



Monthly Bulletin of The Venice Lions Club, Inc. Venice, Florida
September, 2024

The President's Message

September always makes me remember the sweet smell of burning leaves as my father and the neighbors raked them into the street and made small fires to burn at dusk. It must have been an autumn ritual for the men, poking the fires, standing watch, trading stories while the children ran around in the newly-fresh air.

I remember the excitement of the first day of school and the smell of peanut butter and bananas in the yellow school bus as my brothers, sisters and I climbed aboard the bus that stopped outside our house.



September. School time. Time for a new year. September still remains a time of renewal for me, a time to start over, a time of optimism and new beginnings, a time when everything seems possible. I still feel that way, only without the smell of peanut butter and bananas.

Our Venice Lions Club spent the summer learning and planning. We spent one meeting generating over 40 ideas for new service projects and another meeting voting for the new projects that will receive our attention this year.

This September, while we continue to manage our huge menu of "classic" services, we will be launching our projects and a new year of service. The Venice Lions Club stands out in our District 35-I as a club with exciting projects, fortunate to have a budget to implement them, and more importantly, members who work hard to make all this service possible.

Of all the places on earth I could be this September, I am so very grateful to be here – with all of you, as a Venice Lion. I am proud of our service and I am grateful for this Lions Club, where members have become friends. Take a moment this September; rejoice in the cooling weather; think what is possible, and together, we can make it happen. Everything is possible in September.



9/04 Dusty Namikas

9/17 John Bouvier

9/22 Bernie Deckman

9/01 Carole & Jeff Myles

9/02 Dottie & Pete Winther

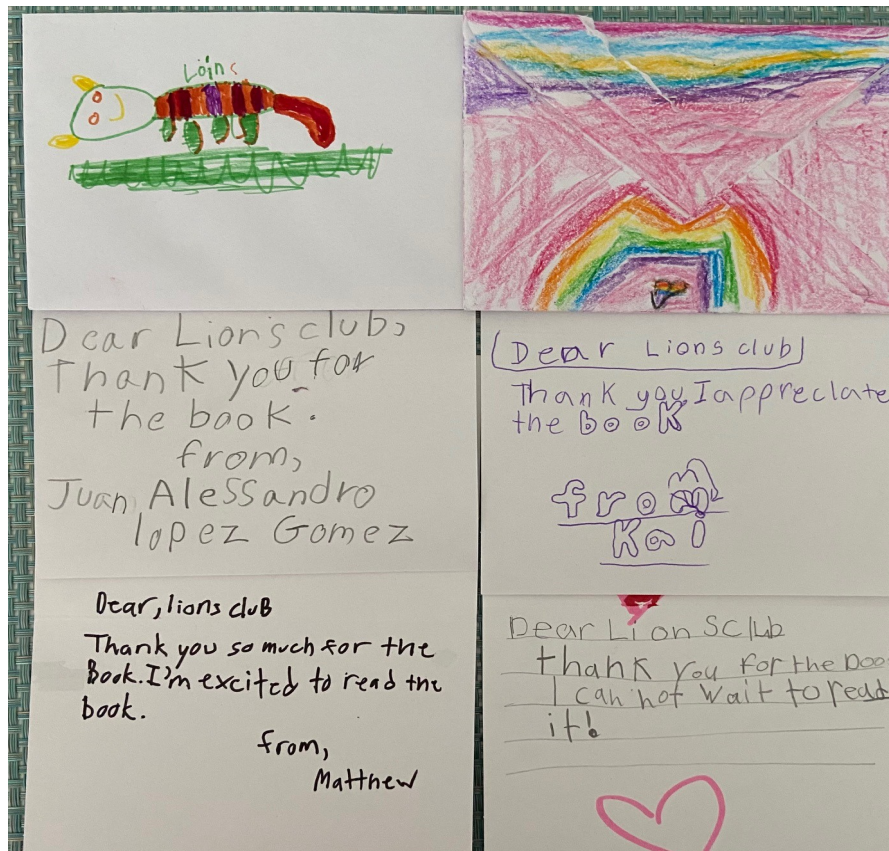
9/03 Judy & Rocky Rocquin

9/25 Melissa & Terry Burke

The Reading Action Program in **ACTION**

by Lion President Pamela Brown

Last year Lion President Jeff Myles selected District 35 I's *Reading Action Program* as his President's Program. A team of Venice Lions distributed about 300 books to children in families with economic constraints. There were a few books remaining so we took them to Garden Elementary to a teacher with a new assignment. Instead of 3rd grade, for which she had a full classroom library, she now had students from 2nd – 5th grade with behavioral issues, and no books for the older children. We received these notes in response to the books:



More About The Reading Action Program

This year, Lion Jeff's Reading Action Program continues with Lion Bonnee Hagen serving as Team Leader. First, Lion Bonnee decided to order a little "post office" library box that will be placed in Laurel Civic. There are over 100 children there every day after school where they receive a hot meal and assistance with their homework.

The Venice Lions will stock the box with free books for the children to take home and keep.

How cool is this? Thanks, Lion Bonnee!



They Stole My Gavel!

by Lion President Pamela Brown

After protecting the President's gavel from would-be Venice Lions pranksters, wouldn't you know: my gavel went missing after the September 19th Zone Meeting.

It wasn't long before I received a ransom note from Englewood Lion PCC Gary Nieskes: "come to the Englewood Club meeting to redeem your gavel or you will never see it again!"

No choice: I had let the gavel slip out of my care, and I had to pay the price! I let the Englewood Club know I would come for my gavel at their next meeting, but what they didn't know was that I would be planning some revenge of my own.

Thankfully, Halloween was close, so it was easy to find a "crook costume". I packed it out of sight and when Lion Gary was addressing the club about how easy it was to grab my gavel, I jumped up to tell my side of story: how I had chained the gavel to my underwear, attached it to the legs of a table, safety-pinned it to my vest, but never thought another club would steal it.

I made Lion Gary dress in the crook suit: black and white striped shirt, black gloves to hide his fingerprints, a black mask, and small flashlight for snooping around. He was a good sport and put it all on.

But in the end, they had the last laugh: the members actually auctioned my gavel off! Bids started at \$50.00. Fortunately, the bids settled on \$20.00 that I was expected to pay! What kind of auction is that? But it was all in good fun, and...when I get a group of Venice Lions to go to Englewood, they better guard their gavel!



PCC Gary Nieskes (Crook in Disguise!)
and Lion President Pamela Brown (the poor victim of the gavel snatching)



Lion Agnes presented
a program on the Peace
Poster Project AND
the Recycle for Sight
Program



Lion Dr. Jill gave a
presentation on the
Starkey Neighbors
in Need hearing
Program

It Was a Busy Summer!



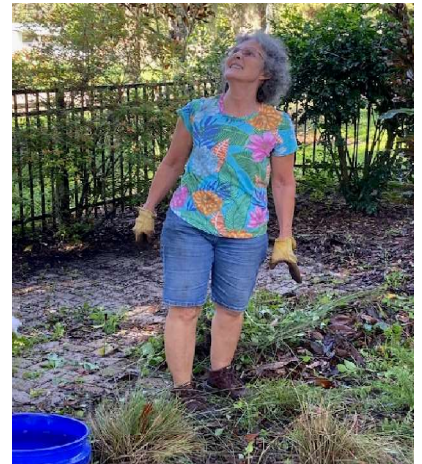
Eyeglasses for Recycling were collect by the District at the District Meeting



A Community event was supported by the Venice Lions Club. Lions Bernadette, John Mc, John T and Ed B offered Children's Vision Screening while Lions Mary B and President Pamela were passing out info about our Club

Lions June and Al Gurley as well as President Pamela and Lion Bev got into the spirit of voting for their favorite projects to be accomplished this Lions year





What a great day it was to get your hands dirty! Lions Sharon, Jeff, Carole, Cheryl, Bob W, Paddy, Melissa, Pamela and Bev trimmed, raked, pulled weeds and tidied up a quiet area at the Laurel Civic Center. The patio is used by the children to study or practice their musical instruments.
Great Job Lions – An Environment and Youth Project

Venice Lions Care Team at Work

Do You Need a Ride to the Lions Meetings? Each year, as the days grow shorter, Lions begin to worry about the length of the meetings and driving home after dark. The club's new **CARE TEAM** would like to address that concern by connecting Lions who would like a ride with Lions who will pick them up and take them home from our meetings.

Would You Like a Daily or Weekly Phone Call? Lions living alone might enjoy a little more peace of mind if they knew someone would be telephoning them daily to check on their well-being. A member of the Venice Lions Care Team will make those calls at the request of any member. Even if the need is temporary, such as a sprained ankle or illness, a call might be helpful in case help is needed.

If you would like to participate in either of these new programs, contact Care Committee Team Leader, Lion Jean Spitzer. Her contact information is in the Lions roster, or call the office for a referral.

Mark Your Calendars!

October 3

General Meeting and Planning for Halloween

The speaker is 1st District Governor Linda Gregory talking about Childhood Cancer. Please bring a bag of wrapped candy to the meeting and plan to stay for a short time afterwards. We will be packing 200 bags of candy to distribute to children at the city's Halloween event.

October 3 – November 21

Mini Stuffed Animal Drive for the Venice Police

Our popular stuffed animal donation project will be divided into two shorter campaigns. We have learned that the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is one of higher stress in families and more traffic on the highways. We will deliver the first load of "stuffies: (Teddy Bears and any cuddly stuffed animal) to the Venice Police before Thanksgiving. Bring your donation to the next three meetings or drop them off at the office. One of the Teddy Bear team members will tie yellow ribbons and a Lions sticker on each one.

October 12

White Cane Awareness Day at Winn Dixie on Jacaranda, 10:00 – 2:00.

A team will distribute information about white cane history and safety as well as brochures and giveaways from Leader Dogs. We will solicit donations for Leader Dogs, one of the entities we value so much. Sign up with Lion Judy Terrell.

October 17

The Venice Lions Club Fall Social at the North Jetty in Nokomis

Lions Christal Snell and Sean Higgenbottom are planning a German-style Oktoberfest with special drinks and a German menu. Families are invited. Lion Bev will send information closer to the event.

October 26

Make a Difference Day.

Lions will be cleaning up Venezia Park. Sign up with Bob Winstel by text, email or at the October 3rd meeting. Free T-Shirts if your sign up quickly!

October 31

Halloween Event Downtown Venice

This year there is no parade. Instead, Venice Lions will have two tables near the action. The candy giveaway (we will pack the candy bags at the Oct 3 meeting) will be on one table, and the other will be filled with Lions information. A team of Lions are set on attracting new members. Signup sheets will be passed around at the October 3rd meeting.

Can Venice Lions Meet the Challenge?

The last several Lions International Presidents including Fabrício Oliveira, the current International President, have been promoting a big goal for *all Lions in the world*: **Mission 1.5**.

MISSION 1.5 is the drive to grow to a minimum of *1.5 million Lion members worldwide* by July 1, 2027, so we can meet the growing needs of our communities and serve more than a billion people annually.

Each Lion matters to the people who depend on us. Every club is changing their community, making it a stronger, healthier, and a kinder place for all. To meet the growing needs in our communities, we need to form new clubs and invite new members to serve with us. To make sure we are always there and ready to serve, we need to grow.

Lion Judy Terrell has a more personal reason for bringing new members into our club:

Change Someone's Life

When was the last time you asked someone to join you in Lionism? The question is bold, but if you've ever watched a nature program, I ask you, have you ever seen a shy lion? Don't be afraid to invite people to join our Club. Some will say they'd like to learn more. Some will say "not now". But not now doesn't mean never. Both these potential members might like to see for themselves what our members and meetings are like. I know when I joined, I found friendship and camaraderie and a way to be of service to my community that gave me a sense of purpose. In short, it helped redirect my life at a time when I needed it most. Each of you has the power to change someone's life, too.

All you have to do is ask.

Lion Judy Terrell

Check out These Lions Videos!

I have been incredibly moved and inspired by short videos I have seen online. There are two sources for these videos, and I urge you to treat yourself by tuning in.

<https://www.youtube.com/> Go to Google or any browser and type in YouTube. When YouTube is on your screen, simply go to the search box and type in Lions Clubs (not lions – you will get animal videos)

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/lions-video-center>. Go to **Google** or any browser and type in Lions International Videos. You will see fabulous videos that will inspire you and make you proud to be part of this vast network of good people.



4th Annual Holiday Fundraiser
Presented at Englewood Lions Club
4611 Placida Rd. Englewood, FL 34224

December 7, 2024

10:00 – 2:00PM

Complimentary Mimosa's and Chocolate Fountain 10:00-11:00 AM

\$5.00 Entry Fee

(Waived Entry Fee with Pre-loved Jewelry Donation)

Jewelry to The Rescue

<https://jewelrytotherescue.org>

50/50 Raffle

Silent Auction

Baked Goods

Poinsettia's



Proceeds Benefit Englewood Lion's Club Charities

Seeking Donations for Silent Auction and Various Items

Please Call or Text Karen Miller (941) 445-1541

Come join in the fun at the Englewood Lions Club