



Monthly Bulletin of the Venice Lions Club, Venice, Florida
October, 2024

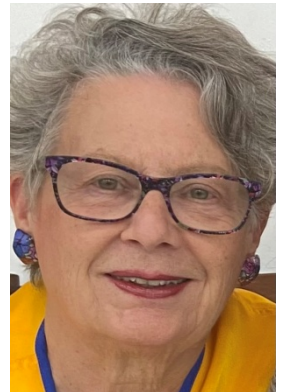
Lights, Hot Showers, and Flush Toilets

If we learned anything from Hurricane Milton, it is how comforting it is to turn on the lights when entering a room, turn on hot water when we want a shower, and even taking care of basic hygiene requirements. We all lived with the suspension of the things we take for granted: television, radio, cell phone service and food kept safe in our refrigerators and freezers. I have never really understood what “being mindful” means, but perhaps it is this: an appreciation of what we have each day that gives us comfort, and yes – joy.

Here is something else I learned during Hurricane Milton: every Lion I called had a full house taking care of family, friends, and neighbors. Those who did not evacuate to their own families and had the ability took in others up and down the street. With every project, with every meeting, with every relationship I see and I enjoy. I learn even more about Lions: they are people who share what they have, take care of each other and their neighbors, and in every way demonstrate kindness and generosity. It is great to be a Lion. It is great to KNOW Lions. Thank you for all you do!

There will be more stories to come about our hurricane responses
Lion Pamela

The President's Message



Why has Lions International challenged Lions Clubs across the globe to help reach a minimum of 1.5 million Lions worldwide by July 1, 2027?

Easy answer: the more Lions there are, the more volunteers we have to make a real difference in the world. Hurricanes Helene and Milton demonstrated that our own community needs every possible able-bodied person to help, and that need is repeated in every community in the world.

It is not easy to find new Lions. Have you had this experience: have the people you asked to join Lions just *laughed* at the idea? This has happened to me several times.

I have to ask myself: why is Lions membership so dear and clear to me and something laughable to some others? My reason for joining is a complicated mix of my distress at the state of the world and empathy for people who are hungry, homeless, or hurting as well as my religion that expects me to “repair the world” – or at least, *try*.

I did a little research online to see what the experts say about the reasons people volunteer.

1. **“Doing good” is important.** Volunteering presents a proactive way of doing something to make the world a better place.

2. **“Giving Back”, Making a Positive Impact, and Creating a Better Future.** By giving back, we have the power to positively impact the lives of individuals, families, and even entire communities, making a real difference for tomorrow.
3. **Meeting like-minded, positive people is motivating.** The way someone chooses to spend their spare time is a true reflection of their values and priorities. Lions share the drive “to serve”. We enjoy being with others who share the same values.

I am challenging everyone reading this newsletter to send your story, or a short paragraph, or one sentence about why YOU joined Lions. YOU did not laugh when someone asked you to be a Lion. You joined. What is it about YOU that motivated you to volunteer when it would be so much easier not to?

If you will email me your story or a short note, I will print it in our future newsletters. If you want to be anonymous, let me know, but I think it will be moving and motivating to know why all the Lions in our club have been called to join, not laugh at, the invitation.

Whatever your reason, I am glad **YOU** are all Lions! It is my greatest honor to know you!

Lion President Pamela
 Pamelajeane.brown@gmail.com

CELEBRATE!



10/04 Ric Namikas
 10/11 Terry Burke
 10/12 John McEnerney
 10/24 Alf Kirkeeng
 10/26 Tracy Kruger
 10/27 June Gurley
 10/30 Ed Stack

10/10 Campbell Gaunt & Patty
 10/10 Jody Fall & Jerry
 10/31 Ed & Mary Billings

District 35 I Cabinet Meeting: Everyone is Invited!

Our District 35I holds District Meetings 4 times a year. These meetings are open to ALL Lions and are a great opportunity to hear about District priorities and projects. It will be especially interesting to hear the District's response to the recent hurricane disaster and its future plans. Lions are such a huge organization that it is challenging to understand all of it. Attending the District Cabinet meetings is a good start in seeing how the pieces fit together. The upcoming District Meeting is right down the road from us in Englewood. This is a great opportunity for you to attend a meeting.

November 9, 2024. Registration 9:00-10:00. Meeting time is from 10:00 until noon Englewood Lions Club House, 611 Placida Road, Englewood.

BIG NEWS

The Start Time for Dinner and the Meeting has CHANGED!



At the request of several members to start our meetings earlier, the members discussed the options at the October 3rd meeting. The decision was to start dinner at **5:30** and the meeting at **6:15 pm**.

Members coming for dinner may arrive any time during the 45 -minute dinner period but the meeting will begin promptly at **6:15 pm**.

Halloween Candy Bagging – Even 1VDG Linda Gregory helped bag up the candy



Disaster Relief Efforts

The Bradenton Lions put a call out for volunteers to help with a Free Ice Distribution. Lions Pamela and Bev reported for duty. The gentleman on the bike is Mr. Walter Grey. He lives in a mobile home park near the distribution sight. He packed up 4 boxes of ice on his bike to share with his neighbors.



New Projects!



Lion Bonnee kicks off the “Teddy Bear” project for the First Responders



Lion Bonnee introduced the new post office library for the Laurel Nokomis Civic Center



Lion Jean told the members about the Care Committee



Lion Judy T shows off the new container for the Food Pantry collection. Winn Dixie will be helping us fill the container by offering their customers a place to give any unwanted BOGO items



Lion Paddy tells us what is going to take place at the upcoming Venice Halloween Event

Volunteers will be passing out candy AND telling folks about our Great Club

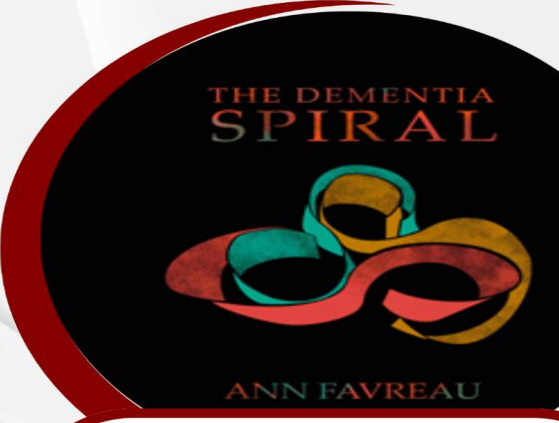
DOING THE BEST I CAN

A CAREGIVER'S JOURNEY THROUGH DEMENTIA


Ann Favreau is a retired educator who lives in Venice, FL. She is a member of the Florida Writers Association, Florida State Poets Association, and Past President of the Suncoast Writers Guild, Inc. in Englewood. She has self-published six books. Her writing has appeared in many newspapers, magazines, and anthologies. She has won local and national prizes for her prose and poetry and loves sharing her work with others.

NOVEMBER 13TH

AT 9:30AM-10:30AM



Ann Favreau
Author



Senior Friendship Centers
2350 SCENIC DRIVE
VENICE, FLORIDA

Lion Ann will be introducing her new book at the Senior Friendship Center
Take the opportunity to hear the wonderful presentation of her poetry



Volunteering in our Lions Club

by Lion Bev

Did you know there is actually a “rule” that explains a situation we see all the time in our clubs? It is known as the *Pareto Rule*. Here is the definition:

The 80/20 rule, also known as the Pareto principle, is a principle that states that roughly 80% of outcomes come from 20% of causes. It can be used to help with prioritization, decision making, and increasing productivity.

To apply this 80/20 rule to our club, all we have to do is think about how it seems that about 20% of the members end up doing 80% of the work. I’m sure it seems that most of the time it’s the same Lions doing the majority of the work. What does it take to get more of our members involved?

Here are a few things to consider:

1. On one hand, the word “Volunteer” is a great word. It conveys the sense that a person is willing to do the work without compensation. In Lions we know not everyone is passionate about **every project** our club becomes involved in. **SOLUTION:** Talk to your Board and express what projects interest you – yes, consider **NEW PROJECTS**.
(NOTE: we have already seen how new projects can be started when we had the Vote for Your Project Night)
2. Often we broadcast the need for Lions to help without asking individual people to participate. We do this by announcing a project at a meeting or in an email. How effective is it to use the general appeals rather than investing the time and energy into engaging the Lions that are not currently serving in some capacity?
SOLUTION: We need to get to know our members, learn about what interests them and what their abilities are. Then we can personally invite them to join in the work.
3. We sometimes see Lions who are not active in the work of our club. Perhaps they see other Lions who are active and those Lions always seem very busy with Lions projects. Many of the busy Lions wear multiple hats and have been serving in their capacities for years! To the uninvolved Lions, it looks like getting involved is an all-consuming, life-long commitment. **SOLUTION:** We need to make sure there are clearly defined opportunities for Lions to serve in some way without a long term commitment. Giving our members a chance to serve in a small way can help them become more comfortable about serving in a greater capacity.
4. Our club has members that are the decision makers – the Board of Directors. We have other members that always raise their hand when the club asks for help. Hence the 20% that are always involved in our projects. Hopefully we can concentrate on the 80% of our Lions that can make smaller, yet significant contributions of service. **SOLUTION:** Instead of trying to get more members to immediately become part of the 20%, we need to focus on encouraging Lions to take the opportunity to serve one project at a time.
5. Here is the most important **SOLUTION** I can offer you: **LISTEN TO YOUR FELLOW LIONS** – We are all on the same **TEAM**.

We know that every Lion in our club is important. From the ideas and suggestions that may be given to the club to being the “cheerleaders” we all need when we celebrate a completed project. Make sure our club **LISTENS TO YOU!** This is your club...and you help make it a **GREAT CLUB**.

FULL DISCLOSURE: This is the article I used this month for the District Newsletter. I have modified the content to reflect situations on the club level, but not necessarily our club. In retrospect I am **very proud** to say that our club does not fit into this 80/20 rule description... we have many more Lions that volunteer for so many of our projects but there are many opportunities that go unfulfilled. The one thing I do want to drive home is please let our club know what you are thinking... great ideas create great projects and events!



67th 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