar type agreement, but a more formal lease that will include costs to run the lights at the rink, the heating of the hockey hut, and maintenance for equipment used to maintain the area (all averaged and rolled into the lease amount). This should limit our exposure to large unforeseen costs, and we are working with the district on this, but we do not know what this cost may be at this point and time. We also are working through who will be responsible for rink creation, hockey lines, rink maintenance, and snow removal of the ice. This is also a large variable cost and we have little clarity at this point how much of this we will be responsible for. We look forward to partnering with everyone to create the best ice/hockey experience we can for our kids.

Our program's number one goal continues to be to get kids

on the ice having fun, learning hockey, and making our program free for all in the process. With that said, any and all help will continue to be greatly appreciated as we grow the program and push through the unknowns that lie ahead.

Thank you so much for your continued support of North Lakeland Ice and the dream we have.



# Happy Birthday to these Esteemed Lions!

#### **February Birthdays**

John Hegel Eugene Meier Paul Puccinelli Parker Sharpe Douglas Ziese

#### **March Birthdays**

Robert Becker
Charles Behnke
Tim Casey
Robert Dietz
James Higgins
Stas' Moszynski
Mike Osborne
Charles Rayala III
Louis Wrobleweki



I joined MW Lions last summer, and I am enthusiastic about editing the Lion's Road newsletter. A Big Thank You to Mike & Pat Hahn for all the past work terrific job! A little background: I retired from Fiserv in Brookfield six years ago. We bought a summer cottage on Manitowish Lake in 2020 and really fell in love with the area. My wife Carolyn and I like to bike the paved trails with our E-bikes, we like hiking, and I like fishing.

Since our cottage is summeronly, we spend winter at our home in Brookfield. Editing the newsletter is something I can do remotely. This summer I will be more active in the other Lions events, and look forward to getting to know all you guys. If you have anything to contribute to the newsletter, or have any suggestions, corrections, etc., please let me know. My cell is 262-955-4543, and email is <a href="mailtondave@outlook.com">hamiltondave@outlook.com</a>.

**Dave Hamilton** 

#### **Director Elections**

New terms / elections are in April. Those with expiring terms in 2023 will be voted on for and additional 2 years. Officers will also be voted on by the membership. If you are interested in joining the board contact **Mike McKeon.** 



## **Welcome New Lions!**

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Sue Griswold
Dan Lahart
Sally Stewart
Marly Bowlus
Trueman Hoffmeister
Carole Culler
Guy Kapal



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