



Norwich Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellowship Presented to Three Recipients

By Stephen Flanders



Announcement of the 2024 Melvin Jones Fellowships

December 10, 2024 Norwich: At its end-of-year holiday dinner, the Norwich Lions Club bestowed its highest honor, the Melvin Jones Fellowship, for the 2023-4 club year on three members, Roseanne Maguire, David Lemal, and Phillip (Phil) Wheeler, Jr.

Roseanne Maguire received the award in recognition of her high degree of initiative in ensuring the success of the club's core functions, including tracking its volunteer resources, provisioning its community functions, organizing the club's holiday parties, and managing the set-up and tear-down of each meeting.

David Lemal received the award for his initiatives in furthering community awareness of the environment, especially global climate change. He has urged the club to conduct itself consistently with those values, has promoted community awareness through the club at the Norwich Fair, and has helped foster awareness within the upcoming generation through the club's Speak Out contest.

Melvin Jones Fellow (1991), Phillip Wheeler, Jr. received a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship for his multifaceted efforts to ensure the continued vitality of the club and its activities that include the Norwich Fair, the Memory Tree, and its standing with District 45 of Vermont and the Lions Club International Foundation.

Norwich Lions Club President, Cheryl Brush, presented the awards during the club's annual holiday dinner at the Coolidge Hotel in White River Junction, Vermont.

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. The progressive award is for recipients, who are already Melvin Jones Fellows.

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Roseanne Maguire biographical background



Roseanne Maguire receives Melvin Jones Fellowship award from Lion King, Cheryl Brush.

Rosanne Maguire was born in Anchorage, Alaska in 1952, where her father was stationed in the service. The family moved to Rhode Island where she was raised and where she graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing to become a registered nurse. Her nursing career spanned 45 years, 20 of them at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, after practicing first in Rhode Island until 1984 and then in Florida until 1990, when she and her husband moved to Norwich.

She married Jim Maguire in 1975 and raised a family of three. Their 27 years in Norwich brought her retirement in 2017, when both Rosanne and Jim joined the Norwich Lions Club.

David Lemal biographical background



David Lemal receives Melvin Jones Fellowship award from Lion King, Cheryl Brush.

David Lemal, born in 1934, grew up in New Jersey and received his education at Amherst College (A.B.) and Harvard University (Ph.D. in chemistry).

He had four children by his first wife of 27 years. He was blessed with a second marriage of 22 years and with eight grandchildren.

He had a distinguished academic career, starting at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and continuing at the Dartmouth College Department of Chemistry as a full professor where he taught chemistry courses for 50 years, mentoring more than 100 students along the way. He was the recipient of many significant professional honors for his research achievements, becoming a Fellow of the American Chemical Society.

In his retirement, he volunteered at the Montshire Museum, leading youth science activities. He volunteered for organizations that support seniors and homeless people. He served as a guardian ad litem advocate for children in the Vermont judicial system.

He continues to maintain club and community awareness of the need for action to counteract global climate change.

Phillip Wheeler, Jr. biographical background



Phil Wheeler receives PMJF award from Lion King, Cheryl Brush.

Phil Wheeler grew up skiing, starting with ski jumping at his home-town 90-meter jump in Brattleboro (Harris Hill). He skied in college for St. Lawrence University. Working for Middlebury College, he joined the Middlebury Lions Club, augmenting his father's 60-year involvement with Lions.

He came to the Upper Valley to obtain his MBA at Tuck School. He then became employed in an accounting firm in Norwich, Vermont where he joined the Norwich Lions Club in 1964. He participated in the full gamut of club activities during that period. He founded the Middlebury and Norwich memory tree traditions. In 1991, he became the first Norwich Lion to become a Melvin Jones Fellow.

Phil rose to hold a variety of Vermont Lions District 45 positions, rising to district governor of Vermont. He initiated the district monthly *Communique* and the district membership directory.

Professionally, Phil maintained an accounting practice for 38 years. He developed Wheeler Professional Park in West Lebanon.

Married to wife, Donna, for almost 50 years, the couple had four children and are expecting their fourth grandchild. They split their time between their 150-acre tree farm in Sharon, Vermont and their winter home in Key West, Florida.

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 44 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, Peter Stanzel, Stephen Flanders, Nicolaas Bekker, Bonnie Munday, and Glenn Britton.

The NLC usually meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Community Room of the Norwich Public Library at 5:30 pm.