Lion Ed Balaban

20W District Governor 2026-2027

Edward E. Balaban, born in Brooklyn, New York, is District Governor of District 20W/ Multiple District 20 New York and Bermuda. Balaban brings more than 50 years of experience serving the communities in which he has lived and worked. He and his wife, Lion Mary, are members of the Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club and live in the Town of Broadalbin.

DG Balaban began his life of service more than 50 years ago when he and a handful of classmates founded the first volunteer ambulance corps on a college campus that was student funded, student operated, student trained, and student staffed. That organization continues to flourish today.

Following more than 11 years on active duty as a Navy surface warfare officer, DG Balaban transitioned to the Naval Reserve and became a Lion in 1994 as a member of the Olean, NY Lions Club. While with the Olean Lions, he served as vice president, president, zone chair, and Lions Quest district chairman (District 20N/MD20). He also coordinated a twinning with a club in Puerto Rico and helped establish a Leo Club in conjunction with the Depew Lions Club at Depew High School, where he was principal. The Naval Reserve formally recognized his service to community with the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

When he relocated to Arizona, he affiliated with the Scottsdale Pride of Scottsdale Lions Club (Multiple District 21) where he again served as vice president, president, secretary, and zone chair. During his time in Arizona, he honorably served in the Arizona Army National Guard and his exemplary service while a Lion was recognized with the awarding of the Arizona National Guard Community Service ribbon.

Upon retirement from the military and federal civil service in 2013 and his return to New York in 2014, DG Balaban transferred to the Saratoga Springs Lions Club and following the construction of his home ultimately transferred to the Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club in 2021.

He has been recognized several times as Club Lion of the Year, received the International President's Leadership Award, the PDG Association of Arizona Outstanding Service Award, is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, and a Knight of the Blind.

In addition to his Lions activities, DG Balaban is a life member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Military Officers Association of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also is an active member of the Syracuse Alumni Association, Oswego State University Alumni Association, and is a director of the Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association.

DG Balaban has two sons and seven grandchildren. He and Lion Mary enjoy photography, travel, and cooking.