

Lions Insight

DISTRICT 35L
◆
Informational
Newsletter

District 35-L Needs a Leader

SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR WANTED

Are you ready to serve at the next level?
Qualified Lions are encouraged to step forward.

See newsletter for qualifications
Contact District Leadership for details

District 35-L Newsletter
Brittney Young
FLdistrict35L@gmail.com

Send all newsletter and website items by the 26th of the month.

Photos are used if the quality and content are suitable. If possible, the name or names of the person or persons shown in a photo must accompany the photo.

Photos can be accepted as JPEG or PNG.

Email articles as plain text typed body of email, PDF, or as a Microsoft Word attachment.

Include Club Name, Contact person's email, phone number, and a physical address. All Events must have a date, location, and time. Raffles need to be sent with where to buy tickets.



District Governor Message

Embracing Change: Keeping Lionism Strong for the Future

There was a time when we relied on rotary phones and pulled into gas stations where attendants filled our tanks and checked our oil. **Life has changed**, and we've adapted without hesitation because it made things more efficient, more convenient, and more connected. Yet when it comes to Lionism, some of us are still holding on to "the way we've always done it" as if change is something to resist rather than embrace.

But here's the reality: if we don't evolve, we don't grow.

Lions Clubs International has made a significant, intentional push over the past several years to modernize how we serve, communicate, and lead. From updated service frameworks to new leadership tools, from digital reporting systems to global initiatives that speak to today's challenges—these aren't changes for the sake of change. They are strategic efforts to ensure that Lionism remains relevant, impactful, and attractive to future generations.

Younger members are not resistant to service—they are resistant to **outdated systems**. They want to make a difference, but they also expect flexibility, clarity, and modern communication. If we continue operating with outdated Constitutions, By-Laws, and Policy Manuals that no longer reflect how the world works, we create barriers instead of opportunities.

Growth doesn't happen by standing still. It happens when we align ourselves with progress.

This is especially important for those who have served in leadership roles over the past five years. Experience is valuable—but only when it continues to grow. The landscape of Lionism is not what it was even a short time ago. New training opportunities, updated expectations, and global initiatives have reshaped how we lead. Taking the time to learn, attend training sessions, and truly understand these changes isn't optional—**it's necessary**.

And let's be clear: this is not about losing tradition. It's about strengthening it.

Our core mission—service, community, compassion—remains unchanged. What must change is how we carry that mission forward. When we modernize our approach, we don't diminish Lionism; we ensure it survives and thrives.

If we want our districts and clubs to grow, if we want to welcome new generations of Lions, and if we want to continue making a meaningful impact in our communities, **we must be willing to adapt**. That means reviewing and updating our governing documents, embracing new tools, and committing to ongoing learning.

Change isn't the threat. Stagnation is.

The question is not whether Lionism will change—it already has. The question is whether we, as Lions, will rise to meet it.

Yours in Lionism,

Suzi Rodgers



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 29th. 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, Brittny 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.



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

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

Eligibility Requirements

A candidate for Second Vice District Governor must:

1. **Be an Active Member in good standing** of a chartered Lions club in good standing within the district.
2. **Secure endorsement** from his/her club or a majority of the clubs in the district.
3. **Have served or will have served at the time of taking office as:**
 - An officer of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof; AND
 - A member of the district cabinet for a full term or major portion thereof(These may not be accomplished concurrently)
4. **Must not have completed a full term or major portion thereof as District Governor.**

Important Dates & Process

• Application Deadline:

All applications must be submitted to District Governor Suzi Rodgers at

 lionsuzirodgers2@gmail.com

 **No later than May 18 at 6:00 PM CST**

• Candidate Session (via Zoom):

 May 21

 5:30 PM CST/6:30 PM EST

Candidates **must be available** to:

- ✓ Speak before the selection committee
- ✓ Respond to questions

• Voting:

Voting will take place via Zoom **immediately** following the candidate session.

Continues on next page.



Continued

✦ Leadership Commitment & Expectations

This position is part of a **three-year leadership progression**:

- **2026–2027**: Second Vice District Governor
- **2027–2028**: First Vice District Governor
- **2028–2029**: District Governor

Throughout this journey, candidates should be prepared for:

- Ongoing training opportunities
- Required District Meetings
- Required Multiple District Meetings
- Required Council of Governors Meetings
- Club visits throughout the district

As District Governor, you will be **officially inducted by Lions International** at the International Convention in

📍 **Singapore – June 23–27, 2028** (covered by *Lions International*)

Serving as Second Vice District Governor is an opportunity to **grow, lead, and make a lasting impact** across District 35-L. This role helps develop future leadership, strengthen clubs, and expand our service to those in need.

Together, we continue to serve with purpose and impact.

If you have questions or would like more information, please reach out to District leadership.

In Service,
District 35-L Leadership

ANY PDGS PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR VOTING INFORMATION!





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.



Membership Contest Results

As of March 2026

🏆 1st Place Club will receive:

- A membership patch for your banner
- Patches for members who sponsor new Lions
- \$10 for each new member
- Recognition in the district newsletter
- Feature on the district website
- And of course... bragging rights for the year

🏆 2nd Place:

- Certificate of recognition
- \$5 for each new member

🏆 3rd Place:

- Certificate of recognition

🔥 Current Standings – Let's Recognize Our Leaders

Right now, here are the clubs leading the way in net gain percentage:

- 🏆 1 Ocala OTOW – 33.33% net gain
- 🏆 2 St. Augustine – 13.33% net gain
- 🏆 3 Orange Park – 13.04% net gain
- Cedar Key – 11.11% net gain
- Interlachen – 10% net gain
- Jacksonville Beaches – 9.3% net gain
- Crestview – 8.33% net gain
- Middleburg Black Creek – 8.33% net gain
- Panama City – 8.33% net gain

👉 This contest is still wide open.

A few new members in your club can completely change these standings.

So if your club isn't on this list yet— you absolutely still have time to get there.


Membership Contest Results

As of March 2026


What's in It for Individual Lions?


- The Lion who sponsors the most new members will receive the Carl Harrell Award, along with a vest patch
- Their name will also be entered into a \$250 drawing

And—

 Every Lion who brings in a new member gets entered into a drawing for “Most Lions Recruited”

These are the members who have already stepped up and brought in new Lions:

- From Jacksonville Arlington – Cedric Young, who has added 4 new members 
- From St. Augustine – Charles Bonfante, with 2 new members
- From Cedar Key – Faye Saunders, with 2 new members
- From Cedar Key – Dave Schiess, also with 2 new members
- From Dunnellon – Walter Vosburgh, with 2 new members

 Every single one of us in this room has the ability to bring in at least one new member.

And remember— every new member you bring in not only helps your club... it puts your name in the running for individual recognition and prizes.

How to Get Started?

Here are a few simple ways your club can jump in right away:

- Host a membership night or invite-a-friend meeting
- Share what your club is doing on social media
- Get new members involved quickly with meaningful roles
- Reach out to former Lions—you might be surprised who wants to come back
- Celebrate your successes and share your story





**BE READY WHEN
DISASTER STRIKES**

HELP US STOCK OUR DISASTER RELIEF TRAILERS



**SHOP OUR
AMAZON REGISTRY**



**NO PERISHABLE
ITEMS
(FOOD, ETC.)**



**HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE?
EMAIL US FIRST!**
fldistrict35L@gmail.com
so we can remove them
from the list.



SUGGEST AN ITEM?
Let us know if there's
something we should
add to the list!



TOGETHER, WE CAN BE PREPARED, EQUIPPED & READY TO SERVE.

👉 View the registry here:

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/28AAL6RVPR2K6?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_GNCSAD04XT3Y3MZEM22K



BACK TO TOP

Disaster Relief Needs – Amazon Registry

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen our disaster response, we are building and stocking our Disaster Relief Trailers so we can be ready to serve immediately when disaster strikes.

👉 **View the registry here:**

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/28AAL6RVPR2K6?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_GNCSADO4XT3Y3MZEM22K

How the Amazon Registry Works

An Amazon registry is simply a list of needed items that supporters can purchase directly.

You can click the link and browse the list

Choose an item you'd like to donate

Purchase it directly through Amazon

The item is automatically marked as “purchased” to prevent duplicates

It ships directly to us so we can organize and deploy quickly

This helps ensure we receive exactly what is needed and stay organized.

Important Notes

! Please do NOT donate perishable items (food, etc.)

These trailers must be stocked with items that can withstand long-term storage and Florida heat conditions.

Already have items to donate?

If you have supplies but prefer not to purchase through Amazon, please email:

fldistrict35L@gmail.com

So we can remove those items from the registry and avoid duplicates.

Have ideas for items we may have missed?

We welcome your input! Please email suggestions so we can continue improving the list.

Why This Matters

These supplies will go directly into our disaster trailers—allowing Lions to respond quickly, efficiently, and effectively when our communities need us most.

Together, we can make sure we are prepared, equipped, and ready to serve.





ONLINE DIRECTORY

Month of May Holidays and Special Events

National Sight-Saving Month

Speech and Hearing Awareness Month

Strengthen Membership Month

May 5

Cinco de Mayo

May 5 - 11

Deaf Awareness Week

May 6 - 12

National Nurses Week

May 4-8

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6

National Nurses Day

May 10

Mother's Day

May 11 - May 17

National Police Week

May 15

International Day of the Family

May 20

Dr. William Perry Woods Birthday - First President of LCI in 1917

May 26

Memorial Day

May 28

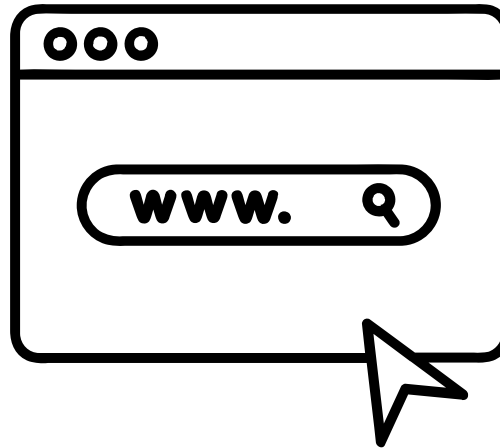
World Hunger Day



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

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](#)



Awards and Contests

Lions do not serve others in order to receive rewards. The rewards they seek are less tangible, but no less real. Lions' rewards lie in the satisfaction of demonstrating their commitment to the work of Lionism; serving as an effective team member on club, district and international projects and activities; and focusing on the community in terms of less fortunate individuals and projects and activities for the betterment of the community.

While the purpose of being a member of this wonderful organization is not to receive awards, we do recognize that members who make a significant contribution are deserving of recognition, encouragement, and appreciation. We encourage every club and every member to become familiar with the available awards and work toward obtaining one or more. Nominations should be submitted to the appropriate Awards Chair by the dates indicated for each award.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications. See lionsclubs.org for International Awards.

Governor's Achievement Award – New Lion

This award is designed to assist the NEW LION member to become thoroughly familiar and fully involved in the activities and purposes of Lionism.

This award is available only to NEW members in their first year of membership, beginning with induction.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Anchor Award

The purpose of this award is to provide recognition for the "Grass Root Lions" who are the anchors and stability of our association.

The club secretary shall collect each tally sheet, tabulate its points, and submit it to the District Awards chair by July 31st of each year to be eligible.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Order of the Golden Chain

Any Lion who completes the requirements between January 1st and December 31st shall earn the Golden Chain Award. The award may be earned each year the qualifications are met.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Governor's Achievement Award – Transfer Lion

This award is designed to assist the new Transfer Lion to become thoroughly familiar and fully involved in the activities and purposes of Lionism. This award is available only to new Transfer Lions in their first year of membership, beginning with induction into the club they transferred.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Peace Poster

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity.

www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/youth/peace-poster

35L Chair: Blanche Day

lionblanche2015@gmail.com



Awards and Contests

Dr. Walter H. Campbell Pilot Award for Lionism

The Pilot Award is designed to recognize a Past District Governor (PDG) in each of the Districts, and a PDG in MD-35, with a prestigious award for outstanding efforts, dedication, and contributions during the preceding calendar year on behalf of Lionism. All entries must be submitted to the Multiple District 35 (MD) Office and postmarked no later than January 31st of the following year to the contest.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Millard Conklin Crusader for Lionism Award

The Millard Conklin Crusader for Lionism Award is designed to encourage participation of "Grass Root" Lions in each district and club and to select one from each district to be rewarded for outstanding dedication and contributions for their current calendar year efforts made to Lionism, and to be presented for a District award. The award shall cover the accomplishments realized only during the contest period from January 1st through December 31st of each calendar year

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

Membership Satisfaction Award

When a Lions club meets or exceeds the expectations of its members, it leads to membership satisfaction and retention. Satisfied members will keep coming back, which will keep your club healthy and vital to the community

See lionsclubs.org for International Awards.

See www.district35l.com/award-information for ALL Awards information and applications.

See lionsclubs.org for International Awards.

District 35-L Newsletter

Brittny Young

FLdistrict35L@gmail.com

Send all newsletter and website items by the 26th of the month.

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Include Club Name, Contact person's email, phone number, and a physical address. All Events must have a date, location, and time. Raffles need to be sent with where to buy tickets.



DISTRICT 35-L PRE-CABINET MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 11, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 9:52 a.m.

Location: Tallahassee Moose Lodge
1478 Capital Circle NW, Tallahassee

These minutes have been prepared by Brittany Young, District 35L Secretary.

Members Present:

1VDG George Niles, 2VDG Susan Oliva, PCC Stanley Rodgers, PDG Tony Stefanowicz, IPDG Greg Seltzer, PDG Bobby Wright, John Hopkins, Sue Hooten, Brittany Young, Debbie Duncan

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by 1VDG George Niles, who presided in the absence of the District Governor due to health concerns.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were presented. Motion was made to add John Hopkins to the members that attended the meeting in January.

- Motion to approve minutes as amended: IPDG Greg Seltzer
- Second: PDG Tony Stefanowicz
- Vote: Approved unanimously

Disaster Trailer Update

- Liability insurance has been secured for both trailers; documentation is included with registration.
- Physical damage insurance is not available due to depreciation; cargo insurance is an option.
- Recommendation made to use charcoal grills instead of propane for safety and availability in disaster areas.
- Discussion included Avoid storing perishable items in trailers.
- The trailer is currently awaiting tire replacement and wheel bearing service before relocation to High Springs.
- Denise and Mike Williams will oversee storage and readiness once repairs are completed.
- Barbara Kowats will be appointed as Disaster Chairperson for the 2026-2027 Lion Year.
- Plans include:
 - Updating the district disaster plan
 - Coordinating with FEMA, Red Cross, and OSHA for trainings

Disaster Supplies & Organization

- Clubs will donate supplies for the trailer (not pre-made "blessing bags").
- A registry (Amazon-Style) will be created for clubs and individuals to donate items. This will ensure multiple of the same items are not purchased. Everything will be shipped directly to Denise Williams.
- Reminder to ensure donated items are new, usable, and not expired

Starlink Communication System

- Proposal to purchase a Starlink Mini Kit for disaster communication.
- Cost: ~\$249 equipment, \$165/month active use, \$5/month standby.
- Motion to purchase one unit (pending possible sale, to be acquired by June 1):
 - Motion made by 2VDG Susan Oliva
 - Seconded by Debbie Duncan
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
 - Brittany Young to handle setup and activation

Hearing Foundation Update

- New officers elected:
 - President: Kathleen Marusich
 - Vice President: Diane Renyhart
 - Secretary: Bobby Jackson
 - Treasurer: Tony Stefanowicz
- Board structure and bylaws require updates.
- Immediate actions:
 - File the state of FL non-profit filing
 - Update banking signatures
 - Continue meetings over the next 3 months to move operations forward

Club Status & Closures

- Discussion on inactive clubs with outstanding dues and lack of communication:
 - Keystone-Melrose Lions Club
 - DeFuniak Springs Lions Club
- Motion to close both clubs:
 - Motion made by 2 VDG Susan Oliva
 - Seconded by IPDG Greg Seltzer
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
- Emphasis placed on stopping further financial losses to the district.

New Club Development

- Efforts ongoing in Bellevue area.
- Concerns noted about low membership in some existing clubs.
- Plans to apply for:
 - New club development
 - Membership growth initiatives
 - Club revitalization grants

Disaster Trailer Supplies Reimbursement

- Debbie Duncan purchased storage totes and securing materials totaling \$165.49 to organize trailer contents.
- Motion to reimburse:
 - Motion made by PDG Greg Seltzer
 - Seconded by 2VDG Susan Oliva
 - Vote: Approved unanimously

Nominations

- PCC Stanley Rodgers discussed nominations for 2VDG and the process that would happen during the Advisory Meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned following completion of business at 9:52 AM

DISTRICT 35-L ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 11, 2026

Time: 10:30 a.m.- 2:40 p.m.

Location: Tallahassee Moose Lodge

1478 Capital Circle NW, Tallahassee

These minutes have been prepared by Brittany Young, District 35L Secretary.

In Attendance: Alachua (1), Calhoun-Liberty (1), Chattahoochee (2), Chipley Falling Waters (2), Fleming Island (1), Gulf Breeze (1), Jacksonville RAW (1), Jax Lions Quest of 35-L Cyber (2), Jefferson County (2), Lynn Haven 2 (1), Ocala 200 (1), Ocala Fort King (2), Palatka New Vision (1), Pensacola (1), Quincy (2), Tallahassee (6), Turkey Creek (2)

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by 1VDG George Niles, who presided in the absence of the District Governor due to health concerns.

Call to Order

- Invocation - Led by IPDG Greg Seltzer
- Pledge of Allegiance- Led by Tallahassee Lion Carolyn
- Welcome and introduction of head table Given by James Lee, President of Tallahassee Club
- Roll Call - Conducted by Brittany Young

Approval of Minutes

- Motion made by 2VDG Susan Oliva and seconded by Debbie Duncan to approve January 24, 2026 minutes
- Result: Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Reporting period: January 2026 through March 2026

Presented by John Hopkins

- Income: \$15,394.36
- Expenses: \$11,262.18
- Net Gain: ~\$4,100

Account Balances:

- Operating: \$30,451.44
- Restricted: \$59,930.46
 - Disaster Relief: \$55,391
 - KidSight: \$2,243
 - Lions Quest: \$1,800

Pre-Cabinet Meeting Discussion

Led by 1VDG George Niles

Key Topics:

- Second disaster trailer preparation
- Need for:
 - Zone Chairs
 - Leadership development
 - 2nd Vice District Governor
- Declining membership concerns
- Importance of:
 - Club collaboration
 - Communication
 - Recruitment

District Nominations

Facilitated by PCC Stan Rodgers

- No qualified candidate accepted nomination for 2nd Vice District Governor
- Nominations closed

Outcome:

- Special election process to be initiated per Lions International rules

Peace Poster Program

Presented by Lion Blanche Day

- Limited participation this year (Ocala 200 submitted)
- Program details:
 - Ages 11–13
 - Deadline: November 10
- Clubs encouraged to:
 - Partner with schools early
 - Increase submissions

GAT REPORTS

GST / GET – Service & Growth

Presented by 1VDG George Niles

- Emphasis on:
 - Service visibility in communities
 - Reporting service in Lions Portal
 - Supporting struggling clubs
 - Membership growth through service

GLT – Leadership Training

Presented by 2VDG Susan Oliva

- Officer Training:
 - June 6, 2026
 - Orange Park Lions Club
- Covers all officer roles
- Additional training planned for August

GMT – Membership

Presented by Brittany Young

Membership Status:

- -122 members lost
- +121 gained
- Net decline

Requirement:

- Minimum 1,250 members to remain a district

Contest (Jan–June):

- Incentives:
 - Banner patches
 - Cash prizes
 - Recognition

Strategies:

- Invite-a-friend meetings
- Social media visibility
- Re-engaging former members

Lions Saving Sight

Presented by:

- PDG Bobby Wright, President of Lions Saving Sight
- Judy Seltzer, Director of Operations

Highlights:

- Rebranding from Florida Foundation for the Blind
- Expanded services:
 - Cataract surgery
 - Laser procedures
 - Complex eye care

Impact:

- District cases increased to ~40 this year

Needs:

- More physician partners
- Club referrals
- Financial support

Northeast Florida Lions Hearing Aid Bank

Presented by 2VDG Susan Oliva

Updates:

- New officers elected:
 - President: Kathleen Marusich
 - Vice President: Diane Renyhart
 - Secretary: Bobby Jackson
 - Treasurer: Tony Stefanowicz

New Program:

- Partnership with Starkey
- Hearing aid bank can help pay for the application fee

Club Bragging

Several clubs shared service and fundraising updates:

- Tallahassee, Chattahoochee, Alachua, Jefferson County, Ocala Fort King, Lynn Haven 2,

Guest Speaker Introduction

- Introduced by PCC Stan Rodgers

Guest Speaker - Dr. Rita Smith

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Overview:

- Largest centralized juvenile system in the U.S.
- Focus on:
 - Prevention
 - Reducing recidivism

Key Stats:

- Arrests reduced from 148K → 42K
- Recidivism reduced by ~10%

Programs:

- Prevention programs (youth outreach)
- Civil citation (avoid arrest)
- Education (virtual school system)
- Mental health & medical care

Final Nomination Status

- No 2nd Vice District Governor candidate
- Special election process to proceed

Adjournment

- Motion made by Brad Ashberry from Chattahoochee, seconded by Debbie Duncan, and approved
- Meeting adjourned

Important Dates

- April 18–26: Worldwide Service Initiative (Environment)
- May 1–3: MD35 Convention – Orlando
- June 6: Club Officer Training – Orange Park
- Sept 3–5: USA/Canada Leadership Forum – Memphis



Kindness matters.
At home and around the world