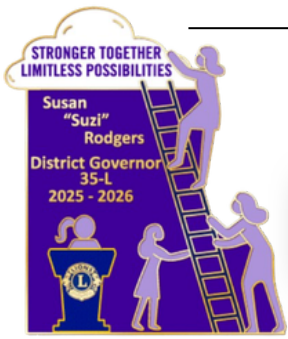


Bragging Rights Bulletin

DISTRICT 35L

◆
Club Events
and News



LIONS
L
INTERNATIONAL

Florida Lions – District 35-L

Have You Checked Out
Our **District Website?**

www.district35l.com

- 📅 District Calendar
- 📢 Up-to-Date Announcements
- 📄 District Resources
- 🦁 News & Updates for Lions

Your go-to source for the most current
District 35-L information

👉 Bookmark It Today!

Like • Follow • Share • Tag a Fellow Lion

Club Anniversaries

- Jefferson County 6/1/2009
- Ocala 200 6/3/2008
- Lynn Haven 6/14/2023
- Quincy 6/16/1978
- Dunnellon 2 6/16/2023
- South Putnam 6/17/2021
- Jax Quest 6/21/2022
- Crestview 6/27/1990
- Turkey Creek 6/30/2004

Turkey Creek Lions Club

The Turkey Creek Lions Club is proud to support the MD-35 Convention Service Project benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida and No Kid Hungry. Our club recently collected and donated a wagon full of snack and food items that will help provide snack packs for children facing food insecurity. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and make a positive impact in the lives of children and families in our communities. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this donation possible!



Alachua Lions Club

ALACHUA LIONS PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS

President Bill Johnson presented three \$2,000 scholarships to students at Santa Fe High School on May 12. This is an annual event for the Alachua Lions and it is well received by the staff and students.

The award recipients were Adriana Helsel who will pursue a degree in Behavioral Health at Santa Fe College, Ramsey Stanley who will pursue a degree in Elementary Education at Georgia State University, and Mackenzie Sweat who will pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy at Santa Fe College.

The Club received a total of ten applications and they were all very highly competitive. Recognizing this, the Alachua Lions Club Board of Directors voted to provide a \$500 grant to the seven students who were not awarded a \$2,000 scholarship.





Alachua Lions Club



ALACHUA LIONS PARTNER WITH FISHIN' FOR VISION

The Fishin' for Vision Team held their Annual Fishing Tournament at the Sea Hag Marina in Seinhatchee, FL on May 16, and it was a very wonderful event. Pictured above (left to right) are Jason Klein, Gladys McMillian, Pam McElroy, Terri Warrington, Katy Plein, Dylan Klein, (founder of the Fishin' for Vision tournament), and Tory Klein.

Fishin' For Vision was started by Dylan Klein when he was 15 years old. Dylan has Cone dystrophy which at this time has no cure. Instead of stressing about why his vision would not get better he decided to focus on ways to help others with vision issues. He will be able to accomplish his goal by supporting Florida Kidsight Foundation, providing scholarships and helping others with visual needs. The trailer is specifically designed for vision screenings and is made available to the Alachua Lions Club whenever needed. It has been used at various festivals, back to school functions, and other children's events.





ChIPLEY Falling Waters Lions Club

Thank you Chipley Bugle for the wonderful picture of our scholarship winners!

Pictures are: Lion Valery McAllister, Samuel Adams, Ava Chadwell, Hill Holley, Jaylee Manuel, Jazlynn Risinger, Lion Keith Lawton

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients! We are proud to support these outstanding students as they pursue their future goals and continue making a positive impact in our community. The Falling Waters Lions Club is honored to invest in the future of our local students through educational scholarships and community support.



Celebrating Our Scholarship Recipients!

Tuesday evening, the Falling Waters Lions Club enjoyed a wonderful dinner celebrating our scholarship recipients and recognizing their hard work, dedication, and achievements.

Pictured from left to right:

Lion Denise Brock, Samuel Adams, Ava Chadwell, Lion Monica Rehberg, Hill Holley, Lion Valery McAllister, Jazlynn Risinger, Lion Keith Lawton, Lion Brittney Young



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ChIPLEY Falling Waters Lions Club

A big thank you to our entire community for being such great sports and allowing us to move a wonderfully brown toilet into your yards!

This fundraiser was a lot of fun for our club, and we truly appreciate everyone who participated, laughed along with us, and supported our efforts. Your support helps us continue serving our community and making a difference right here at home.



FALLING WATERS LIONS CLUB

HUGE Thank You! ♥

To the entire community for allowing us to move a wonderfully brown toilet into your yards.

♥ It was a lot of fun for us and we cannot wait to serve this community!

Thank you for supporting **FALLING WATERS LIONS CLUB!**

Includes photos of various yard scenes with signs and toilets: "Thanks for being such great sports!", "Lots of laughs, great memories!", "Because of you, we can keep serving!", "Send the Thone", "Block the Throne", "Emergency Flush".

The Lion's Royal Flush

•• THE THRONE IS ON THE MOVE... ••

Send the Thone - \$10
Send the toilet to a Teachers yard

Block the Throne - \$25
Keep your yard off-limits for the week

Emergency Flush - \$25
Get it removed from your yard

It could land in ANY yard next... Will it be yours?

Chipley City Limits ONLY May 3-9

Pay Cash or Cash App
\$fallingwaterslions
Monica Rehberg 850-726-7251
Brittney Young 850-832-6777





Gulf Breeze Lions Club

April & May were busy and exciting months for our 1-year-old club. On 4-18-26 some of our club members joined forces with Ocean Hour of Pensacola, FL for a cleanup event at Wayside Park. Small efforts create big change for our coast. Lions Benjamin Russell and Kathleen Marusich had fun with the others collecting trash to help keep our area clean on Earth Day weekend.

Our 4-20-26 club meeting was devoted to sorting eyeglasses for recycling. These glasses are on the start of their journey, which will end when they are provided to children and adults in need around the world, free of charge. We now have 8 eyeglass collection sites in the community and are working on adding more.

Our club was featured in the May edition of the Gulf Breeze Neighbors, a local monthly publication. We were proud to be included in their Community Spotlight for the month, which focuses on non-profits in the City of Gulf Breeze.

On May 16th & 17th we participated in the Asian/Pacific American Festival that was put on by Fil-Am Pensacola. We had a Lions information and recruitment table at this wonderful and well-attended community event.

We had a special guest at our Club meeting on 5-18-26. Elise Vannoy, the daughter of the late Rex J. Vannoy. She contacted us and said "So pleased and excited to learn that Gulf Breeze has a Lions Club again! My dad was a member and "lion tamer" for many years in the 1970s -90s." She was kind enough to donate some GB Lions memorabilia to us, including what we believe is the original GB Lions Club bell from 1994 or earlier. She also donated some used eyeglasses. Many thanks Elise, love the history!

As we look ahead to the coming months, the Gulf Breeze, FL Lions Club remains committed to strengthening our club and serving the needs of our community.

WE CARE. WE SERVE. WE ACCOMPLISH.



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Gulf Breeze Lions Club



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Gulf Breeze Lions Club

BY KATE HENDRICKSON | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GULF BREEZE LIONS CLUB




There's something special about a group that forms with a simple mission and quickly begins making a meaningful impact—and that's exactly what's happening with the **Gulf Breeze Lions Club**. Officially chartered on April 29, 2025, this newly established club is already building momentum, relationships, and a strong foundation for community service.

Part of the globally recognized Lions Clubs International, the Gulf Breeze Lions Club is rooted in a legacy of service that spans more than 200 countries. But while the organization is global, its impact is deeply local. Right here in Gulf Breeze, neighbors are coming together with a shared goal: to serve others and strengthen the community in meaningful ways.

The club was formed after President Ben Russell was approached by representatives of the Lions International Global Action Team to bring a chapter to Gulf Breeze. With encouragement and sponsorship from the Pensacola Lions Club, the vision quickly became a reality. For both Ben and Marketing Chairperson Mike Hakenjos, the opportunity to build something from the ground up, while honoring a long-standing tradition of service, was one worth saying yes to.

At its core, the Lions Club is guided by eight global causes: childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, environment, humanitarian efforts, hunger, vision, and youth. Locally, the Gulf Breeze club has already begun focusing on one of the organization's most well-known missions: vision support. Through partnerships and programs, they are helping provide access to vision services for those in need and have established multiple collection sites throughout the community for used eyeglasses.



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Gulf Breeze Lions Club



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High Springs Lions Club

The High Springs Lions Club extends our sincere gratitude to everyone who supported the Firefighter Supply Drive. Your generosity and commitment made this effort possible, and we are truly thankful.

Thanks to your contributions, our members delivered two full trailers of supplies—one to the District 8 Waccasassa office and another to the Lake City Forestry office—following a brief delay due to Saturday’s weather. Both Forestry Depts. expressed deep appreciation for the overwhelming support from our community as they continue their tireless work protecting us from ongoing wildfires.

We are especially grateful to our partners who served as collection points, including High Springs Brewing Company, High Springs Winn-Dixie, and Mark Hurm Heating and Air in Gainesville. A special thank you as well to Kevin Mangan of the High Springs Fire Department for his coordination and support from the very beginning.

Many of us experienced what can only be described as a “service chill”—that powerful moment when you truly feel the gratitude and appreciation of those you’ve helped. Serving others not only benefits those in need, but also brings a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment. It’s a reminder that placing the well-being of others first creates meaningful, lasting impact. Just as importantly, service has a ripple effect—encouraging kindness, inspiring others to give, and strengthening the fabric of our community.

This effort reflects the true spirit of service—bringing people together to make a meaningful difference. We appreciate everyone who donated, organized, sorted, transported, and supported this initiative. Your collective efforts demonstrate the power of community and compassion in action.

Thank you all for making a difference.



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High Springs Lions Club

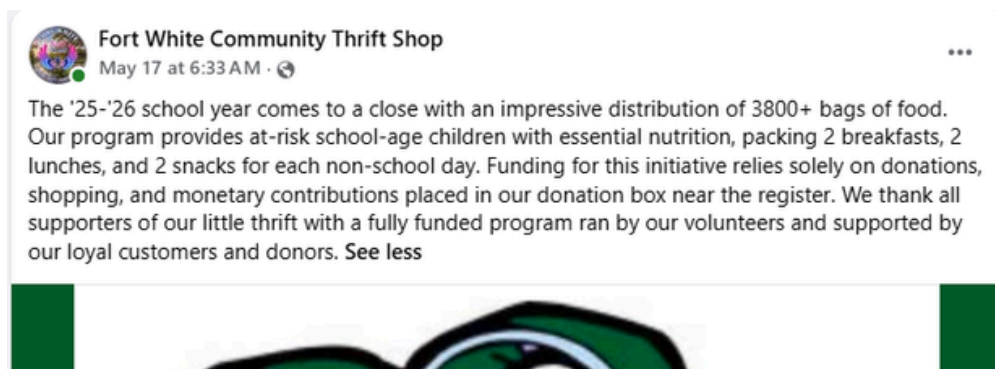
On Saturday, April 25th, another LC team participated in the annual Pioneer Day Festival. The club provided pulled pork tacos, baked beans, and other side dishes. A great time was enjoyed by all.



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The High Springs Lions Club partners with the Fort White Thrift Store, Fort White FL, to provide food on the weekends for children in need. This program is a year-round project as well as the weekly collection of non-perishable food items for the local community.



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High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday, May 2, the High Springs Lions Club provided fish and all the trimmings for the annual fish fry for the US Military Veterans Club. Despite the rain, the music was awesome and a great time was enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday, May 6, the High Springs Lions Club hosted their 11th Songwriters Roundup. This event was restarted by Lion Traci O'Brian after about a year hiatus. Songwriters honored the memory of beloved singer songwriter, Farnell Cole. Approximately 12 local musicians shared their songs and stories. As always, it was an amazing experience.





High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday, May 16, the High Springs Lions club hosted their 2nd community yard sale. Proceeds from this event are slated for the club's local children's Christmas charities. There were 19 vendors and approximately 150 shoppers! Breakfast and lunch were offered as well as baked goods for sale. Although it was a typical hot FL day, everyone had a great time! Another yard sale is tentatively scheduled for October.



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



We were honored to have our fellow Lion, Nick Mender , Director of Eye Spy Foundation, as our guest speaker. Nick shared fascinating insights into his work and some truly inspiring success stories that reminded us all of why we do what we do.

We were also thrilled to welcome four new prospective members to the meeting! It's wonderful to see our club growing with people who share our passion for making a difference.

It was another engaging and short-lived evening filled with great energy. We feel very grateful for the high attendance and the amazing community we've built together here at the Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club.





Jax Beaches Lions Club



Members of our club recently attended the 101st Annual Lions Convention, where we spent time learning about important Lions initiatives including vision care, diabetes awareness, disaster relief, and service projects taking place across Florida and the Caribbean. A special highlight was the Canine Companions presentation, where we met adorable puppies training to become future service dogs. The convention also provided opportunities to share ideas, strengthen friendships, and celebrate together at the Americana-themed Fun Night, featuring performers and lookalikes commemorating 250 years of the United States. One of the evening's highlights was the appearance of Ed Sullivan, which made guests feel as though they had stepped back in time. We are also proud to share that our club was recognized with two awards during the convention—one for our Environmental Projects and another for Membership Growth. These honors reflect the dedication and hard work of our members, and we are grateful to be part of such an amazing Lions community.



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Service from the Heart at Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club

We were happy to welcome Savannah from Angelwood, Inc. to our recent business meeting! Savannah shared a powerful and moving presentation about the incredible work Angelwood does for children, adults, and families living with intellectual and developmental differences. From their summer camps to residential group homes, the impact they have on our community is truly high. Our members were very impressed by the dedication and heart behind this organization. To support their mission of providing "The Loving Choice," the Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club is proud to contribute a donation for their Fundraiser Annual Celebration „Shine“.

Thank you, Savannah, for inspiring us and for everything you do!

Learn more about their mission:

angelwoodjax.org

904-288-7259



Proudly providing unparalleled services to children, adults and families living with disabilities.

Who We Are:
 Angelwood Inc. assists families in caring for the special needs of their loved ones across their lifespan through a variety of programs suited to each person's individual goals.

We help children and adults with intellectual and developmental differences such as:

- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Down syndrome
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Prader-Willi
- Spina Bifida

What We Do:

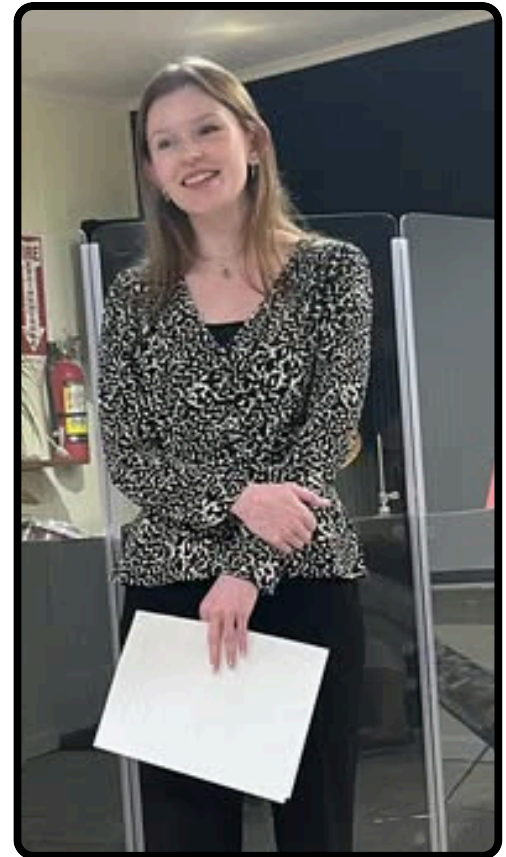
- Adult Day Training
- Residential Group Homes
- Supported Employment
- Angelwood Community Explorers
- Behavioral Services
- Summer Day Camp
- Parents' Night Out

Visit angelwoodjax.org or contact us to learn more!

904-288-7259



The Loving Choice



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Lion Steve Stephen M. Smith recently had the honor of presenting a donation check to Scott Epinger, the Director of Lend An Ear Outreach .

This amazing organization does life-changing work by providing free hearing exams and free hearing aids to low-income individuals. Being able to hear well means staying connected to loved ones, and we are so proud to support this great mission!



We had a fantastic time at our Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club meeting, featuring two very special guest speakers! First, a big thank you to Ansh Grover, the clinic owner of Ellie Mental Health- Ponte Vedra, FL for joining us. Ansh shared the mission behind Ellie Mental Health, focusing on their dedication to making mental health services more accessible, breaking down stigmas, and providing creative, personalized solutions for our community. Thank you, Ansh, for taking the time to share your passion and expertise with us!



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Ocala Lions Club

Ocala Lions Club Sponsors Baby Shower

By Diane Renyhart

At its meeting on May 21st, the Ocala Lions Club conducted a Baby Shower to benefit the Alpha Center. The meeting was planned by Lions Marilyn Hinds, Emily Leithauser, Patti Palermo and Sue Hoaglund. Several members brought guests as well as baby gifts.

Representatives of the Alpha Center were on hand to describe their work. The Center was founded in 1998 and exists to offer life affirming choices to those experiencing unplanned pregnancies. It is supported by caring churches, businesses and individuals in our community. The Center helps women and their newborn babies to get a good start in life.

The meeting room was decorated with balloons and baby items. Everyone enjoyed a special lunch and learning about the Center and its work. At the end of the meeting, several cars were filled with the gifts for the Center.

The Ocala Lions Club meets at the Muni Golf Course on Thursdays, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For information about membership, please contact Emily Leithauser, at 352-817-2765.





Ocala Lions Club

Food 4 Kids – “Be Part of the Pack”

By Diane Renyhart

The Ocala Lions Club continues to support the Interfaith Emergency Services (IES) Food 4 Kids program by donating food and cash on the first Thursday of each month. The program serves 1500 children with backpacks filled with enough food for each child in the household to have six weekend meals. The backpacks are designed to see that children come back to school on Monday ready to learn. As a result of the continued support, the Ocala Lions Club is now part of the “Be Part of the Pack” program. The Club is helping to ensure a consistent supply of food items that are sent home each week. If you would like additional information, please contact Dani Fee, Food 4 Kids Manager, at (352) 620-8239 or dani,fee@iesmarion.org. The program’s goal is to increase the number of school children that are being served.



🦁 Newsletter Reader Challenge! 🦁

If you've made it this far, congratulations—you've found the hidden Lions trivia challenge!

What did Florida do in 1937 while traveling to the Interational Convention?

Email fldistrict35L@gmail.com, call, (850) 832-6777 or text your answer to Lion Brittny Young. Everyone who responds correctly by June 26 will be entered into a drawing for a Multiple District 2026 Pin!

Hint: The answer can be found on the Florida Lions History page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/floridalionshistory>



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Ocala 200 Lions Club



Lion Harold Frederick inducted into our club by 2VDG Susan Oliva. Lion Harold is sponsored by Lion Bob Barto. His autobiography will appear in the next newsletter. WELCOME LION HAROLD!

TRANSFER MEMBER

We welcome Lion Kevin Lukens into our membership as a transfer from the White Marsh Lions Club in Pennsylvania. A complete autobiography will appear in the July newsletter.





Orange Park Lions Club

**VETERANS
4TH OF JULY**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

★ ORANGE PARK LIONS CLUB ★

★ JULY 4TH • 8:00AM - 10:00AM ★

★ EGGS • PANCAKES • SAUSAGE ★
★ FRESH FRUIT • COFFEE & JUICE ★

VETERANS EAT FREE!

KIDS AND ADULTS - \$8.00



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Orange Park Lions Club

Orange Park Lions Club does double duty Mid-May for Community Events

One weekend in May brought Orange Park Lions out to events on Friday and Saturday. The event on Friday was at the Clay County District School Annual Art Show and Food Truck Night at the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center. Several Lions help man an information booth informing people of all the work that Lions do worldwide and in our community including vision screening and glasses for kids and adults, helping local food banks, supporting veterans, and providing phone cards to soldiers overseas. Thanks to the Girl Scout Troop 32009 in Clay County, the Lions were able to hand out dozens of boxes of girl scout cookies to those visiting the booth. All the Lions helping were Ken O'Neal, Matthew Olger, Lelon Vencil, Celia Vencil, Mike Poweleit, Ken Groleau, Melanie Groleau, Dave Vencil, and (not Pictured) :Carl Crosby and Don Minor.



The next stop of the busy weekend in May was at the Impact Clay Train, and this one was at Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School on a beautiful Saturday Morning from 10 AM till noon. The train served 158 folks who showed up to visit the event. Some of the services and items offered included Clothing from Seeds of Love Outreach, books from Clay County Public Library, haircuts, food from Waste Not Florida, and hot meals provided by the Salvation Army Food truck. The Lions Club performed vision screenings for 15 adults and children inside the mobile unit from Kids First of Florida, the wonderful Clay Train Partner with the Lions Club. Once again, the Lions passed out dozens of boxes of Girl Scout Cookies in addition to new readers and Lion key chain charms for the kids printed from a 3D Printer. Overall, there were 67 volunteers at the event who helped with many services. Lions participating included Don and Kitty Minor, Mike Poweleit, and Dave and Celia Vencil. It was indeed a busy and rewarding weekend for the Lions Club.



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Sopchoppy Lions Club



Members of the Sopchoppy Lions Club and a host of invited prospective Lions enjoyed an evening of food, fun and fellowship at the annual Spring picnic on the banks of the Sopchoppy River, April 27! As 'oldies but goodies' music played in the background, Lion members briefed the guest prospects on the Lions Club story. The meaning of "We Serve" was demonstrated by the programs currently underway - e.g. 'Be the One' providing shoes for needy school children, 'Golden Bites' hot meals for elderly shut-ins, Back Pack Food for elementary/high school students and eye exams/glasses for all ages along with contributions to local charities 'Helping Hands' and Senior Citizen groups!

Lion Randy Anderson treated the group with his guitar skills and musical/vocal renditions with tunes of yesteryear followed by Lion President Sal Martocci announcing that the Sopchoppy Lions Club now has another Melvin Jones Fellow, its second in as many years!



District
35L

ROAR with Pride!

**Share your clubs
achievements.**

NEWSLETTER

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FLDistrict35L@gmail.com

All submissions due by the 26th of the month.

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