

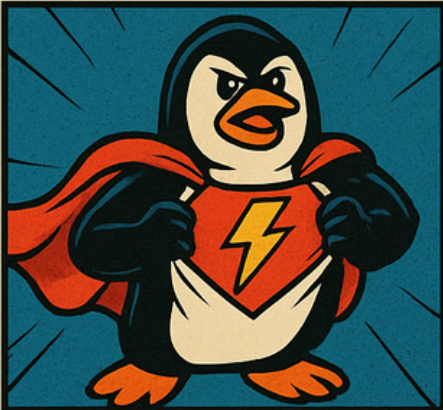
SEPTEMBER 2025

Lions Insight

DISTRICT 35L

Informational
Newsletter

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
OF FELLOWSHIP, FUN,
AND INSPIRATION!**



DATE: Monday, September 22, 2025
TIME: 6:00 PM Eastern Time
LOCATION: Jacksonville Arlington
Lions Club, 6523 Commerce Street
Jacksonville, Florida
COST: \$15



**We're honored to welcome
Past international President Brian
Sheehan, who will be sharing his
boundless enthuslasam.**

This casual dinner sets the stage for our
joint event - Johnson & Johnson and Lions
International "Sppoktacular" at EverBank
Stadium on Tuesday, September 23, 2025!

The Meet and Greet will begin at 6 pm Ea-
stern Time, and dinner served at 7 pm Ess-
tern Time. You will have your choice of
smothered pork or rotisserie chicken win
vegerables, rice, and gravy.

"COME HUNGRY. COME CURIOUS. LEAVE ENERGIZED!"

In this newsletter
you can expect:

District Governor
Message

MD35 Fall
Conference

MD35 Fall
Conference Service
Project

New Excellence
Award Guidelines

Be Prepared!
Disaster information

Lions Online
Resources

On going Event
information needed

25-26 Lions Events

Awards and
Contests

Contact for reservations: Linda Zepp lindajoanzepp@yahoo.com



District Governor Message

We are 2 months into our new Lions year. Our first advisory meeting was held on August 2, 2025, with an outstanding attendance of 84 Lions and 21 clubs in attendance. Clubs were able to brag about their service projects and club fundraising.

Zone Chair and Guiding Lion training was held on August 24, 2025, via Zoom. All zone chairs were in attendance. I was very impressed with the interaction and commitment our zone chairs have shown. Keep up the great work!

The **Multiple District 35 Fall Conference** will be held in Orlando, October 18 and 19, 2025. Please see the flyers in the newsletter. Classes will be offered on various topics, and you will meet Lions of many different levels while learning even more about Lions.

Saturday, **November 15, 2025**, we will have our next advisory meeting. The High Springs Lions Club will be hosting the event at its own clubhouse. Stay tuned for more information. I promise it will be insightful and fun!

Our US/Canadian Forum is coming up this month in Atlantic City. I hope that many Lions are taking advantage of such a worthwhile opportunity to attend and learn. AND learn you will! Great classes are offered, and you need to study the agenda and choose your classes wisely. This forum moves around our Constitutional Area 1 (Canada and the United States). We are fortunate to have the next two forums very near us. They are:

- **Memphis, Tennessee, September 3-5, 2026**
- **Huntsville, Alabama, September 16-18, 2027**

Attending the forum is an unforgettable experience. Start saving now.

I promise you will love it.

Recently, I sent an email to our club presidents and secretaries requesting that they share my email with their members during our hurricane season. Last year was quite interesting to say the least. Our district was not affected as much as the rest of the state; however, we did have more than our fair share. Please take all these suggestions and all precautions to heart. Make sure your neighbors and family are prepared.

BREAKING NEWS

We have a new contest for all Lions who have been members for less than 2 years. If you are interested in learning about this contest, email me, lionsuzirodgers2@gmail.com, and I will forward all the contest details. This contest will only last until our next district newsletter or October 5, 2025, so don't wait. (If you are reading this and have been a Lion for over 2 years, contact a new Lion with less than 2 years and tell them about this contest.) Your prize will be a \$50 gift card

In Lionism We Serve,



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Suzi Rodgers

2025 MD-35 FALL CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 16TH-19TH

THE FLORIDA HOTEL ORLANDO

DON'T WAIT REGISTRATION ENDS

MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, SEP. 28TH

Type in this link in your browser to register:
<https://buytickets.at/lionsofmd35>



[Click here to register!](https://buytickets.at/lionsofmd35)





JOIN US AT THE MD35 FALL CONFERENCE

PARTNER'S SERVICE PROJECT
OCTOBER 17, 2025 9:30-11:30AM

Supplies for Patients at Children's Hospitals

Please bring the following items for backpacks:

All items need to be new!

Stuffed animals	Books	Play-Doh
Dolls	Crayons	Bubbles
Legos	Markers	Activity books
Pop-its	Coloring pencils	Picture books
Stress balls	Coloring books	Games
Fidget spinners	Drawing paper	

In lieu of items you may make monetary donations towards project.

Make Checks payable to MD-35.

Please designate your check for Children's Hospital Service Project

For more information call or email:
863.617.5459 or dsilaspina@msn.com



Excellence Awards

2025-2026 Excellence Awards updates

These prestigious awards are available at four levels—club, zone, region and district. Clubs must earn a Club Excellence Award as a prerequisite for Excellence Awards at the zone, region and district level.

Applications will not be necessary for the 2025-2026 award cycle. Awards will be distributed by Lions International to clubs that meet the updated criteria and eligibility requirements.

Club Excellence Award criteria

The Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs and is the foundation for excellence awards presented to Zone Chairpersons, Region Chairpersons and District Governors.

Membership

- Induct a minimum of **two or 20% new members**, whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or **sponsor** a new Lions club.

Service

- Report a **minimum of four service activities** to Lions International. Three of these activities must show participation in each of the three International Weeks of Service.

Leadership

- Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by **May 15** of the current Lion year.
- A **minimum of 10% of the club's members** complete any three courses in the Lions Learning Center.
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.
- A minimum of two or more club officers (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Of which, one must be the club president) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) between May 1 – December 31.

Donations

- Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year, multiplied by US\$20.



Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of mental health and well-being, hunger, and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

Mark your calendars

Mental health and well-being

October 4-12, 2025

Hunger

January 3-11, 2026

Environment

April 18-26, 2026

Be Prepared!

Fellow Lions,

Hurricane season is here. This is a reminder of the importance of being prepared—both for our families and for our communities. Disasters can strike with little warning, but preparation can make all the difference. Please share with your club and the community if needed.

Here's how we can be ready:

- **Have a Plan:** Make sure your family knows evacuation routes and has emergency contacts. Consider having a telephone tree for your family and neighbors
- **Build a Kit:** Stock up on water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, first aid supplies, and essential medications. Make sure to have a hand can opener.
- **Stay Informed:** Follow local weather alerts and emergency management updates. Use Facebook to mark yourself safe.
- **Club Readiness:** Ensure your club has an emergency response plan and is ready to support local relief efforts if needed. Have a contact person from your club to check on volunteer opportunities.
- **Serve Safely:** Remember—our first duty is to keep ourselves safe so we are able to serve others when the time comes.

For decades, Lions have been at the forefront of disaster relief. Let's continue that tradition by being prepared, staying strong, and serving our communities with courage and compassion.

In Lionism We Serve,
Suzi Rodgers
District Governor 35 L
Lions International

Florida will have some permanent tax-free items instead of hurricane tax holidays

TAMPA, Fla. — The 2025 state budget passed by the Florida legislature axes the two hurricane tax holidays. But some items will remain tax-free year-round.

Florida's two disaster preparedness holidays usually ran in June, at the beginning of hurricane season, and from August to September, with each one lasting two weeks.

This year, the budget eliminates the sales tax on certain items all year long rather than during the two-week periods.

Here are the items that will be affected:

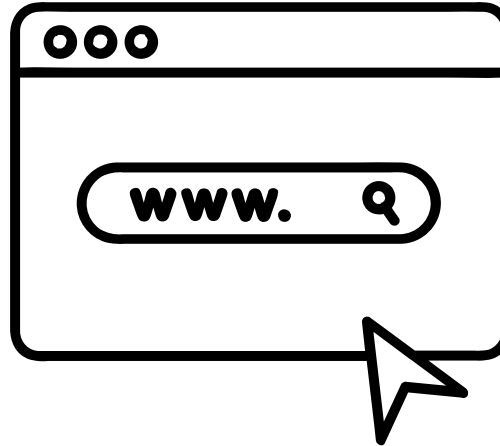
- Batteries (AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt and 9-volt)
- Portable generators
- Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, alarms and carbon monoxide detectors
- Waterproof tarps
- Ground anchor systems
- Gas/diesel fuel cans up to five gallons

[Read full Article Here](#)

LIONS ONLINE RESOURCES

WEBSITES

- lionsclubs.org
- LCIF Website
- lionsvirtual.org
- Lions Portal
- Lionsmd35.com
- district35L.com
- district35i.com
- district35o.com
- district35n.com
- lionsdistrict35n.org



YOUTUBE

- Lions International
- @LionsVirtualLive
- @USLionsRock
- Lions Video Center

FACEBOOK

- Lions International
- LCIF
- Lions USA
- Lions Virtual
- Global Lions Forum
- Lions of Multiple District 35
- Florida Lions District 35-L
- Florida Lions District 35-I
- Florida Lions District 35-O
- Florida Lions District 35-N



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CALLING ALL LIONS CLUBS OF DISTRICT 35L!

**Do you have an ongoing event that's been
running for 5+ years?**

Whether it's weekly, monthly, semi-annually, or annually, we
want to hear from you!

**Help us showcase the legacy and impact of your club
in the 2025–2026 District Directory!**

Please email the following information to:

fldistrict35L@gmail.com

INCLUDE:

- NAME OF THE EVENT
- CONTACT PERSON & CONTACT INFO
- LOCATION
- 2025–2026 EVENT DATE(S)
- A SHORT HISTORY — WHEN AND WHY YOUR CLUB STARTED THIS EVENT
- PHOTOS (IF AVAILABLE)

Note: Submission does not guarantee inclusion. Final selections will be made
by the District Governor and Directory Editor.

**Let's celebrate the traditions that make
District 35L shine!**



18-20 SEPTEMBER

**USA/CANADA LIONS
LEADERSHIP FORUM -
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ**

17-18 OCTOBER

**MD 35 FALL
CONFERENCE - ORLANDO**

15 NOVEMBER

**DISTRICT 35L DISTRICT
ADVISORY MEETING -
HIGH SPRINGS**

24 JANUARY

**DISTRICT 35L DISTRICT
ADVISORY MEETING -
CHIPLEY, FL**

25-26 LIONS EVENTS

18 APRIL

**DISTRICT 35L DISTRICT
ADVISORY MEETING -
TALLAHASSEE**

1-2 MAY

**MD 25 SPRING
CONVENTION - ORLANDO**



Awards and Contests

Lions do not serve others in order to receive rewards. The rewards they seek are less tangible, but no less real. Lions' rewards lie in the satisfaction of demonstrating their commitment to the work of Lionism; serving as an effective team member on club, district and international projects and activities; and focusing on the community in terms of less fortunate individuals and projects and activities for the betterment of the community.

While the purpose of being a member of this wonderful organization is not to receive awards, we do recognize that members who make a significant contribution are deserving of recognition, encouragement, and appreciation. We encourage every club and every member to become familiar with the available awards and work toward obtaining one or more. Nominations should be submitted to the appropriate Awards Chair by the dates indicated for each award.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications. See lionsclubs.org for International Awards.

Governor's Achievement Award – New Lion

This award is designed to assist the NEW LION member to become thoroughly familiar and fully involved in the activities and purposes of Lionism.

This award is available only to NEW members in their first year of membership, beginning with induction.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Governor's Achievement Award – Transfer Lion

This award is designed to assist the new Transfer Lion to become thoroughly familiar and fully involved in the activities and purposes of Lionism. This award is available only to new Transfer Lions in their first year of membership, beginning with induction into the club they transferred.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Anchor Award

The purpose of this award is to provide recognition for the "Grass Root Lions" who are the anchors and stability of our association.

The club secretary shall collect each tally sheet, tabulate its points, and submit it to the District Awards chair by July 31st of each year to be eligible.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Peace Poster

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity.

www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/youth/peace-poster

35L Chair: Blanche Day

lionblanche2015@gmail.com

Order of the Golden Chain

Any Lion who completes the requirements between January 1st and December 31st shall earn the Golden Chain Award. The award may be earned each year the qualifications are met.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.



Awards and Contests

Dr. Walter H. Campbell Pilot Award for Lionism

The Pilot Award is designed to recognize a Past District Governor (PDG) in each of the Districts, and a PDG in MD-35, with a prestigious award for outstanding efforts, dedication, and contributions during the preceding calendar year on behalf of Lionism. All entries must be submitted to the Multiple District 35 (MD) Office and postmarked no later than January 31st of the following year to the contest.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Millard Conklin Crusader for Lionism Award

The Millard Conklin Crusader for Lionism Award is designed to encourage participation of "Grass Root" Lions in each district and club and to select one from each district to be rewarded for outstanding dedication and contributions for their current calendar year efforts made to Lionism, and to be presented for a District award. The award shall cover the accomplishments realized only during the contest period from January 1st through December 31st of each calendar year

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Membership Satisfaction Award

When a Lions club meets or exceeds the expectations of its members, it leads to membership satisfaction and retention. Satisfied members will keep coming back, which will keep your club healthy and vital to the community

See lionsclubs.org for International Awards.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.
See lionsclubs.org for International Awards.

District 35-L Newsletter

Brittney Young

FLdistrict35L@gmail.com

Send all newsletter and website items by the 26th of the month.

Photos are used if the quality and content are suitable. If possible, the name or names of the person or persons shown in a photo must accompany the photo.

Photos can be accepted as JPEG or PNG.

Email articles as plain text typed body of email, PDF, or as a Microsoft Word attachment.

Include Club Name, Contact person's email, phone number, and a physical address. All Events must have a date, location, and time. Raffles need to be sent with where to buy tickets.

