

# Lions Insight

DISTRICT 35L  
◆  
Informational  
Newsletter



### 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 Governor Message

## Lions? Oh, I remember them.....

What will we do when there are no more Lions?

That's a powerful—and honestly uncomfortable—question. But the truth is: if there are no more Lions Clubs International members, it won't be because the world stopped needing Lions. It will be because we stopped being Lions.

Because the needs won't disappear.

Children will still need vision screenings.

Families will still rely on places like Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Communities will still depend on partnerships with groups like Leader Dogs for the Blind and VOSH International.

The question isn't really *"What will we do?"*

It's *"Who will step up?"*

If there are no more Lions, one of two things happens:

Either others will rise to fill the gap...

or the gap will remain—and people will go without the help they need.

But here's the hopeful part:

Lions don't just disappear overnight. They fade when we stop inviting, stop mentoring, stop showing others what it means to serve.

So maybe the better question is:

**What are we doing today to make sure there are always Lions tomorrow?**

- Are we bringing in new members?
- Are we engaging the ones we have?
- Are we telling our story loudly enough that others want to be part of it?

Because Lionism isn't just an organization—it's a legacy.

And legacies only continue when someone chooses to carry them forward.

**If there are no more Lions, it won't be because the world didn't need us.**

**It will be because we didn't pass the torch.**

*And that...* is something we still have complete control over.



# 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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**Cabinet Advisory Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 11, 2026**  
**Tallahassee Lions Club**  
**276 North Magnolia Dr., Tallahassee**  
**Draft      Draft      Draft**

- 8:30am            Lions Registration
- 8:30-9:30am    Coffee and muffins, etc.
- 9:00-10:15am   Board Meeting (Includes all cabinet officers and zones)

**GENERAL SESSION**

- Invocation: IPDG Dr. Greg Seltzer
- Pledge: Tallahassee Lion -
- Welcome: Tallahassee Lions Club President, Lion James Lee
- 10:40-10:45 Introduction of our head table and cabinet. Lion James Lee
- 10:45-10:50 Roll Call: Cabinet Secretary, Brittny Young, (please tell us number of Lions in attendance from your club)
- 10:50-10:55am Approval of Minutes from 01.24.2026 Cabinet Meeting
- 10:55-11:00am Treasurer's Report: District Treasurer, Lion Sue Hooten/John Hopkins
- 11:00-11:10am District Governor Discussion Pre-Cabinet Meeting and Possible Voting.
- 11:10-11:35am District Nominations for the 3 levels of District Governors Nominations will be taken from the floor for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor

- 11:35am -12:14pm                    **GAT REPORTS**
  - GST, GET 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor George Niles
  - GLT- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor Susan Olvia
  - GMT- Cabinet Secretary Lion Brittny Young
- 12:14 pm-12:14pm Bless the Food: IPDG Dr. Greg Seltzer

- 12:15pm-12:50 pm                    **ENJOY YOUR LUNCH**
  - +
  - 12:50pm-1:05pm Open
  - 1:05pm-1:10pm Leader Dog for the Blind, Lion Meredyth Mason
  - 1:10pm-1:20pm Lions Saving Sight: Director of Operations, Lion Judi Seltzer
  - 1:20PM-1:30PM BREAK
  - 1:30pm-1:55pm Club Bragging: What is your club up to?
  - 1:45pm-1:48pm Guest Speaker Introduction: PCC Stan Rodgers
  - 1:55pm-2: 35pm Guest Speaker, Dr. Rita Smith
  - 2:35pm-2:40pm Qualifying results of the nominations from the floor for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- April 18-26, 2026 Worldwide Service Initiative is: Environment
- May 1-3, 2026 Multiple District 35 Convention, The Florida Hotel, Orlando
- September 3-5, 2026, USA Canadian Leadership Forum, Memphis, TN



# District 35-L Is Seeking a 2nd Vice District Governor

Our district is currently accepting nominations for the office of **Second Vice District Governor** for the upcoming Lions year. If you have a heart for service, a vision for leadership, and a desire to strengthen our district, we encourage you to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider this opportunity.

## Eligibility Requirements

A candidate for Second Vice District Governor must:

1. **Be an Active Member in good standing** of a chartered Lions club in good standing within the district.
2. **Secure endorsement** from his/her club or a majority of the clubs in the district.
3. **Have served (or will have served by the time of taking office) as:**
  - A Lions club **President** for a full term or major portion thereof, **and**
  - A member of a club **Board of Directors** for no less than two (2) additional years; **and**
  - One of the following positions for a full term or major portion thereof:
    - Zone Chairperson
    - Region Chairperson
    - District Global Extension Team Coordinator
    - District Global Leadership Team Coordinator
    - District Global Membership Team Coordinator
    - District Global Service Team Coordinator
    - LCIF District Coordinator
    - Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer

(None of the above service positions may have been served concurrently.)

4. **Must not have completed a full term or major portion thereof as District Governor.**

Serving as Second Vice District Governor is an opportunity to grow, lead, and make a lasting impact across our district.

If you are interested or would like to learn more about the responsibilities and process, please contact District leadership.

Together, we continue to serve with purpose and impact.





Use this QR code to register using your phone or tablet.

Here Ye!  
Here Ye!  
Here Ye!

*The Convention is Coming!*

# 2026 MD-35 Convention

## May 1st - 3rd, 2026

### Registration is Open!

To register click the link below or type in your browser.  
<https://buytickets.at/lionsofmd35/1914970>

Go to [district35l.com](https://district35l.com) to View/Download and registration link.

**Please Note:** If only registering you will not be able to attend any of the Breakfast, Luncheon, or Banquet programs but WILL be able to attend the 2 General Sessions (Friday/Saturday), Memorial Service (Friday), and all Seminars (Friday/Saturday). The hotel staff count the number of people in the room during each meal and compare to the count I have submitted. Any number over that is charged back to the Multiple District.



# IOIst Multiple District 35 Convention Seminars May 1st & 2nd, 2026

Protecting the Mental Health of Lion - PTSD Causes, Treatment, and Prevention  
- Lion Dr. Barbara Klingensmith

Adding Hearing to Screening Sessions / Using the Audiometer (hands on training)  
- Lion Dennis Dulnaik

Technology for the Visually Impaired - Guiding through AI  
the Magnification Company - Bob Schrepfer

Using the Plusoptix Vision Camera - So simple even a Lion can do it!  
- Lion Rebecca Christensen

Cookies for Kids Cancer - Funding Research for New, Improved, & Less Toxic Treatments  
- Marissa Schwartz

No Kid Hungry (Florida) - Ensuring All Children Gets the Food They Need  
- Sky Beard

Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired - Creating Unlimited Hope  
- Lion Nancy Epps

Recognition - Honoring those who Serve  
- PCC Bob Jenkins

What's Really Service and How to Report It  
- Lion Bobbie Cheh

Did You Say What I Thought You Said? (Choosing words wisely - written & spoken)  
- DG Maggiy Williams

Lions Saving Sight - What's Changing and What's New  
- Lion Judi Seltzer

Diabetes - Reviewing Changes and Screening Training  
- Lion Dr. Norma Callahan / Lion Judi Seltzer / PDG Vivian Henegar

All classes offered are subject to change based on availability of presenters

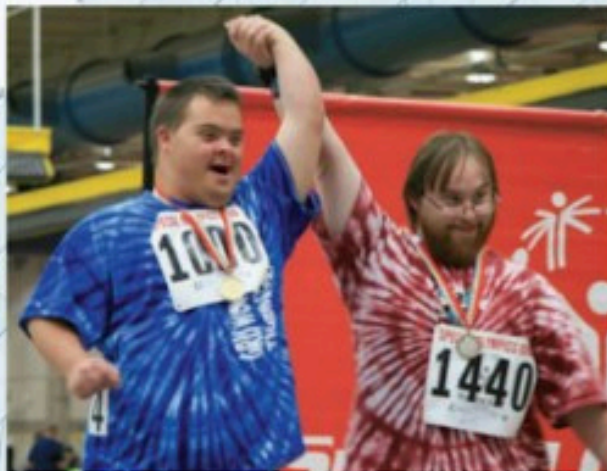




Florida

# 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](mailto:lionbobarm@gmail.com)

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



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In Partnership with the Lions  
of Florida and the Bahamas

7120 NW 11th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32605-3142

January 26, 2026

Hello,

We at the Florida KidSight Foundation are proud of our work providing free vision screenings to children from birth through age 6 years since 2010.

However, our mission to save the vision of as many children as possible is at risk due to a lack of funding. Our program is almost entirely volunteer-run. We need your help to continue our work. The bare basics of what our organization needs to provide can be executed for approximately \$10k yearly. More funding than that enables financial assistance for parents in need to meet their child's eye care needs. Our remaining funding will only provide about 4 months of service, after which the program will most likely be closed down.

**What do you do?** Florida KidSight is a vision-screening program where Lions Club volunteers throughout the state organize and conduct vision screening sessions in local communities. The results are sent to the Program Director for processing and mailing a referral to any children who require follow-up with a medical professional. We are available to help parents find specialists in their area who specialize in serving children. We also help parents with financial needs find funding or provide funding if we have the means. This voluntary program is open to children one through six years old. You can learn more about us through our website at <https://www.floridakidsight.com/sponsor-us/>.

**Why do we do this?** The first few years of a child's life are critical in the development of good vision. Preschoolers should have their vision checked for issues such as misaligned eyes and problems that are correctable with eyeglasses. These problems are not always evident by simply looking at a child. Young children often compensate for vision problems so well that parents, teachers, and pediatricians are unaware of a problem. By the time a child is old enough to be in primary grades, many of these common vision-robbing conditions can no longer be effectively treated. Amblyopia can develop when an undetected vision problem goes untreated during a child's formative years. If not treated, it can lead to poor academic performance (80% of a child's learning comes through his/her visual system), low self-esteem, limited social and sports involvement, and behavioral problems (7 out of 10 juvenile delinquents have an undiagnosed vision problem). One in twenty children is estimated to have some degree of amblyopia. Fortunately, visual improvement is possible if problems that cause amblyopia are detected and treated early, typically prior to age six. Doctors treat amblyopia with glasses, patching, exercises, or surgery. Sadly, many children with amblyopia are not identified because of a lack of good



screening programs. The KidSight program is a proven method of screening and referring children for problems that cause amblyopia.

Past fundraising campaigns and donations from various supporters have enabled us to provide this service for over 15 years, but those avenues have not been as fruitful over the past 5 years. Facing our current situation, for the sake of saving the vision of children, we have decided it's time to broaden our fundraising reach. As a nonprofit organization, we completely rely on community support. None of our efforts would be possible without the help of donors, volunteers, and supportive community members like you.

We will be offering recognition (including a company logo) on our website through a tiered system of sponsorship levels. All donations are valued and necessary for the work we do in our communities. You can find the tiered sponsor information below.

Would you please consider sponsoring us so we can continue our mission of providing much-needed vision screening for young children?

If you'd like to make a gift, please visit our donation page here:

<https://www.floridakidsight.com/donate>, or you can mail a check to Florida KidSight Foundation at 7120 NW 11th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605. Be sure to email your company information and logo for our sponsor donation page.

Any support is greatly appreciated. We're just excited to continue our work! Thank you for being a part of our community and our story.

Warmly,

*Cheryl Russell*

Program Director  
Florida KidSight Foundation  
FLKidSightFoundation@gmail.com



7120 NW 11th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32605-3142

Please consider sponsoring our program. In return, we will add your company information and logo to our website for up to a year, and you will get to brag about how you have helped save the vision of children! <https://www.floridakidsight.com/sponsor-us/>

### **Bronze (\$500)**

Helps provide essential supplies needed to send referral letters to families, ensuring they follow up with a medical professional.

### **Silver (\$1000)**

Sponsors one month of essential referral processing.

### **Gold (\$6,000)**

Funds half a year of our program.

### **Platinum (\$10,000+)**

\$10,000 funds one full year of the services we provide. Anything beyond \$10,000 provides financial assistance to families in need to receive services from a medical professional.





## ONLINE DIRECTORY

### **Month of April**

Cancer Control Month  
Deaf History Month  
Defeat Diabetes Month  
Environmental Awareness Month  
Family & Friends Month  
Leo Club Awareness Month  
Women's Eye Health & Safety Month

### **April 2**

World Autism Day

### **April 5**

Easter

### **April 7**

World Health Day

### **April 15**

National ASL Day

### **April 19-25**

Volunteer's Week

### **April 20**

Volunteer Recognition Day

### **April 22**

Earth Day

### **April 24**

Arbor Day

### **April 25**

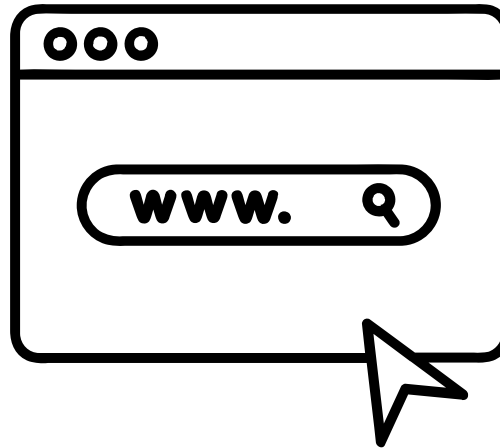
Worldwide Induction Day  
World Healing Day



# L I O N S   O N L I N E R E S O U R C E S

## WEBSITES

- [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org)
- [LCIF Website](#)
- [lionsvirtual.org](http://lionsvirtual.org)
- [Lions Portal](#)
- [Lionsmd35.com](http://Lionsmd35.com)
- [district35L.com](http://district35L.com)
- [district35i.com](http://district35i.com)
- [district35o.com](http://district35o.com)
- [district35n.com](http://district35n.com)
- [lionsdistrict35n.org](http://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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# 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](http://www.district35l.com/award-information) for ALL Awards information and applications. See [lionsclubs.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.district35l.com/award-information) for ALL Awards information and applications.

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/youth/peace-poster)

35L Chair: Blanche Day

[lionblanche2015@gmail.com](mailto:lionblanche2015@gmail.com)



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# 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](http://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](http://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](http://lionsclubs.org) for International Awards.

**See [www.district35l.com/award-information](http://www.district35l.com/award-information) for ALL Awards information and applications.**  
**See [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org) for International Awards.**

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## **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.

