

JANUARY 2026

Lions Insight

DISTRICT 35L

Informational
Newsletter

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

**In this newsletter
you can expect:**

District Governor
Message

Membership Contest

Advisory Meeting

Cabinet Advisory Meeting
Agenda

Hotel and lodging options

NEFL Hearing Aid Bank
Zoom

Potential Leaders Seminar

Superbowl Fundraiser

RLLI Training

Melvin Jones Birthday

25-26 Lions Events

Lions Online Resources

Why Report Services

Who can Report Services

fldistrict35L@gmail.com



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.



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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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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Cabinet Advisory Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2026

High Springs Lions Club

695 5th Street, Chipley

DRAFT

DRAFT

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

GENERAL SESSION

Invocation: IPDG Dr. Greg Seltzer

Pledge:

Welcome: Falling Waters Lions Club President, Lion Brittny Young

10:40-10:45 Introduction of our head table and cabinet.

10:45-10:50am 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 08.02.2025 Cabinet Meeting

10:55-11:00am Treasurer's Report: District Treasurer, Lion John Hopkins

11:00-11:10am District Governor Discussion Pre-Cabinet Meeting and Possible Voting.

11:10-11:35am

GAT REPORTS

GST, GET 1st Vice District Governor George Niles

GLT- Our Cabinet Family

GMT- Cabinet Secretary Lioni Brittny Young

11:35am -12:14pm Club Bragging: What is your club up to?

12:14 pm-12:14pm Bless the Food: IPDG Dr. Greg Seltzer

12:15pm-12:50 pm

ENJOY YOUR HOME COOKED LUNCH

*All you
can eat!*

12:50pm- 1:05pm Lions Saving Sight: Director of Operations, Lion Judi Seltzer

1:05pm-1:10pm Lions Saving Sight: President Bobby Wright

1:10pm-1:20pm Put your report here! We are waiting.....

1:20PM-1:30PM BREAK

1:30pm-1:32pm Introduction of Guest Speaker: 1VDG George Niles

1:32pm-1:55pm Guest Speaker: Vosh Southeast Volunteer Lion Lou Barnes.

(We will learn the process of eyeglass recycling and more!)

1:55pm-2:10pm District Governor

2:10pm 2:40pm: Presentations



Hotels and lodging options in and immediately around Chipley, FL

1. Comfort Inn & Suites Chipley I-10
 - a. Address: 1140 Motel Drive, Chipley, FL 32428
 - b. Phone: (850) 415-1111
 - c. Website: www.choicehotels.com/florida/chipley/comfort-inn-hotels/fl751
 - d. Notes: Offers free breakfast and Wi-Fi; located near I-10 and Falling Waters State Park.
2. Quality Inn Chipley I-10 at Exit 120
 - a. Address: 1130 Motel Drive, Chipley, FL 32428
 - b. Phone: (448) 210-1584 Choice Hotels
 - c. Website: <https://www.choicehotels.com/florida/chipley/quality-inn-hotels/flb75>
 - d. Notes: Includes free breakfast and Wi-Fi, outdoor pool.
3. Red Roof Inn Chipley
 - a. Address: 1593 Main St, Chipley, FL 32428
 - b. Phone: Call direct for reservations (often via site) Red Roof Inn
 - c. Website: <https://www.redroof.com/property/fl/chipley/RR1863>
 - d. Notes: Budget-friendly option with free Wi-Fi and pet-friendly rooms.
4. Super 8 by Wyndham Chipley
 - a. Address: 1150 Motel Drive (near Exit 120), Chipley, FL 32428
 - b. Phone: (850) 638-8530
 - c. Website: <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/chipley-florida/super-8-chipley/overview>
 - d. Notes: Simple roadside hotel near I-10 with free breakfast and Wi-Fi.
5. Days Inn by Wyndham Chipley (closed due to fire)
6. The Sullivan House Florida, a bed and breakfast & more (smaller lodging/B&B)
 - a. Address: 1305 Church Ave, Chipley, FL 32428
 - b. Phone: 850-900-7464
 - c. Website: <http://www.sullivanhouseflorida.com/>
 - d. Notes: Highly rated local B&B option in Chipley.
7. Budget Inn (budget motel)
 - a. Address: 1184 E Jackson Ave, Chipley, FL 32428
 - b. Phone: 850-638-1850
 - c. Notes: Basic motel option (phone/website may require direct search).



NORTHEAST FLORIDA LIONS HEARING AID BANK

Join us for a Reorganization Zoom



January 7, 2026

6:00 PM EST

The primary purpose of this meeting is to appoint a Nominating Committee that will prepare a slate of officers for the April 2026 election.

In accordance with the Constitution & By-Laws, the current Board consists of:

- President: Sue Hooten
- Vice President: Bobby Wright
- Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley Shuler
- District Representatives: District Governor Suzie Rodgers, First Vice District Governor George Niles, and Second Vice District Governor Susan Oliva

All clubs within District 35-L may have up to two representatives serving on the NE Florida Lions Hearing Aid Bank.

Contact 2VDG Susan Oliva, sloliva313@gmail.com, for more information.

Time: Jan 7, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89058364678>

Meeting ID: 890 5836 4678



Potential Leaders Seminar

Saturday, February 7, 2026

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lunch Provided

WHO:

1. Potential Governors (SVDGs & FVDGS).
2. Open to all Lions intersted in District Leadership.

Where:

MD35 Office Conference Room
331 W. Central Avenue, Suite 246
Winter Haven, Florida 33880

(any change of loction will be announced in advance)

Topics:

1. Constitutional Requirements & Guidelines.
2. Duties of a District Governor.
3. Role of the Partner/Companion in Service.
4. Time Commitment.
5. Preparing a Budget.
6. Expenses and Reimbursements.
7. Chosing your Cabinet.
8. Chosing MD Officers & their Duties.
9. Protocol.
10. Recognition.

AND MUCH MORE!

Contact either PDG Gary LaSpina or PDG Vivian Henegar
NLT January 23, 2026 to reserve your spot!

PDG Gary M. LaSpina
md35execsec@md35lions.org
407-859-7174

PDG Vivian henegar
vivianhenegar64@yahoo.com
810-444-4109

If no answer when calling leave a message!





February 8th, 2026

**FL Lions Diabetic Retinopathy
Foundation**

Super Bowl Fundraiser 2026

\$5,000.00 IN PAY OUTS

\$1,000 1st Quarter, \$1,000 Half Time
\$1,000 3rd Quarter, \$1,000 4th Quarter and
\$1000.00 Final Score

\$100.00 a Square

The Florida Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Foundation provides free services to 1,000's of Floridians each year, educating them on the effects of Diabetes and providing free screening for Diabetic Retinopathy. This is our major annual fundraisers, and we thank you for participating.

Your \$100 secures a football square that corresponds to a score at key points in the 2026 Super Bowl. You will be notified before the game what scores your box corresponds to. It truly adds excitement to the game.

When your funds are received, your name will be put on a Square. Squares are first fund, first allocated. The board will be frozen, and the numbers assigned when all the squares are sold but no later than the day before the Super Bowl. We will publish the board at that time. Winners will be determined by the official NFL score.

If you square is a winner, you will be contacted, and the prizes issued within 10 days of the event.

All net proceeds benefit the **FLORIDA LIONS' DIABETIC RETINOPATHY FOUNDATION, INC** and the services it provides to the community.

The Entry the Form is Online

Use the QR code or this link to open form

<https://zfrmz.com/3LTaBjGlc1yQPqwDVSrJ>

Pay online or

Mail payment to Greg Evans P.O. Box 2885 Ormond Beach FL 32175

If you have question you may contact

Bobby Wright District L at lionbobby3639@gmail.com

Eric Rumold District I at ericthehawk@yahoo.com

Tom Mavor District I at tmavor@wclions.org

Greg Evans District O at Liongregeevans@gmail.com

Karen Stowers District O at Surgnurtz0507@gmail.com

Jane Colona, FVDG District N at Lionjanecolona@gmail.com



Lions Conquering Blindness

SightFirst


LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Florida Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Foundation

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	Lions Club International MD-35 Florida Regional Lions Leadership Intstitute	
	Life Enrichment Center 4991 Picciola Road Fruitland Park, FL 34731	March 19-22, 2026
Check in after 3:30 Thursday - Depart Sunday 11:30		
Name _____ Badge Name (if different) _____ District _____ Club _____ Highest Office Held _____ Current Office if any _____ Mailing Address _____ _____ Phone _____ Email _____ Have you ever attended a RLLI? Y____ N____	Institute Topics: - Opening Session - Diversity - Lions Fundamentals - Motivating Club Members - Personal Mission Statement - Public Speaking - Time Management - Working in Teams - Global Membership Approach Success Plan - District Success - Setting and Reaching Club Goals	
Registration Fee of only \$200 includes: - Lodging 3 Nights - Eight Meals (Thu Din through Sun Bkfst) - Instructional Materials - Friday Night Campfire / Fun Night.	Please inform us of any special needs or diets. <i>Lodging Accommodations</i> <i>Double Occupancy</i> (Single Occupancy available add \$75) Roommate (if applicable - list below)	
Registration Cut off is January 15th	Make Checks Payable to: Lions of Florida MD-35 Mail Checks and Registration to: Lion Vivian Henegar 9069 High Point Blvd. Brooksville, Florida 34613	Checks must be received NLT February 15th.
Lions of Florida and the South East come and enjoy 3 days of Lions Learning, Lions Fellowship, and Lions Enrichment with 30 Lions from MD-35 and beyond. You will experience a Lions event your will remember for years to come. You will go home energized and ready to help Lead your Club and District to success while making lifelong friends. Sounds like when you were a kid at camp, well you could be right. All for the LOW price of only \$200. Any questions? Call Lion Vivian at 810-444-4109. Reserve your spot now before they're gone! Registration ends January 15th, 2026.		



MELVIN JONES

BIRTHDAY JANUARY 13

The Original Lion

Before there were over 1.4. million Lions around the world, there was one man with a vision. He was a salesman from Chicago, Illinois, USA, named Melvin Jones. Driven by a dynamic personality and a heart filled with kindness, he helped create a service movement over 100 years ago that's still thriving today.



The Melvin Jones Story

Melvin Jones was a dreamer, a doer and a pragmatist. He was an energetic, extroverted salesman who in private hours would reread Shakespeare. What better man to found the world's largest association of service clubs?

The Lions International Board of Directors officially designated Jones as the founder of Lions Clubs in 1958—more than four decades after Lions Clubs held its first meeting. But, no matter what his official title, Jones' impact on the Lions has been far-reaching. He provided the leadership, the organizational ability, the tenacity and the muscle necessary to establish the foundation for Lions Clubs International to become what it is today.

Jones was born on Jan. 13, 1879, at Fort Thomas, Arizona, a remote U.S. Army cavalry post where his father was a scout for the Army. At age 7, Jones' family moved east and settled in Illinois. Gifted with a fine tenor voice, he considered making his career in music. Instead, he became an insurance salesman.

Go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/discover-our-clubs/melvin-jones-biography> to read more about The Original Lion Melvin Jones.



24 JANUARY

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

11 APRIL

**DISTRICT 35L MINI
DISTRICT CONVENTION -
TALLAHASSEE**

1-2 MAY

**MD 35 SPRING
CONVENTION - ORLANDO**

2026 LIONS EVENTS



ONLINE DIRECTORY

Month of January

[National Eye Care Month](#)

[National Glaucoma Awareness Month](#)

January 1

New Years Day

January 4

[World Braille Day](#)

January 13

[Melvin Jones Birthday](#)

January 15

[Martin Luther King Day](#)

[Peace Poster Kits go on sale](#)

January 29

[Seeing-Eye Guide Dog Anniversary](#)

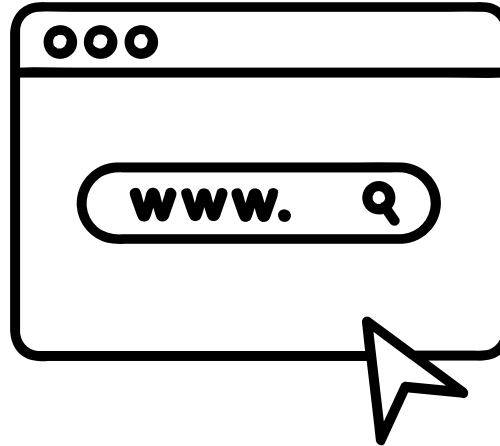


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LIONS ONLINE RESOURCES

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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WHY REPORT SERVICES

Strengthen storytelling. Details give stories power. Saying you fed 87 families is more powerful than saying you organized a food drive. Saying your club contributed 1,265 volunteer hours last year is more powerful than saying your club serves the community. When your club reports service, you collect the details needed to share powerful stories of your club's impact.

Inform decisions. Documented club achievements reveal what's working and what's not. For example, what if your diabetes education program is growing in attendance, but your annual club fundraiser is shrinking? Reviewing past service reports helps your club make better decisions, including choosing service activities and setting realistic goals.

Inspire service. Your reported service projects can be viewed within your district and around the world. That means your club's creativity and impact can inspire Lions and Leos to embrace new causes and serve in new ways. Reports also help Lions International staff identify best practices to share globally.

Grow partnerships. Collaborating with other organizations in your community is a great way to increase the visibility, reach, and quality of your service projects. When approaching potential partners, your club's service reports provide tangible evidence of your club's effectiveness to help persuade other organizations to join with you.

Enlighten leaders. High levels of service reporting are a sign of healthy clubs, zones, and districts. Knowledge of your club's service history provides invaluable insight to current and future club officers. In addition, district, zone, and Global Action Team leaders can best support your club when they understand how clubs in their area serve their communities.

Be proud. Service data gives us the ability to communicate how We Serve around the world. For example, in 2021, Lions and Leos served more than 350 million people! We can take pride in that achievement thanks to the leaders who reported over 1 million service activities. Through service reporting, your club joins in that pride and is eligible for service awards.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE

[Visit lionsclubs.org/service-reporting](https://lionsclubs.org/service-reporting)



Who Can Report Service

For clubs and districts through the Lion Portal

Lions clubs

Lions club president
Lions club secretary
Lions club service chairperson
Multiple district / district global service team (GST) coordinator
Multiple district / district / club administrator
Multiple district / district / club information technology chairperson
District / club protocol chairperson
Guiding Lions (for sponsored club)

Leo clubs

Leo club president
Leo club secretary
Leo club advisor
Sponsoring Lions club president
Sponsoring Lions club secretary
Multiple district / district / sponsoring club administrator

Districts

District governor
Cabinet secretary
Cabinet secretary / treasurer
Multiple district / district GST coordinator
Multiple district / district administrator
Multiple district / district information technology chairperson
District Leo chairperson
District childhood cancer / diabetes / environment / hunger / vision chairperson
District Youth Camp and Exchange chairperson
District protocol chairperson

Multiple districts

Council chairperson
Council secretary
Council secretary / treasurer
Multiple district GST coordinator
Multiple district administrator
Multiple district information technology chairperson
Multiple district Leo chairperson
Multiple district childhood cancer / diabetes / environment / hunger / vision chairperson
Multiple district Youth Camp and Exchange chairperson
Multiple district protocol chairperson

November 2024



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