

DISTRICT 35 L

LIONS INSIGHT



DISTRICT GOVERNOR
GEORGE NILES
— INVITES YOU TO THE —

Charter
CELEBRATION
— OF THE —

BAKER LIONS CLUB

 **DATE**
MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

 **TIME**
6:00 PM CDT

 **LOCATION**
BLACKMAN COMMUNITY CENTER
7590 FL HWY 189 | BAKER, FLORIDA

 **POT LUCK DINNER**
Meats provided by the Baker Lions

 **RSVP**
LION LOU JONES
(850) 533-9790
lou.1941@yahoo.com

WELCOMING LETTERS, CARDS,
GIFTS, OR DONATIONS MAY BE
PRESENTED AT CHARTER NIGHT
OR MAY BE SENT TO:

Lion Lou Jones
4686 Cahokia Run
Crestview, FL 32536

TOGETHER,
We Serve.



Note from the Editor: There will only be ONE Newsletter this month. Thank you for your support.

District Governor Message

August 12, 2026 we have our first district cabinet meeting at the Arlington Lions club. Attendance was good. It would have been better to have more clubs represented. Attending the cabinet meetings allows clubs to exchange new ideas and always listen to our guest speakers. PCC Lou Jones and PDG Tony Stefanowicz spoke on membership and the need to reach new members. Afterwords PDG Gerg Seltzer spoke on Guiding Lions and their need in our district.

It looks like clubs are pushing forward with service activities and this is great since our International President Mark Lyon is all about service. New lions prospects can be invited to see or be a part of our service projects. We need to show them what we can do to support the needs of our communities.

Looking forward to see more clubs involved in community service projects.

Remember "We serve"

District Governor George Niles



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)



President

Vice President

Secretary/Lion Portal

Treasurer

Membership Chair

Service Chair

Marketing Chair

Club Officer Training Seminar

District 35 L is considering a second training session for Club Officers

If there is interest expressed, this would be scheduled for a Saturday in September or October. Location would be in the midwest area of the District.

Please contact FVDG Susan Oliva, District GLT, by September 8th if you are interested in attending.

soliva313@gmail.com



BACK TO TOP

A lion character with a large mane, wearing a colorful Hawaiian shirt with pink flamingos and tan shorts, stands on a sandy beach at night. He is holding a coconut drink with a small umbrella. In the background, there's a beach with palm trees, a small boat, and a building with lights. A wooden sign on the right reads "MULTIPLE DISTRICT 35 CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 6-8 JOIN US!". A circular QR code is in the upper left.

November Fall Conference Registration is LIVE!

Either click on the sign
or scan the QR code
with your phone or
tablet to register.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 35
CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 6-8
JOIN US!

Join us in Orlando at the Florida Hotel for
interesting and informative seminars
and of course FUN!



District Governor's Club Membership Goals:



We want your Club to focus
on Three Primary Goals

- 1 Increasing Your Club growth
by 5 Members by June 30th
2. Sponsoring a Club Branch
by September 30th.
- 3 .Or, Sponsor a new New
Club December 30th

What is a Club Branch?

- **Requires at least five new or existing members.**
- **Hold independent meetings.**
- **Allows you to expand your service into new areas.**
- **Accommodates members' needs.**
- **Helps to leverage and diversify Lions club membership.**
- **Is part of an existing "parent" club.**

What are the benefits of a Club Branch?

Expanding your membership!

- A club branch will allow your club to expand your service impact to serve more individuals.
- Forming a club branch will expand your club's pool of leaders, while providing additional leadership and development opportunities.
- A club branch will help expand the vision of a parent club while improving the public view, engagement, and relationship with your Lions club.
- Increases your club's fellowship and can create diversity in your club.



MISSION1.5

For more info:
Contact Lion Lou at
(850)533-9790 or
lou.1941@yahoo.com





PARADE *of* CHECKS



Donations to Entities

Of our 50 clubs, the following have donated to various organizations during the first quarter of the year. Listed below are the amounts each club donated and the amount of donation to each organization. If you send a donation directly to an organization, please inform me so you can receive credit. You still have three opportunities to donate at the next District Meetings.

KEEP IN MIND - SENDING OR HANDING CHECKS TO ME DOES NOT QUALIFY AN LCI REPORT. YOU MUST ALSO SUBMIT THIS INFORMATION ON THE LION PORTAL.

Donated	Club	Organization	Received
\$2,200.00	Alachua	Lions Saving Sight	\$5,350.00
\$4,000.00	Cedar Key	Paragon Service Dogs	\$100.00
\$700.00	Crestview	LCIF	\$4,600.00
\$275.00	Gainesville	Conklin Center	\$1,050.00
\$50,000.00	Jacksonville Arlington	District 35L Disaster Relief	\$6,372.00
\$3,000.00	Jacksonville Beaches	North Florida Lions Eye Foundation	\$10,700.00
\$176,500.00	Jacksonville River City	Dogs, Inc.	\$6,625.00
\$100.00	Jacksonville RAW	Leader Dog	\$6,175.00
\$1,500.00	McIntosh	KidSight	\$1,000.00
\$3,250.00	Ocala	Diabetes Awareness Foundation	\$6,225.00
\$2,100.00	Ocala 200	Florida Center for the Blind	\$3,669.48
\$11,439.17	Ocala Ft. King	Florida School for the Deaf & Blind	\$6,700.00
\$3,422.00	Ocala On Top Of the World	Arlington Eye Clinic/Recycling	\$41,100.00
\$850.00	Turkey Creek	Lions Quest	\$2,025.00
		District 35L Hearing Aid	\$75.00
		Other	\$157,569.69
\$259,336.17	TOTAL		\$259,336.17

Thanks to all for the generous donations; keep up the great work!



PDG, Tony Stefanowicz
District 35L Administrator

386-853-0416
governortony@yahoo.com







MD 35

MARK LYON'S WEEKS OF SERVICE

Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead.

Three weeks. Three powerful causes.
ONE GLOBAL IMPACT.



LIONS SERVE. COMMUNITIES THRIVE.



TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!



VISION

OCTOBER 8-18, 2026

Opening eyes. Changing lives.

Promote eye health and support sight-saving initiatives in your community and around the world.



YOUTH

FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027

Empower today. Lead tomorrow.

Invest in our youth through service, mentorship, and programs that build brighter futures.



ENVIRONMENT

MAY 29-JUNE 6, 2027

Protect today. Preserve tomorrow.

Take action to care for our planet through sustainability, conservation, and clean community initiatives.

BE A LION. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

GET INVOLVED. INVITE OTHERS. HAVE FUN!

Core Values of Lionism



SERVICE



DEDICATION
TO EXCELLENCE



INTEGRITY



COLLABORATION



DIVERSITY



INNOVATION

“
TOGETHER,
WE SERVE MORE.
TOGETHER,
WE CHANGE LIVES.”



BACK TO TOP



 **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

Alachua Lions Club

BACKPACKS AND BLESSINGS

The Alachua Lions participated in the Annual Backpacks and Blessings event at the Promised Land Family Ministries facility in Lake Butler, on August 8. The event provided school supplies for many area children while also providing vision and health screenings for area residents.

Promised Land provides food for many families in a multi-county area with their monthly food distribution, on-going tutoring for school children, and agricultural education at the 54-acre facility. The organization served over 7,600 people in 2025. The Alachua Lions provided water for the Backpacks and Blessings event and works with the organization on various programs throughout the year. You can check out the organization at PromisedLandFM.org.



Standing is Maya Levy. Seated left to right is Gladys McMillian, Pam McElroy, Terri Warrington and Tory Klein.



Left to Right - Maya Levy, Gladys McMillian, Terri Warrington, Pam McElroy, Tory Klein, Rebecca and John Hall, Co-Founders of PLFM.



Picture to the Left: John Hall, Co-Founder of PLFM, Lions Katy Plein, Gladys McMillian and Joel DeCoursey.



Alachua Lions Club

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Pictured left to right are: ALC President Jess Irby, Lion Gladys McMillian, Ramsey, Brad and Robyn Stanley.

Ramsey Stanley, a recent graduate of Santa Fe High School, was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Alachua Lions Club. Ramsey will attend Georgia State University this fall where she will begin her studies in Early Childhood Education, with an emphasis on agriculture.

During her 4 years at SFHS she was very active in various organizations and served as President of her Freshman class. In addition to these roles, she was also the Parliamentarian of the Student Body and a member of the FFA Club.



Pictured left to right: Lions Jim Emerson, Jack Zuidema, Gib Coerper, Tommy Harris, Bill Johnson, Paul Good and Gladys McMillian

HAPPY "80TH" TO BILL JOHNSON

Past President William "Bill" Johnson celebrated his 80th birthday on July 31, and all of the club members were invited to join him and his family for the celebration. Bill was roasted by many of his colleagues who told stories of how very valuable he was to them during the time that he served as their mentor in the pharmaceutical sales industry.

Alachua Lions Club

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

As students returned to Irby Elementary School for the new school year, the Alachua Lions continued its annual event of providing parking assistance for students and parents on August 10th and 11th. The club originally started this project in 1993 and look forward to it each year. This year marked the 34th year that the club has provided this service.

It is a project that is very near and dear to the hearts of the Alachua club members as their own Cris Hirsch, who passed away last year, played a huge part in the designing and building of the school. She then served as the Principal until a few years before her retirement.



Left to Right: Lions Ed Potts, Gladys McMillian, Irby the Eagle (School Mascot), Don James, Gib Coerper and Leon Barrows



Left to Right: Lions Jess Irby, Sandy Burgess, Tommy Harris and Jay Calloway

**THE BEST WAY TO FIND
YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF
IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.**

MAHATMA GANDHI

Cedar Key Lions Club

55th Annual Cedar Key Lions Seafood Festival & Arts and Crafts Fair October 17-18, 2026

55 years. One island The best seafood weekend in Florida is back!

Since 1968, the Cedar Key Lions Club has turned this tiny Gulf Coast island into the seafood capital of Florida for one unforgettable weekend — and this year marks over half a century of tradition. On October 17–18, 2026, downtown 2nd Street, Historic Dock Street, and the Beachfront City Park come alive as one giant block party, built by locals, for everyone.

Here's what's waiting for you:

Fresh, locally-prepared seafood — every dollar spent supports Cedar Key's own clam and oyster families, plus local nonprofits, schools, and churches

100 arts & crafts vendors lining pedestrian-only 2nd Street

Free live music from a beachfront stage built on a working clam boat

The Seafood Festival Parade — Saturday at 11 am, a Cedar Key tradition since the beginning

Historic Dock Street's stunning comeback — new and renovated shops and restaurants right on dock represent the district's post-hurricane renaissance

Picture it: fresh seafood in hand, live music drifting off the Gulf, the whole island smiling, kids running between craft booths, and a parade rolling down Dock Street. This isn't a festival you attend — it's one you feel. Whether you're a lifelong local or making your first trip to Cedar Key, this is the weekend the island shows you exactly why a half century of visitors keep coming back.

**Only two days a year does Cedar Key feel like this.
Don't let this be the year you miss it**



Cedar Key Lions Club

Mark your calendar now: Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18, 2026

Plan ahead: If you are staying the weekend, make your reservations now.

See you on the island!
Cedar Key is the place to be Oct 17 & 18

Event Information:

Location: Cedar Key, FL — State Route 24 & 2nd Street, Dock Street, and City Beachfront Park

Food in the Park: Saturday & Sunday, 10 am until sold out

Arts & Crafts Fair: Saturday 10 am–5 pm; Sunday 10 am–4 pm

Parade: Saturday, October 17, 11 am



Cedar Key Lions Club

**55th Annual Cedar Key Lions Seafood Festival
and Arts & Crafts Fair
Saturday Oct. 17 and Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026**

**Hungry for Seafood? Arts & Crafts? Live music on the
Gulf?
A fun-filled Seafood Festival Parade?**

The Oct. 17-18 55th Cedar Key Seafood Festival has the whole island town fully energized and ready to welcome you to a great festival weekend of fantastic food, shopping, music, a parade and family fun activities.

**Downtown 2nd Street , Dock Street and the City Beachside Park
become one big block party.**

Organized by the Cedar Key Lions Club, the 55th Seafood Festival continues an over half-century festival tradition celebrating Cedar Key's fishing heritage, with two days of **fantastic food prepared by locals**, with all food in the park proceeds benefitting our participating local clam and oystermen associations, non profits, school groups and churches.

Saturday morning kicks off the weekend with the **Seafood Festival Parade**.

The City Park features the Seafood Festival food vendors, kids activities and free live music from a working clam boat stage.

Downtown pedestrian-only 2nd street will be lined with 100 arts and crafts exhibitors along the shops and restaurants of 2nd street.

Walk down Dock Street to experience the exciting renovated and new shops and restaurants on the historic Dock Street and fishing dock heralding Dock Street's post-hurricane resilience, revival and renaissance.

Cedar Key is the Place to Be Oct 17-18, 2026!

Location: Cedar Key, Levy County, Florida. State Route 24 and 2nd Street, Dock Street and at the Beach Front City Park.

Food in the Park hours: Saturday & Sunday 10 am until sold out.
Arts & Crafts street fair: Saturday from 10 to 5, and Sunday, from 10-4.
The Seafood Festival Parade takes place on Saturday, Oct 17 at 11 am.



High Springs Lions Club



The High Springs Lions club welcomes the new board for term 7/2026 to 6/2027. Members: Dan Mauldin, Barb Kowats, Linda Malstrom, Michael Pollack, Jerry Bowen, Gene Resmondo Sr, Dave Malstrom and Sheryl Brandt. Not pictured-Delbert Smith.

Thank you to those Lions who stepped up to serve the members and the community. Wishing a successful year to all!



On July 27th, Lion Shelly Smith was chosen as the High Springs Lions Club Lion of the Year. Lion Shelly has demonstrated true Lionism. She truly has a heart of gold! Congratulations Lion Shelly! We appreciate you!



On July 27th Sandy Jefferson was awarded the honor of Lion of the month for June. Lion Sandy is a great asset to the club. She is always positive and willing to help wherever she can. Congratulations Lion Sandy! You're awesome.



High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday August 8th the High Springs Lions Club held a celebration of life for member Todd Musto.

Todd had not been a member for very long, but he left a lasting impression on everyone. He enjoyed living life to the fullest and was a avid karaoke singer. Todd will be deeply missed.



High Springs Lions Club

On Monday August 24th, the High Springs Lions Club welcomed our new district 35L governor, George Niles, at our social. We enjoyed learning of his background and his devotion to service.

We treated him to brisket, chicken, all the fixins and desserts too!!

Lion George was given the task of inducting five new members into our Lions club family. We were happy he was able to join us for our special evening. A great time was enjoyed by all!!



Jax Beach Lions Club

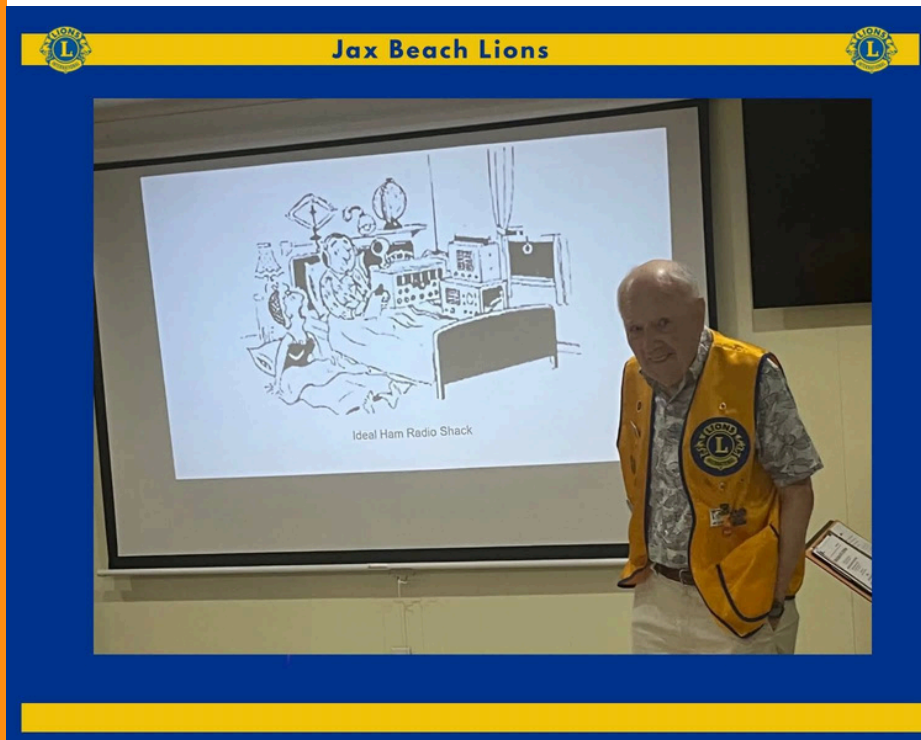
Great energy, fellowship, and insights at our latest District Meeting! Yesterday, some members from the Jacksonville Beaches Lions Club attended the Florida Lions District 35-L District meeting. It was an inspiring and informative meeting with our District Governor George Niles.

We strongly encourage all Lions to regularly attend district meetings - they are a fantastic opportunity to get valuable information, connect with Lions, catch up with old friends, and live out the Lion spirit together.

A huge thank you goes out to the Jacksonville Arlington Lions Club for hosting and taking care of us with delicious food and hospitality



Jax Beach Lions Club



At our last club meeting, our fellow Lion Mike Kibler gave us an introduction to the world of amateur radio!

We got great insights into how amateur radio works and why it is so important, especially for emergency communication.

One of the things which is great about our Lions Club is that we not only make a difference in our community, but we also get to learn from each other's diverse talents.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing your passion with us.

What a wonderful weekend of community and SHINE!

Last weekend, the Sawgrass Marriott hosted an unforgettable evening of gold, glamour, and inspiration for the Angelwood Celebration 2026, SHINE.

As proud Sponsors of this event, the Jax Beaches Lions Club was honored to support Angelwood, Inc. and their mission to help individuals with intellectual and developmental differences live happy, independent lives.

But our support went beyond just being a sponsor! We are so proud of our members who helped out throughout the weekend to make the event a huge success:

Friday: Linda H., Susan, and President Linda Zepp helped prepare the raffle packages.

Saturday: Gary, Susan, and Linda worked at the entrance for crowd control.

Sunday: Sharon Christie Mcneal helped the staff pack up and clear out at the Marriott.

It wasn't all hard work! Our Saturday crew also got to sit down, enjoy a delicious dinner, and experience the inspiring program.

Thank you, Angelwood, for letting us be a part of your special night.



Jax Beach Lions Club



The new Lions year has already started, but before we dive fully into upcoming projects and events like Barktoberfest, we wanted to take a moment to look back and celebrate the incredible dedication of the past year!

Last night, we held our annual Awards Night, honoring many of our members for their hard work, passion, and outstanding service to our club and community.

A huge thank you to everyone who always gives their time and heart to our cause.

Together, we truly make a difference!

Congratulations to our Lion, Monika Keuchel, for receiving the "Lion of the Year" award at our annual Awards Night last night!

Thank you for your continuous hard work and dedication to making a difference in our community



Jax Beach Lions Club

HEY... it's time for Barktoberfest



The Jacksonville Beach Lions
are proud to present our annual fundraising event to benefit
Guiding Eyes for the Blind dog training school
and Leader Dogs for the Blind

October 24th 2026
6:30-9:30 pm

American Legion Post 129
1151 4th Street South ■ Jax Beach

Guiding Eyes

*provides superbly bred and trained guide
and service dogs that expand horizons to
help achieve life's goals to men and
women who are blind or visually impaired,
and to families of children with autism.*

Leader Dogs

*believes that everyone deserves
independence and mobility. Their
programs provide the skills, instruction,
and support people need to navigate the
world with freedom and confidence,
opening doors to new possibilities and
lasting independence.*

**Live Band:
Broke 'Til
Friday**

**Catered Dinner
& Cash Bar**

Raffles

TICKETS

\$30 per person

Purchase tickets from your local
Jax Beach Lions Club member

www.jaxbeachlions.org

904.249.8558

Questions? Contact us at jaxbchlions@gmail.com

The Jacksonville Beaches Lions Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that provides eye care,
hearing aids, and guide dogs, while meeting the humanitarian needs in our Community.
Your donation helps us to provide these much-needed services.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION
OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP FLA OR ONLINE AT www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com.
REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

JACKSONVILLE BEACHES
LIONS FOUNDATION INC.
REGISTRATION #: CH39656

Jax Beach Lions Club

JACKSONVILLE BEACH LIONS CLUB PRESENTS

Barktoberfest

A Fundraising Event to Support
Guiding Eyes for the Blind Guide Dog School & Leader Dogs for the Blind

October 24th 2026
6:30-9:30 pm

American Legion Post 129 • 1151 4th Street South • Jax Beach

☐ **YES!**

I will be an Event Sponsor
Please select a sponsor level below:

☐ **YES!**

I will make a Raffle Donation
☐ Gift Card ☐ Merchandise

JBLC Outreach

☐ **BRONZE**
\$200

Name of sponsor in event brochure, on social media and your company logo with link on our website.

Plus ONE free entry ticket!

Bronze sponsors provide key support for Jax Beach Lions Club global causes and community outreach charities!

Leader Dogs Sponsor

☐ **SILVER**
\$500

☐ **GOLD**
\$1000



Name of sponsor appears in event brochure, on social media and your company logo with link on our website.

Symbolic sponsor also receives a puppy info sheet, a 5x7 photo, four wallet-size photos, an official certificate of sponsorship, and a Future Leader Dog plush to keep or to share.

Plus TWO free entry tickets!

Plus FOUR free entry tickets!

Guiding Eyes

☐ **PLATINUM**
\$5000

Name of sponsor in event brochure, on social media and your company logo with link on our website.

Plus a table with SIX free entry tickets AND

Platinum Sponsor gets to name a new Guide Dog puppy!

The Jacksonville Beaches Lions Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Foundation that provides eye care, hearing aids, and guide dogs, while meeting humanitarian needs in our Community. Your donation helps us to provide these much-needed services. Thank you!



Learn more at:
www.jaxbeachlions.org

JACKSONVILLE BEACHES LIONS FOUNDATION INC.
REGISTRATION #: CH29656

Questions?
Your Contact Lion:

Company / Sponsor

Phone

Email

Website

Please make checks payable to:

Jacksonville Beaches Lions Foundation

or pay online: www.jaxbeachlions.org

Jacksonville Beach Lions Club
PO Box 50555
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240

Ocala Lions Club

FOOD FOR KIDS

The Food 4 Kids program is again offering new backpacks and food to the 500 children participating in the program. The backpacks provide the children with a reliable source for receiving their weekend meals. The cost of each backpack is \$21.50 and donations are appreciated by the program staff.

Our Lions Club is continuing to collect food on the first Thursday of the month to support the program. We are very proud to be a member of the "Be Part of the Pack" partners. It is so special to deliver the food and cash donations to the IES storeroom and see the shelves filled with food supplies for the children. We know that we are helping the students to learn and grow and stay healthy.



PRE-OWNED GLASSES CAMPAIGN

Lion Lou Barnes reported on the glasses collected during the month of August.

Glasses - 784

Cases - 355

**JOIN THE LIONS.
SERVE WITH HEART.
LEAD WITH PURPOSE.**



Ocala Lions Club

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

The Ocala Lions Club continues to support our local Boy Scouts as they complete work on their Eagle Scout Award. Achieving the Eagle Scout rank is no small feat. This is the highest attainable rank in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and represents years of dedication, perseverance, and commitment.

Two Eagle Scouts Courts of Honor were held in Ocala in July and August. The first recipient was Eagle Scout Joseph Bova from Troup 574 on July 25, 2026. The ceremony took place at the 1st United Methodist Church in Dunnellon. Lions John and Diane Renyhart represented our Club and presented Joseph with the Eagle Scout neckerchief, certificates and letters from the Ocala Lions Club, Lions International and the Elks Lodge and an American flag. The symbolism of the flag is shared and this is especially meaningful in our country's 250th Anniversary.

The second recipient was Eagle Scout Donovan McNeish on August 8, 2026 at the Knights of Columbus Christopher Hall. Lion Alan May and his wife Connie, who are volunteer leaders in the Boy Scouts Program, presented Donovan with the Eagle Scout neckerchief, certificates and letters from the Ocala Lions Club, Lions International and the Elks Lodge and the small American flag. They shared the symbolism of the flag and what it continues to represent.

Both Eagle Scouts completed service projects as part of the requirements for the award. Joseph Bova created a butterfly garden in his community and Donovan McNeish converted a pavilion into a storage building for the Arnette House.



BACK TO TOP

Ocala Fort King Lions Club

Ft. King Lions Club Installation Night

July 6, 2026, was a night dedicated to celebration, fellowship, and honoring the remarkable hard work our Ft. King Lions Club members accomplished throughout the 2025–2026 year. Members gathered to reflect on a year of dedicated community service and enjoy a fantastic evening together. The night featured a truly scrumptious dinner catered by Kim Bauer, expertly served by her team, Liz Scott and Glenda.

Recognizing the 2025–2026 Leadership Following a fantastic dinner, the outgoing 2025–2026 Board of Directors was recognized for their steadfast dedication throughout the past year. As a small token of gratitude for their hard work, each board member received a commemorative Lions Club tumbler.

A central highlight of the evening was recognizing the 2025-2026 officers who guided our mission and service efforts:

President: Malcolm Hay (2025 Board of Director (BOD))

Secretary: Dianne Wieckert (2025 BOD)

Treasurer: John Lorenzo (2025 BOD)

1st Vice President: Pete Tyler (2025 BOD)

2nd Vice President: Walt Krumm Jr. (2025 BOD)

Club Administrator: Jack Mattheus

Membership Chair: Bob Cole

LCIF Coordinator: Rick Scott

Lion Tamer / Tail Twister: Larry Yost



Ocala Fort King Lions Club

Thank you to every member whose dedicated effort made the past year such a success! Welcoming the 2026–2027 Officers The torch was officially passed as the 2026–2027 officer team was sworn in to lead our club into another successful year:

President: Dianne Wieckert

1st Vice President: Malcolm Hay

2nd Vice President: Pete Tyler

Secretary: Pam Mullikin

Treasurer: John Lorenzo

Membership Chair: Mike Mullikin

Service Chair: Sara Ann Green

Marketing/Social Media: Sherri Bishop

Tail Twister: Neil Bieber

Lion Tamer: Sharon Bieber

LCIF Coordinator: Larry Yost

Congratulations to our newly installed officers.

Honored Guests & Inspiring Stories The evening was made extra special by honored guests Don Browning and Marilyn DuPre, who shared moving memories of their time with the Ft. King Lions Club. Their personal reflections provided truly motivational moments for everyone present, reminding us of the deep roots and lasting impact of our organization.

Annual Awards & Special Honors The spotlight then turned to several distinguished individuals whose contributions went above and beyond:

Lion of the Year: Sara Ann Green — recognized for her tireless dedication, leadership in fundraisers, and recruitment of new members.

President's Achievement Award: Denise Hoffmann

Citizen's Award: David Uran

Club Appreciation Award: Don Browning

Melvin Jones Fellowship Award: Jack Mattheus

Golden Chain Award: Dianne Wieckert

The absolute highlight of the night was presenting the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship to Jack Mattheus. Jack's unwavering dedication to the Ft. King Lions Club serves as a daily inspiration to us all. Here's to another strong year of serving our community together!

Congratulations to all our award recipients and new officers!



Ocala Fort King Lions Club



Ocala Fort King Lions Club

Heartwarming Visit: Florida Center for the Blind Children Thank Ft. King Lions

We were blessed with very special guests at our recent Ocala Ft. King Breakfast Lions Club meeting at the Rolling Greens Village West Clubhouse! Fourteen wonderful children from the Florida Center for the Blind stopped by to share their gratitude with our members for sponsoring their summer camp experiences.

The children presented us with beautiful handmade artwork thank-you cards and excitedly shared stories about their summer adventures—including upcoming trips to Crayola Experience in Orlando, fun outings to the bowling alley, and visits to the local library.

Listening to their stories and seeing their bright smiles was a true gift to everyone in attendance. Sponsoring local children for summer camp each year is one of the many ways the Ft. King Lions Club proudly supports the Florida Center for the Blind and gives back to our community.



Ocala Fort King Lions Club



Winning Lion of the Year is a fantastic recognition of her dedication, hard work, and outstanding service to the community. Congratulations to Sara Ann on a well-deserved honor!



Congratulations to Kim Bauer and Glenda Cone on joining the Ft. King Lions Breakfast Club! Welcoming new members who are so clearly committed to service is a huge win for both the club and the broader community. Rolling Greens Village is clearly sending some wonderful people our way, and there is no doubt they will make a fantastic impact living out that "community is what we make it" spirit. Here's to the great work ahead!



Ocala Fort King Lions Club

RGV Residents Put Their Knowledge—and Speed—to the Test at Lions Club Trivia Night!

Laughter, fast footwork, and a healthy dose of friendly rivalry filled the room at our recent Lions Club Trivia Night, hosted to extend a heartfelt thank you to our RGV residents for your unwavering support of our community fundraisers.

The energy was electric from the very first question. While no one expects trivia to be a contact sport, watching teams scramble across the room to be the absolute first to turn in their answer sheets felt like watching the finals of an Olympic relay. "Crazy" doesn't even begin to describe some of the hilarious, creative answers submitted when the pressure was on—and the laughs were non-stop as the host read them out loud.

While everyone brought their A-game, three teams managed to out-think, out-run, and out-smart the competition to take home top honors:

1st Place: We Thought This Was Bingo

2nd Place: The Beach Bums

3rd Place: The Elbow Benders

Congratulations to our winners and a massive thank you to every single person who came out to play, laugh, and support our mission. Our community initiatives are only possible because of your generosity and spirit.

Stay tuned for our next event – Halloween Glo Ball October 15th!



BACK TO TOP

September

Month of September

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Cortical Visual Impairment Awareness Month
Environmental Awareness Month
Hunger Action Month
National Child Awareness Month
National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
National Guide Dog Month
National Preparedness Month

September 5

International Day of Charity

September 7

Labor Day

September 8, 1952

Sopchoppy Club Anniversary

September 11

Patriots Day

September 21

International Day of Peace

September 23

International Day of Sign Language

September 25, 1963

Ocala Fort King Breakfast Lions Club Aniversary

District
35L

ROAR with Pride!

**Share your clubs
achievements.**

NEWSLETTER

CONTACT DETAILS

FLDistrict35L@gmail.com

All submissions due by the 26th of the month.



BACK TO TOP

Official District 35-L Entities

Arlington Eye Clinic/Recycling
6161 Arlington Expy in Jacksonville, FL
904.503.2423

[Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired](#)

Diabetes Awareness Foundation

Lions Diabetes Foundation of MD35
PO Box 1407, Deland, FL 32721

Disaster Relief*

35 L Contact: Barb Kowats - humbledbygodsstudio@gmail.com

*Disaster Relief to be made out to District 35L with "Disaster Relief" in Memo

[Dogs Inc](#)

[Florida Center for the Blind](#)

We provide comprehensive vision rehabilitation services across these eight Florida counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, and Union

1411 NE 22nd Ave, Ocala, FL 34470
352.873.4700

[Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind](#)

Fully accredited and tuition-free, FSBD has served Florida since 1885 through state support and private donations. Each year, more than 975 students participate in its statewide parent-infant and family programs, Montessori-based Pre-K, early learning center, and comprehensive K-12 elementary, middle, and high school programs on campus.

35 L Contact: DG George Niles - liongeorgeniles@hotmail.com, 904.545.1627

[KidSight Project*](#)

*KidSight to be made out to District 35L with "KidSight Project" in Memo

35 L Contact: DG George Niles - liongeorgeniles@hotmail.com, 904.545.1627

[Leader Dog](#)

[Lions Club International Foundation](#)

[Lions Quest](#)

*Lions Quest to be made out to District 35L with "Quest Program" in Memo

[Lions Saving Sight](#)

[Paragon Service Dogs](#)



Note: Clubs must also record the donation under service on Lions Portal to ensure they receive credit for the donation.

Official MD-35 Entities

[Lions Saving Sight](#)

Assists in providing funds to pay for eye surgeries for individuals who either can't afford it or if their insurance doesn't cover.

[Florida Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Foundation](#)

[Diabetes Awareness Foundation of MD-35](#)

Work on preventing blindness caused by diabetes by providing diabetes and vision screenings. Supports the maintenance on cameras utilized to check vision and supplies needed for diabetes testing kits.

[Beauty of Sight](#) (formerly known as Florida Lions Eye Bank)

Located at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute – University of Miami Health System. Supports research and transplants.

35-I Hearing Foundation

Assists in funding hearing tests and providing hearing aids.

35-I Sight Foundation

Assists in funding in support of Digital Retinal Imaging Eye Cameras.

[Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired](#)

Their goal is to enhance the lives and opportunities of our clients through job training, and employment, Independent Living, Technology training and children's services as well as a multitude of community services.

[Florida Lions Eye Clinic – Bonita Springs, FL](#)

Provides eye care for those who have no insurance.

[Leader Dogs for the Blind – Michigan](#)

Train people who are Deaf/blind and instructed in using American Sign Language (ASL) with a guide dog, provide orientation & mobility (cane travel) training, offer free GPS units and training, and run a Teen Summer Camp for those visually impaired.

[Dog's Inc.](#) (formerly Southeastern Guide Dogs)

Provide guide and service dogs for people, veterans, and children with vision loss and those battling depression throughout the United States—at no cost to the recipients.

[Lions World Vision Institute](#) (formerly Lions Institute Eye Transplant & Research)

Recover, process and distributes organ, eye, and tissue from donors to hospitals, do Ocular Research to improve cornea transplant surgical procedures.

[Lions Club International Foundation \(LCIF\)](#)

Provides grants to Lions clubs to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services that impact lives locally and globally.

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.

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.

MD Chair:	35L Chair: Tony Clum
Mercy Ceron	850.273.0580
ceron_7@hotmail.com	24 Oakdale Rd NW
	Ft Walton Beach, FL
	32547
	tony57talla@yahoo.com

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

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.



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.

MD Chair:
Jim Campbell
954.592.8018
jimmyc_sr@yahoo.com

35L Chair: PDG Tommy Dover
904.318.2540
6027 Greenberry Ln
Jacksonville, FL. 32211
tdover@comcast.net

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.

MD Chair:
Amy Gephart
amygephart@gmail.com

35L Chair: Marge Holton
904.716.8744
PO Box 1344
Welaka, FL.32193
beachgatorgranny@aol.com

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 Club Sponsored Awards

District Awards recognition period is January 1 to December 31.

Submission Date:

Nominations are to be submitted as identified in each award by February 15th.

District Awards Program Coordinator:

PDG Jerry Skufe

Awards:

Listed below are the current District Awards. Clubs are encouraged to submit nominations for these awards, if appropriate.

Austin Drinkwater Award – Sponsoring Club: Orange Park

This award is to recognize the club with the most outstanding community betterment and civic improvement activities. Nominations are to be submitted to the District Governor for the review and selection of the winner.

Carl Suber Award – Sponsoring Club: Jax Arlington

This award is to recognize the club donating the largest sum per member to the Davis-Conklin Center as determined by the District Administrator.

Donald Helmly Award – Sponsoring Club: Jax Arlington

This award is to recognize the club with the most significant K through 12 projects and activities for students (school or non-school oriented). Nominations are to be submitted to the District Governor for the review and selection of the winner.

Francis E. “Rocky” Fowler Award – Sponsoring Club: Jax Arlington

This award is to recognize the club donating the most money per member to the Hearing Aid Bank as determined by the District Administrator.

Glenn Afred Award – Sponsoring Club: Orange Park

This award is to recognize the club having the highest percentage of participants on service projects, reported to the LCI service reporting system, based on hours divided by the average membership for the period as determined by the District GST.

H. E. “Buck” Murphy Award – Sponsoring Club: Orange Park

This award is to recognize the best athletic program for school-aged students. Nominations are to be submitted to the District Governor for review and selection of the winner.

H. V. Griffin Award – Sponsoring Club: McClenny

This award is to recognize the club having the largest percentage of members with perfect attendance for the calendar year 2024. Clubs wishing to be considered for this award are to submit their nomination to the District Governor for review and selection of the winner.

Maines F. Finley Award – Sponsoring Club: McClenny

This award is to recognize the club with the largest percentage of net gain in membership as determined by the District GMT.

Riley Bracklin Award – Sponsoring Club: Jax Arlington

This award is to recognize the club promoting the most significant interaction among other clubs in the district visitation club, zone, and district meetings. Clubs wishing to be considered for this award are to submit their nomination to the District Governor for review and selection of the winner.

LCIF Donations Award – Sponsoring Club: Turkey Creek

This award is to recognize the club donating the largest sum per member to LCIF programs and activities as determined by the District LCIF Coordinator.

Perry Rockwood Award – Sponsoring Club: Orange Park

This award is to recognize a Lion who contributes to the most time and effort to the upkeep and maintenance of the clubhouse. Nominations are to be submitted to the District Governor for review and selection of the winner.

Ron Matthews Champion for Children Award – Sponsoring Club: Ocala

This award is to recognize a Lion who has demonstrated commitment, dedication, and compassion to helping children through personal time and effort. Please contact the club for specific information on the selection criteria. Nominations are to be submitted to the Chair of the Ocala selection Committee for review and selection of the winner.

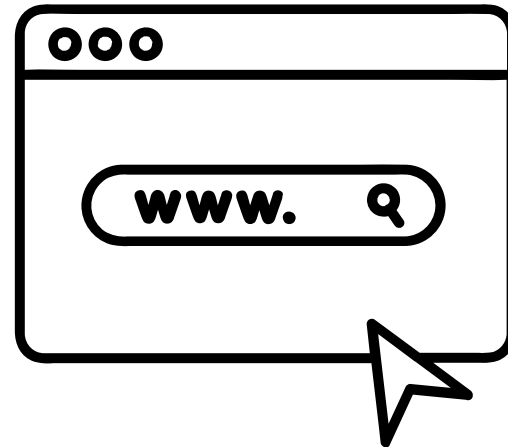
District Lion of the Year – Sponsoring Club: Jax Arlington in the name of Thomas Dover

This award is to recognize the District Governor's selection of the Lion of the Year for his/her tenure as the DG.

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

