



Tales from the *Pride*

Lions District 35 I Newsletter April 2026

District 35 I: Governor Linda Gregory
Editor: Jan Kunka readinthehead1@aol.com

April District 35I Service Project Environment: Lion Jan Kunka,

I was going to focus on appropriate disposal of E-waste as my environmental project, but that was way back in August. While thinking about what is needed for a district project, I realized our participants should be our future generations. Many of our Club projects involve serving our youth. Why not take advantage of what we do well?

Kids and big kids of all ages are interested in nature and understand the concept of native species and invasive species...but do not really know which are which. For example, last summer I excitedly watched a red eared slider turtle lay her eggs. In the pouring rain, I protected her from being run over in the camping loop until she was finished. She covered the evidence, and wandered back to wet lands near by.



To make the story longer, in doing the research for this project, I found out that red eared sliders are invasive pet store imports releases that compete for the same habitats as native Florida Box Turtles. No, I am not promoting the eradication of red eared sliders, but what about the released Burmese Pythons that are devastating the Everglades environment. The pythons were also imported as pets.



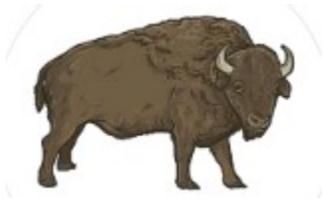
I would like to introduce you one of my favorite Native Florida vs Invasive Species Website: **Florida State Parks: Critter Sheets**

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/events/programs/critter-sheets>

There are 114 Florida Native Critter sheets...as well as 114 Coloring sheets. Yes, everyone's favorite, Florida Manatee is included. But, the remaining 113 options include Bromeliads, Cannonball Jelly, Florida Apple Snail and Bison (which were once native and have been reintroduced in protected areas).



There are two formats for each creature. The first is two sheets (or front to back) with a colored drawing and facts on one page and the second page has a drawing to be colored with additional facts. The second format is for little persons who may not be able to read. One page only, there is a simple picture to be colored.



The 25 invasive species have the same options and include (besides the red eared slider and Burmese Python) feral hog, monk parakeet and water hyacinth.

How can you use these? As part of your screenings, provide a page to each student, with your club "sticker". Have a stack of them (again with your club stamp) at your promotional booths. Share the website to your members so that they can share with their children or grandchildren. Make a coloring pack distracter for hospital bound patients or for their siblings at a Ronald McDonald House. Simple handouts could printed for less than 5 cents per black/white page on a home printer.



Get the word out. There is more to learning about Florida native and invasive species than manatees and green iguanas.



Each month, one of your 25-26 District 35I Service Chairs is promoting a **Project** for all of the Clubs in the District to act as a Team to achieve a common Service Goal for that month. The Service Chairs can also assist Clubs in developing individual projects that meet the local needs for the club's community.



Disaster Relief Lion Ken Murphy **Veterans** IPDG Patty Jean Strong



Humanitarian Lion Jennifer Maillard **Elder Citizens** Lion Paula Paquette



Childhood Cancer Lion Diane Clifton



Vision PCC Penny Gregrich



Mental Health Lion Paula Paquette



Environment Lion Jan Kunka



Diabetes Lion Diana LaSpina



Reading Lion Loretta Barksdale



Hunger Lion Kathy Lawless

Hearing SVD Drew Ogden

District 35I YTD Totals reported to Lions Portal (3-31-2026)

	# of Activities	# of People Served
Childhood Cancer	12	5918
Diabetes	27	775
Disaster	8	1230
Environment	34	5990
Humanitarian	246	91532
Hunger	81	23921
Vision	364	97002
Youth	88	16713

Table of Contents

- ___ April Service Project (Environment)
- ___ Lions Service Themes
- ___ YTD Totals Reported to Lions Portal
- ___ Table of Contents
- ___ Mark Your Calendar: 35I Mini Convention
- ___ In Memorium
- ___ Who's Who in District 35I
- ___ 35I Administrative Team
- ___ Message from DG Linda Gregory
- ___ Message from 1VDG Bev Flynn
- ___ Message from 2VDG Drew Ogden
- ___ Scenes from Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI)
- ___ Zone Service and Activities
- ___ Reflections on Being a Lion *guest writer Pamela Brown*
- ___ Lion Tim Foreman campaign message
- ___ Lion Christine Malone campaign message
- ___ Lions Traditions: Peace Poster
- ___ Info for "A Lion Lives Here Sign"
- ___ 2026 MD35 Convention Registration Information

Mark your Calendar for 35I Mini-Convention
April 11, 2026 Englewood Lions Club

Breakfast Menu
Scrambled - Hard Boiled Eggs
Potatoes - Ham & Sausage
Biscuits & Gravy - Fruit
Danish - Beverages



District Convention

April 11, 2026

Englewood Lions Club
4611 Placida Road, Englewood, FL

Registration and Breakfast: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
\$15.00 RSVP by April 7th

RSVP to: Lion Cindy Laughlin - 941-828-0025 Call or Text
Send Checks To: Cindy Laughlin
6044 Coliseum Blvd, Pt Charlotte, FL 33981



~~PDG Meeting: 9:00 AM~~
~~General Meeting begins: 10:00 AM~~

World Wide Induction Day

All clubs are encouraged to bring **ALL** new members to this meeting (a new member is any Lion who joined your club since July 1, 2025). We will have a group induction of these new Lions (yes-even if they have been inducted before!!) in recognition of World-wide Induction Day. Following the induction, we will celebrate our newest Lions.

Election Results

The results of the election (which will have been held the week before) will be announced and we will hear from our incoming officers for 2026-2027. Your attendance is needed at the meeting so you can encourage these Lions as they take the next step in leadership!

District Recognitions

~~Our outgoing District Governor will have a few awards to hand out to some of the outstanding Lions in our district who have worked extremely hard this year to make our district a success.~~

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS EVENT

In Memorium



Past International Director A. Geoffrey Wade

PID “Geoff” was always generous in his efforts to promote Lions Service throughout MD 35. His experience will be missed.



For those of you who may remember this Lion
His obituary is at the end of this newsletter

James "Jim" Cox..

Both of my grandparents were Presidents of the Land O' Lakes Lions Club chapter. They helped hold fundraisers, social events, and community activities. Their names were Helen G Cox and Lion Jim died on Tuesday at 91.

Who's Who in District 35I



District Governor

Linda Gregory

E-mail: Linda092355@gmail.com

Companion in Service: MD 35 CC Jimmy Gregory



1st Vice District Governor

Beverly Flynn

E-mail: Lionbevflynn@aol.com



2nd Vice District Governor

Drew Ogden

E-mail: drewogden@gmail.com

Members of DG Linda's Administrative Team

Cabinet Secretary: responsible legal filings, attendance, and minutes.

Christine Malone E-mail: lionchristinemalone@gmail.com

Cabinet Treasurer: responsible for billings, charges and financial records

Tom Mavor E-mail: tmavor@wclions.org

The following Lions have been appointed by District Governor Linda Gregory to serve District 35I in the following roles:

Global Leadership Team Coordinator

PCC Gary LaSpina

Global Service Team Coordinator

Lion Tim Foreman

Global Membership Team Coordinator

PDG Paula Beach

Global Extension Team Coordinator

CC Jimmy Gregory

Other administrative chairs are listed in District 35I Directory 25-26

Online access: <https://www.district35i.com/d-i-official-directory>

PDG Judy Galm: Sunshine Chair...

send card requests to galmjudy@gmail.com

Lion Dave Blauers : Chaplain

Please send names & pictures of members who have passed away to dmblauers@gmail.com

Message from DG Linda Gregory

Circles of Love



Those of you who know me well know that family is everything to me. In my opinion, it is the foundation of society. It provides a structure for values to be taught. It is the framework where character is shaped and love is demonstrated. A solid family gives children a springboard to leap into world, ready to face whatever challenges they might encounter. And then that same family provides those children with a safe place to land, without judgment, when life kicks them and they need to retreat and regroup.

When you first think about Lions Clubs and family, they might seem to be very different. **Family is tied by blood, by marriage, by commitment, by emotion. A Lions Club is bound by service and shared purpose.** But the more I have thought about it, the more I have come to realize they are very similar.

In a family, there is structure. Everyone has a role (or there is chaos!) The family's roles are usually parent, child, spouse, grandparent, leader, teacher, learner, etc. **In a Lions Club, everyone has a role also.** Like in a family, roles in a Lions Club may change over time, but every individual matters if the club is to be successful long-term. The roles here are usually officers, committee members and/or chairs, and members. In both cases each member of the structure matter. Their role is important. The success of the individual directly affects the success of the group.

In a family, commitment helps the unit to thrive. Family members show up for each other. They don't do that because it is convenient or because it is required. They show up because they have a personal stake in how the other members of the group feel. We tolerate each other's weirdness and odd opinions (even when we cannot understand them!). We forgive each other and we stay connected because the unit is as important as the individual. **A Lions Club is similar. We show up for each other because of our commitment to the club.** Yet, we are NOT all the same. We come from different backgrounds and have different ways of looking at the world. Sometimes we must close our mouths and keep our opinions to ourselves for the good of the group. I read a quote once that said, "The world is changed by your example; not by your opinion." I think that's apropos in both family and in Lions Clubs!

Communication is another shared cornerstone. Openly talking with each other so mutual understanding can be reached is critical. Even more important though, is **LISTENING**. You will note that I did not say "hearing". When someone is talking, many of us are so tangled up in thinking about what we are going to say that we don't even hear the other person's message. It's just background noise. How can we understand where someone is coming from if we aren't listening to them?

Families and Lions Clubs are rooted in service for others. That service may be quiet and unseen. Or it may be loud and proud. Either way, the motivation should be the same: to make life for those around us better. Family members need to feel valued and appreciated. And so do our Lions. Be kind to each other. A phone call, a text, or email lets others know you are thinking of them. That's important in family. It's critical in a Lions Club where we only get together once or twice a month! Do you have sick members in your club? Offer to take them dinner. Send them a card. Call them. Do something so they know they aren't forgotten!

Several years ago, my daughter gave me a sign that sits on a shelf in my family room. It says, "You are the Mom everyone wishes they had!" **I challenge each of you to be the Lion member that every club wishes they had. Together, if we show our members that we care about them, we will strengthen our clubs. We will have happier members. We will become more like family!**

I am so proud of the Lions of District 35-I. And I'm proud to be serving with you.

Message from 1VDG Bev Flynn

The Future of Lions Clubs International: A Vision for the Next 30 Years

Recently I attended the 100th Anniversary of the Ocala Lions Club. The Keynote Speaker was PIP Patty Hill. Her speech inspired me to write this article about the future of Lions.

As Lions, we often say “We Serve.” It is a simple phrase—but over the next 30 years, how we serve, who we serve, and how we connect will evolve in remarkable ways. While the core mission of Lions Clubs International will remain unchanged, the path forward will be shaped by innovation, inclusion, and global impact all coming from *“strong, vibrant Lions Clubs”* (quote from PIP Patty Hill)

A More Flexible and Connected Membership

Thirty years from now, Lions Clubs will look far more flexible than the traditional models many of us know today. We are already seeing the early stages of this transformation through virtual clubs, specialty clubs, and new membership approaches designed to meet people where they are.

Future Lions may not attend weekly meetings in person—instead, they will participate in hybrid or fully digital environments, allowing members from different cities, states, or even countries to serve together. This flexibility will be key to attracting younger generations and busy professionals who still want to make a difference but need adaptable ways to serve.

A Younger, More Diverse Lions Family

The Lions of 2056 will better reflect the communities they serve. Current initiatives already aim to increase participation among women, young adults, and underrepresented groups.

In the future, diversity won't just be a goal—it will be the norm. Youth programs like Leos will seamlessly transition into lifelong Lions membership, creating a continuous pipeline of passionate, service-minded individuals.

Technology-Driven Service

Technology will revolutionize how Lions plan and deliver service. Imagine: *(My theme for next year!)*

- Real-time global service coordination through advanced apps
- Data-driven identification of community needs
- Virtual volunteering opportunities across borders
- AI-assisted project planning and impact measurement

Lions have already embraced innovation to expand their reach and effectiveness. Over the next three decades, technology will amplify our ability to respond quickly to disasters, health crises, and emerging global challenges.

Greater Global Impact Through Partnerships

The future of Lions will be increasingly collaborative. Strategic partnerships with corporations, nonprofits, and governments are already a priority—and will become essential.

By 2056, Lions Clubs International will likely function as a central hub for global humanitarian efforts, coordinating large-scale initiatives in areas such as:

- Vision care and preventable blindness
- Hunger and food security
- Environmental sustainability
- Childhood cancer and public health

These partnerships will allow Lions to scale their impact beyond what any single club—or even country—could achieve alone.

Growth in Membership and Service

With initiatives like MISSION 1.5 aiming to significantly grow membership, Lions are positioning themselves for a future of expanded service.

In 30 years, it is realistic to envision:

- Millions more Lions worldwide
- Service reaching hundreds of millions—or even billions—annually
- New clubs in underserved and rapidly growing regions

As the global population increases and needs evolve, Lions will continue to grow to meet those challenges. . *“People make us strong, Service is our purpose” another quote from PIP Patty Hill.*

A Stronger, Unified Global Brand

The Lions brand will become even more recognizable worldwide. Efforts are already underway to unify messaging and strengthen visibility.

In the future, when people think of trusted, impactful volunteer service, Lions will be among the first names that come to mind—synonymous with integrity, compassion, and results.

Holding Onto What Matters Most

While much will change, the heart of Lions Clubs will remain constant:

- Service to others
- Fellowship and connection
- Leadership development
- Community impact at the local level

Even in a high-tech, globalized world, the power of neighbors helping neighbors will continue to define Lions.

Looking Ahead

The next 30 years will not simply be about growth—they will be about transformation. Lions Clubs International is already laying the foundation for a future that is more inclusive, more innovative, and more impactful than ever before.

And perhaps most importantly, the future of Lions will not be defined by technology or strategy—but by the same spirit that has carried us for more than a century: *ordinary people doing extraordinary things together.*

Because no matter how much the world changes, one truth will remain—
Where there is a need, there will ALWAYS BE A LION.

Remember our Lions are the strongest voice for new membership!

Believe in Lions and Share the passion.

1VDG Lion Bev Flynn

Message From 2VDG Drew Ogden.

Continuing the Journey of Service: My Experience at the Regional Lions Leadership Institute

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Regional Lions Leadership Institute, and I wanted to take a moment to share what an impactful and rewarding experience it was.

The Institute brought together Lions from across the region who share a common goal—**strengthening our ability to serve our communities more effectively**. Throughout the training, we focused on leadership development, communication skills, team building, and innovative ways to grow and sustain our clubs. What stood out most was the emphasis on not just being leaders in title, but leaders in action.

One of the key takeaways for me was the importance of **adaptability**. As our communities evolve, so must we. Whether it's embracing new technologies, improving how we communicate our mission, or finding creative ways to engage new members, the Institute reinforced that growth comes from being open to change.

Another powerful aspect of the training was **collaboration**. Hearing ideas and success stories from other clubs was both inspiring and motivating. It reminded me that while each club serves its own community, we are all part of a larger global mission. By sharing ideas and supporting one another, we can multiply our impact.

The Institute also highlighted practical **strategies** for membership growth and retention. Strong clubs are built on engaged members who feel connected to the mission. By focusing on meaningful service projects and clear communication, we can continue to attract individuals who want to make a difference.

Personally, I left the Institute energized and more committed than ever to the values of Lionism—service, integrity, and leadership. I look forward to bringing these insights back to our clubs and working together to continue making a positive impact in our communities.

I encourage any Lion who has the opportunity to attend future training sessions to do so. It is an investment not only in your personal development but in the strength and future of our clubs.

Thank you for all that you do in service to others.

Regional Lions Leadership Institute



Attendees stayed in serene surroundings



Perfect for fireside chats



*RLLI is the best training value for future
Lion Leaders*

Club Zones act as a Team. United in Service

Zone 1: Arcadia Centennial, Frostproof, Lake Placid, Lake Wales, Sebring Breakfast, Wauchula **Zone Chair: Lion Diane LaSpina**

Zone 2: Brandon, Fishhawk, Plant City, Sun City Center, Tampa Downtown, Tampa North **Zone Chair: Lion Bridgett Zickefoose**

Zone 3: Dade City Hispanic American, Hudson Bayonet Point, Lutz Land o Lakes, Wesley Chapel, Zephyrhills **Zone Chair: Lion Jim Kilby**

Zone 4: Clearwater, Gulfport, Largo, Palm Harbor, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg **Zone Chair: Lion Teri Barnett**

Zone 5: Bradenton, Englewood, North Port, Port Charlotte Cenntenial, Punta Gorda, Sarasota, Venice **Zone Chair: Lion Jeff Myles**

Zone 6: Cape Coral, North Fort Myers Noon, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel/Captiva **Zone Chair: Lion Jennifer Maillard**

Zone 7: Bonita Springs, Naples, Everglades City **Zone Chair: Lion Steve Schulz**

Zone 1 Service & Activities

PDG Judy Galm reported an inspiring example of service from the Lake Wales Lions President. Lion Phyllis Jean Wimberly set up a table at Publix once a month with her mints and Lions Information. Her stated goal was to potentially raise \$200.00.

Her goal was smashed this month when she collected over \$375.00 working from 9 am-6pm. She has been at her station for over a year and the Public store certainly supports her and watches over her to make sure that she is safe. She is sometimes joined by Lion Jimmy Carter or new Lion Jennifer McClary. She was absent from her station when she was recuperating from a horrific automobile accident recently and customers were very happy to see her back at work doing what she loves.



In addition, her daughter Debra Fouse is the President of the Wink Loving Lions club in District 2-T3 in Wink Texas and very proud of her mother.

Zone 2 Service & Activities

**Plant City Lion
extraordinaire, Bob Fulks,
was honored by the Plant
City Commissioners for
his 25 years of service.**



**Plant City Lion Verna made sure that
Lion visitors had a perfect view of the
Strawberry Fest Parade**





Sun City Center/South Shore Had an amazing display of raffle items and free readers SCC Funfest

Current SCC/SS members Bernie and Bob Kalle are still conducting vision screenings.





FishHawk Lions are sponsoring an egg roll at the Fishhawk Ranch “Hop into Spring” Festival



And who can resist a FishHawk Lions sponsored Music Bingo Evening!

Zone 3 Service & Activities



This Zone 3 meeting is “out of order”

PDG Vivian led a diabetes screening training session at the Greater Zephyr Hills Lions Club



District 35 Council of Governors hosted by Zephyr Hills Lions Club



**Zephyr Hills Lion
Ketina earned a medal
Special Olympics
Games held at IMG**



**Zephyr Hills Lions membership drive
Goal:
Get them young.**



Zephyr Hill Lions painting pots



**Zephyr Hills assembled
distraction bags for childhood
cancer patients**



Zone 4 Service & Activities

Largo Lions were honored by the Pinellas Education Foundation



One student shared, “Thank you so much for helping me get closer to my dream of attending a university! I have always wanted to go to a state university but I was always worried it wouldn’t work out because I couldn’t afford it. But with financial assistance becoming available to me such as this one, I’ve become more and more hopeful!”

Through more than \$38,000 in scholarships, the Largo Lions Club has empowered students to chase their dreams and give back to their communities. Thank you, Largo Lions Club, for investing in the future and believing in what’s possible.



Thank you, Largo Lions Club, for investing in the future and believing in what’s possible.

Sign in for St Pete Lions Health Screening



Diabetes

Vision

Hearing



Some of the St Pete Lions are "Peeking" at the Lighthouse "Dine in the Dark Event"

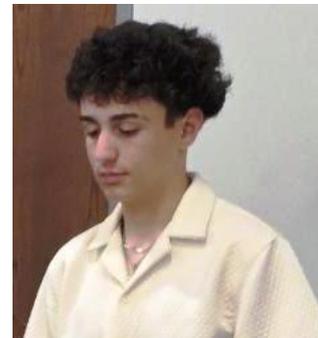
Zone 5 Service & Activities

Bradenton Lions have completed their Vision Screening of over 14000 students in all of the Manatee County Public and Charter Schools. An example of our impact the Manatee Lions Sight Foundation received this message from one of the school nurses we have provided vouchers to. *"All students who have gotten vouchers have gotten glasses, and we have started to see an improvement in their grades and behavior. Your foundation has definitely made a difference. Thank you."*



Bradenton Lions conducted a "Together We Can...Fill the Can" at the Publix 12 Oaks Plaza

Bradenton Lions are sponsoring the newly approved Lakewood Ranch Leos Club. Club President Tyler LaPlaca officiating at his first in person Leos Board Meeting.



Tyler's Mom, Julianne was inducted as a new Lion sponsored by Bradenton Lion Jan Kunka





Lions Club of Laurel/Nokomis New member Induction.



Latest fashions presented by Island Way Boutique at the Venice Lions Fashion Show



**Ceremonial Pinning of the Venice Lion at the Sky Academy
The NJHS students collected glasses and Pop Tops**



Englewood Celebrated St Patrick's Day with a feast of Corn Beef Cabbage



The Feast is READY!!

Hungry college students who had spent time cleaning the outside of the Englewood Community Center



Englewood and Northport Lions clean up Garden of Five Senses

Zones 6 & 7 Service and Activities

Fort Myers Beach Lions Shrimp Festival



How much shrimp can YOU eat?



Floats





Marching Shrimp and Marching Band



Kids

Race



Lion Dee of Fort Myers is honored as a Melvin Jones Fellow

Bonita Tails on after a Lover's one of their Springs decided to park's encourage trails and to focus on thought, might be to dogs out "We're our we're in



Springs sponsored Trails fundraising walk

representative from Key State Park spoke at meetings. The Bonita Lions Club members find a way to spotlight the natural beauty and residents to explore its beaches. "Then we began dog lovers, and we 'Well, what an idea it get people to bring their and walk the trail,'" always raising funds for charities, and right now the mode of our scholarships for school for the high school

vocational students."

12 Lions Club members, staff from the Lions Club Eye Clinic, Lovers Key State Park rangers and local Scouting America members participated.



Zone 7 Meeting held at Everglades City Bonita Springs, Everglades City and Naples



New member induction



Reflections on Being a Lion

Venice Club President Pamela Brown, Guest Writer

I have been pondering the idea of legacy, and concluded, for me, my legacy is part of the legacy all Lions share, a legacy that makes life better for our neighbors, our community, and the world.

Lately I have been wondering about “identity”. Do I have an identity? Do you? As I move quickly toward 80 years old, I realize that some parts of my identity are permanent, and some are left behind as life moves along. I was a daughter, sister, wife, and mother, but those identities have become blurred or lost over time. I identified proudly with my career, but that, too, has faded with retirement.

So, what remains? My religion remains. It is a core part of who I am and informs my behavior. My political affiliation remains and it too informs my choices. Both are part of my identity.

I have come to realize that being a Lion has given me another identity. It is an identity I wear with conviction and pride. It stands for something. It means I am part of an international organization that believes altruism and that contributing to others' wellbeing is crucial to a life well-lived. It defines who I am and who you are and how we see our roles in the world.

I hope you all feel the same pride in your identity as a Lion as I do. We ARE making a difference in our community. We ARE providing the gift of vision to children and adults, helping children receive meals at school, providing basic hygiene items to the men and women without homes, comforting a child with a teddy bear, supporting local food pantries. Our Venice Lions Club's Mane Event and our endowments support statewide vision and hearing entities, the Florida School for Deaf and Blind, and others. We support the Lions International Foundation that funds projects around the world! I am so proud of us!

As a child, I remember my father referring to my mother's friends as “do-gooders”, and his tone was not flattering. It seems there is a similar tone in my brother's challenge when he questions why I pay dues and bear the cost of gas, hotels and expenses associated with Lions conferences. It is a puzzle to me why the people closest to me, question my drive to make our neighbors' lives and the lives of others around the world a little easier. It is who I am and who you are as well.

So, yes, Dad, I am a do-gooder – that's who I am - I identify as a LION! We Lions are do-gooders and I am proud to be associated with do-gooders just like me. Maybe I'll tell that to my brother, too.

Campaign Message: Lion Tim Foreman, Candidate for Second Vice District Governor.



I am asking for your support and your vote. Why should you support me over my running mate? Let me use this analogy to explain. If you were going on a job interview, what is the most important thing you could use to promote yourself? Your resume, isn't it? It shows the highlights of your years of experience and expertise. My resume covers 21 years that I have served and learned in 2 different districts and multiple districts. I have held multiple cabinet positions in both districts. I have been a Guiding Lion in both districts. Recruited and mentored new and old Lions. I have helped start and mentor the Fishhawk Club and am currently working with a group to start another club.

Because of my experience, I have been involved in problem solving conversations involving some major issues with district leaders in both districts. I am constantly learning and that has helped myself and others to grow in Lionism. Please read the back page of my flyer and I'm sure you would agree that I am the best candidate for the office of 2nd Vice District Governor for District 35 I in 2026. Thank you for your time.

Campaign Message:
Lion Christine Timmons-Malone
Candidate for Second Vice District Governor



It has been a privilege to spend time with many of you throughout this process, learning about your clubs, your service projects, and your vision for the future of our district. I am grateful for the opportunity to listen and to better understand how we can continue strengthening Lionism together.

My belief is simple: our District thrives when we support strong clubs, develop leaders, and work collaboratively to expand meaningful service in our communities. Leadership in Lions is rooted in service, and it is through listening, collaboration, and thoughtful action that we can best support our clubs.

I would be honored to serve as your Second Vice District Governor and to work alongside you in continuing the proud tradition of service in our district.

Thank you for your dedication and your service.

We Serve.

Lions History & Traditions

Lions Traditions Peace Poster

The Peace Poster Contest was created in 1988 to give young people the opportunity to creatively express their feelings for world peace and to share their visions with the world. Approximately **600,000 children from 75 countries participate in the contest annually**. Lions clubs sponsor the contest, open to children **ages 11 - 13**, in local schools or organized, sponsored youth groups, such as Scouts and Boys & Girls Clubs

Each year a theme is chosen to help spark the students' imaginations. Expression of the theme, artistic merit and originality are the three criteria used to evaluate the posters at all judging levels

At the international level of the competition, members of the art, education, media, peace and youth communities serve as judges to select the 23 merit award winners and one grand prize winner.

The International Peace Contests are made up of two unique contests sponsored by Lions clubs — the International Peace Poster Contest and the International Peace Essay Contest. Young people ages 11-13 can share their creativity in expressing what peace means through art and writing.

Grand prize winners for each contest receive an award, a monetary prize of US\$5,000 and an invitation to a Lions International event. For the International Peace Poster Contest, 23 merit winners will receive a certificate and a monetary prize of US\$500.

2026-2027 theme: Harmony in Humanity

When we treat each other with respect and kindness, peace can flourish. This year, we invite young people to imagine a world where people of every culture and background live together peacefully — celebrating differences, finding common ground and creating true harmony in humanity.



Congratulations to the 2025-26 Lions International [#PeacePoster](#) Contest Grand Prize Winner Yifan He, 13, sponsored by Dalian Gao Er Fu Lions Club (China)!

“People of different races and technological backgrounds need to unite to jointly resist the threat of war. Just like this protective umbrella, only by joining hands can everyone hold up a safe sky for peace.”

For decades, the Peace Poster Contest has inspired thousands of children around the world.

posters: <https://bit.ly/3XRcVb8>

James “Jim” Sager Cox

June 10, 1934 – March 24, 2026 | Age 91

James “Jim” Sager Cox, 91, passed away on March 24, 2026, in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada.

Jim was born in Danville, Virginia, and later made his home in Land O’ Lakes, Florida, where he raised his family alongside his beloved wife, Helen G. Cox, beginning in the late 1960s. Together they built a life centered on family, hard work, and shared values. As the eldest of his siblings, Jim carried a quiet strength and sense of responsibility throughout his life.

A skilled electrician by trade and a natural entrepreneur, Jim eventually started his own business. His dedication and expertise led him to serve as the Electrical Inspector for Pasco County, Florida, where he worked until his retirement in 2001. He was known for his strong work ethic and his meticulous attention to detail.

Jim had a deep love for the outdoors and simple pleasures — fishing the saltwater flats, hiking, bicycling, hunting, and cheering on his Tampa Bay Rays. In the 1970s, he served as President of his local Lions Club and coached his son’s Little League team, reflecting a lifelong commitment to community. During his children’s younger years, he maintained a homestead farm and had a special fondness for animals.

Jim had known deep love — and deep loss. He was devoted to Helen for decades, and her passing to cancer left a profound mark on his heart. Yet love found him again when he met Carole, and he chose to make Canada his home for the next 25 years, building a beautiful new chapter. Together, Jim and Carole explored the highways and back roads of the US and Canada in their RV, collecting memories along the way.

Jim was a truly remarkable grandfather — to Vanessa, Starr, Sam, Maegan, and both his Lindseys — with a rare gift for making each one feel uniquely cherished. Whether he was playing cards, reading comics, or making them dissolve into laughter with his wit and observations, his presence was a constant joy.

He was a man who needed to keep his hands busy and his mind engaged. His creativity found expression in the tables and birdhouses he crafted, and in one memorable feat of ambition — a boat he built right in the driveway. A naturally curious and capable man, Jim loved tinkering and working with his hands his entire life.

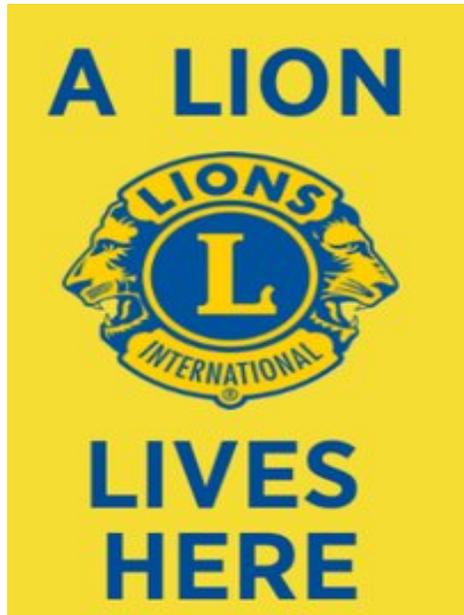
Jim had a warmth that drew people to him wherever he went. He was beloved for his Southern gentleman’s manner, his sharp humor, and his thoughtful way of seeing the world around him. He made friends easily and left an impression that lasted.

In his later years, Jim made his home at Fairview Seniors Home in Cambridge, where the dedicated team of caregivers became nothing less than family. Their empathy, compassion, and steadfast love surrounded him with dignity and warmth — a gift his family can never fully repay.

Jim is survived by his wife, Carole Brown; his son, David Cox; his daughter, Wanda Cox; his stepdaughters, Liz and her husband Matt, and Vicky and her husband Randy; and his grandchildren, Vanessa, Starr, Lindsey, Sam, Maegan, and Lindsey. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Helen G. Cox; his son, James “Jimmy” Cox Jr.; and his brothers and sisters.

Jim will be remembered for his kindness, his creativity, his steady presence, and the love he poured into everything he built — including his family. His legacy lives on in the lives of all who knew and loved him.

DISTRICT 35-I LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER 2026



COMPLETE WITH SIGN STAKE FOR ONLY \$15 EACH

The District 35-I Lions Sight Foundation, founded by Lion Dr. Howard Freedman, is raising funds to further our mission to increase vision screening primarily for children in our Lions Communities as well as increasing our outreach to other communities. We currently provide vision screening equipment to clubs to screen as many children in daycares, health fairs, schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, Y Centers and virtually any location.

Please help us to fund further purchases of equipment and to provide training on the equipment to further our mission. Good vision helps a child to succeed in school and their other activities in life. Please **HELP!**

To order a sign, please send your club's name, your name or contact person if ordering for your club. You may pay by check made out to District 35-I Lions Sight Foundation as we are also looking to establish other means of payment such as Venmo or PayPal in the very near future. Let us know if you are attending the Mini-Convention or MD-35 Convention. If not, we will make other arrangements to get your sign to you. Mail checks to: Lion Kathy Lawless, 5905 Humkey St, North Port 34291, Cell 610-739-0167, Email: lawless2003@yahoo.com or pccpennygregrich@gmail.com or TEXT 941-740-2860. We thank you for your support!



<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/lionsofmd35/1914970>

PLEASE NOTE: TO RECEIVE THE DISCOUNTED RATE OF 150.00 PER NIGHT, ALL ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE RESERVED THROUGH MD-35. RESERVATIONS WILL BE CLOSED ON **APRIL 7th.**

After that date you must call the Florida Hotel direct at 800-588-4656. The rate then will be \$219 a night which does not include all local/state/tourism taxes and hotel service fee.

