

JANUARY 2026

Bragging Rights Bulletin

DISTRICT 35L

◆
Club Events
and News

Important Dates to Remember

January 2026 | District 35-L Lions

Stay informed. Stay involved. Lead with purpose.



January 7, 2026 | 6:00 PM EST

Northeast Florida Lions Hearing Aid Bank Reorganization

 Zoom - All members of District 35-L welcome to join



January 15, 2026

Deadline: Florida Regional Lions Leadership Institute

 Open to any Lion wanting to further their Lion knowledge



January 23, 2026 | 6:00 PM CST

Friday Night Social



January 23, 2026

Deadline: Potential Leaders Seminar



January 24, 2026 | 8:30 AM

Cabinet Advisory Meeting



Don't miss these leadership & fellowship opportunities!

Mark your calendar and join us in shaping a strong Lion year.

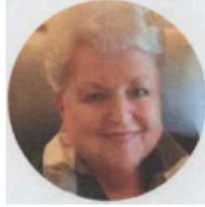
District 35-L Lions

Serving with Purpose • Leading with Heart

Club Anniversaries

Alachua 1/4/1940

WE WILL MISS YOU!!!



Christine Hirsch
Sep. 08, 1941 ~ Nov. 23, 2025

Dr. Christine Hirsch of Alachua, went to be with God on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at the age of 84. A devoted wife and mother, her greatest joy came from spending time with her family. Originally from Oswego, New York, Christine relocated to Alachua in 1972. After graduating from American University, she began her teaching career and later earned her Doctorate Degree from Nova University. Her teaching and school administrative career spanned more than forty years. She loved her students and teachers, often saying that she felt like a mother to her school and loved watching her students grow. This attitude is one of the reasons she was honored as one of the top five Primary Administrators of the Year for the State of Florida in 1996.

After retiring as Principal of Irby Elementary in 2007, Christine continued in service to people and her community as an active member of the Alachua Lions Club where she held many leadership positions and was honored as a Melvin Jones Fellow for dedicated humanitarian services for her tireless work and dedication. Dr. Hirsch joined the Alachua Lions Club in 2004 and served as the Secretary of the club for over 15 years. The enormous wealth of Lions knowledge that she shared with club members, and others, is truly immeasurable.

She is survived by her husband of sixty-four years, Gunter Hirsch, her son Mark Hirsch (Shelby) of Sorrento, her daughter Karin Waldrop (Jim) of Waynesville, North Carolina, her three grandchildren, Travis Waldrop (Christy), Brittany Clifton (Joe), Matthew Hirsch (Jessica) and her four great grandsons, Jethro Waldrop, Mason Waldrop, Everett Hirsch, and Beau Hirsch. She was preceded in death by her proud parents Gilbert and Jane Whitman.



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](#)





District Governor Message

A Fresh Start: Growing Our Lions Family Together

Lions Family,

A new year brings a new beginning—and for our district, it brings a powerful opportunity.

We are launching a **six-month membership contest** with a bold and meaningful goal: **to welcome 200 new Lions into our Lions family** and become **the first district in Florida to come out of transitional status**. This is not just a number. It is a statement of who we are and what we believe is possible when Lions work together with purpose.

Our district is filled with Lions who have **hearts of Lions**—Lions who serve quietly, give generously, and show up for their communities again and again. We understand the importance of Lions Clubs International and the impact we make when we stand united in service. Now is the time to share that impact with others and invite them to be part of something greater than themselves.

Membership growth is not about pressure or perfection. It's about **opening our doors, telling our stories, and extending an invitation**. Every community we serve is full of people who want to help, who want connection, and who are looking for a way to make a difference. Lions give them that opportunity.

This six-month contest is a fresh start—a chance to re-energize our clubs, strengthen our visibility, and build a future that is sustainable and strong. Whether your club brings in one new Lion or twenty, every new member strengthens our district and expands our reach. Together, we can do this.

Together, we can grow. Together, we can lead Florida by example. Let's move forward with confidence, unity, and Lion pride—welcoming new Lions, strengthening our family, and proving once again that **where there is a need, there is a Lion**.

In Lionism, We Serve,

Suzi Rodgers
Suzi Rodgers





MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Lions Family,

I am excited to announce a district-wide **6-Month Membership Net-Gain Contest** designed to strengthen our clubs, expand our service, and bring fresh energy into Lions of District 35-L. As we all know, *more hands mean more service*—and together, we can spark meaningful growth.

Here's the Challenge:

From **January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026** every club will work toward a **positive net gain in membership** **. Whether that means bringing in new members or re-engaging former Lions. (Transfers “in” are not part of this contest.)

What's in it for Your Lions Club?

1st Place

1. A membership patch for your club banner and patches for each Lion in the winning club who has sponsored one or more new members during the contest period.
2. Your club will receive \$10 for each new member.
3. Your club will be highlighted in our district 35 L newsletter
4. Your club will be featured on our district 35 L website.
5. Your club will have bragging rights for the entire Lions year.



2nd Place

1. Your club will be recognized with a certificate
2. Your club will receive \$5 for each new member.

3rd Place

Your club will be recognized with a certificate.

What's in it for Each Lions Club Member?



Glad you asked.....

1. The Lion sponsoring the largest number of new members in our district will receive "The Carl Harrell Award "
 - a. A patch for their Lions Vest.
 - b. Winner name will be added to the new member drawing for \$250
2. Each Lion bringing a new Lion to a club (or another club in our district) will have their name placed in "The most Lions recruited in District 35 L" drawing during the same 6-month period.

(Awards will be presented at the 1st District Advisory Meeting in the 2026-2027 Lions year.)

How your club and members can get started:

- Host a membership night or invite-a-friend meeting
- Highlight your club's work on social media
- Engage new members quickly with meaningful roles
- Reach out to past Lions—you'd be surprised how many are ready to return
- Celebrate your successes and share your stories with the district

Why this matters:

Our communities need Lions more than ever. Growing our membership means expanding our capacity to serve—more vision screenings, more food drives, more support for youth, veterans, and families in need. When we grow, *our impact multiplies.*

Let's show our communities what Lions can achieve when we work with purpose and passion. I believe in each of you, and I know we can achieve exceptional results over these next six months.

Thank you for your leadership, your heart for service, and your commitment to the future of Lionism.

In Lionism We Serve,

Suzi Rodgers
District Governor, District 35-L

****Net gain is the *total increase or decrease in your club's membership* during the contest period. It is determined by using this simple formula:**

Net Gain = New Members Added + Reinstated Members – Members Dropped

In an event of a tie all club/members will be awarded.





Make a Weekend of It!

Hosted by the
GRACEVILLE LIONS CLUB

Friday Night Social

Stay the night • Enjoy great food
Live entertainment • Fellowship with friends



Friday, January 23, 2026



6:00 PM CST



Box Car Coffee

1365 S Railroad Ave, Chipley

**Bring a fellow Lion —
or come meet a new one!**

Be sure to join us for the District 35L
Advisory meeting on Saturday.

Questions? Contact Brittney
Young at 850-832-6777



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DISTRICT 35 L ADVISORY MEETING

Hosted By:
Chipley Falling Waters Lions Club



New Life Fellowship Church
Community Center
695 5th St
Chipley, FL 32428

JANUARY 24, 2026

LIONS REGISTRATION | 8:30 AM CST

BREAKFAST | 8:30-9:30 AM CST

Start your day off with coffee/tea, assortment of muffins / pastries and fresh fruit.

BOARD MEETING | 9:00-10:15 AM CST

Includes all cabinet officers and zones.

GENERAL SESSION | 10:30 AM CST

LUNCH | \$35.00

All You Can Eat BBQ!
Bring your appetite and enjoy a mouthwatering feast of smoky BBQ, delicious homemade sides, and sweet desserts you'll love!
Come hungry — leave happy!

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
FROM:



REGISTER NOW

Lion Brittny
850.832.6777
fldistrict35L@gmail.com

Mail payment to:
Falling Waters Lions Club
PO Box 454
Chipley, FL 32428

Must include: Name, Title, Club, Address, City, State, Zip, Email, Phone, Note in memo, Cabinet Meeting meal. Prepayment by check, or pay by check or cash at meeting.



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Celebrate Melvin Jones' 147th Birthday on January 13

January 13 is Melvin Jones' birthday, and Lions around the world are celebrating during **LCIF Week (January 11–17)** by honoring our founder's enduring legacy of service.

LCIF Chairperson Fabrício Oliveira encourages Lions and Leos to mark this special occasion by making a gift to **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)**—strengthening the global foundation that empowers Lions to serve communities and change lives worldwide.

To commemorate Melvin Jones' birthday, donors who make a **minimum gift of US\$147** during the campaign are eligible to receive a **limited-edition Melvin Jones Birthday lapel pin**, created especially for this celebration. Please email DonorAssistance@lionsclubs.org with receipt of your gift of a minimum of \$147 and request for the birthday pin through Jan 30th, 2026.

Celebrate Melvin Jones on January 13—and throughout LCIF Week—by giving in honor of his vision of compassion, generosity, and service.



👉 Donate today at lionsclubs.org/donate and check out some of the ways grant-funding is used here: lcifpride.org/



Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION



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Alachua Lions Club



Alachua Lions Donates Winter Gear

The Alachua Lions Club donated 83 coats, hats and gloves to Alachua Elementary School, Irby Elementary School, Mebane Middle School, and Santa Fe High School during the months of November and December.

This is a project that the club has done for the past 3 years and the items were well received by the staff at each school. The club worked with the school Guidance Counselors to identify children who needed winter gear and the items were distributed by the school staff.

The Alachua Lions Club has a long standing relationship with the Alachua Police Department who assisted with the coat deliveries, as they do with many other projects that are sponsored by the Alachua Club.



Food Baskets Donated by the Alachua Club

In coordination with the Alachua Farm Bureau organization, the Alachua Lions Club collected and distributed 5 very large food boxes to families at Lee's Preschool and the Patty Cake Daycare Center in Alachua. The families also received 2 hams each to help with their holiday meal.





Cedar Key Lions Club



Cedar Key Lions members donate to bring Christmas to Bronson Head Start children



Special thanks to The Cedar Key Lions Club for providing all 16 children with a gift, and to all the other individuals who dropped off one or two gifts each to make this a truly joyous occasion for the children and their parents.





ChIPLEY Falling Waters Lions Club

FREE

EVERYONE
WELCOME

CHILI & SOUP

Tasty and Hot



January 10, 2026 | 11:00 - 1:00

Shivers Park - 784 5th St, Chipley

Contact Brittney Young 850.832.6777
for more information.



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ChIPLEY Falling Waters Lions Club

A NIGHT YOU'LL NEVER SEE COMING!



Join us for an unforgettable, eye-opening evening as we step into the world of those who live with vision loss every day. This unique event raises awareness and supports Lions vision programs.

February 5, 2026

6:00 PM CST

New Life Fellowship Church

Fellowship Hall

695 5th St, Chipley



\$35 per person

\$60 per couple

\$180 table of 6

Contact:

Brittny Young

for tickets and info

lionbrittny@gmail.com

850.832.6777

ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO DINE IN THE DARK?



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Crestview Lions Club



Christmas Eve Food Distribution



✨ End of Year Giving Gala – Saving Grace ✨ The Crestview Lions Club had a wonderful time at the End of the Year Giving Gala for Saving Grace. We were truly moved by the powerful testimonies shared by individuals currently going through the recovery process. Hearing their stories of strength, hope, and perseverance reminded us why community support matters so much. We are grateful for the opportunity to stand alongside Saving Grace and support their incredible work helping people rebuild their lives. The evening was uplifting, inspiring, and filled with genuine connection. We look forward to continuing and growing our partnership with Saving Grace in the future as we work together to serve our community.





High Springs Lions Club



17TH ANNUAL EAT THE HEAT CHILI COOK - OFF FEBRUARY 23, 2026

7 p.m.

**Open to the
Public**

\$10

Entry Fee

**\$5
AYCE**



**Everyone
is Welcome**

**Cash Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prize
Peoples Choice Award**

**All Entries MUST be in place by 6 p.m.
NO EXCEPTIONS!**

26900 West U.S. HWY 27 High Springs, Fl. 32643



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High Springs Lions Club



The High Springs Lions Club honored their two most senior members at the annual club Christmas party on December 12th. Heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS to Lion Mary Malans and Lion Larry Resmondo Sr, both celebrating twenty five years of service! Your dedication and commitment are great examples of what the Lions Club is all about.

Lion Leslie Flage (immediate past president) and Lion Jerry Bowen (membership chair), presented each Lion with a plaque and a twenty five year pin.



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High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday December 6th, the High Springs Lions Club participated in the annual High Springs Chamber Tree Lighting.

Santa (Lion Lou Giardina), Mrs. Clause (Lion Denise Williams), and Tangle the elf (Lion Barb Kowats) and her elf crew were on hand to greet all the good boys and girls and wish them a Merry Christmas! 🎄

The cookie crew handed out cookies and candy to event goers and shared lots of smiles and good wishes!

Although the rain rolled in toward the end of the event, a good time was enjoyed by all!!



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High Springs Lions Club



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Interlachen Lions Club

LIONS CLUB PRESENTS

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

1ST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

FREE FOR ALL!

5PM-8PM

200 PROSPECT AVE. INTERLACHEN

GAMES YOU'LL LOVE

UNO

8-BALL POOL

POKÉMON TRADING

AND MORE!

FREE ENTRY, CONCESSION FOR SALE, PRIZES TO WIN!

Text "ROAR" to 386-385-8338 for more info.



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Photo recap of our incredible Christmas Party!

We had such a blast coming together. From the delicious food and great conversation to the main event: our famously fun (and sometimes fierce!) Chinese Gift Exchange!





Jax Beaches Lions Club



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Final Meeting of the Year – Ready for 2026!



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



In November, CSX employee, Renee Shoner, in partnership with Lions District 35L, hosted a hearing aids and eyeglasses donation drive in their headquarters in Jacksonville.

Throughout the week long drive, Lion Meredyth Mason from our Club distributed information regarding Lions International as well as educating employees about the eyeglasses recycling program. The drive resulted in more than 100 pairs of eyeglasses donated as well as three sets of hearing aids.

All items collected were delivered to the Arlington Eye Clinic supporting the missions of Vision Is Priceless and the Jacksonville Arlington Lions Club.



Say Hello to the Jax Beach Lions!




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JACKSONVILLE RIVERSIDE/ARGYLE WEST


INTRO TO AI WORKSHOP


Presented by the Jax R.A.W. Lions Club

 Saturday, January 17, 2026

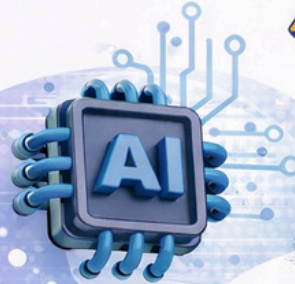
 11 AM – 2 PM

 4025 Confederate Point Rd,
Jacksonville, FL 32210

 Bring your own tablet, phone, or a laptop

 Free and open to the public

Learn the basics of AI in a hands-on session.
Free and open to the public. Register online or on-site.



RUMMAGE SALE

JANUARY 31

9AM – 2PM



4025 CONFEDERATE POINT RD,
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210



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JACKSONVILLE RIVERSIDE/ARGYLE WEST

**COMMUNITY
YARD SALE**

Hosted by Jacksonville R.A.W. Lions

On January 31, 2026

**4025 Confederate Point Rd.
Jacksonville FL 32210**

SALE

Table Reservation for Sellers \$30

Email JaxRAWLions@gmail or Message on FaceBook

**BARGAINS - TREASURES -
FUN FOR ALL!**



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McIntosh Lions Club

The McIntosh Lions Club hosted Santa in the Park on December 8 on the McIntosh Community Center grounds. Lions brought Santa (aka Lion Mark Woodruff) to the ground on an antique firetruck led by a parade of decorated golf carts, tractors, and other vehicles. Once he arrived at the town's open gazebo he welcomed a long line of young people with bags of candy prepared by Lions. The seasonal event is a popular public gathering in our town, drawing nearly 300 residents.



McIntosh Lions Club members have cooked hot dogs and sold them along with soft drinks and water for more than 40 years at the annual McIntosh 1890's Festival. Positioned on property owned by the Blauer family, Lions have created a fall tradition for many visitors at the event. The Festival welcomes more than 40,000 people, with 250 private vendors and town non-profit organizations offering their crafts, artwork, food and other items for sale. A secure, family-friendly environment helps make an enjoyable day for everyone.



Each year McIntosh Lions Club volunteers have devoted many hours of labor to make the organization's 1890's Festival booth a success. Some of our volunteers paused for a moment for the camera.



Middleburg Black Creek Lions Club

We have had a very busy and productive November and December ❤️ for a grand total of \$5250 poured back into our community.

- A donation to Quigley House
 - Fed a total of 32 families for Thanksgiving & Christmas, providing grocery store gift cards in addition to preparing gift baskets.
 - Donated to Operation Santa Cause
 - Donation to Clay County Schools Nutrition Services to assist with school lunch debt.
 - Sponsored scout Sarah on her Eagle Scout project to make stands for all wreaths across America in Jacksonville Memory Gardens
 - Donation to Food Bridge
 - Provided Christmas toys for 6 families
 - Donation to the Senior Center
 - Donation to Wilkerson Jr High community project
- Thank you all for making a real impact where it counts!





Ocala Lions Club

Ocala Christmas Parade

The Annual Ocala Christmas Parade took place on Saturday, December 13, 2025 celebrating its 70th Anniversary. The Ocala Lions Club had a special entry in the parade to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. A 1926 Model T Ford owned and driven by Ocala resident Steve Ellis carried members of the Ocala Lions Club including President Barry Fies, Past President Scott Cross, Lion Leeann Endicott, and Lion Richard Lytle. The Ocala Lions Club members proudly displayed a banner for the special event.



Orange Park Lions Club



Lions Club of Port St. Joe and Sportsman's Banquet
December 3 at 9:00 PM · 🌐

Nation of Patriots thanked the Club today.



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Ocala 200 Lions Club



His House for Her, Inc. · Follow

December 2 at 9:04 AM · 🌐



Thank you to the Ocala 200 Lions Club for inviting us to share our mission a couple weeks ago. Thank you especially for the warm invite, Bob & Patti Barto and John Aaron. I loved hearing the Lions Prayer:

"Where Lions meet to be present, Lord, to weld our hearts in one accord. To do thy will, Lord, make us strong; to aid the weak and right the wrong."

Lions volunteer in 8 global causes—Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, the Environment, Humanitarian Need, Hunger, Vision, and Youth.

[#allforher](#) [#livesurrendered](#) [#volunteersmakeadifference](#)



Kindness matters.

At home and around the world



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Ocala OTOW Lions Club



OTOW LIONS CLUB PRESENTS: **CASINO NIGHT!**



SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
5 - 8 PM
CIRCLE SQUARE CULTURAL CENTER



Gaming includes Roulette, Craps, Blackjack, and Texas Hold 'em. Must be 21 to play.

Tickets are a \$50 donation. Included with your ticket:

- \$300 in fun money for the games of chance.
- Hoagies, Drinks, and Snacks.

Gaming prizes include an Electric Adult Tricycle and a Large Screen Smart TV.

In addition, raffles for gift baskets, a liquor wagon, and a 50/50 drawing will be available.

Purchase tickets at:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Farmers Market 9:00am–12:00pm Thursdays | OTOW Lions Club Members |
| • Ticket Tuesdays 9:00am–12:00pm Tuesdays
@ Arbor Dance Studio III | First Federal Bank
(Circle Square Commons)
Wednesdays/Thursdays |

Your charity donations benefit Children's and Veterans causes in Marion County.

Additional fun money can be purchased at the event. Cash bar available.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

For more information, call Carol 352.300.3995

or Sherri 704.975.4573.



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Orange Park Lions Club

Orange Park Lions Club makes December a month of Giving

The saying goes "it is better to give than to receive" and the Orange Park Lions proved that this December. The first event was donating to Toys for Tots of books. This was proved to them by Vicky and President Carl Crosby. The next stop was one of the Lions Club's favorite places to visit and help, the Safe Animal Shelter in Middleburg. A check was presented to them from the club by Carl Crosby with backing from Vicky Crosby, and Ken O'Neal helping our 4-legged friends. The club's attention was then shifted to helping local food banks. Treasurer Dave Vencil represented the Lions and presented a check to the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs. Later that week Ken Growler, the VP of our club, presented a check to Clothes Closet of Orange Park.

We were not done. Dave and Celia Vencil helped by ringing bells for the Red Kettle campaign for the Salvation Army at a local Winn Dixie. The club sponsored a child for "Adopt a Raider" for the Orange Park High School Community School. Finally, several Lions (Don and Kitty Minor, Richad Campbell, Dave and Celia Vencil, and Michael Poweleit provided vision screenings and handed out snacks, Lion ornaments, and pencils at the Impact Clay Train in Green Cove Springs. Santa and The Grinch joined up with close to 100 volunteers and served a record 300 guests providing all kinds needed services, meals, food, clothing, and 25 bicycles.

All and all, it was a wonderful month for the Lions, and it was indeed better to give than to receive!

Mike Poweleit
Secretary Orange Park Lions Club



GREEN COVE SPRINGS

December 2025

VOLUNTEERS WITH A HEART TO SERVE



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Orange Park Lions Club



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Orange Park Lions Club



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Sopchoppy Lions Club

Our service project to collect gifts for young teenagers for Operation Santa was a success. Yesterday, Lion Jill delivered an over flowing donation box to the ladies at Operation Santa. They were so happy to receive items for teens.

Thank you Lion Robert for promoting this project on Facebook and for housing the donation box in the office of Coast & Country Realty.

Thank you Lion Kathleen for the loan of a beautiful Christmas tree to decorate our donation drop off site.

Team work !



Sopchoppy Lions inaugurate 'Be the One' program!

Being a Lion means making a difference for those in our community! The goal of Be the One is to see a problem or need and be the one to do something about it as soon as possible!

The Sopchoppy Lions Club in partnership with Walmart have purchased and delivered 30 pairs of sneakers to elementary school students! Lion President Sal Martocci & wife Clarice along with Lion

Barbara Mingledorff and Grandson Jacob made the purchase assisted by Walmart personnel.

Lion Barbara Mingledorff said the event was a team effort and thanked the Sopchoppy Lions Club, Medart Elementary Staff and the Walmart Manager for helping make it all happen! And in time for Christmas!



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Tallahassee Lions Club



Several members weathered the windy day at Bradley's Country Store Festival selling brooms and providing information about the Lions on Nov. 22nd. Lion June Campbell fills a red wagon every year filled with children's items. The Lions then sell tickets to raffle this wagon so a happy youngster will receive it!



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Turkey Creek Lions Club

As a Christmas present, PDG Tony Stefanowicz presented a Grand Lion Life Membership to Lion Rita, a member of the Turkey Creek Lions Club.

