

*Lion's Club*

*of Lexington, Inc.*

1936

1976



*40th Anniversary*

HERITAGE HALL

*April 3rd, 1976*

# LIONS CLUB OF LEXINGTON, INC.

1975 - 1976

## Officers

JOHN LUCENTE .....	President
LEO LENTINI .....	First Vice-President
HERBERT P. GROSSIMON .....	Second Vice-President
GEORGE C. MAUNDER .....	Third Vice-President
DAVID C. MOSHER .....	Secretary
G. RICHARD BEAMON .....	Treasurer
RALPH CATALDO .....	Tail Twister
DANIEL MCCABE .....	Lion Tamer

## Directors

GEORGE E. BULLOCK	MARION A. LEFFLER
RICHARD WERTHEIM	HASKELL W. REED
HARVEY A. SMITH, (I.P.P.)	

## Club Roster 1975-1976

Adams, John	Flynn, Raymond J.	Silva, Edward
Aronin, Lewis	Grossimon, Herbert P.	Shimanski, James
Beamon, G. Richard	Hagopian, Dr. Varant	Skinner, Kenneth C.
Bears, Elias T.	Hunt, Dr. R. Willard	Smith, Harvey A.
Belcastro, Francis E.	Koumjian, Aram A.	Stevens, Robert W.
Blodgett, Richard E.	Leffler, Marion A.	Sutherby, George J.
Blodgett, Kenneth F.	Lentini, Leo C.	Wertheim, Richard
Borngesser, Bert V.	Lucente, John	Wise, Abraham
Briggs, Kenneth	Maunder, George C.	Zalewski, William C.
Brown, Otis S., Jr.	Mazerall, Paul E.	<i>Members At Large</i>
Bullock, George E.	McCabe, Daniel	Curley, Paul D.
Carlson, Herbert T.	Medeiros, George R.	Benzaquin, Robert
Cataldo, James	Michelson, Richard A.	<i>Privileged Members</i>
Cataldo, Ralph	Mosher, David C.	Yuill, Dr. Daniel C.
Cataldo, William	Newman, Sheldon	Baker, Gabriel
Comley, George D.	Outhet, Ernest E.	Tropeano, Alfred P.
Corkum, Russell W.	Perry, Richard F.	<i>Honorary Members</i>
English, Charles	Reed, Haskell W.	Handley, Rev. Harold
Fitzgerald, William P.	Rooney, Joseph O.	Andolina, James
	Sederquist, Douglas A.	

## Fortieth Anniversary Committee

KENNETH F. BLODGETT, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	
WILLIAM P. FITZGERALD, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	
DR. WILLARD HUNT	BERT V. BORNGESSER
ELIAS T. BEARS	DOUGLAS A. SEDERQUIST
HASKELL W. REED	ROBERT W. STEVENS
ERNEST E. OUTHET	RUSSELL W. CORKUM

CLUB CHARTERED

JANUARY 1936

SPONSOR

SOMERVILLE LIONS CLUB

FIRST MEETING

JANUARY 24, 1936

*Charter Members*

CHARLES W. ALLEN  
WILLIAM ANDERSEN  
GABRIEL BAKER  
DR. HAROLD J. CRUMB  
EDWARD M. DALRYMPLE  
J. LORING DOUGLAS  
JAMES E. FITZGERALD  
PAUL H. LOEFFLER  
EDGAR MAIN (*President*)  
ARTHUR E. MacNEILL  
HAROLD MICHELSON  
CLIFTON R. PRICE  
EZRA SLAUNWHITE  
CORNELEUS J. SULLIVAN  
ALFRED P. TROPEANO  
ETTORE P. VENIER

*Club Sponsored*

BEDFORD LIONS CLUB --- MAY 1954

### *Honored Guests*

- Dr. Harold J. Crumb — Charter Member  
Gabriel Baker — Charter Member  
Alfred Tropeano — Charter Member  
Harold Michelson — Charter Member  
Ettore Venier — Charter Member  
Carl G. Roessler — Past Director, Lions International  
Charles Manousos — District Governor, 33N  
Douglas F. Raymond — Cabinet Secretary — Treasurer, District 33N  
Richard J. Heald — Deputy District Governor, Region 3  
Robert E. McKenna — Zone Chairman, Zone 7  
William Healy — President Somerville Club  
Edward P. Scott, P.D.G. — Eye Research Chairman  
Richard T. Jones — President, Bedford Club  
Dr. Howard M. Kassler — Chairman, Lexington Board of Selectmen  
John Maloney — President, Rotary Club of Lexington  
Dennis Lowe — President, Lexington Junior Chamber of Commerce  
David Lavendar — President, Kiwanis Club of Lexington  
Reverend Harold Handley — Chaplain, Lexington Lions Club  
James Corr — Chief, Lexington Police Department  
Joseph Marshall — Chief, Lexington Fire Department  
Walter O'Connell — Town Manager  
Mrs. Robert Muse — Past caterer, Lexington Lions Club  
John J. McSweeney — Director of Lexington Public Works Department  
Robert Cataldo — Chairman, Facilities and Sites Committee, Massachusetts Community Colleges  
Lincoln P. Cole, Jr. — State Representative, Thirty-fifth Middlesex District

## PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF COLORS .....	LEXINGTON MINUTEMEN
GOD BLESS AMERICA .....	RICHARD WERTHEIM
FLAG SALUTE .....	JOHN LUCENTE
THE LIONS TOAST .....	KEN BLODGETT
INVOCATION .....	REVEREND HAROLD HANDLEY
WELCOME ADDRESS .....	JOHN LUCENTE
INTRODUCTIONS .....	BILL FITZGERALD
PRESENTATIONS OF CHEVRON AWARDS .....	GOVERNOR CHARLES MANOUSOS
40 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD .....	GABRIEL BAKER
	ALFRED TROPEANO
35 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD .....	WILLIAM FITZGERALD
30 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD .....	DR. WILLARD HUNT
20 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD .....	GEORGE MEDEIROS
15 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD .....	RUSSELL CORKUM
	PAUL CURLEY
	ABRAHAM WISE
	KENNETH SKINNER

### *Greetings*

DR. HOWARD KASSLER, *Chairman Board of Selectmen*

CARL ROESSLER, *Past International Director, of Lions International*

## History of Lionism in Lexington (1936 to 1961)

Late in the year of 1935 there was a stir in the complacent Middlesex Town of Lexington, Massachusetts known, at that time, as one of the bedrooms of Greater Boston. This disturbance was caused by one, Claude Cain, an organizer for Lions International, who had the temerity to come into our midst and plant a seed. In the weeks and months that followed, there was much coming and going, here, there, and everywhere.

Lo and behold, on January 24th, 1936, a new child was born to the family of Lions International, sponsored by the Somerville Lions Club and conceived by Claude Cain and a few young Lexingtonians.

This squalling, restive, expectant, extrovert gradually became adjusted to its environment and started to grow. This was not accomplished without the usual growing pains.

Under the very capable and parental hand of Edgar Main, first President of the Lexington Lions Club, the sixteen Charter Members started to flex their biceps and assert themselves, individually and collectively. We were up, we were down, we were at odds; in any event, we began to perceive and enjoy the meaning of Lionism; that is fellowship-service-work together for all those we could help.

In the early years of the Lexington Lions Club there were so many interesting and fascinating anecdotes, that time nor space would allow them to be recounted. It is sufficient to say, they were aggressive, contentious, controversial, and constructive years.

A meeting place and adequate food were essentials. Finance was ever in the picture. We met and ate at Ma Piro's, Partridge's and the Old Coffee House. Still struggling for our place in the sun, we redecorated, individually and collectively, the old G.A.R. Hall in the Lexington Savings Bank Building in December 1936.

This was the adolescent period for this squalling and now brawling youngster in the family of Lions International. It challenged the Lexington Rotary Club to a basketball game, aboard stubborn donkeys, at the High School Gym. The sum of \$150 was turned over to the High School Student Activities Fund. The next summer, Lions and Rotarians became embroiled in a comic baseball game. Grotesque creatures came to bat while rabbits ran the bases and squirrels were in the outfield.

In the meantime, a Penny Sale was held at Cary Memorial Hall, with fear and trepidation on the part of all members. Success was ours. We moved to the Old Belfry Club, and it seemed as though we were growing up! (We thought). We lost members, we gained new members, we struggled to become mature and identify ourselves. Among other things in these early years, we established the 19th of April Road Race, we entered a float in the Parade and through the years we have taken first prize on two occasions. We furnished examinations and glasses for all who had need, white canes for the blind, as well as food baskets, cigarettes and wool at Christmas time.

As time went on, each Lion, from the President to the average member, endeavored to do his best to serve his club, his country, and his fellow man. It is impossible to recount or even to record the many services that this now mature Lions Club has rendered.

Each week brought new problems, new challenges. We moved to the Mohawk Club, struggled to survive, and through the tenacity and perseverance of a small few, we became rejuvenated. We assumed the Sponsorship of the local Sea Scout Ship and sent a deserving boy to Summer Camp in New Hampshire. Also a delegate to the District Convention in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

The annual Penny Sale became the money source of fund raising. In 1941, the Club sponsored "See Yourself in the Movies", an hilarious and, at times, trying experience for many members. Three boys were sent to Camp Copithorne and three Lions Club road signs were erected. Members were working with Air Raid, Auxiliary Fire and Police, and Medical Defense Groups. Ten members journeyed to Boston to make blood donations at the Red Cross and fifteen soldiers from Fort Devens were entertained at times.

In 1942, the coaches and Captains of the Lexington and Concord football teams were feted before the annual Thanksgiving Game. This initiated what has become the annual sports night, honoring the coaches and captains of Lexington and Concord, and also the Little League Braves whom we sponsor. The early forties were busy years. Many members went into the Services. The Lions Club joined with the Rotary Club in giving each Lexingtonian that joined the Armed Forces a suitable going away gift.

Through the efforts of our Club, a Lexington High School Boosters Club was formed and flourished for many years. Underprivileged children were sent to summer camp. A bowling team and a softball team were formed and participated in league competition. The annual Ladies night, Charter night and August Cook-out were enjoyed every year by members, their families and invited guests. We moved to the Old House for food and fun. The Tri-Corne Hat became the official head gear for Lions in 1945 and were sold on April 19th to the general public.

In 1945 the Club began to assist in the annual March of Dimes Campaign and in 1946 assumed full responsibility for this function. It is interesting to note how the collection of \$1,567 in 1948 compares with the most recent amount of \$7,000. One hundred dollars was given to the Lexington High School Band, and a score board was erected at the end of the gridiron at Parker Field.

At the beginning of the 1950's, the Road Race, Float, Ladies Night, Penny Sale, Baskets for the needy, and Sight Conservation work had all become routine annual events. At this time management of Gumball Machine concessions were added to the Fund Raising efforts. A polio victim was sent to Camp Sea Haven and a Boy Scout to Camp Sagem. Also a hearing aid was provided for a deserving Lexington girl. In 1952 a new boat was obtained for the Sea Scouts and a very successful Merchants Exhibit replaced the Penny Sale as a fund raising function. This was followed by an equally successful and enjoyable Spring Music Festival. Sponsorship of a team in the Little League was undertaken by the Club.

Eye Research became the official project of all Massachusetts Lions Clubs. The sale of light bulbs provided funds to assist this worthy effort. Fluorescent Scotch Safety Tape was applied to the bikes of over 500 Lexington children. In 1954 the Club initiated the custom of giving a white tri-corne hat to the Lexington citizen who has made a significant contribution to American Liberty. In the middle 50's, the Club continued to grow both in size and scope of its activities. Among the latter was the frequent disappearance of the Penny Bank, much to the discomfort of the Presidents.

Group polio immunization was instituted by the Club. A Dog Show was held in addition to the Merchants Exhibit, sale of light bulbs, gumballs, flags, hats, etc. for fund raising.

In 1957, the Club embarked upon its most ambitious undertaking to date. The July 4th Celebration. Included were a Midway, a record hop, Band Concert, Parade, Pie Eating, and Bubble Gum Contests, a tug of war, water polo, antique car parade, road race, and topped off by an excellent fireworks display. There was fine co-operation by the membership and excellent planning by the committee, so that this was voted a tremendous success and has become an opportunity for Lexingtonians to keep off the highways on the Fourth while having a good time at home, with all the profits going to Lions charities.

Funds were provided for trophies for a Swim Meet at Center Playground. Approximately three-fourths ton of clothing was collected for Mid-East Clothing Drive. The Club joined with the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs to raise approximately \$1,700. for the Science and Engineering Scholarship Fund. Over \$500 was turned over to the State Eye Research Fund.

In addition to the great variety of activities, an interesting and highly successful Slide show was held. A Fishing Derby for young Lexingtonian, David Waltons' was enthusiastically enjoyed and a Glaucoma Clinic was held. Some 410 free examinations were made. At this time the Club purchased its own Gumball Machines and has continued this operation. The Convention Fund Raffles were originated and have proven increasingly fruitful and productive. The Reservoir Project came into being and we are cooperating with the Town of Lexington in an effort to make the area a fine recreation spot for our town.

1960 saw the Lexington Lions Club attain its full stature. Now an active, vigorous member of the Lions International Family which consists of 1,087 Clubs in 108 countries, Lexington has 55 Active Members, 7 Members at Large and 3 Honorary Members. Full maturity was gained in this year when the Club was incorporated.

All of the afore mentioned activities are in full swing and many more are in the making. It is a source of great gratification to all past and present members, to see such a vigorous, active, hard working Service Club typifying the slogan — Liberty-Intelligence-Our Nations Safety.

## The Next 15 Years (1961-1976)

During this fifteen year period the Lexington Lion's Club continued many of the charitable activities of the past and initiated a number of new charitable enterprises. Lionism is well established in the Town of Lexington, and we enjoy a fine reputation for charitable endeavors and aid to numerous youth groups, local organizations, private individuals, national and international causes.

The Club has also found a marked increase in funds raised through various activities. The financial health of the Club has increased phenomenally allowing us to expand our charitable activities and concurrently to make substantial sized donations to worthy causes as more and more solicitations for funds present themselves to the Club and its Board of Directors. Our donations alone to the Massachusetts Lion's Eye Research Fund, Inc., exceeded \$25,000 during this period of the Club's history.

The White Tricorn Hat Award presented annually on April 19th to a Lexington citizen who over the years has made a notable contribution to the town's well being, has now become a coveted award. This award initiated in 1954 has been proudly received by three of our Lion members. As you know, the Lion's Club sponsors and presents the White Tricorn Hat Award, but the selection is made up of a committee composed of the other service clubs in Lexington and a number of distinguished citizens.

In 1957 the Club embarked upon its most ambitious fund raising activity, the annual 4th of July carnival. This "Old Fashioned Fourth" celebration has become the main fund raising activity of the Club, with profits from the event in the five-figures in a number of these years. This event, which requires a lot of planning and teamwork by the Club and the participation of many friends of the club, provides an event looked forward to by the townspeople, particularly the youth. The kiddies events which include foot races, bubble-gum blowing, sack and three-legged races, watermelon and blue-berry pie eating contests, coupled with the costume, doll carriage and decorated bicycle competition has in some years drawn more than 400 children to the enclosed High School field to compete for trophies and ribbons. The fireworks have recently been discontinued because of the traffic jams created throughout the Town and roads into the Town. Crowds as large as 100,000 have been estimated in attendance at our 3 and 4 day event. It certainly has become a spectacular celebration and the profit from this event alone has provided opportunity to broaden and increase our charitable endeavors.

In 1961 the Club established the John Lamont Scholarship Fund for financial scholarships for graduates of Lexington High School to pursue careers in the trades or vocations. This scholarship fund was established in memory of John Lamont who was a past president of the Club and a tradesman. In 1971 the name of the fund was changed to the Lions Memorial Scholarship Fund. Awards which were at the level of \$300 in 1962 increased to \$2200 in 1975 with a total disbursement of greater than \$11,000 to date.

The Glaucoma Clinic established in 1959 has now become an annual event sponsored principally by the Lexington Lion's Club with other organizations participating. This clinic, originated with the Club, has become a model for other Lion's Clubs and organizations in the Commonwealth who gained by our experience and success. In addition to the Glaucoma Clinic, we initiated a pre-school eye screening clinic in Lexington which annually screens approximately 200 youngsters. This clinic also was a



first by our Club and likewise has served as a model throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These clinics, together with a continual large number of care and services to individuals, purchase of Braille equipment, establishment of a collection of large-type books at the Cary Memorial Library, camperships for blind children, capped off by our substantial contribution to the Massachusetts Lion's Eye Research Fund, makes eye care the principal charity of the Club.

During this period the Annual Fishing Derby, which on occasion was enjoyed by more than 300 young anglers, was discontinued as the Ol' Reservoir was put to other uses by the Town. But many a trout was caught, and a new generation of tall-tale fishermen began their career with trophies and ribbons to give credence to members of that breed of sportsmen.

With the financial success of the Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration, the fund raising activities were reoriented. The gum ball fund keeps rolling along and the light bulb sales have been off and on. The runner up for fund raising activities has now become the sale of black and gold tricorne hats to the public. This activity has been gaining momentum and has even put us in the mail order business. The principal impetus for these sales essentially began around the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Lexington, became an annual April 19th event and is now a year round enterprise. The purple and gold tricorne hat was adopted in 1944 as an official symbol of the Massachusetts Lions and is recognized by the townspeople to identify Lexington Lions along with our purple and gold vests which are worn at every public event. Incidentally during our 250th Anniversary in 1963, our float won first prize in the April 19th parade in competition with 30 other floats in our class.

Along with our annual sponsorship of the Little League and Minute Man League of baseball teams, the Club in 1965 established the Chief John Rycroft Memorial plaque which honors outstanding Little League baseball players of the year and is dedicated to the late Chief of Police of Lexington. These awards which include trophies and inscriptions of names on the plaque which hangs in the police station are presented at our annual sports night. At this event we also host coaches and captains of the Lexington and our arch-rival Concord, but now Burlington High School football teams. To the baseball teams funded and sponsored by the Club we added a contribution in 1972 to the Lexington Youth Hockey League adding to our interest in youth sports and activities.

In 1965 the Club donated a substantial amount of funds for equipment for the establishment of the Lexington Lions diagnostic and emergency eye treatment room at the Symmes Hospital. To this we also made a large contribution to building funds of the Symmes Hospital and the Mystic Valley Health Association. The Club owns and loans a number of wheel chairs and hospital beds which are continually in use by the sick and elderly.

The above is the history of events and activities of the Club during the past 15 years. At the end of this fifteen year period, in 1976, on the 40th Anniversary of the Lexington Lion's Club, in the year of our National Bicentennial, the Lion's Club of Lexington stands beside other Lions in Lions International. Lions International has over 1,096,000 members in 28,761 clubs in 148 countries and geographical areas. Our Clubs' 49 Active Members, 2 Members at Large, 3 Privileged Members and 2 Honorary Members and those before us have given so much of themselves to the service of their fellow man and to those less privileged than ourselves.

### *Past Presidents*

Edgar Main	January 24 -1936 - June 1937
Harold Crumb	July 1937 - June 1938
Harold Crumb	July 1938 - June 1939
Alfred Tropeano	July 1939 - June 1941
John Lamont	July 1941 - June 1942
William Fitzgerald	July 1942 - June 1943
Lester Andrews	July 1943 - June 1944
Charles Bailey	July 1944 - June 1945
Charles Bailey	July 1945 - June 1946
Jim Carpenter	July 1946 - June 1947
Warren Emmons	July 1947 - June 1948
Kenneth Moyle	July 1948 - June 1949
Doc Hunt	July 1949 - June 1950
Al Runnals	July 1950 - June 1951
Herb Carlson	July 1951 - June 1952
Bert Borngesser	July 1952 - June 1953
Henry Wiltshire	July 1953 - June 1954
Earl Outhet	July 1954 - June 1955
Ken Blodgett	July 1955 - June 1956
Bert Gustin	July 1956 - June 1957
Dan Yuill	July 1957 - June 1958
Jim Marshall	July 1958 - June 1959
Otis Brown	July 1959 - June 1960
Joseph Rooney	July 1960 - June 1961
William Revis	July 1961 - June 1962
James O'Neil	July 1962 - June 1963
George Medeiros	July 1963 - June 1964
George Gabriel	July 1964 - June 1965
Richard Blodgett	July 1965 - June 1966
Russell Corkum	July 1966 - June 1967
Haskell Reed	July 1967 - June 1968
Nicholas Costa	July 1968 - June 1969
George Bullock	July 1969 - June 1970
Aram Koumjian	July 1970 - June 1971
Bernard Belcastro	July 1971 - June 1972
Douglas Sederquist	July 1972 - June 1973
Robert Stevens	July 1973 - June 1974
Harvey Smith	July 1974 - June 1975

## *Past and Present Activities*

### Activities and Organizations Assisted

Sea Scouts	Camp Sea Haven
Boosters Club	Minute Man Council of Girl Scouts
March of Dimes	Minute Man League Team
Sight Conservation Work	Camp Allen for the Blind
Eye Care	New England Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans
Model Airplane Club	WGBH-TV
Citizen of the Year Tricorne Hat Award	Morgan Memorial Fresh Air Camp
Glaucoma Clinic	Goodwill Industries
Eye Research	Symmes Arlington Hospital Building Fund
Fishing Derby	Committee for the 250th Anniversary of Lexington
N.E.A.A.U. Road Race	Pre-School Eye Clinic
N.E.A.A.U. Swim Meet	Adult Polio Clinic for Lexington
Little League Team	Minute Man Council of Boy Scouts
Display of American Flags	National Polio Foundation
Paper Collection	Mystic Valley Mental Health Assoc.
Service Men's Fund	Senior Citizens Club of Lexington
Lexington High Band	Lexington Police Bicycle Safety Program
Civilian Air Patrol	Lexington Fire Dept. Demonstration Equipment
Lexington Visiting Nurse Association	Cancer Fund
Red Cross Blood Donations	Lexington Recreation Committee
Boy Scout Jamboree	Educational Services to the Blind
U.N. Flags for Public Schools	Hadley School for the Blind
Books to Cary Library	Lexington Housing Authority
Foreign Exchange Student	Lexington Red Cross
Welcome to Lexington Signs	Audubon Society
Morgan Memorial	Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Blindness
Symmes Hospital	National Society for the Prevention of Blindness
Hungarian Relief	Lexington High School Basketball Team
4-H Horse Show	Lexington Minutemen
Operation Middle East	Lexington Old Age Home
Lexington Science and Engineering Scholarship	Lexington Youth Hockey League
Safety Campaign	Lexington Historical Society
CARE	
Christmas Baskets to the Needy	
4-H Club	