



# Newtown Lions Club

"We Serve"

Newtown,  
CT  
Est. 1949

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

Gordon Willaims, Editor

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### FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Now is the time to celebrate! We, through everyone's hard work have budgeted \$89, 000 for distribution to organizations and charities. This money goes to a wide variety of local, state, and national organizations. For example, the following local charities:



|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Ability Beyond                 | \$1000 |
| Dorothy Day Hospitality Center | \$5000 |
| Newtown Fund                   | \$ 500 |
| Newtown Labor Day Parade       | \$ 500 |
| Newtown Fire Department        | \$1000 |
| Parent Connection              | \$5000 |
| Low Vision Centers             | \$2000 |
| Doctors without Borders        | \$1500 |

Plus, over 40 more that the Charities Committee worked for many hours to vet. If you would like to join this committee, contact Kevin Corey

This largesse is a tribute to everyone's efforts and should be celebrated. A real example of how we can do more together

We should also celebrate a very successful Veteran's Day Dental Clinic with the most ever patients for this event.

And celebrate we will. Be sure to contact Mary Jo or Bill Brett if to intend to join the party on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at Michaels. We will have music.

If you are not aware, we will be holding our regular dinner meetings at the Newtown Country Club on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 25th.

I am excited for what we can accomplish in the new year. Have a very happy and healthy New Year!

Thank You for being a Lion

*Andrew*

### Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00

### Save the date for the Holiday Party

If you have not signed up to attend the party, please contact Bill or Mary Jo Brett ASAP. **203-270-1053 Only \$56 p/p**

- **Full Bar. Soda is free.**
- **Hot Hors D'oeuvres**
- **Mixed Green Salad**
- **Three choices for a plated dinner:**
  - **Breast of Chicken Francese**
  - **Sliced Top Sirloin au Jus**
  - **Baked Salmon**
- **Coffee or tea and cake for dessert**

**Music for your listening and dancing pleasure.**  
**Bring your spouse, significant other or friend!**





Car Committee Chair, Gary Frey, prepares for the drawing on October 22 at 1:00



Gary reads the name of the winner.



Gary calls the winner to share the good news.

## The Mustang raffle - a huge success.

Everyone on the car committee was holding their breath this year. This was the first time in 25 years that the committee tried a newer model Mustang. In the past they only purchased vintage Mustangs from 1964 to 1968. The car committee can finally exhale because the 2019 Mustang convertible was a great success! The car committee sold 9,800 tickets and turned over \$60,000 to the Charities Committee. That, combined with the Duck Race profit leaves the Charities Committee with over \$70,000 to distribute this fiscal year. Congratulations to the Chair, Gary Frey and all the car committee members!



Bill and Mary Jo Brett worked very hard this year to find the best places to bring the Mustang to sell tickets. Looks like they did a fantastic job!



Kevin Corey takes the still shots while Pete McNulty does a live Facebook Feed of the event.







## The State trooper



A young woman was pulled over for speeding. A Pennsylvania State Trooper walked to hear car window, flipping open his ticket book. She said, "I bet you are going to try to sell me a ticket to the Pennsylvania Trooper's Ball." He replied, "Pennsylvania State Troopers don't have balls." There was a moment of silence. He closed his ticket book, tipped his hat, got back into his patrol car, and left.

## Two Grandmothers



Two elderly ladies, Dolly and Ruby were talking about their grandchildren. Dolly said, "Each year I send each of my grandchildren a card with a generous check inside. I never hear from them and never receive a thank you message.

Ruby replied, "I too send my grandchildren a very generous check, but I hear from them within a week. In fact, they each pay me a personal visit." "Wow! How come?" remarked Dolly. "Very simple solution," explained Ruby, "I don't sign the check."

## Mustang After Party Celebration

After the drawing of the winning Mustang ticket, Bill and Mary Jo Brett made arrangements for everyone to come to My Place Restaurant to enjoy a Pizza Party.



Sorry Pete. No room at the table for you.



## Meeting Events

### October 12th

At the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Bob Schmidt paid tribute to Car Committee Chair, Gary Frey. He and his wife Barbara moved to Florida in November, and they will be sorely missed.

Bob presented Gary with a special memento that he can bring to Florida with him to remember all the good times with the Newtown Lions.



Bob presents Gary with a memento to remember his tenure as Car Committee Chair. Gary joked, "At least this Mustang won't need a new engine or transmission."



Gary finally has a 1964 1/2 Mustang that won't break down.



Kevin Corey presented Gary with a 1,000-piece jig saw puzzle of several Mustang models.



Bob Schmidt received the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow Award. Bob was so stunned that he was at a loss for words (very rare for him).



Officer William Chapman, from the Newtown Police Department spoke at the October 12 meeting.





At the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting we all showed up for a photo with Cullen Photographers.

### At the October 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting



Natalie Jackson, Director of Human Services, Melissa Smith, our District Governor, and President Andrew.



Jennifer Collins, our newest member, chats with Paula Hopewell.



The October Orchard Hill clean-up group. Wow! What a great turnout. Thank you, Leos!



Kevin Corey's creation for the Park and Rec Scarecrow Contest. Fantastic job, Kevin!



## TRAIN SHOW PROJECT

Peter McNulty proposed to the board a feasibility study to look at the potential for hosting a train show in the Fall of 2023 as a new fund-raising project. The Board approved the effort during the October meeting. Peter is planning a kick-off meeting to organize the tasks for the Train Show Project. They held their first organizational meeting on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Newtown Country Club before the regular meeting to participate in this organizational meeting. **If you missed this meeting and are interested in the great new activity, please contact Peter.**

+++++

## ARNETH'S AMTRACK

By Paul Arneth

I became interested in model trains when I attended McBurney High School in New York City where they had a large train set and a club where we worked on the trains every Friday afternoon.

I always meant to build one of my own, but one day when we were in Florida, I looked up a model train store and went to buy some N gauge buildings. They proved to be very challenging because they were so small, but I had fun and it kept me busy. Well then, I thought, maybe I should build a train set in our condo in Heritage Village when we returned? I had to do a little negotiation with Liz since the biggest space happened to be in our bedroom!

I first built a small layout, but the trains kept flying off the tracks because the curves weren't big enough. I then went to Lowe's with measurements for a larger layout. They cut the plywood and fiber insulation panel to my specifications. I then built and painted the table outside on our patio. This was a big challenge working from a wheelchair.

I then brought the table inside and put down the track and then attached the scenery. Since N gauge is so tiny, it was not easy to get all the tiny figures to stand up. Wiring all the lights presented more challenges, but when the whole model is lit up and the trains have lights in the windows, it is quite spectacular. The other major problem has been that the layout measures three feet by four feet and I am only able to reach half of the table at a time from my wheelchair. Liz and I would pick it up and rotate it so I could work on the other half. Luckily, the table is quite light-1/4" plywood topped with 1" insulation board.

All the scenery was created by cutting cotton quilt batting to fit, then glued in place and painted flat brown. Ground cover was then sprinkled on and glued in place with diluted white glue (either sprayed on or applied with an eye dropper). Amazon packages arrived regularly containing tiny figures, more buildings, trees, automobiles-the list is endless.

Even at this tiny scale, engines are available with sounds such as motor chugging plus bells or whistles. This project has given me many enjoyable hours and has turned out to be a very rewarding project. Can you hear the sounds of the Orient Express coming down the track?



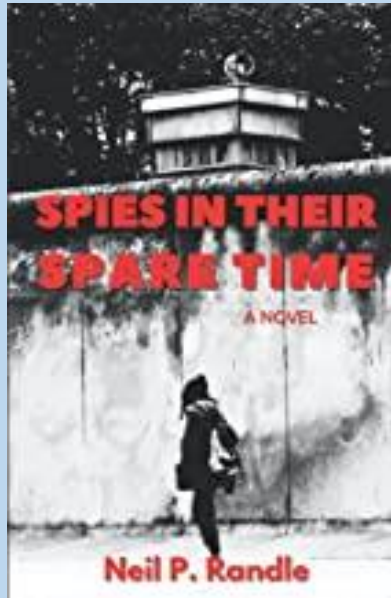


## Spies in Their Spare Time

A new novel by Neil Randle

**A book review  
by George  
Arfaras**

The author of Spies in Their Spare time is our own lovable Lion Neil big foot Randle. This is his first novel and therefore you would expect some gaffes.



Having read this novel, I am not one to point to any gaffes or mistakes, but having read spy, crime, mystery, and historical novels, I have come across several by well-known writers. As a matter of fact, if you happen to read his book you will agree that Lion Neil deserves to be listed along with other great and popular novelists. It is a well written story.

I would not hesitate to give this story five stars. The basic plot is unique. It's based on the collapse of the Berlin wall and many of the characters are as real as some of the incidents.

M16 having experienced the disturbing and embarrassing episode of the Cambridge Five, a different method of recruiting agents is devised. Potential recruits would be hired to work in key sectors of British industry and be evaluated and trained as agents (spies) without their knowledge. As unexpected events in Europe two such potential recruits are thrown into uncertainty being untested and without knowledge of their being intelligence agents.

Spies in Their Spare Time is a gripping thriller and once you start it, it will be difficult to put down.

***"Spies in Their Spare Time" is available  
on Amazon.com for just \$15  
All the profits go to Cancer Research.  
So far, he has raised \$320!***

## LABOR DAY PARADE

Notice that all the politicians who came to talk with the Lions before the Newtown Labor Day Parade began won in the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. Newtown Lions must be good luck!!



Lt. Governor, Susan Bysiewicz poses with "Lucky Duck" our Duck Race Mascot



Governor Lamont talks with Walt Schweikert and his granddaughter, Leah. Knowing Walt, he was probably asking the Governor to fund inclusive playgrounds all around Connecticut just like he and Leah raised funds for in Newtown.





Jahana Hayes poses with Paula Hopewell as they stand by our Mustang and wait for the parade to begin.

## THE LEOS CORNER

The Newtown High School Leo Club is off to a great start this year under the direction of Jill Gonski.

The following photos were from the Leos last chapter meeting held on Nov. 9 after school. The Leos painted Ben's Bells kindness coins as an activity. The coins will be donated back to Ben's Bells to use as Kindness coins.

**Keep up the great work, Jill!**







**Wow! Now that's what I call participation! Thank you to all the Leos.**





## MORE NEWS FROM THE LIONS



Oscar De Los Santos receives the Melvin Jones Fellow award from Pete McNulty



Steve Bennett and Bruce Walczak helping at the fair. The Newtown Health Fair was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> and the Newtown Lions Health Committee was a big part of the event.



Paul Krueger posing with Tom Maguire, the winner of the 1991 Mustang raffle. Tom stopped by on the day of the drawing to buy a ticket.

## RAISING THE WINTER FLAG ON OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>



Twice a year the Lions change the flags to meet the weather conditions for the season. The summer flag is larger than the winter flag.





## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL VETERANS'S DAY FREE DENTAL CLINIC – A BIG SUCCESS!

From Steve Bennett, Health Committee Chair

Congratulations and a big thank you to Newtown Lion Dr Ratna Vedullapalli for conducting the 4th Annual Veterans Day Free Dental Clinic held on November 11, 2022, at Diamond Dental!

Dr. V donated an entire day of time from two dentists and her office staff to provide free care to 34 patients — the largest number in this project's 4-year history.

For the first time the Newtown and Monroe Lions Clubs jointly sponsored the clinic and enjoyed working with Dr. V. and her staff. As evidence that there is a vital need for this service, all slots were filled within a week. We look forward to additional partnership opportunities with the Monroe Lions in coming years.

I would ask Dr. V to pass on our thanks and congratulations to her staff. Dr V and her staff truly embrace our Lions motto of "we serve".



**Veterans Day Free Dental Clinic Team**

Front Row: Nicole Guerrero, Genesis Ferrand, Brittany Larese, Lauren Rocco, and Newtown Lion member Dr. Ratna Vedullapalli. Back Row: Monroe Lions President Frank Bent, Katherine Simpson, Ardita Dauti, Chandramukhi Thakkari, Alex Figueroa, and Dr. Kelvin Wang



**THE BLOOD DRIVE:** On the left Kevin Cory, on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Blood Drive with nurses Terry Mulski, R.N., Bonnie Nezvesky, VNA, & Mariza Borges, R.N. On the right, Pete McNulty stands next to the Red Cross Blood Drive Truck sponsored by the Lions Health Committee.



## THE WINTER FLAG ON OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>



The winter flag waves proudly on the iconic Newtown flagpole in the middle of the intersection of Church Hill Road and Main Street.