



2022 National VIP Fishing Tourney Report

October 26, 2022

Fellow Lions, Supporters, VIP & Guides,

It was good to be back in action and making the trip to the National VIP Tournament on the Outer Banks of North Carolina after our 2-year pandemic pause. As usual the event was very well organized despite having nearly 3 years to lose the rhythm, combined with minds and memories being 3 years older during the pause, but they never lost the good old Southern Hospitality.

This year the trip included CT & RI, so we rented a smaller bus that still allowed everyone to have a double seat which makes the 13–15-hour ride much more comfortable. (The MA Team should be back on board in 2023). The event was also a bit smaller, with about 100 fewer VIP's, due to new safety protocols and increased competition for hotel rooms as there is now less of an off-season on the Outer Banks and the Tourney was bookended by new large events on the weekends before and after the Tourney.

This year our participants were:

Bob Beauregard, Woonsocket
Dave Cavaco, Warwick
Janice Musco, Lincoln

We departed RI at 6AM and arrived at 7PM on Sunday. Monday is a relax-day followed by an “Think Pink” themed orientation dinner. Our 1st day of fishing is Tuesday on a party boat, the “Crystal Dawn”, which is the day of the NC VIP Tourney. As many of you know, to make things interesting, we hold the “NE Fishing Tournament” on this day. We also invite the VIPs from NY to participate in the tourney, so we call it the “North Eastern” vs the original “New England” Tourney. The fishing was pretty sparce due to the strong wind which cause to boat to have to spend more time repositioning than we had for fishing, but it was still exciting for the VIP's.

We award trophies at our Wednesday breakfast and this year's winners were:

1st Place – Janice Musco, RI
2nd Place - Angelo Ercolamento, NY
3rd Place – Curtis Fogle, CT

We then head off for fishing in the National Tournament on the exceptional Jennette's Pier on a sunny but very windy and cool day. Once again, the fishing was lite and included a surprising number of Skate which were a good point scoring fish. Once again, a good time was had by all but, unfortunately, we were out fished by the NC VIP's. The day finished at the Awards Dinner where I had the honor of presenting Ambassador Awards to PDG Dom Branco for his steadfast support & promotion of the Tourney to the DG's of New England, and to Lion Bill Hawkins who has been my right-hand man and co-chair since 2018.

I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation for the CT Leaders, Lori & Charlie Satkowski, for all that they do in helping to arrange the trip and assist in the event in NC. The VIP's and Guides were also great people! Also, our Dattco bus driver was as awesome as usual in getting us to, from and around on the 5-day trip.

Lastly, on behalf of the VIP's and their Guides, I want to thank the RILSF and the Lions Clubs that donate to RILSF VIP Fishing Program for their support in providing this special opportunity to the Visually Impaired Persons of RI. I cannot describe how much they enjoy and benefit from the experience.

Yours in Lionism,

KE Barthelemy

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