



## Norwich Lions Club Lions Melvin Jones Fellowship Presented to Lion Glenn Britton

Gary De Gasta



Lion Glenn Britton brings home the freshly harvested 2023 Norwich Lions Club Memory Tree, aided by Lions Phil Wheeler and Mike Rose.

**December 4, 2023 Norwich:** At its end-of-year dinner, the Norwich Lions Club bestowed its highest honor for the 2022-3 club year on member, Glenn Britton. Glenn was recognized for his broad spectrum of skills and his “can do” attitude that make him so valuable to the club, when something important needs to get done. Norwich Lions Club President, Fran DeGasta, presented the award during the club's annual holiday dinner at Three Tomatoes Restaurant in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship reflects the backbone of Lions Club service. The award is presented to those who donate \$1,000 to the Lions Clubs International Foundation or to people for whom a donation was made by others. The Norwich Lions Club bestows this honor on those who have made a notable contribution to the advancement of the club or its activities. The fellowship memorializes the legacy of Melvin Jones, who developed Lions Clubs International as an international service organization.

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## Glenn Britton biographical background



Glenn Britton receives award from Lion King, Fran DeGasta.

Lion Glenn Britton was born and raised in Newport, New Hampshire. He was an avid baseball player for his school and tried his hand at football, until an injury sidelined him.

He embarked on his career in the creation and care of gardens early in life, working for a local garden nursery at fifteen years of age. He went on to plan and construct gardens through his landscaping business with a palette of perennials and stone walls. In the offseason he worked in a sawmill, where he managed to keep all his fingers! He has been the manager of a property in Norwich for over 40 years.

He was active in the Newport community, serving on its conservation committee. In Norwich, he served on the board of the historical society.

He started a family in Newport and moved to Norwich when he married wife, Jane, in 1993. His family includes three daughters, a step-daughter and two step-sons, who have blessed Glenn and Jane with 11 grandchildren. The proud grandparents enjoy the energy and activity that their grandchildren bring to the holidays.

Glenn is an enterprising member of the Norwich Lions Club, He has been instrumental in supporting school vision screenings, soliciting sponsors for club activities, obtaining items for the club's on-line auction, arranging for bands to play at the annual Norwich Fair and ensuring the smooth operation of the fairgrounds during the fair.

## About the Norwich Lions Club



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 initiatives include vision, hunger, the environment, pediatric cancer and diabetes, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs.

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. Since then, the Fellowship has been awarded to 39 members and prominent community members, including: 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, Debbie Van Arman, Mel Aaron and Peter Stanzel.

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.