



Norwich Lions Club Lions Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) Presented to Lion Peter Stanzel Date

Gary De Gasta

December 15, 2020 Norwich, Vermont In its bi-monthly Zoom meeting, the Norwich Lions Club awarded one of its own, Lion Peter Stanzel, a Lions Clubs International Foundation Melvin Jones Fellowship for “dedicated humanitarian services and making a notable difference in the advancement of the Norwich Lions Club and its activities”.



Lion Peter volunteering for the 2018 Vermont Lions Club Camp cleanup

Peter was born in Germany. At age 11, his family immigrated to the US. The Stanzel family initially settled in North Dakota but later moved to Portsmouth, New Hampshire where he attended high school. He came to the Upper Valley, where attended and graduated from Dartmouth College. He liked it so much, he decided to stay!

Peter became a prominent business executive having served as the CEO at Lupfer & Long, Inc.; Products, Inc.; Promotion Technologies; TA Net; Travel Agent Advantage and Net Success. His contributions to software technology development are evident in travel industry portals and professional community websites. His business clients included Hughes Aircraft, TRW, E.F.

Hutton, US and state government agencies, the US Army and US Navy and Fortune 500 companies.

While nominally retired from business life, Peter remains active in community service. He serves as President of the Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse Association, serves on several Boards and is involved in many other charitable organizations and community volunteer activities.

Lion Peter was recently elected as the NLC's First Vice President and will serve on the club's Board of Directors. He is also the Chairperson, Norwich Fair Committee. The Norwich Fair is the primary fundraiser for the club generating over \$20,000 annually. Due to Covid-19, Fair Chairperson, Lion Peter, made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Norwich Fair. However, responding to the anticipated fundraising shortfall, he secured a sizable grant which, along with revenues generated by the Norwich Lions Club "2020 Raffle Extraordinaire," will be distributed as grants to assist individuals in need and organizations suffering from the pandemic.

Peter and his wife Cheryl Herrmann and their children, Kelsey and Roland, have lived in Norwich for more than thirty years.

Lions Clubs International (LCI) is the world's largest service organization comprising 1.4 million members belonging to 48,000 Lions Clubs in 200 countries. LCI was founded in Evansville, Indiana in 1916 by William Perry Woods and subsequently evolved as an international service organization under the guidance and supervision of its secretary, Melvin Jones for whom the Fellowship is named.

The Lions motto is "We Serve". Lions Club programs include vision, hunger, the environment, pediatric cancer and diabetes, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs. The "LIONS" acronym also stands for Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations' Safety.

Since it was Chartered on June 4, 1954 the Norwich Lions Club (NLC) has proudly served Norwich and surrounding communities. The NLC recently expanded some of its service to include the Town of Hartford. The NLC belongs to Vermont's Lions District 45 (State of Vermont).

The first Norwich Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellowship recipient was Lions Past District Governor Phil Wheeler who was honored in 1991. Over nearly three decades the Fellowship has been awarded to a number of club members and prominent citizens of the community include: Red Logan, Dr. Joe Grant, Ray Royce, Jay Van Arman, Dr. John Lawe, Henry Scheier, Demo Sofronas, Dr. "Rusty" Bernal, Dr. Rob and Laurie Sabatelle, Donna Wheeler, Harjit Rakhra, Cheryl Brush, Fran and Gary De Gasta, Brion McMullen and last year's two awardees, Debbie Van Arman and Mel Aaron.

The NLC usually meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Community Room of the Norwich Public Library at 6:30 pm. During the pandemic the Club has conducted its bi-monthly meetings via Zoom.

Norwich Lions Club

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