

Bragging Rights Bulletin

DISTRICT 35L

◆
Club Events
and News



Club Anniversaries

- Jacksonville Beaches 4/6/1938
- ChIPLEY Falling Waters 4/12/2021
- Jacksonville River City 4/20/2020
- Macclenny 4/22/1935
- Cedar Key 4/23/1968
- Live Oak 4/27/1950
- Panama City 4/29/1935
- Interlachen 4/30/1968



Memorium



In Memoriam: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Past International Director A Geoffrey Wade
We are profoundly saddened by the passing of A. Geoffrey Wade, who passed away on March 20, 2026.

Geoffrey was a dedicated and steadfast Lion whose leadership and service left a lasting impact across our communities and beyond. A respected leader within Lionism, he exemplified what it truly means to serve.

Geoffrey played a vital role in Beauty of Sight, where he offered both leadership and vision to its mission. He served as President of both the Eye Bank and Foundation, guiding the organization with strong financial leadership and unwavering commitment.

Under his leadership, Beauty of Sight continued its mission of Creating a World Without Blindness. Through his dedication, countless individuals were given the gift of sight, and his legacy will continue to live on through the lives he helped transform.

Geoffrey's commitment to service touched many, and we are deeply grateful for all he contributed. His passion, leadership, and heart for helping others will not be forgotten.

To honor Geoffrey's exceptional commitment to Beauty of Sight, donations may be made in his memory:

<https://beautyofsight.org/donaten.php>

Rest in peace, Geoffrey. Your dedication and legacy will forever inspire our work and the mission of Lions everywhere.



DISTRICT 35 L ADVISORY MEETING

Hosted By:
Tallahassee Lions Club

Tallahassee Moose Lodge
1478 Capital Circle NW
Tallahassee, FL 32303

APRIL 11, 2026

LIONS REGISTRATION | 8:30 AM EST
7:30 AM CST

BREAKFAST | 8:30-9:30 AM EST 7:30 AM CST
Start your day off with coffee and an assortment of donuts or pastries.

BOARD MEETING | 9:00-10:15 AM EST 8:00 AM CST
Includes all cabinet officers and zones.

GENERAL SESSION | 10:30 AM EST
9:30 AM CST

BRAG ABOUT YOUR CLUB

Plan to come and BRAG about YOUR club's past and future plans. Make sure you let all the members in your area know to come and join us for this fun day!



GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Rita Smith, DNP, MPH, APRN
Chief Medical Officer,
Office of Health Services

LUNCH | \$25.00

Sonny's Barbeque

REGISTER NOW

Carol Dobson
850.491.4691
ckdobson1950@hotmail.com

Pay at the Door
Cash or Check Only



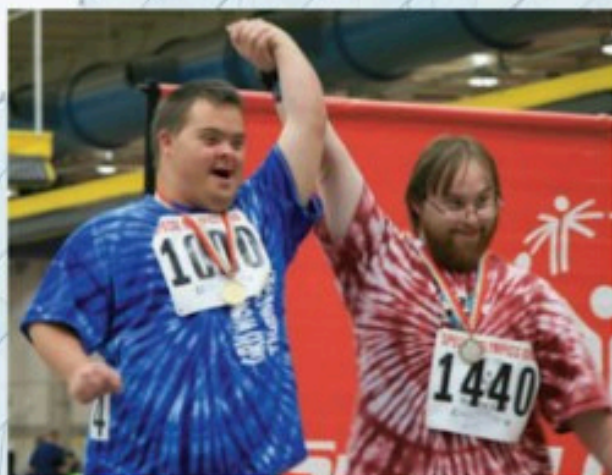
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Florida

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Hello Fellow Lions,
I'm PDG Bob Armstrong, your MD Special Olympics Chair.
We need your help to send 4 athletes to the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota, June 20-26.
If each club donates at least \$25, we can reach our goal of \$5,000. Individual donations are also welcome. Every contribution makes a difference!
Thank you for supporting our athletes.



WAYS TO DONATE

✓ Check

Payable to: The Davenport Lions Foundation Inc
PO Box 205
Davenport, FL 33836

✓ Cash App

\$DavenportLions

✓ Zelle

davenportlionsclub@gmail.com



June 20-26, 2026



863-206-3901



lionbobarm@gmail.com

"If it is going to be, it is up to we... but it starts with me!"



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Alachua Lions Club



A Tradition of Service – Alachua Lions Club

The 86th Annual Cattlemen's Banquet, which is the oldest continuous Lions fundraiser in the State of Florida, was held on March 24. The event was well attended and many Lions from other Lions Club in the area joined the Alachua Lions for this event.

State Representative Chad Johnson, who was raised in Alachua County, attended Buchholz and PK Young high schools, before graduating from Santa Fe College and the University of Florida, was the Master of Ceremonies.

Jim Getzen, a multi-talented performer, who is a native of Newberry, Florida, provided great entertainment with his hilarious jokes and kept the crowd laughing. His story telling while he played the guitar was also quite entertaining.

Dr. Timothy T. Marshall was awarded the 2026 Cattleman of the Year Award. Dr. Marshall's agricultural history dates back to 1823 when his ancestors owned and operated a farm in Tifton, GA. He has held a variety of positions in the agricultural industry over the years, and his work includes beef cattle production and cattle genetics, as well as teaching and mentoring with the 4H program.

Alachua Lions Club President, Bill Johnson, and Dr. Cindy Sanders presented Dr. Marshall with the award.



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Alachua Lions Club



Alachua Lions Provides Vision Screenings

The Alachua Lions Club attended the Gainesville Chapter of the Links Incorporated community event for the Annual Black Family Wellness Exposition on March 21. Lions Katy Plein and Terry Warrington (pictured above) performed vision screenings and shared information on the various programs that Lions are involved in around the world. Alachua Lions quite often partner with the Fishin' for Vision Team, who have a 20' trailer that is specifically designed for vision screenings. FFV holds an annual fishing tournament to raise awareness of blindness and works with the Alachua Lions Club by making the vision screening trailer available to them whenever needed. The 2026 tournament will be held on May 16, at the Sea Hag Marina in Steinhatchee, FL. For further information on this event, please check out their website at www.fishinforvision.com.

Sponsors for the Links Incorporated event were Beautiful Gate Cancer Support & Resource Center, Project Community of Gainesville, and the University of Florida Health Services Department.



Cedar Key Lions Club

Cedar Key Arts Festival

APRIL 11 & 12, 2026

Food in the Beachside Park

Oysters, Shrimp & Clam Strips - Cedar Key Oystermen

Bratwurst and Tony's Cedar Key Clam Chowder - Cedar Key Lions

Grouper Sandwich - Fourth Grade

Clam Fritters & Coleslaw - Class of '27

Shrimp Pasta Salad - Class of '28

Shrimp & Grits - FFA

Hamburgers & Hotdogs - PTA

Lobster Salad Rolls - DECA

Baked Goods - Episcopal Church & Home Econ

Street Corn & Cotton Candy - Cedar Key Dolphin Project

Miss Thelma's Crab Cakes - Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce

Lemonade - Cedar Key Garden Club

Soda and Iced Tea - Cedar Key Woman's Club

Bottled Water - 5th Grade Safety Patrol

Food served Saturday and Sunday from 10 am until sold out



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Cedar Key Lions Club

Cedar Key Fine Arts Festival

presents

Live Music

performed at Cedar Key's Beachfront City Park

APRIL 11 & 12, 2026 · CEDAR KEY, FLORIDA

SATURDAY, APRIL 11



The Petersons

🕒 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

Year-round residents of Cedar Key, The Petersons bring heartfelt blues, soulful ballads, and rich Americana to the island they call home.

Dan Brown

🕒 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Traveling from Northern California, solo guitarist Dan Brown weaves the stories and wide-open landscapes of Americana into every fingerpicked note.



SUNDAY, APRIL 12



ShadeTree

Entertaining audiences for 23 years — from the soulful melodies of Van Morrison to the rock anthems of Mark Knopfler, ShadeTree has a song for everyone.

🕒 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON



Cedar Grove

🕒 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

From Cedar Key School — Autumn, Kai, Luke & Max bring the energy with original songs, 90s classics, and modern hits. Young talent, big sound!

Free Admission · All Ages Welcome

Cedar Key Fine Arts Festival

CEDAR KEY, FLORIDA · APRIL 11-12, 2026



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Graceville Lions Club

 GRACEVILLE LIONS CLUB

PROM-O-RAMA

A Prom for All Ages
— MUSIC BY —
The Ivey Brothers



SATURDAY, APRIL 18
GRACEVILLE CIVIC CENTER
6 PM - 10 PM

Individual Tickets \$50

Contact any Lions Club member, the Circle Grill or the **Graceville News** for more information or to purchase tickets,



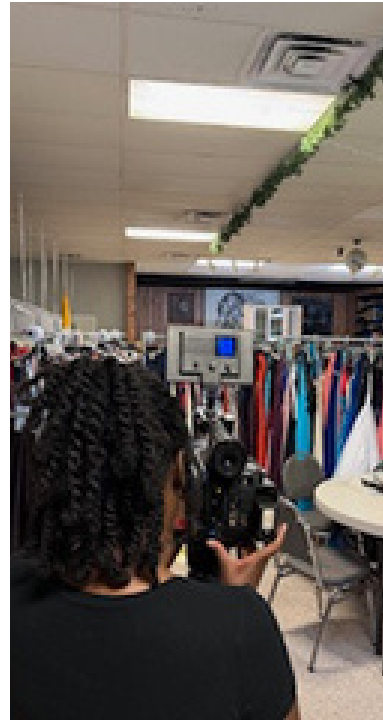
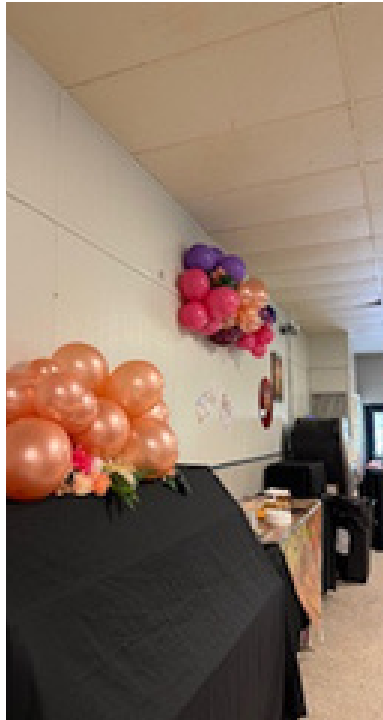
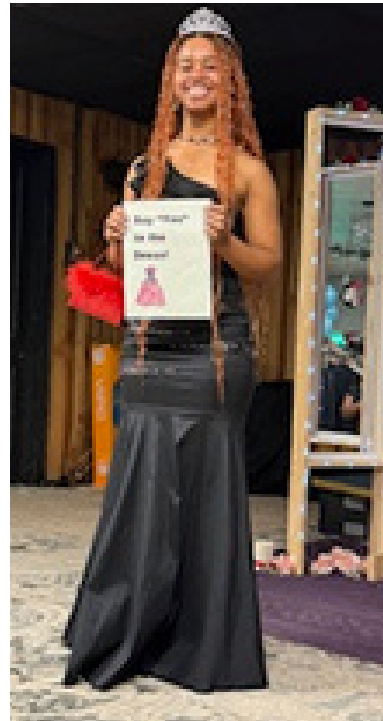
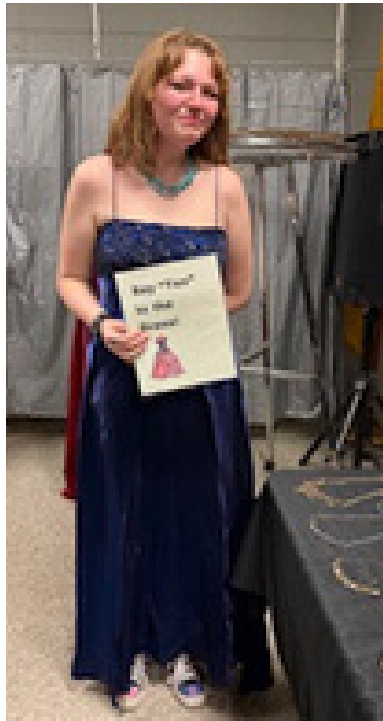
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High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday March 7th and Sunday March 8th, the High Springs Lions Club hosted its annual prom attire giveaway! Our club was able to bless 49 prom goers with free dresses, suits, jewelry, corsages and boutonnieres. Sponsors donated gift cards and baskets to assist with the event!!

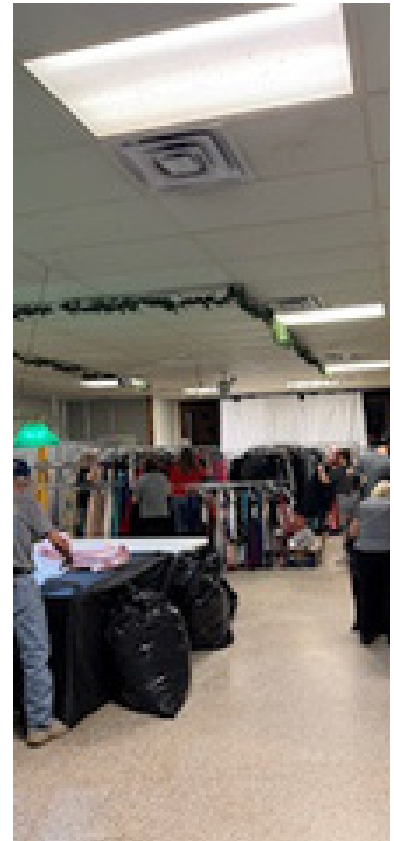
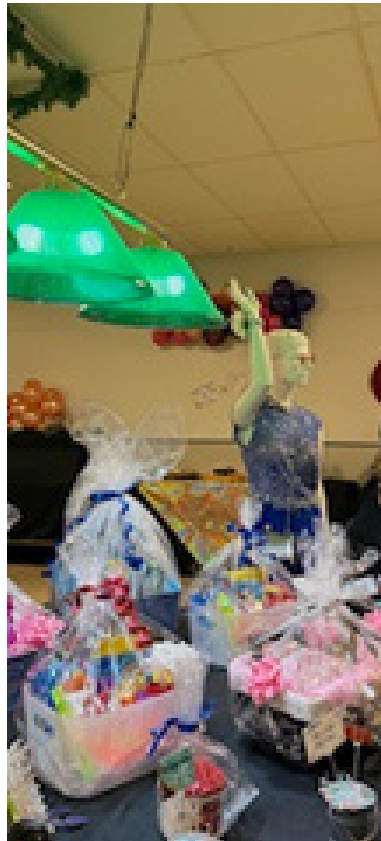
Our local news station even came out to help promote the giveaway!! Our club is so thankful to be able to host this annual event!



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High Springs Lions Club



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



JACKSONVILLE BEACH LIONS CLUB PRESENTS

Bowl-A-Rama



SATURDAY
April 11, 2026

REGISTRATION 11:30 PM * **BOWLING 12:00 - 3:00 PM**

JAX LANES · 8270 BEACH BOULEVARD

LANE SPONSORSHIP \$175

**Up to 4 bowlers for over 2 hours
with great prizes and raffles,
including a 50/50 cash drawing!**

**Space is limited! Reserve your lane today!
Call Jim Parker - 904.703.0794**

100% of all donations directly support people in need.
Learn more at www.jaxbeachlions.org

*Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization.
It's 1.4 million members are dedicated to bettering the quality of life for the handicapped,
the poor, the sick and aged. Our motto is "We Serve" and Lions live this motto with enthusiasm.*

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JACKSONVILLE BEACHES
LIONS FOUNDATION INC.
REGISTRATION #: CH39656



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Community Spirit in Action!

What an incredible day!

Yesterday, our Jacksonville Beaches Lions Linda, Susan, Mary, Glenn and Monika had the absolute pleasure of heading down to the St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival—and wow, what an event!

We were so happy to lend a hand and support our fellow Lions. Between the amazing atmosphere and the great crowds, it was a fantastic reminder of the power of community and service.

We had a blast being part of such a successful festival. As promised, here are a few snapshots of our team in action.



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Better Together.

There's nothing like a meeting where you leave feeling inspired! Our latest business session was wonderfully attended and filled with great ideas. We spent the evening:

Talking about our next big event Bowl-a-Rama on April 11th.

Approving donations for local projects.

Scheduling our roadmap for the next weeks.

Designing new gear to represent our club with pride.

To our members: Thank you for showing up and being so involved. Your dedication is what makes the Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club so special!

We recently had the wonderful opportunity to drop off our club's donation at Possabilities Plus Inc. in Atlantic Beach!

It was so inspiring to see their mission in action: providing essential job training and a "Cup of Dreams" for individuals with special needs. We even stayed for a delicious lunch!

Pictured here are our members Lion Pat and Lion Sue with CEO Susan Peters and Heidi, who does an amazing job in the back at mealtime.

We are so proud to support such a meaningful cause in our community!



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Supporting our heroes!

We had a fantastic visit from Justin at Helping Heroes FL during our meeting yesterday.

Justin shared insights into their work supporting our veterans - helping them turn struggles into strength through mentorship and personalized support. Their commitment to providing counseling and connection for our military community and first responders is incredible.

President Linda was happy to present a check for \$1,000 to help fuel their mission. Thank you, Justin & your team, for everything you do!

We had a very special visit at our club!
We were so happy to welcome Charlie Largen from the Jacksonville Arlington Lions Club and his wife Joanne from the River City Lions Club

Charlie is a leader at the Arlington Lions Eye Clinic, a wonderful place run by the Arlington Lions. They do amazing work by providing free eye exams and glasses to people in Jacksonville who need help with their vision.

Vision is one of our main global causes as Lions. We are very proud that some of our own members from the Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club are volunteering their time at the clinic to support this mission.

A huge thank you to Alicia Matayoshi , Tricia and Steve!

Together, we are making our community a better place, one pair of glasses at a time!



Front row, from left: Joanne, Tricia and Alicia

Back row, from left: Charlie and Steve



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Young grillers show off skills at Southeastern Youth Fair

By **RANDIE DURETZ**

Since its inception over 80 years ago, the annual Southeastern Youth Fair has provided members of local 4-H and Future Farmers of America the opportunity to showcase their skills and compete

for awards in Ocala. Oak Run resident Bill Thomas, who is the Youth Fair committee chairman for the Ocala Lions Club, says Lion Club members have been supporting the event since day one. Participants compete in many areas, in-

cluding agriculture, livestock, photography, forestry, and the

David Baillie BBQ, which is named for a Lions Club member who played an important role in the early days of the Fair. This competition provides young people the

opportunity to show off their "skills with grills."

This year, there were over 80 participants competing in two overall grilling categories. The entry level "Watch Me Grow" group consisted of children ages 4-7. They prepared hotdogs and ham-

burgers as they were supervised by a parent.

The older group, aged 8-18, prepared a wide variety of entrées in one of four classes, including beef, pork, poultry, and other. Each contestant is required to know fire and sanitation safety, decorate

their cooking stations and provide recipe cards. Cash awards are made to the top three finishers.

This year's offering ranged from ribs and wings to lobster and salmon. A good time was had by all, and nobody left hungry.



Left to right: Ocala Lions Bill Thomas and Gary Ade sample Rhett Blackburn's hot dog creation.



Left to right: Nicole Dodd, Executive Director of Administration Sheriffs Office; Deder Joyner, Assistant Director of Administration at Marion County Sheriff's Office; Lion Bill Thomas; and cook-off participant Wyatt Lucas.

Photos by Randie Duretz



Peyton Williams shows his drumsticks before placing them on the grill.



Huntley Walker prepares her slider creations at the Southeastern Youth Fair.



Caleb Hayward prepares chicken to be tasted and judged.



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Ocala Lions Club



Some of the participants in this event.



Ocala Fire Rescue #6 Station at the Southeastern Youth Fair.

Chipley Falling Waters Lions Club

In March, Brittney Young, President of the Chipley Falling Waters Lions Club, had the opportunity to speak at the Washington County School Board meeting. She shared highlights of the club's ongoing service in the community and announced that the club is approaching its one-year anniversary.

The Falling Waters Lions Club has been actively supporting students throughout the county by helping provide much-needed eye exams and eyeglasses, ensuring children have the vision care they need to succeed.



Pictured: Tracey Andres, Mayor and Lions Member, Monica Rehberg, Lions Club Secretary, Jiranda White, Director of Federal Programs, Brittney Young, Lions Club President, and Superintendent Thomas Register





Ocala 200 Lions Club



Our guest speaker for March was Debbie Cirpela, along with her guide dog, Victoria. Debbie has helped our Lions Club countless times with our White Cane Days, and Victoria has appeared as a Lion to support our efforts.



Lions Patti Barto, Susan Oliva, Toni Ancrum, and Bob Barto supported the Special Olympics Equestrian statewide competition.



Special Olympics





Ocala 200 Lions Club

Our club once again pitched in to help the Silver Springs Lions Club sell funnel cakes at Marion Days. Nice day until the wind started to kick up and we had to make some adjustments. Special thanks to Lions Susan Oliva, Helen Anderson, Sandy Verrier, Alan Verrier, Patti Barto (yes, include me) . New Lion Kim Lau stopped by to sample our funnel cakes.



Ocala Fort King Lions Club

Members of the Ocala Fort King Lions Club presented a Club banner to Catherine Sears, Administrator for Marion County Therapeutic Riding Association on March 26, 2026. The Lions Club is a proud sponsor of this organization by providing two scholarships, one for a disabled child and another for a disabled veteran. The banner was presented on March 26 which was the first day of Jared Tyler's riding sessions. Jared Tyler, Jr. is the first scholarship awarded by the Lions Club and several club members turned out to cheer him on. By riding horseback, Jared will be able to strengthen his core muscles, improve his balance and become less spastic in his leg muscles. He is already walking unassisted with the help of a rollator provided by the Lions Club and hopefully there will be continued improvement with the riding lessons.



Picture of Jared meeting his horse, Mocha.



First Riding Lesson



Presentation of Club banner from L to R Pam Mullikin, Catherine Sears, Administrator of the organization, Dianne Wieckert, Pete Tyler, Malcolm Hay, Larry Yost, John Lorenzo, Rick Scott. Attending but not pictured Geoff Mikulka





Ocala OTOW Lions Club

POcala OTOW Lions Club

By: Gail Morris

Our members started off the month by volunteering at one of the Special Olympics events here in Marion County. Lions Ray, Gail, and Charlie all volunteered to help with the Bocce qualifying event on Saturday March 7. The weather was a little over cast and sometimes wet, which made the balls messy to hold and throw but the Special Olympians did a great job and had a good time.

Then came our big fund-raising event, Casino Night, it was a huge success by all accounts, over 250 guests gathered at the Circle Square Cultural Center for a great time of gaming. Casino Party Planners provided us with some expert dealers and some great table games from Black Jack to Roulette.

Some of our guests came in groups, occupying a few tables of 10 and having a good time together. Several of our other guests were heard to say the Lions should do this event again next year. I guess that spells success!

There were raffles going on as well so if you weren't a big winner at the gaming tables, you had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and win more prizes. We raffled a variety of beautiful baskets prepared by many of our club members and Lion Charlie added her special bows for a final touch of class. We had 2 great golf baskets thanks to Matt at the Candler Hills Golf Club, one for the women and one for the men. We also did something different this year, thanks to the brilliant idea of Gordon and Rhonda, we raffled as a door prize gift cards that were donated for the event. Every "group" of gift cards was valued at the least, \$20 and the tickets were sold at that price. Those attending were happy to know they were winners before the gaming began.

The Liquor Wagon, always a great crowd pleaser and 50/50 raffles were other opportunities to go home with a prize and 2 lucky winners did just that.

Our members were working hard to help make this night a success. Our success also comes from having great sponsors for this event, including; Scott Cameron Insurance, Fero & Sons Insurance, First Federal Bank, Robb Harrison Realty, Dr. Dunn, Gutter Guyz, Wal-Mart, Walt's Tire and Brakes, Sunshine Living of Central FL, Dr. Urban, Visiting Angels, and many other individual sponsors.

Walmart Super Center and Wa-wa help with this event by providing personnel and product. Thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors.





Ocala OTOW Lions Club

The funds raised at this event will help our Lions to help others. Locally we use the funds raised to help with childhood hunger issues through the Interfaith Emergency Services that services the Marion County community. We also help by providing support to Vets helping Vets and to two of our local elementary schools. Our club also contributes to many area and statewide Lions Organizations, including but not limited to; Dogs, Inc., the North Florida Eye Bank, and Florida Center for the Blind as well as Lions Club International Foundation which provides funds and support in times of disaster around the globe.

Thank you for supporting our efforts by attending Casino Night.

Lions Club meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Arbors Conference Center Event room at 5:00 p.m. If you would like further information, you can contact Estelle Michelson our membership chair at 352-861-7358.



We ♥ our
Volunteers





Orange Park Lions Club

Orange Park Lions came out in force in their hometown for the latest Clay Train

A group of dedicated Lions knew it was time to step it up when the latest stop of the Impact Clay Train made a stop in their town. It was a beautiful Saturday morning at Grove Park Elementary School on the first full day of Spring. The Lions are no stranger to this monthly event haven served several times all over the county. They all knew their roles. Don and Kitty Minor arrived first and set up the club table in front of the Kids First of Florida Mobile Unit. Celia and Dave Vencil arrived for handouts of toys for the kids and readers for the adults. Richard Campbell arrived to help to recruit adults and kids along with the others to get vision screenings and he worked the door for the mobile unit. Mike Poweleit arrived with the screening device, and he and Ginger Smietana were there to conduct the screenings and hand out results and info of how folks can get help with eye doctor appointments and glasses. They were a well-oiled unit as they performed a Clay train record 35 Vision screenings! The rest of the Clay train was a big success as overall they served 171 guests, had 109 volunteers and did 35 haircuts. Learn more about Impact Clay Train at www.ImpactClay.org. Learn more about the Lions at WWW.Orangeparklionsclub.com.

There was a special moment for Lion Mike while doing the screenings. One lady walked in with 3 young children. He did the first two, one needed an eye appointment which the Lion Club will help out with and the 2nd had perfect vision. Her youngest was sitting to the side while all of this happened. The Mom looked at Mike with pleading eyes and asked him if he could screen her youngest. We will call him Shawn. She explained to me that Shawn was autistic and hardly ever could sit long enough for any type of medical exam. Mike told her he would try. He got Shawn to sit still for just a few seconds while he pointed the screener towards him and tried to lock in on his eyes. Shawn sat there with his headphones and kept moving around as Mike struggled for a few minutes to get a reading. He noticed something caught Shawn's attention to his left. Mike also quickly moved over to his left and resumed the screening. About the time the screener was about to time out, it beeped and flashed that the screening was complete and Shawn had perfect vision! Mom and Mike were both so happy for Shawn and she gave Mike a big hug with tears in her eyes. She repeated how it is almost impossible to complete any type of exams for Shawn and she was so happy it happened that day. Mike and Richard helped them all out of the RV and this one exam had made Mike's day and reminded him why he did this!



From Left to Right: Mike Poweleit, Dave Vencil, Celia Vencil, Ginger Smietana, Richard Campbell



Sopchoppy Lions Club

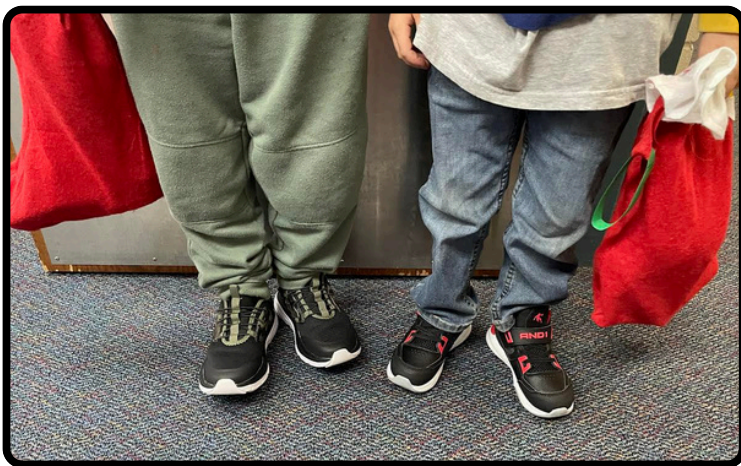


Sopchoppy Lions Club – “Be the One” in Action

The Sopchoppy Lions Club’s “Be the One” program is making a strong impact this spring! Recent efforts include supporting the Wakulla High School Angel Closet, the Franklin County Senior Citizens Automated Door fund, and delivering hot meals to seniors through “Golden Bites.” Ongoing programs like “Food for Backpacks” and “Happy Feet” continue to serve local students.

Lions recently delivered over 500 granola bars to the Angel Closet, led by Erin Dunn-Caquimbo (Mrs. C), where students help manage donations and gain valuable life skills. Congratulations to Mrs. C, named Wakulla High School’s 2025–2026 Teacher of the Year, and thank you to Lion Sue Hess for additional donated items.

Join us for the Spring “Picnic in the Park” on April 27, our annual membership drive, and be part of making a difference!



**District
35L**

ROAR with Pride!

**Share your clubs
achievements.**

NEWSLETTER

CONTACT DETAILS

FLDistrict35L@gmail.com

All submissions due by the 26th of the month.

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