Zephyrhills Lions
"WE SERVE"

The Roaring Lions

Serving Our Community Since 1943
Service • Friendship • Leadership • Community

People Helping People

NEWSLETTER | Edition # 3 | Month: November | Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Club President's Message

Dear Fellow Lions,

As we step into another month of service, thank you for the dedication and care you bring to the Zephyrhills Lions Club. Your willingness to show up, lend a hand, and put others first continues to bring our motto, "We Serve," to life in meaningful ways.

This time of year, offers special opportunities to make a difference. Whether you help with Bingo, support our Sight Program, collect toys for local children, or simply encourage a fellow Lion, your efforts strengthen our Pride and brighten our community. Every act of service, large or small, matters.

I encourage you to stay involved, invite friends and neighbors to learn about Lions, and look for new ways we can serve together. When we work side by side, we accomplish far more than any of us could alone.

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

Carla Myers
President

President,
Carla Myers

1st Vice President
Katy Doody

Treasurer
Christine Malone

Secretary
Duska Covacci

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

Date	Event / Details	Time
November 2	Board of Director Meeting	6:00 pm
November 9	General Member Meeting	5:30 pm Social Time 6:00 pm Meeting
November 12	Sight & Diabetes Screening	9:00 am – 11:30 am
November 18	Culvers service	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
November 19	Pack Thanksgiving Food Baskets for distribution	4:00 pm
November 26	***HAPPY THANKSGIVING***	
November 27	**NO BINGO**	

Club Activities —

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIONS

Jennifer Wagner & Michael Shelton



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!



LIONS SERVING SOME HALLOWEEN MAGIC!







The Zephyrhills Lions Club and our Lions Cubs brought treats, smiles, and Halloween cheer to residents of The Gardens of Westbrook Assisted Living Facility in Zephyrhills during a special **Reverse Trick-or-Treat event**.

Dressed in festive costumes, our Lions and Cubs added to the Halloween fun and made the experience even more memorable for residents. **Kathy Doody donned her traditional lion costume, which was a big hit!**

Instead of collecting goodies, our Lions and Cubs handed out candy, pretzels, pudding cups, crackers, and socks. Along the way, they shared warm smiles and friendly visits, making the occasion about connection as much as giving.

Serving together across generations, our Lions and Cubs showed how simple acts of kindness can brighten someone's day.

What a wonderful way to bring our motto, **"We Serve,"** to life!

Getting to Know Our Members

Featured Lion: Amanda Shelton

What brought you to the lion?
My mom, our Club President, Carla Myers, is why I first got involved with the Lions Club. I started by helping her with service projects when she served as Service Chair. After about a year, I decided to become a Lion myself. I wanted to expand my volunteer efforts, become more involved in serving our community, and give my children the opportunity to experience the joy of giving back. What started as helping my mom has grown into something that's become a special part of our family's lives.

What is your favorite service project? It's hard to choose just one because I have truly enjoyed every service project we've participated in! However, one that holds a special place in my heart is delivering distraction bags to the children's hospital for children undergoing cancer treatments. Knowing that something as simple as a bag filled with fun activities can bring a smile, provide a little comfort, and brighten a child's day during such a difficult time is incredibly rewarding. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference.

Tell us about your life outside the club. I've been married to my husband, Michael Shelton, for 25 years. He is a Battalion Chief and firefighter/paramedic with Pasco County Fire Rescue. We have five children: two adult daughters, Brooke (who is also a Lion) and Mikayla; and three adopted children, Taelyn (11), Arabella (9), and Michael (9). I'm also a proud grandmother to Madison (4)! All four kids are very active Cubs members.

Outside of Lions Club, my days are filled with homeschooling our younger children, volunteering as a Girl Scout leader, and spending time with my family. I also love crafting and pretty much any opportunity to be creative. Between family, homeschooling, volunteering, and crafting, there's never a dull moment!

What might surprise your fellow Lions? Believe it or not, I'm actually very introverted and shy! While I love being involved in service projects, meeting people, and helping organize activities, stepping outside my comfort zone doesn't always come naturally. Being a Lion has helped me grow, become more confident, and connect with some truly wonderful people.

What advice would you give a new Lion? one of my favorite Dr. Seuss quotes is, *"A person's a person, no matter how small."* I think that message fits perfectly with what it means to be a Lion. No act of service is too small, and every person has something valuable to contribute.

My biggest advice is to get involved in ways that work for you. We would love to see every member at every event, but we also understand that life is busy, and no one should feel pressured to participate in everything. Whether you can give an hour, help with one project, or simply share an idea, your contribution matters.

You don't have to do everything to make a difference. You just have to be willing to do something. And when we all do a little, together we can accomplish so much!

Lions International: A Month Focused on Vision and Service

November gives Lions around the world another opportunity to demonstrate the power of service. This month, two areas deserve special attention: **the fight against diabetes and the Lions International Peace Contests**. Both reflect the heart of what it means to be a Lion—addressing important needs today while helping build a healthier and more peaceful tomorrow.

November 14 — World Diabetes Day is making November an excellent time for Lions clubs to focus attention on diabetes awareness, prevention and education.

Diabetes is one of Lions International's global causes. Lions and Leos are encouraged to serve their communities through programs such as **Type 2 diabetes screenings, Strides for Diabetes Awareness activities, diabetes peer support groups and diabetes camps for young people**. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) also offers grant opportunities to support larger diabetes awareness, prevention and management projects.

The need remains significant. Lions' International reports that an estimated **537 million adults worldwide are living with diabetes**, with approximately one in two cases undiagnosed.

Every conversation that encourages someone to understand their risk can make a difference.

Inspiring Young People Through Peace - November is the Lions International Peace Poster and Peace Essay Contests. For 2026–2027, the Peace Contest theme is **"Harmony in Humanity."** Young people ages 11–13 are invited to explore the meaning of peace and imagine a world in which people of diverse cultures and backgrounds live together with respect, kindness and understanding.

Service Doesn't Stop at the Holidays - As Thanksgiving and the holiday season approach, November is also a natural time for Lions to look closely at needs within their own communities.

Food drives, assistance for families, support for veterans, vision programs, diabetes education and other local service projects may look different from club to club, but they share the same purpose: **Lions identifying a need and finding a way to help.**

November Is a Time for Gratitude - For Lions, November offers another important opportunity—**to say thank you**. Thank the Lion who quietly volunteers behind the scenes. Thank the members who arrive early to set up and stay late to clean up. Thank those who organize service projects, raise funds, recruit new members and continually answer the call when help is needed.

And remember to thank the families, businesses, organizations and community members who support our clubs throughout the year.

Our accomplishments aren't measured only by the money we raise or the number of projects we complete. They can also be measured in the people whose lives are a little better because a Lion cared enough to help.

As we enter the holiday season, November is a wonderful time to renew our commitment to service, fellowship and compassion. **Be thankful for the opportunity to serve. Be proud to be a Lion. And continue looking for the next person who needs our help.**



Lions Serve with Kindness – The Message

This flyer is a heartfelt reminder that being a Lion does not mean we have to be perfect; it means we strive to **make a difference with kindness, compassion, and understanding.**

We are all human. We make mistakes, experience difficult days, face personal challenges, and sometimes fall short of our own expectations. And that's okay. As Lions, we come from different backgrounds, have different personalities, and bring unique talents and perspectives to our club. We may not always agree, but we should always respect, encourage, and support one another. True Lionism is not about recognition, titles, or who does the most; it is about working together, lifting each other up, and remembering why we became Lions in the first place — to serve others.

Kindness should not only be something we offer to our community, but something we practice within our own Lions family. When we lead with patience, understanding, appreciation, and respect, we strengthen our club and make our service even more meaningful. After all, our motto is **"We Serve,"** and that service begins with how we treat one another.

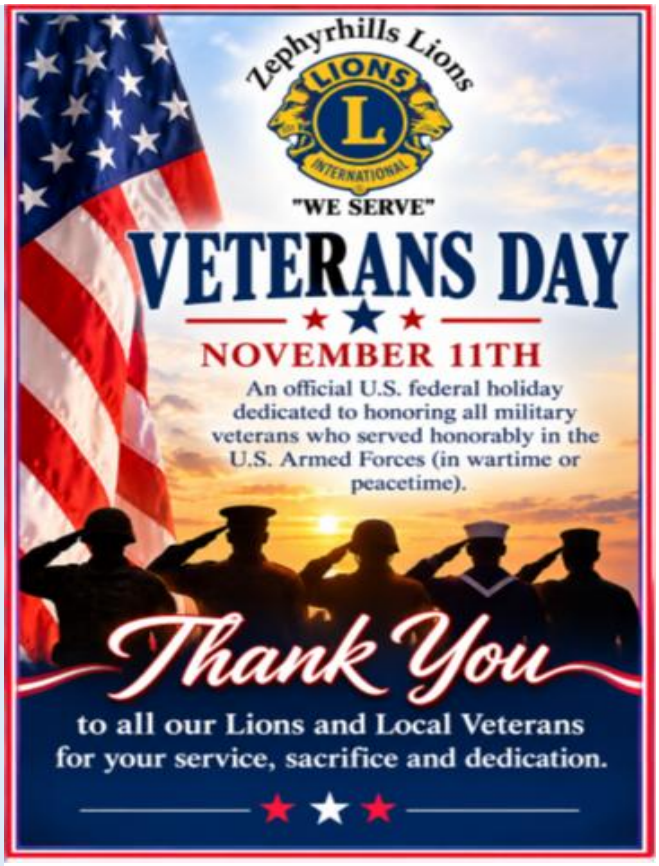
Honoring Those Who Served

We salute every veteran—past and present—whose courage, dedication, and service have helped secure our nation's freedom. As Lions, we are proud to stand with you, honor your sacrifice, and support your continued well-being.

Behind every uniform is a story of commitment, and behind every veteran are families and loved ones who have shared in that journey. We recognize their sacrifices, too, and offer our heartfelt gratitude.

To our fellow Lions who have served and to all veterans in our community: thank you for the example you set through duty, strength, and service to others. Your contributions continue to enrich our lives and inspire our work.

May our gratitude extend beyond Veterans Day through kindness, connection, and a helping hand whenever one is needed. You served our nation with pride; we are honored to serve our community alongside you.



Calling All Lions !!!!

Lions, Your Community Needs YOU!

A few hours of your time could help someone take the first step toward protecting their sight, managing their health, or hearing the world more clearly.

Our Vision, Diabetes, and Hearing screening teams need caring Lions to turn our commitment to service into action. Early screenings can identify potential concerns and encourage neighbors to seek professional care—but these efforts depend on members willing to step up and help.

There is a place for you on the team. Welcome participants, assist with registration, organize supplies, spread the word, or learn to help conduct screenings through the appropriate training. Every role helps us reach more people and make each event welcoming and effective.

You do not need a medical background to get involved. Bring a willing heart, a caring spirit, and a commitment to follow through. Training and guidance will help you prepare for your role.

Please contact a committee chair, volunteer for an upcoming screening, and help carry this important work forward. Our neighbors are counting on us.

"We Serve" begins with each of us. Let's put those words into action—together!

Cubs Corner

Small Paws, Big Hearts!

Our Zephyrhills Lions Cubs are discovering the joy of service—and making us proud along the way!



They were a tremendous help handing out treat bags and goodies during our Reverse Trick-or-Treat event at The Gardens of Westbrook Assisted Living Facility, bringing Halloween cheer and smiles to residents. With many residents living far from family, these friendly visits offer a welcome opportunity for connection and companionship.

Our Cubs also take an active role in our monthly membership meetings and lend helping hands as we prepare service projects for the entire club. They eagerly step up to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and share their experiences and ideas about the service events they have participated in. Their enthusiasm reminds us how much our youngest volunteers have to offer.

Through kindness, teamwork, and a willingness to help, our Cubs are showing that you are never too young to make a difference. Together, We Serve!

HELP YOUR CLUB WHILE HAVING FUN!



NEXT Month's Events - DECEMBER

Date	Event / Details	Time
December 2	Board of Director Meeting	6:00 pm
December 10	Sight & Diabetes Screening	9:00 am – 11:30 am
December 14	General Member Meeting	5:30 pm Social Time 6:00 pm Meeting
December 17	Last Day for Christmas Food Donations	Call to make sure someone is available
December 25	***Merry Christmas!***	**NO BINGO**
January 1	**New Years Day**	**NO BINGO**
	BE sure to check our Facebook page for updates on events	**FACEBOOK:** Lions Club of Greater Zephyrhills



Holiday Giving: Help Fill Tables and Bring Smiles

Our Zephyrhills Lions Club is putting “We Serve” into action this November and December, and every member can help make the holidays brighter for local families!

For **Thanksgiving, we are collecting donations to provide 10 families with a complete holiday meal**: turkey, stuffing, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, pumpkin pie, butter, eggs, and milk. Our Christmas food baskets will feature the same collection, with **ham replacing turkey**.

We are also partnering with **Perfect 10 Charities and the Zephyrhills Moose Lodge** to collect new, unwrapped toys for local children. The club will purchase additional toys to supplement donations and help us reach as many children as possible.

Please remember these donation deadlines:

- **Thanksgiving food:** November 18
- **Christmas food baskets:** December 17
- **Toy drive:** December 18

All donations can should be brought to the clubhouse, and of course, **cash donations are always welcome** to help purchase needed items.

Please spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors. Whether you contribute food, a toy, or a few dollars, your kindness can help a family enjoy a holiday meal and give a child a reason to smile. **Together, We Serve!**