



LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

January 2025

President's Message

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Upcoming Events

JANUARY

16	Membership Meeting Dinner @ 5:30PM Business Meeting @ 6:15 PM
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Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

6	Vision Clinic Lions Community Room 7 AM General Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 PM Meeting @ 6:15 PM
13	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM
20	General Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 PM Meeting @ 6:15 PM
25	Zone 6 Meeting Port Charlotte Centennial Lions (Flyer to follow)



The Lions emblem we wear on our vests features two Lions. One looks backwards, and the other looks forward. It is said that the two represent Lions looking back with pride and to the future with optimism and courage.

It seems appropriate at this time of year for our club to do the same: look back to all we have done and to the future when we expect to find new and creative ways to continue serving our community.

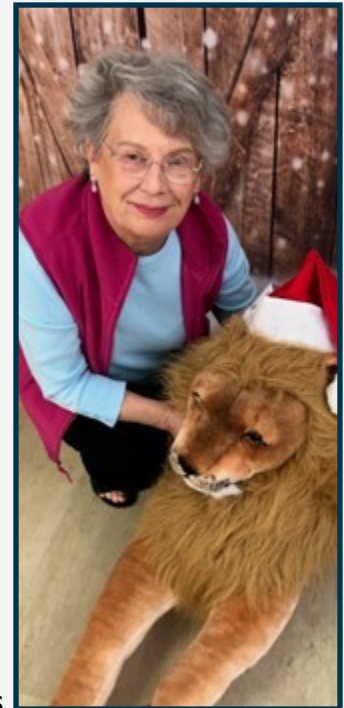
As we look back to 2024, we can be proud of our vision clinics, children's vision screening, eyeglass recycling, our environmental cleanups, our teddy bear donations, and almost 500 books donated to the Angel Tree bags. We gave the kids in Laurel Civic a new "little free library post office" box stuffed with books. We attended the return of the Veterans' Honor Flight and the Wreaths Across America ceremony. After the hurricanes, we helped clubs in our zone distribute free ice (Bradenton) free meals (Englewood) and with the help of District 35I we gave 120 free meals to Venice police, firefighters, and sheriffs to thank them for their help during the storms. We brought back the Fall Social, enjoyed fundraising with chances to win \$100 worth of scratch-off cards, and we always enjoyed our two Tail Twisters. We ended 2024 with a Holiday Party and took time to enjoy colleagues who are now our friends.

As we look forward to 2025, our legacy projects will continue and we will be looking for creative new projects that meet the needs of our community, especially the most vulnerable among us.

I offer a heartfelt thank you to every member who has attended meetings, supported our projects and believe that service and kindness really do matter. Let's make 2025 the best year – together.

Serving with You,

Lion Pamela



Club Service Report July 2024 — January 2025

People Served — 4079
Service Activities Completed — 40
Volunteer Hours — 1526

“It’s Great to be a Venice Lion”



77 YEARS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2nd Barbara McGillicuddy
3rd Tom Cookingham
9th Christal Snell
14th Dotty Winther
24th Keith Backhaus
30th Jeff Sterne



Happy Anniversary

5th Ed and Jan Stack
12th Paul and Roseann Carlson

HOLIDAY SOCIAL



The Venice Lions ended 2024 with a fabulous holiday party. Members dressed up for the occasion and Lion Jeff took photos of everyone in front of a holiday backdrop. The room looked lovely with our purple tablecloths and the sparkling centerpieces created by Lions Pat McNally and Judy Rocquin. Lions Karen and Gary Miller, Englewood Lions Club's members-caterers, managed a lavish holiday meal. The evening ended with Lion Judy leading Frosty the Snowman themed games that left everyone laughing. With 2024 closing, and service projects ending for now, Lion President Pamela thanked everyone for their hard work and service to the people of Venice. See you next year!



CLUB NEWS

Free Lunch for First Responders

Did you know that our Lions District 35 I has a disaster trailer ready to move when hurricanes damage our communities? After Hurricane Milton, 1st Vice District Governor and her team took the trailer, which is equipped like a food truck, to distribute hot meals to people whose communities had been devastated by the storm. When the worst of the emergency was over, and the district still had food in the freezer, Lion Linda offered the trailer to clubs with a good idea for service. That was easy! Venice Lions asked for the trailer to provide free hamburgers, hotdogs and Italian sausages to Venice's first responders to thank them for their service during the two hurricanes. On December 5, the food trailer was hauled into the Venice Police Department parking lot and the team started cooking. Over 100 meals were served to police officers, firefighters, sheriffs, and support staff. Lion Tim Werla demonstrated his cooking skills and a team of Lions served the guests. Thanks to the leadership of District 35I, we offered a great service project that day.



Wreaths Across America

We appreciate First Vice President Tim Werla keeping service to veterans in front of us. In November Lions attended the return of the Veterans Honor flight, where our own Alf Kirkeeng was honored. In December Lions attended Wreaths Across America in Englewood. US flags were everywhere, and wreaths were stacked, ready to place on the final resting place of veterans from all branches of service. Long lines of grieving families read the names of veterans they had lost and rang a bell to honor them. There were no dry eyes that day. We live on in the memories of those who loved us.



Member Profiles

Lions Ann & Ray Favreau

Submitted by Lion Sharon Wilkins

Ann and Ray Favreau have been married for 66 years. They have 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Ray was an electrical engineer, Ann, a teacher. Lions has been an important part of their lives. Ray has been a Lion for 53 years, Ann, 45. In Agawam, MA Ann was president of the Lioness Club and Ray the Lions Club. They are both Melvin Jones Fellows, Ray from Agawam and Venice.

When they joined the Venice club, the Vision Clinic was their primary focus. Ray served on the Keerl Committee since its inception, chairing it many times. He greeted clients at the monthly clinics, registered them, and later did the related computer work. Ann became the clinic coordinator, training volunteers and managing the monthly clinics. She started the Eyeglasses for the Needy and Homeless Program at Trinity Presbyterian Church Community Outreach. She led the collection of toiletries for the needy and she and Ray always attended the Christmas Party for Venice families to bring them a bit of joy and gifts for the parents and children. Ray was one of the first trained on the machine to do children's vision screening which he loved doing. He led the Venetian Waterway Park Cleanup for many years and received the Beautification Award from them in 2008.

Over the years they have sponsored several Lion members. They have been involved with food prep for the Holiday Parade, led children in the Halloween Parade, joined in the White Cane Walk and Luncheon, worked at the Shark Tooth Festival, Gear Up Florida, and were global ambassadors for Lions distributing banners to Lions they met on their travels.

Ann has written articles for the Newsletter since 2005, had stories published in the Lion Magazine and the Florida Lions Magazine. She was a member of the Community Health Action Team, led strategic planning for the club, coordinated the models for the Mane Event Fashion Show, and wrote poems for the Sunshine Card Project. She has presented programs for the meetings.

Ray and Ann embody our motto: *"We Serve"*.



Venice Lions Travel!

If you wondered where Lions Ed and Jan Stack have been: take a look at Ed's report!

"Jan and I took a Rhine River cruise last week to visit the Christmas markets in Germany and France. We met Lions at both Rudesheim, Germany and Strausbourg, France. The attached pictures are from the Lions' stall at the Strausbourg market".



Lion Ed Stack

Reading Action Program, Year Two

Lion Jeff Myles started the Reading Action Program last year as his President's Project. His intention was to give books to children in families where there are limited resources to buy them. Lions International had promoted the Reading Action Program stating "a book is a dream that you hold in your hand". This year, Lion Bonnee Hagen led the project and she found a new group of children who would benefit from receiving a free book. She delivered 470 books to the Salvation Army Christmas Tree Program for children age 0-12. The Salvation Army had screened children for eligibility based on poverty guidelines. Lion Bonnee purchased age-appropriate books at a reduced price from Scholastic Books. The picture is from the Salvation Army Chapel where gifts are collected and are distributed before December 20.



(Right) Alicia Williams and Vanita Moses-Cook, staff at Laurel Civic, show off the Venice Lions free library post office box. It is part of the Reading Action Program, now in its second year, that gives free books to children in financially-challenged families.

Holiday Parade

There was a small but very enthusiastic group of Venice Lions participating in the 2024 Venice Holiday Parade. We had lots of time to sit and chat with our fellow Lions while we waited for our unit #73 to move forward. Once under way, we received a warm enthusiastic reception from our community with lots of "Thank You Venice Lions" and applause. It feels so good to hear our community recognizes our contributions. Thanks to everyone who helped repair and paint the float, as well as those who helped decorate and ride in the Parade. A VERY special thanks to "Roary", AKA Lion Bev who is always the most popular rider on our float.



New Caterer

Thanks to all who responded to the meals survey. No one suggested we increase the cost of our dinners! We have found a new caterer who will be providing our meals for the same cost. Hotel Venezia, in Venice, is accustomed to delivering dinners to various non-profit organizations. Because the hotel has a strong catering business, it is able to provide the same meal they are catering to others to us. We will be following the same dinner protocol as always: members will be asked several days ahead of the meeting if they will be having dinner so that we can provide the final number to the caterer. We will experiment with meals from Hotel Venezia for a few months and ask members for their opinions about March.



Lions Geography

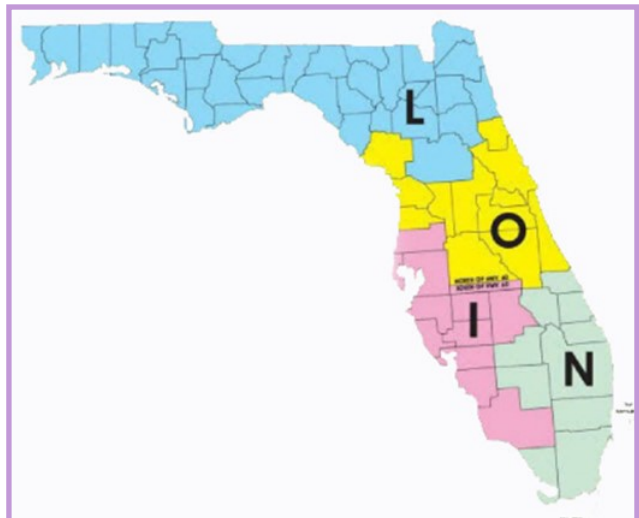
Lions geography can seem complicated! Our organization spans the globe from the club level to clubs in over 200 countries worldwide. Add administrative structures and throw a few foundations into the mix and our heads spin.

Let's get the Lions geography in Florida straight first.

The state of Florida has been assigned a number: **District 35**. For administrative purposes, all the Lions Clubs in Florida are divided into four smaller districts with letters assigned to distinguish them: 35-**L**, 35-**I** (our district), 35-**O**, and 35-**N**. Did you notice that together the four Florida districts spell "LION"? When we hear the term Multi-District, it is referring to the four districts in the state of Florida.

Each district has its own administrative team: a Governor with Vice Governors and a cabinet that advises and supports the clubs in its district. In 35 I, our Governor is Lion Patti Jean Strong. Lion Linda Gregory is 1st Vice District Governor and Venice Lion Beverly Flynn serves as 2nd Vice District Governor. Lion Beverly will rise to 1st Vice District Governor next year, and the following year she will be Governor of District 35-I. This structure is repeated in each of the four districts in Florida.

Next month we will divide our District into Zones to understand the local structure that builds bridges between clubs for sharing information and service projects.



Pork Loin Dinner

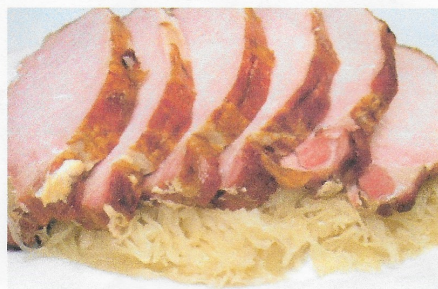
Saturday

January 25, 2025



Time: 4 – 7 pm

- Marinated Pork Loin
- Mashed Potatoes
- Corn Pudding
- German Sauerkraut
- Applesauce
- Apple Crisp
- Beverage



Hosted by

Englewood Lions

Lions Club House

4611 Placida Rd

3 ½ m S of Merchants Crossing

\$15 Advance

Call 698-7508 or any Lion
Member by Jan 21

\$16 at the door

Take out available

www.inglewoodfl-lionsclub.com

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Club Meetings
 1st & 3rd Thursdays
 Dinner at 5:30 PM
 Meetings begin at 6:15 PM

Board of Directors Meeting
 2nd Thursday at 6 PM



Our Venice club is part of the largest international service organization in the world. We support international efforts to save the sight of millions, provide measles vaccinations and disaster relief.

At the local community level, Lions provide free vision and hearing services to those in need, screen the vision of preschool children and collect used eyeglasses.

Every dollar donated goes back to the community in the form of grants, scholarships, and educational and fun activities for children.

Our members like serving in a club with a purpose. It makes us feel good to give back to our community.

Venice Lions Club 2024—2025

President	Pamela Brown
1st Vice President 2nd Vice President	Timothy Werla Judy Terrell
Secretary Assistant Secretary	Jeffrey Myles
Treasurer (Admin.)	Barbara McGillicuddy
Treasurer (Found.)	Ed Billings
Tail Twister Lion Tamer IPP	Judy Rocquin Robert Winstel Jeffrey Myles
One Year Director One Year Director Two Year Director Two Year Director	Jean Spitzer Bonnee Hagen Mary Billing Christal Snell
Membership Chair	Beverly Flynn
Bulletin Editor Publisher Staff	Jeff Myles Jeff Myles Pamela Brown Sharon Wilkins

Lions Club International

300 22nd Street, Oak Brook IL, 60521	
Website	www.lcif.org
President	Fabricio Oliviera
IPP	Dr. Patty Hill
District 35-I	
Website	www.lionsMD35.com
District Governor	Patty Jean Strong
IPDG	Gary LaSpina
1st Vice District Governor	Linda Gregory
2nd Vice District Governor	Beverly Flynn
Cabinet Secretary	Penny Gregrich
Treasurer	Diane Clifton
Bulletin	Paula Paquette
MD Executive Secretary / Treasurer	Neil Spencer
Zone 6 Chair	Jeffrey Myles