



# Bragging Rights Bulletin

DISTRICT 35L

◆  
Club Events  
and News

## Club Officer Training Seminar

Essential Details for Club Officers

### Overview

The Club Officer Training Seminar is designed to equip club officers with the tools, knowledge, and best practices needed to lead their clubs effectively. This seminar provides an opportunity for both new and seasoned officers to network, share experiences, and gain practical skills for the coming lion year.

### Seminar Details

- **Date:** Saturday, June 6, 2026
- **Time:** 8:00 am to 3:15 pm
- **Location:** Orange Park Lions Clubhouse, 423 McIntosh Ave., Orange Park, FL
- **Cost:** to cover Breakfast/Lunch, \$20.
- **Register:** Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins. Limited to 25 participants. Deadline to register is May 29<sup>th</sup>. Send your info to Lion Susan Oliva, sloliva313@gmail.com

### Who Should Attend?

All incoming and current club officers, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership, Service, Marketing Chairs.

### Objectives

- Understand officer roles and responsibilities and how they interrelate
- Understand LCI, MD and District goals and requirements
- Learn effective club management strategies
- Discuss membership growth and retention techniques
- Explore tools for communication and collaboration
- Build connections with other club leaders

### Preparation

- Review your club's Constitution and By-laws
- Bring questions or topics for discussion
- Be ready to share your experiences and ideas
- Bring your laptops/tablets/notebooks

### Faculty

- PCC Stan Rodgers, PCC Lou Jones, DGE George Niles, FVDGE Susan Oliva, John Hopkins, Brittany Young

### Contact Information

If you have questions, please reach out to the GLT Coordinator, Susan Oliva, sloliva313@gmail.com

**If you cannot make it to this seminar, another will be planned in the Aug/Sept timeframe in a different area. Details to be announced.**

**Club Anniversaries**  
 Middleburg Black Creek 5/23/2006  
 Ocala OTOW 5/28/1987



# Cedar Key Lions Club



## Cedar Key Lions Induct 6 New Members and elect incoming Board of Directors

Cedar Key, April 21, 2026

At the 2026 Lions induction dinner held at the Island Hotel, The Cedar Key Lions and President Robert Belair were honored to welcome Lion George Niles, Vice District Governor, Florida District 35L from Orange Park to preside over the induction of six new members, induct the club's elected incoming 2026-27 Board of Directors, and award two club members the prestigious Lions International Foundation Melvin Jones Fellowship award.



[New Members, left to right]

Johnny Polasik (not present Stephanie Polasik) - Owners of Pelican Vacation Homes, Laura Gregory - Operating Manager of Low Key Tiki Bar, Molly Salkaln, Laurie Adams and Bud Adams - The Island Hotel.



[Incoming Board of Directors, left to right]

President - Robert Belair, Community Outreach - Greg Martin, Secretary - Heather Lang, 1st Vice President - BJ O'Brein, 3rd Vice President - Dave Schiess, Board Member - Donna Bushnell, 2nd Vice President - Bob Piscura, Media Relations - Rory Brennan, Treasurer - Faye Sanders, Board Member - Susan Rosenthal



# Cedar Key Lions Club



[Donna Bushnell receives the Lions International Foundation Melvin Jones Fellowship award.]

Lion Donna has been a Lion since 2017, She has sponsored two members and was the 2nd Vice President for 5 years, and will now be serving on the board for her second year.

Donna was the club’s Chairperson for the KidSight Program getting members retrained and reorganized after a 4-year hiatus from doing the program. With Donna’s efforts and organizational skills the Cedar Key club screened over 180 children in 2024/25 year in the Three Counties that it supports .

President Robert Belair says of Donna, *“She is always the first one to sign up for supporting our events, and to bring us ideas on ways to help our community when there is a sudden need. Last year Lion Donna championed a club drive that provided infant formula that was in short supply to our local community, as well as being a Christmas angel, by leading the toy drive for the Head Start Organization, when budget cuts caused a shortfall in their program, thus ensuring, no child goes without a present on Christmas.”*



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# Cedar Key Lions Club



[Greg Martin receives the Lions International Foundation Melvin Jones Fellowship award].  
Lion Greg has been a Member since 2021 and is the current club Secretary.

Club President Lion Robert Belair on presenting the Humanitarian Services award, “ We thank Greg, who, working with our club treasurer, got our club designated as a 501(c)3 this year allowing us to enlist more partners in helping us through funding or service programs that were not available to us before.”

Belair continued, “Lion Greg and his wife, Lion Nancy are champions of our Tri-County Outreach Program, traveling throughout the area to food banks promoting our vision program, as well as partnering with other nonprofit organizations to better align our efforts with the need of the community. Lion Greg has also taken on the task of writing grant request and headed up the Lent food drive utilizing drop boxes and Saturday morning donation table in Cedar Key.”



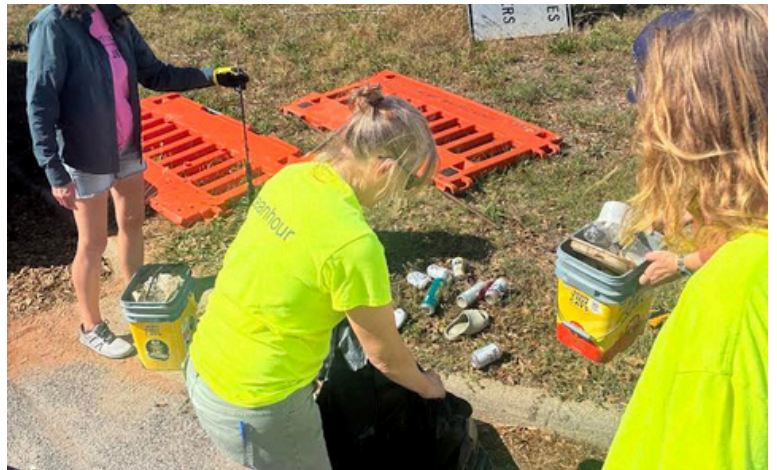


# Gulf Breeze Lions Club

On 4-18-26 some of our club members joined forces with Ocean Hour of Pensacola, FL for a cleanup event at Wayside Park.

Lions Benjamin Russell and Kathleen Marusich had fun with the others in collecting trash to help keep our area clean on this Earth Day weekend.

"We Serve"



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# High Springs Lions Club

With all the wildfires going on around our area especially in Alachua County and Columbia County. We would like to help these brave men and women in battling these fires.

## Immediate Supplies (Active Fire Support)

When fires are actively burning, local departments often request specific consumable items to keep crews hydrated and energized.

Hydration: Bottled water, sports drinks, and electrolyte packets.

Nutrition: High-protein, transportable snacks such as beef jerky, trail mix, and peanut butter crackers.

Personal Care: Chapstick, sunscreen, baby wipes, and cooling towels.

We will be accepting Donations through May 1, 2026 at the High Springs Lions Club 26900 West US Hwy 27 High Springs, Florida 32643

Please place donations by the front door. Thanks.

This will be a long fire season. Please help support those who are keeping us safe.

**LETS SHOW OUR FIREFIGHTERS WHO  
ARE BATTLING THE WILDFIRES  
IN OUR AREA SOME SUPPORT**

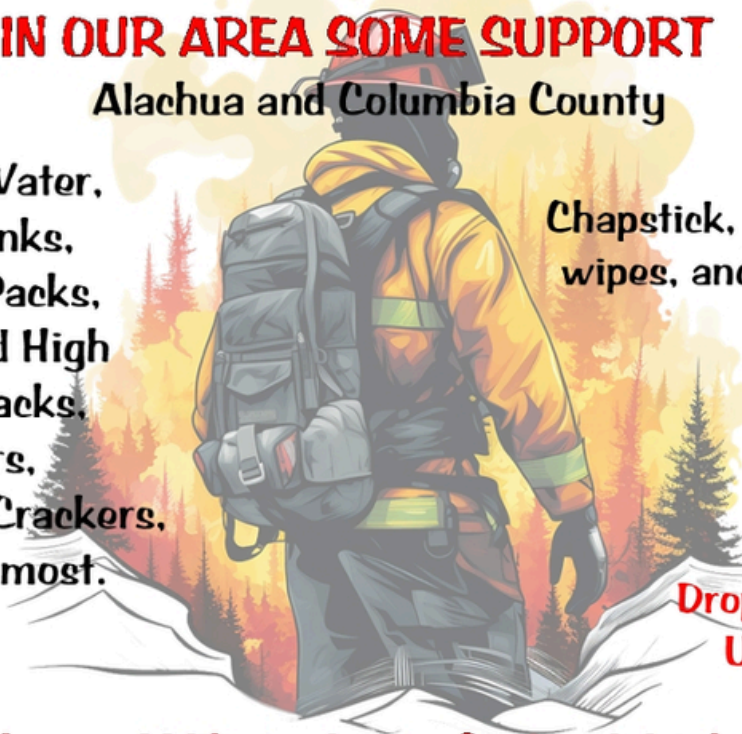
**Alachua and Columbia County**



Items like Water,  
Sports Drinks,  
Electrolyte Packs,  
Prepackaged High  
Protein Snacks,  
Cliff Bars,

Peanut Butter Crackers,  
are needed most.

Chapstick, sunscreen, baby  
wipes, and cooling towels.



**Drop Off Donations  
Until 5/1 /26**

**Anyone who would like to donate food and drinks etc. to the  
hardworking firefighters may do so at the High Springs Lions Club  
26900 West US Hwy 27 High Springs, Florida 32643**





# High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday, March 21st, High Springs Lions Club held its 4th annual Feel the Music event. This event benefits the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine.

Funds are earmarked for extra curricular activities outside of the school day. Without these funds, the kids would not be able to participate in sports, dance or other activities.

Three local bands were on hand to provide the entertainment while the Lions Club cooked up some awesome hot dogs and burgers. A baked goods table, popcorn vendor and an ice cream vendor joined the festivities. A raffle and auction were held to add to the fun!!

We are honored to host this annual event to help such an amazing school!!

**The estimated total raised was \$15,500. 😊**





# Jax Beaches Lions Club



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR  
GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!**



**ARLINGTON LIONS CLUB & RIVER CITY LIONS CLUB**



Two amazing checks – One incredible Lions spirit! We were so honored and happy to welcome Charlie Largen from the Jacksonville Arlington Lions Club and his wife Joann from the River City Lions Club at our last dinner meeting.



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# Jax Beaches Lions Club



## What an incredible day at the Bowl-a-Rama!

We are feeling incredibly grateful as we look back on a fantastic day with our amazing community. The Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club wants to extend a massive THANK YOU to everyone who made today such a striking success:

Our Lane Sponsors: Thank you for your vital financial support and for powering this event!

Our Raffle Donors: We are so grateful to the local businesses and individuals who provided the fantastic prizes that kept the excitement going all day.

The Bowlers & Visitors: Thank you for bringing the energy, the cheers, and the competitive spirit!

Jax Lanes Bowling Center: A huge shoutout to the amazing staff for hosting us and keeping the lanes running smoothly.

Lions Friends & Club Members: A massive thank you to our Club members and friends for their incredible dedication today. From setup to cleanup, you worked with so much heart to make this event happen!

Together, we're making a real difference in our community.





# Jax Beaches Lions Club

Just a few of the MANY pictures.  
Check out their Facebook for more!



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# Jax Beaches Lions Club



## What a wonderful day at the Jacksonville VisionWalk 2026! ☀️

The Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club joined the walk at Jacksonville University.

This important event was organized by the Foundation Fighting Blindness to raise awareness and support for vision research.

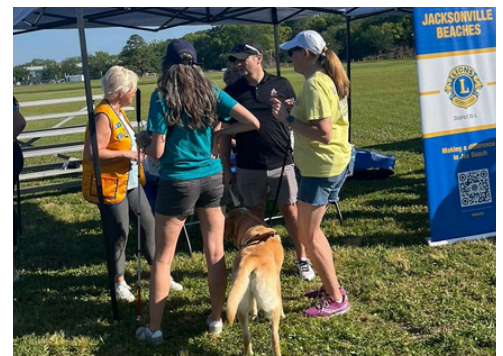
We were so happy to be a part of it!

We had our own table to present our club, helped out where we could, and of course, walked with everyone. 🐕 👤 🗳️ 🗳️ 🗳️

A big thank you to the organizers!

The weather was beautiful, everything was perfectly organized, and the positive energy was just amazing. It was so nice to meet all the friendly people who stopped by our booth.

Thank you for letting us be part of this great cause. We loved every minute of it!



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# Ocala Lions Club



Friday, March 27, 2026 · VOLUME 5 ISSUE 13

## Volunteer project provides more than 250 eye surgeries in Guatemala

Ocala residents lead effort with Lions Clubs to perform over 1,000 eye exams in week

By **DIANE RENYHART**

Ocala Lions Club Past President Lou Barnes traveled to Guatemala in February on his third mission trip to perform eye examinations. He was again accompanied by Nancy Loundes, a retired optician from Ocala.

The three-hour flight from Orlando took them to Guatemala, where they were joined by 26 other VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity – Eyes for God) volunteers. Dr. Paul Anderson, an optometrist and owner of Optical Express in Ocala, is president of VOSH.



A mother and daughter wait to receive eye exams in Guatemala.





# Ocala Lions Club

The group of 28 volunteers traveled to Guatemala and received support from the local Lions Clubs. District Governor Fernando Ruano was there every day to help.

There were also two presidents of local Lions Clubs in Guatemala – Mayra de Roman for the ladies’ club and Jorge Ruano for the men’s club. The ladies handled the registration for eye exams and surgeries. The local Leos’ (high school students who are future Lions) did the running around and acted as translators. The men helped people with mobility issues. They also built a temporary wall in the building to separate surgery patients from those receiving eye exams.

Examinations began at 7 a.m. on Monday morning. There was a line 2 ½ blocks long waiting to be seen. The volunteers worked each day until 6:30 p.m., with a short break for lunch.

The work that was accomplished is amazing. Ophthalmologists performed 54 surgeries the first day, the most ever for a first day. On Thursday, 77 surgeries were performed, a new sin-



Lou Barnes with Lions Club District Governor Fernando Ruano in Guatemala.

gle-day record. More than 1,000 eye exams and 250 surgeries were performed during the week.

On the final day, the volunteers were treated to a buffet-style meal. All 28 volunteers received certificates of appreciation and a Parker Pen with a Lions Club emblem on it.

There were special people that Lou remembers from the trip. One man came in a wheel chair and only had one leg. He needed cataract surgery. The first day, he bought a bag of fruit to share, and the next day he

brought two bags. A little girl ran up to Lou and gave him a hug. He was also given a hat from the Lions Club district governor.

Lou is proud of the work that the team accomplished. If you ever wonder what happens to the glasses that you place in the Lions Club collection boxes, this trip is an example of how they are repurposed. We are fortunate to have volunteers like Lou Barnes and Nancy Loundes and other members of VOSH who help to give the gift of sight to those in need!



Patients receive eye exams in Guatemala as part of a VOSH project.

Photos courtesy Diane Remyhart





# Ocala 200 Lions Club



**Another successful FLEA MARKET. We had 6 of our members participate with a booth (Lions Toni Ancrum, Patti Barto, Harold Frederick, Kim Lau, Bonnie Livingston and Marion Brenon). Special Thanks to Lions Pat Greaves and Sandy Verrier for working the hot dog stand. Special thanks to Lion Alan Verrier for joining me at 5:30 am to put the vendors in their proper spots. Thanks to Lions Helen Anderson and Ken Watroba for working the Lions booth selling merchandise. And thanks to Lion Susan Oliva and John Aaron for working the Lions information booth and collecting the vendor funds. A GREAT DAY!!!**





# Ocala 200 Lions Club



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER LION KIM LAU



**Lion Kim was born in New York from parents that had immigrated from Hong Kong. Along with 2 brothers and a sister Lion Kim attended school in Brooklyn and received her Associate and Bachelor degrees from New York Technical College in Graphic Arts Communications. While in New York, Lion Kim worked for a magazine and real estate agency. Not long ago, Lion Kim, her husband Steve, and two tuxedo cats moved to Ocala. Lion Kim wants to meet and greet new people and wants to be of service helping individuals that are in need. Lion Kim sees her ability to make people feel good as an opportunity to serve those in need, and hence her reason for joining the Ocala 200 Lions Club. Lion Kim is sponsored by Lion Toni Ancrum.**



# Ocala 200 Lions Club

## INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

**Appreciate Lion Toni Ancrum taking over the scheduling for our feedings. In addition to the Lions that provided the food and beverages, Lions Toni, Helen Anderson and Harold Frederick served the meals to over 20 residents.**



# FWB Lions Club & FWB Sonic City

**Fort Walton Beach Lions Club and Sonic City Lions Club team up to help clean their community.**

The Fort Walton Beach and Sonic City Lions sponsor a local stretch of highway through the State Adopt-A-Highway program. One recent Saturday they collected over 200 lbs. of trash! Pictured below are Frances and John Bergschneider, Betty and Mark Reynolds, David Carothers, and Wayne Simpson, ready to get to work!





# Orange Park Lions Club

## Impact Clay Train rolls on as The Orange Park Lions handle the Vision Car!

A group of dedicated Lions knew it was time to “roar with enthusiasm” as the latest Impact Clay train make it latest stop at Green Cove Springs Jr High School. It was a beautiful Saturday morning for this stop and the Lions and others arrived early to get all set up. The Lions are no stranger to this monthly event haven served several times all over the county. Don and Kitty Minor arrived first and set up the club table in front of the Kids First of Florida Mobile Unit where the vision screenings take place. Celia and Dave Vencil arrived for handouts of toys for the kids and readers and glasses cases for the adults. Richard Campbell arrived to help to recruit adults and kids along with the others to get vision screenings and he worked the door for the mobile unit. Mike Powleit arrived with the screening device, and he and Ginger Smietana were there to conduct the screenings and hand out results and info of how folks can get help with eye doctor appointments and glasses. Today was special for the handouts as the Lions are handing out several boxes of Girl scout cookies which went fast! Today’s train overall had 127 visitors, 105 volunteers, hosted 8 haircuts and the Lions did 15 vision screenings and handed out all the cookies and several new readers. The next stop of the train will be on May 15th at Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School from 10AM till Noon. Learn more about Impact Clay Train at [www.ImpactClay.org](http://www.ImpactClay.org). Learn more about the Lions at [WWW.Orangeparklionsclub.com](http://WWW.Orangeparklionsclub.com).



From left to Right: Mike Powleit, Kitty Minor, Celia and Dave Vencil, Don Minor, Ginger Smietana, and Richard Campbell



GREEN COVE SPRINGS

April 2026

VOLUNTEERS WITH A HEART TO SERVE



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# Orange Park Lions Club

## **Orange Park Lions Club takes part in Earth Day all year round.**

Lions Clubs all around the world support Earth Day by organizing hands-on environmental service projects that strengthen local communities and promote sustainability. Their efforts span beautification, cleanups, recycling, education, and global environmental initiatives.

As Earth Day approached this year, I was put to the task of what to do for a service project this year. A lot of clubs plant trees: we have done that. A lot of clubs help the environment by picking up trash along roads or in public parks. Other clubs around the world designate a day to distribute water filters to families and schools. All these ideas and projects are wonderful, and we will do them again soon. Other projects include recycling. Then it dawned on me that we recycle all year round in multiple ways!

Lions are all about vision. We will do anything to help with Vision. Helen Keller in 1925 challenged Lions Club International to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness” Lions Club today do this in many ways. The Orange Park Lions Club does this every day. One of the biggest ways is to collect and recycle used donated glasses. We have donation boxes all over the area at multiple doctor offices and other locations. We even have a big yellow converted mailbox at the front of our lot to collect glasses and other items. Volunteers from our club spend many hours sorting thousands of glasses and cases. These include prescription glasses, reading glasses, sunglasses and even hearing aids! Usable glasses are boxed up for humanitarian distribution. They are taken to groups that do medical missions overseas (Organizations like VOSH) and vision clinics (Arlington Eye Institute) and serve people who can't afford eye care. Many recipients receive corrected vision for the first time, enabling them to work, study and support their families. Donated new readers are distributed for free at local community outreach programs like The Impact Clay Train all over the county.

continued...





# Orange Park Lions Club

A recent recycling program that the Orange Park Lions Club participates in is called “Cell Phones for Soldiers” This is a nonprofit organization that provides free communications services and emergency support to active-duty military members and veterans. They collect donated cell phones and tablets all over the US. These phones and tablets are repaired and sold and the proceeds from the sales are used to buy international calling cards for deployed American soldiers all over the world so that they can stay connected to their loved ones. These calling cards are provided for free. The Orange Park Lions Club uses their big yellow collection box on their lot to collect these cell phones and tablets.

The third recycling project involves collecting and recycling plastic. This is done through a company called Trex. The program is called “NexTrex Recycling Project” Groups like the Lions Club collect plastic film (like grocery bags, bubble wrap and case overwrap). The project accepts a lot of items not allowed in curbside recycling. The groups participating collect the plastic, weigh it, take pictures of the bags, record it on Trex website and take it to a designated collection site (Publix, Winn Dixie, etc.). From there the plastic is transported to the Trex corporation to be processed and turned into Trex decking. Lions donate to these collections and groups that meet at their clubhouse also donate. The groups are awarded items like benches if enough plastic is collected in a year. The Orange Park Lions Club has collected over 2000 lbs. of plastic (keeping them out of landfills) for over 2 years and has so far earned 2 benches that they have donated to community locations. It is truly a Win Win situation!

In summary, The Orange Park Lions Club does their “Earth Day” duties all year round and will keep doing so.

Mike Poweleit  
Secretary  
Orange Park Lions Club



# We Are the Orange Park Lions Club

By C.B. Crosby  
Earth Day, 2026

We are the Orange Park Lions Club.  
Not builders of monuments,  
but builders of second chances.

We walk this earth not to take from it,  
but to give back what others left behind—  
lifting what was forgotten  
and placing it gently back into purpose.

A pair of glasses, worn and set aside,  
becomes a window for someone far away.  
Through our hands, darkness steps aside,  
and the world returns in color and form.

We gather plastic bags,  
not as refuse, but as promise—  
reshaped into benches  
where laughter will rest,  
where stories will be told,  
where community will sit together again.

We recover silent phones  
and quiet hearing aids,  
so voices may return  
and the music of life may be heard once more.

These are small things, the world might say.  
But Lions understand what the world forgets—

That sight is never small.  
That hearing is never small.  
That dignity is never small.

We serve not for praise,  
not for recognition,  
but because service is who we are.

The earth knows our footsteps.  
The earth knows our hands.

And on this Earth Day,  
as on every day,  
we stand together—

Guardians of hope,  
Keepers of compassion,  
Servants of humanity.

We are the Orange Park Lions Club.  
And this is our promise to the earth,  
and to each other.





# Tallahassee Lions Club



## City Honors Longtime Public Servant Dave Lang

February 25, 2026

Former Clerk of Court Dave Lang will soon be honored for his 42 years of exemplary service to Tallahassee and Leon County with a street in his name. On Monday, March 2, within a bird’s-eye view of the Leon County Courthouse and Tallahassee City Hall, East Jefferson Street from S. Monroe to S. Calhoun streets will be named Dave Lang Street. To mark the occasion, a celebration will be held at 10 a.m., 215 S. Monroe St., adjacent to the courthouse.

At its meeting on Jan. 14, 2026, the Tallahassee City Commission unanimously approved the renaming. Lang is a lifelong Floridian and sixth-generation descendant of a family that first settled in Florida in 1784. With family members residing in Tallahassee since 1885, his personal history is deeply interwoven with the development, governance and civic life of Leon County.

After earning a degree in public administration at Florida State University, Lang immediately joined the U.S. Army, serving with the 2nd Armored Division in Occupied Germany. He continued his military service with the Army Reserve, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Among his military accomplishments, Lang was awarded the Army Humanitarian Service Medal for meritorious participation in the 1980 Cuban Boat Lift Operation. He began his career in Leon County government in 1959, serving as Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, before being elected in 1992 as Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts. Lang is credited with modernizing the Clerk’s office by computerizing all departments and becoming the first clerk of court in the U.S. to place court records online for public access, increasing minority employment, and instituting the child support enforcement program. He retired in 2001, after guiding the office through the historic 2000 Presidential Election.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Lang has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community affairs and civic engagement, serving on numerous boards, including the John G. Riley Foundation Board of Directors for nearly 30 years, vice president of Habitat for Humanity, and president of the Tallahassee Lions Club, Tallahassee Historical Society and Springtime Tallahassee. He currently serves as a Lay Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter’s Anglican Cathedral.

As a young boy, Lang wanted to be an archaeologist but later decided to be a “historical archaeologist,” researching and collecting local and state history, especially since his retirement. A popular speaker and author, Lang’s work has helped preserve and interpret the rich history of Tallahassee and Leon County for future generations.

<https://www.talgov.com/Main/News/5980>



District  
35L

**ROAR with Pride!**

**Share your clubs  
achievements.**

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**NEWSLETTER**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

FLDistrict35L@gmail.com

All submissions due by the 26th of the month.

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