



CLEARWATER LIONS CLUB NEWSLETTER

No. 1
January 2026



Happy New Year, Fellow Lions and Friends!

We are excited to kick off 2026 with the debut of our first-ever quarterly newsletter. As we move into this new year, our goal is to keep our members and the local community better connected to the heart of our service.

This digital publication will serve as your go-to guide for everything happening within our club and the wider world of Lions Clubs International.

A Message from Our President

As we step into 2026, I am filled with pride reflecting on the work we've accomplished together. This newsletter is a testament to our growth and our commitment to transparency and fellowship. Our mission remains clear: to serve the Clearwater community with kindness and dedication. I look forward to seeing each of you bring your unique energy to our projects this quarter!

- Michael Murphy, CLC President



Road Clean-Up

On Oct 18, several of our Lions gathered to remove street litter on S. Highland Ave in Clearwater. Residents expressed their appreciation of CLC for helping to keep the street litter-free. Thank you, Lions: John and Joanne Zucker, Ken Murphy, and Nicole and David Blauers. We serve, we care about the environment, and we do what we can.



Top of the World Expo

Our club exhibited at the Top of the World's Annual Fall Senior Expo on Nov 1 and talked to 44 residents about the Clearwater Lions Club.

Many thanks to Lion Cheryl for making the arrangements while she and her team were present to represent the Talking Book Library.



Lighthouse of Pinellas White Cane Walk



On November 8, 2025, the Clearwater Lions Club, joined by the Largo Lions Club, proudly joined the inaugural Lighthouse of Pinellas White Cane Walk at Largo Central Park. This inspiring event brought together over 400 community members to raise awareness for the Florida White Cane Law and to celebrate the independence of individuals living with vision loss.

Our Lions were right in the heart of the action, supporting an event that raised more than \$78,000 for vision rehabilitation services in Pinellas County.

Lighthouse of Pinellas Holiday Family Adoption



One of the most cherished traditions of the Clearwater Lions Club is our annual partnership with the Lighthouse of Pinellas. Each year, our club "adopts" families who are navigating vision loss and financial hardship, providing them with the food and gifts needed to ensure their holiday season is filled with joy rather than stress.

We are incredibly proud to announce that for 2025, we didn't just meet our goals—we shattered them. While we typically support one or two families, this year the Clearwater Lions exceeded all previous years by adopting five families! Because of your overwhelming generosity, these families received items from their specific wish lists, ensuring that both children and adults felt the warmth and support of their community.

A huge thank you to every Lion who contributed funds or gifts to fulfill these families' wish lists. Your contributions directly changed the holiday experience for five local households. And thank you to everyone who joined us for the holiday festivities on December 9, 2025. Your energy and fellowship made the spirit of giving truly come alive.

It is moments like these that define what it means to be a Lion. Thank you for helping us bring light and hope to our neighbors at the Lighthouse of Pinellas.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing



'Tis the season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace on Earth!

The Clearwater Lions Club celebrated the holiday season by ringing the bells in December to support the services of the Salvation Army. Our Clearwater Lions know how to have fun and enjoy each others company, too!



Thanks to the Lions who volunteered: John Scarpa, Ken Murphy, Joanne and John Zucker, Dr. James and Tammy, and Diane and Ed Budd.

Special thanks to Lion David for chairing this service project and our new 1st VP Lion Nicole Blauers.

Wreaths Across America

In mid-December, members of the Clearwater Lions Club gathered to participate in the powerful national tradition of Wreaths Across America. This annual event is a solemn and beautiful way to fulfill the mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach by placing veteran Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Our Lions joined thousands of volunteers across the nation and right here in Pinellas County to ensure that the service and sacrifice of our veterans are never forgotten. As each wreath was placed, our members took a moment to say the veteran's name out loud—a small but significant act to keep their memory alive.



Clearwater Lions Club Holiday Party

The spirit of fellowship was in full swing on December 18, 2025, as the Clearwater Lions Club gathered at Clear Sky Draught Haus for our highly anticipated Annual Holiday Party. It was a wonderful evening marked by high attendance and even higher spirits!

We enjoyed a fantastic dinner together, sharing stories and celebrating the successes of the past year in the cozy, vibrant atmosphere of one of our favorite local spots.

The highlight of the night was undoubtedly our White Elephant gift exchange. The room was filled with laughter and friendly competition as gifts were unwrapped, traded, and—of course—stolen!

More than just a party, the night was a chance for our members to relax and enjoy the "good company" that makes the Clearwater Lions Club feel like a family.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us to make this event so special. It was the perfect way to wrap up a busy year of service and recharge our batteries for the incredible work we have planned for 2026.



Save the Date: Lions Club Zone Meeting



The poster features a dark blue background with a yellow border. At the top center is the Lions International logo, which includes a large 'L' and the text 'LIONS INTERNATIONAL' and 'Clearwater, Florida Chartered 1931'. Below the logo, the text 'LIONS CLUB ZONE MEETING' is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath this, 'HOSTED BY THE CLEARWATER LIONS CLUB' is written in smaller white letters. A yellow banner with a black border contains the date 'JANUARY 15, 2026' in black letters. Below the banner, '7:00 PM' is written in white letters. To the left of the text 'FAIRWAY PIZZA' is a slice of pizza, and to the right is a glass of beer. The text 'FAIRWAY PIZZA' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, the address '2901 US-19 ALT, PALM HARBOR, FL 34683' is written in white letters. At the bottom, there is a yellow box with a black border. Inside this box, on the left, is a red bingo card with the word 'BINGO' in white letters. The bingo card has numbers 1 through 70, with a red star in the center. To the right of the bingo card, the text 'HAPPY HOUR BINGO!' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, the text 'ARRIVE EARLY! 6:15 PM - 7:00 PM. WIN FUN PRIZES!' is written in black letters. At the very bottom of the yellow box, the text '\$5 FOR TWO BINGO CARDS. FUNDS GO TOWARDS CLUB ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.' is written in smaller black letters.

LIONS CLUB ZONE MEETING
HOSTED BY THE CLEARWATER LIONS CLUB

JANUARY 15, 2026
7:00 PM

FAIRWAY PIZZA

2901 US-19 ALT, PALM HARBOR, FL 34683

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\$5 FOR TWO BINGO CARDS. FUNDS GO TOWARDS CLUB ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.

We are honored to be hosting the upcoming Lions Club Zone 4 Meeting right here in our backyard! This is a fantastic opportunity to network with fellow Lions from across our zone and share ideas for collective impact.

Upcoming Events:

January

Clearwater Lions Club Noon Meeting

- January 7, 2026
- Clearwater Family Restaurant
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Zone 4 Meeting

- January 15, 2026
- Fairway Pizza
- 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Eyeglass Sorting

- January 17, 2026
- Talking Book Library
- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Volunteers needed!

Clearwater Lions Club BOD Meeting

- January 22, 2026
- Applebees Restaurant
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm

March

Clearwater Lions Club Noon Meeting

- March 4, 2026
- Clearwater Family Restaurant
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Clearwater Lions Club Finance Committee

- March 9, 2026
- Talking Book Library
- 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Clearwater Lions Club BOD Meeting

- March 12, 2026
- Talking Book Library
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Clearwater Lions Club Monthly Meeting

- March 19, 2026
- Applebees Restaurant
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm
- Guest Speaker: Pinellas County Baseball

February

Clearwater Lions Club Noon Meeting

- February 4, 2026
- Clearwater Family Restaurant
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Clearwater Lions Club Finance Committee

- February 9, 2026
- Talking Book Library
- 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Clearwater Lions Club BOD Meeting

- February 12, 2026
- Talking Book Library
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Clearwater Lions Club Monthly Meeting

- February 19, 2026
- Applebees Restaurant
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm
- Guest Speaker: District Governor

Eyeglass Sorting

- February 7, 2026
- Talking Book Library
- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Volunteers needed!