

## **CLUB HISTORY**

**A warm welcome to you!**

**Our Club was founded in August 1946 and chartered by Lions International on September 24, 1946.**

**The original members numbered 35 with Burke I. Burke as the first president.**

**Some of us would remember Dr. Walter Briggs, a veterinarian, who was one of our founders and a Lion to his core. I could spend the entire evening on his service to the Club. Dr. Briggs was responsible for many new members and was very active until his death.**

**Some also might recall that in 1964 a traveling circus lost it's home. Our Lions Club, especially Lion Norm Yossie, helped the circus by sponsoring the event located in the employee parking lot at Fisher Price. Because of our Club's support the circus had a show each year for 4 – 5 years on Saturday & Sunday with our community's response of 300 – 500 people per show.**

**How many remember when in 1972 a massive flooding happened in the southern tier especially around Portville.**

**The East Aurora Lions Club helped rebuild ½ the homes in the area securing materials and trades people for the work. The project took over a year with our lions working there daily and on weekends.**

**Our Club received in 1972-73 a Lions International Outstanding Club award for our efforts on behalf of our activity in the Portville community.**

**Because of our involvement, the East Aurora Lions Club was the sponsor for the formation of the Portville Lions Club that began in 1973-74 and continues to this day.**

**In 1972-73 our club initiated the “New Eyes for Needy” eyeglass collection program. Lion Al Dorsey was the first to head this program for our club. The program continues to distribute thousands of used eyeglasses to the needy in third World countries.**

**Lion Al Dorsey was also a leader in the CROP WALK for the hungry. He raised a great deal of money during the walk selling sponsorships. Lion Al championed this cause for many years.**

**In 1978-79 we published our first EAST AURORA PHONE DIRECTORY. President Lion Al Andrews, a retired Buffalo policeman, started it. This year we published our 15<sup>th</sup> edition of this bi-annual book.**

**On June 7th, 1999, the East Aurora Lions Club and the Wainfleet Lions Club (Canada) started a twinning relationship under the hard work of Lion Phil Silliman. Twice a year we visit each other's club for mutual support and fellowship.**

**The East Aurora Lions Club was a contributor to the building of our Aurora Senior Center. The Center honors our Club, on a plaque as you enter the building, as one of the 4 major contributors responsible for its presence in the village of East Aurora. The Center's library is named in our honor.**

**Also on our banner are two names at the bottom. Russell Corser, 1961-62, who was principal of Iroquois High School and Floyd Silliman, 1996-97. Both these East Aurora Lions honored our club by serving as District Governors for the years mentioned.**

**There are many more bits of history I have not mentioned because of time but be it known the East Aurora Lions Club has been for 60 years, is, and will be, a presence of service in our community for many years to come.**

**-Submitted by Lion Paul Waggoner, November 2006, on the occasion of the Lions Sixtieth Anniversary**

## **Eyeglasses Collection Sites**

**Old eyeglasses are refurbished, sorted, and donated to needy people around the world.**

**Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora  
Aurora Optometrics, 980 West Maple Court, Elma, NY  
Council Opticians, 411 Main Street, East Aurora  
M&T Bank, 135 Hamburg Street, East Aurora  
Michael's Optical, 110 Grey Street, East Aurora  
Citizens Bank, 212 Main Street, East Aurora  
East Aurora Library, 500 Main Street, East Aurora  
Elma Library, Marilla  
St. George's R.C. Church, 74 Old Glenwood Road, West Falls  
Marilla Library, 11637 Bullis Road, Marilla**

## Help Wanted

**FOOD DRIVE GREETER.** Volunteer at the upcoming East Aurora Lions Club Food Drive to benefit local food pantries.

**ENVELOPE STUFFER.** Volunteer to stuff envelopes for the East Aurora Lions Club Blind Seals campaign.

**EYEGASSES COLLECTOR.** Volunteer to pick up glasses from East Aurora Lions Club recycling stations.

**SCHEDULER.** Volunteer to coordinate the speakers schedule for the East Aurora Lions Club dinner meetings

**PUBLICITY COORDINATOR.** Volunteer to promote services and events for the East Aurora Lions Club.

**WEBMASTER.** Volunteer to manage local website and social media pages for the East Aurora Lions Club.

**FUNDS RECEIVER.** Volunteer for East Aurora Lions Club White Cane Drive on Election Day.

**PEACE POSTER JUDGE.** Volunteer to help select the winner from local kids' entries.

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING CLOSET MANAGER.** Volunteer with the East Aurora Lions Club.

**EVENT COORDINATOR.** Volunteer to arrange the East Aurora Lions Club Christmas Party for local service organizations.

**DINNER SERVER.** Volunteer to serve Christmas dinners to residents of local apartment complexes with the East Aurora Lions Club. First Saturdays and second Saturday in December

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR.** Volunteer to share East Aurora Lions Club activities and accomplishments with members and interested parties.

**SCHOLARSHIP PROCESSOR.** Volunteer to help award scholarships to two EAHS graduates.

Email [EastAuroraLionsClub@yahoo.com](mailto:EastAuroraLionsClub@yahoo.com)

or call Lion Rick at (716) 238-4729