The Roaring Lions

Zephyrhills Lions — "WE SERVE"

Serving Our Community Since 1943

Service • Friendship • Leadership • Community

People Helping People

NEWSLETTER | Edition # 2 | Month: October | Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Club President's Message

Dear Fellow Lions,

As we continue another exciting month of service, I want to thank each of you for the time, energy, and heart you give to the Zephyrhills Lions Club. Every service project, meeting, fundraiser, and helping hand demonstrates what it truly means to live our motto, **"We Serve."**

Our club continues to make a difference because of members who are willing to step forward and help. Whether you are volunteering at Bingo, assisting with our Sight Program, supporting one of our community projects, or simply sharing ideas and fellowship with fellow Lions, your participation strengthens our Pride

As we move forward, I encourage everyone to stay involved, invite others to learn about Lions, and look for new ways we can serve our community. Together, we can accomplish so much more than any of us could accomplish alone.

Thank you for being a Lion and for helping make the Zephyrhills Lions Club a place where friendship, service, and community come together.

Carla Myers
President

Club Officers

President,
Carla Myers

1st Vice President,
Kathy Doody

2nd Vice President,
[Name]

Secretary
Duska Covacci

Treasurer
Christine Malone

Newsletter Editor
Duska Covacci

"Success comes from knowing that you did your Best to become the Best that you are capable of Becoming"
— John Wooden

This Month's Events (MARK YOUR CALANDARS)

Date	Event / Details	Time
October 7	*Board of Directors Meeting*	6:00 pm
October 8	*Sight Program & Diabetes Screening*	9 am – 11:30 am
October 12	*General Member Meeting*	5:30 pm Social Time 6:00 pm Meeting
October 15	*Zone Meeting*	*Location and Time to be announced*
October 17	*Club Social: Wesley Chapel Theater Group – "The Odd Couple"*	*7:00 pm*
October 24	*Reverse Trick or Treat*	*[Time]*

Committee Reports

Service Committee — *Chair Mandi Shelton, Co-Chair Brooke Dutton*

In September, our service team joined Lions from Plant City and Riverview to complete 43 vision screenings and 29 hearing screenings for the Cool Schoolers of Wesley Chapel. Our next project is the Sight Program & Diabetes Screening on October 8 from 9:00 to 11:30 am. **Donations of candy or other snack items** for the seniors will be accepted at the next meeting (no peanuts or hard candy).

Membership Committee — *Chair [Name]*

We welcomed four new Lions: Leigh Ashley, Holly Hazelton, Linda Price, and Shirley Tierella. Plans are underway for a "Lion for a Day" open house and for sponsoring a Leo Club at a local high school. [Add current membership total and open house date.]

Bingo Committee — *Chair Debbie Phelps*

Reminder: there is no Bingo on November 6 because of the MD-35 Fall Conference. If anyone would like to volunteer to help us out please let me know.

Thanksgiving Food Drive — *Chair [Name]*

Donations for Thanksgiving baskets are due by 7:00 pm on November 18. There will be baskets at the club for drop off

Club Socials (SAVE THE DATE)

Before every General Member Meeting: Social Time at 5:30 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:00 pm at the clubhouse. Bring a friend!

October 17, 7:00 pm: An evening at the Wesley Chapel Theater Group's production of "The Odd Couple." Tickets available at www.wesleychapeltheatergroup.org/tickets-events Price General admission $20 Students and Seniors $15

November 6–8: MD-35 Fall Conference, "Tropical Nights," in Orlando. Seminars, fellowship, and fun with Lions from across Florida. Register at www.district35i.com.

Club Member Meeting Highlights

Several Lions were acknowledged for their

Volunteer Services and dedication .

Kathy Doody ,

Christine Malone ,

Debbie Phelps ,

Nadine Brown



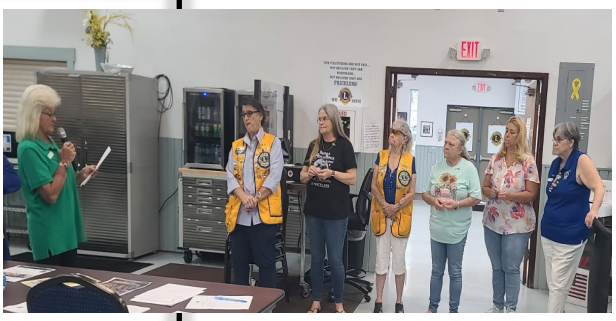
Club Activities

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LION'S

Leigh Ashley Holly Hazel
Linda Price Shirley Tierella

Welcome to our newest members! Each new Lion brings fresh ideas, talents, and energy to our Pride.

Tell everyone you meet what it means to be a Lion! To our longtime members, please help us make our new Lions feel at home. Welcome—we are glad you are here!





SEPTEMBER SERVICE PROJECTS

Zephyrhills Lions joined Lions from Plant City and Riverview to conduct vision and hearing screenings for the Cool Schoolers of Wesley Chapel.

Together, we completed 43 vision and 29 hearing screenings. It was a pleasure to work with such a woderful group of children and their parents.







Big Congratulations To:

Mandi Shelton for earning her Bachelor's Degree from Lions University at the 50th USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis!

Her achievement reflects her dedication to learning, leadership, and service.

Please join us in celebrating Mandi and all she **brings** to our Lions family. **We Serve!**



Forum Reports

Lions Bring Forum Inspiration Home

Six Zephyrhills Lions Club members attended the 50th Anniversary USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis: President Carla Myers, 1st Vice President Kathy Doody, Treasurer Christine Malone, Service Chair Mandi Shelton, Service Co-Chair Brook Dutton, and Lion Gloria Timmons. Each returned inspired and shared a summary of a seminar they attended.

Their presentations gave fellow members a chance to learn from the Forum, too, and brought fresh ideas back to our club. Thank you to these Lions for representing Zephyrhills and sharing what they learned with our Pride!

Speakers at the forum included Lions International President Mark S. Lyon, Stephanie Krieger Graef, Leslie King, and Lion Floyd Armstrong, a singer and songwriter formerly with The Fifth Dimension. Lion Mark and Lion Floyd left attendees with inspiring messages to carry into their service.





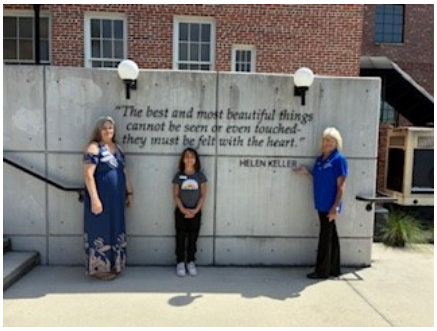
Cub's corner





We are now a couple of months into the official launch of the Cub Club as part of the Zephyrhills Lions Club, and our Cubs have already jumped right in and embraced what it truly means to be a Lion

They have helped sort eyeglasses during our Vision Program, made Birthday Boxes and food bags for those in need, and helped assemble and deliver 75 distraction bags to St. Joseph's Children's Hospital for children undergoing cancer treatment



Our oldest Cub, Taelyn, also had the opportunity to tour the Lions World Vision Institute, where she learned about the incredible work they do and why organ and tissue donation is so important.

We are so proud of our Cubs and look forward to watching them continue to grow through service, compassion, and helping others in our community.

Getting to Know Our Members



Featured Lion: Katherine Doody —

Lion Since 10/10/2022

What brought you to the lion? After I retired, I wanted to stay busy and do something that truly mattered. My friend, John, invited me to a meeting, and I felt right at home. It didn't take long before I was rolling up my sleeves. Today I'm proud to serve as the club's 1st Vice President, lead our local sight program, and head up the LCIF efforts. I never expected to take on so much at this stage of life, but when you care about something, you find the energy.

What is your favorite service project? I love our Sight program events, especially helping people get eye exams and glasses. There's nothing quite like watching someone put on a new pair of glasses and suddenly see clearly, whether it's a child who can finally read the board at school or a senior who can read their mail again. At my age, I know how precious your eyesight is, so helping others keep theirs means a lot to me.

Tell us about your life outside the club. I lived in Connecticut and worked as a state employee for 20 years. I've been blessed with one child, 7 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren, and they keep me on my toes.

What might surprise your fellow Lions? Nothing; what you see is what you get.

What advice would you give a new Lion? Say yes, and don't let age or inexperience hold you back. I'm still finding new ways to serve. Pick a project that speaks to you, show up, and before you know it, you'll be leading it. And learn about LCIF! Every dollar we give helps Lions worldwide respond to disasters, fight preventable blindness, and serve their communities. It's a wonderful reminder that our small club is part of something bigger.

Calling All Lions !!!

The **Vision, Diabetes and our many other Committees** are looking for caring, community-minded volunteers who want to make a difference!

We need YOU!

- Help make a difference in the lives of others.
- Support vision and diabetes awareness initiatives.
- Give back to your community.
- Meet caring people who share your passion for service.
- Become part of a team committed to helping those in need.

You don't need special skills to make a difference—just a willing heart, a caring spirit, and a desire to serve!

Lions International Activities

MD-35 FALL CONFERENCE

Come join us in Orlando at the Florida Hotel for interesting and informative seminars and, of course, FUN!

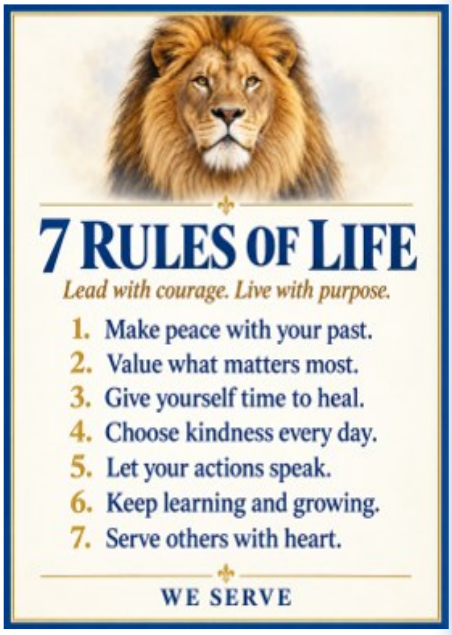
Conference Theme: Tropical *Nights*
Dates: November 6th – 8th
Location: The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, Orlando, FL
Reservation Deadlines: Hotel – October 5th
Meals – October 20th
(to get Lion rate)
Go to the District website for more information and registration before the deadline: https://www.district35i.com





OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, a time to raise awareness, encourage early detection, and show support for those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer.
As Lions, our commitment to service includes supporting the health and well-being of our community. This month, we recognize the strength of breast cancer survivors, remember those we have lost, and stand beside those currently facing a diagnosis and treatment.



What Are the Lion's Rules of Life?

Being a Lion is about the choices we make every day. We make peace with the past and focus on what we can do now. We value the people and causes that matter most, give ourselves and others time to heal, and choose kindness even in small moments.

We also let our actions speak. Every project is a chance to learn, grow, and collaborate with fellow Lions.

Above all, we serve others with heart. We may not see the full impact of every kind word or helping hand, but each one matters. These seven rules remind us that a life of purpose is built one thoughtful act at a time.

Lions International

Lions International: A Month Focused on Vision and Service

October puts vision, service and community impact at center stage for Lions worldwide. Lions Clubs International is encouraging Lions and Leos to use the month to show what our organization has always stood for: meeting needs, improving lives and living our motto, "We Serve."

A Global Week of Service for Vision. The Week of Service: Vision runs October 8–18, 2026, beginning on World Sight Day (October 8) and including International White Cane Safety Day (October 15). Lions and Leos are organizing vision screenings, eyeglass recycling and other projects that protect sight, assist people who are blind or visually impaired, and raise awareness of preventable vision loss. Vision has been at the heart of Lions service for generations, carried on today through local sight programs and LCIF-supported projects worldwide.

LCIF Extends Our Reach. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) takes our service far beyond our own communities. In fiscal year 2025–2026, LCIF awarded a record $52 million in grants, its highest level in more than three decades, and has awarded over $1.3 billion since its founding in 1968. Supporting LCIF helps fellow Lions meet needs no single club could reach alone.

Tell Our Lions Story. October is also a chance to remind our communities of everything Lions do, from vision, diabetes, hunger and childhood cancer to the environment, disaster relief, humanitarian aid and youth programs. Every screening, recycled pair of glasses, food drive, fundraiser and volunteer hour adds to a larger story.

Ask yourself: How can I participate? Who can I invite to serve beside me? How can I help my community understand what it means to be a Lion? Our projects start in our own neighborhoods, but we are part of an international network working toward stronger communities and better lives.

This October, wear your Lions pin proudly, join a service project, invite someone new, and remember why we became Lions.

Where there's a need, there's a Lion. We Serve.



