

The Imagineers Tale



Lions District 35i – Florida

AUGUST 2026

District Governor Beverly Flynn

IMAGINE

What We Can Do Together

Having returned from the International Convention in Hong Kong and stepping into a new Lions year, I am filled with excitement, gratitude, and optimism for all that lies ahead. The International Convention is always a powerful reminder of who we are as Lions — being among 15 to 16 thousand people united by service, friendship, and a shared commitment to making our communities stronger is amazing. It is a time to celebrate what has been accomplished, reconnect with fellow Lions, and look ahead to the impact we can create together.



This year, I invite every club member in our district to **IMAGINE** the possibilities before us:

Imagine clubs where every member feels engaged and valued.

Make the year filled with meaningful service, strong leadership, and new energy.

Appreciate the dedication that has brought us this far and the teamwork that will carry us forward.

Grow our impact by welcoming new ideas, new members, and new opportunities to serve.

Inspire one another through our actions, our compassion, and our commitment.

Never forget that even the smallest act of service can change a life.

Every Lion has a role to play in making our district stronger.

The International Convention reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. It is a celebration of service and a launch point for the year ahead. As a new District Governor, I am eager to begin this journey with you — to support our clubs, encourage new service, and build on the incredible work already happening across our district.

Our clubs do so much for others. We serve children, families, neighbors, and communities in need. We respond to local challenges, support important causes, and show up when it matters most. Whether through a service project, a membership drive, a leadership opportunity, or a moment of kindness, every contribution matters.

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So let us begin this Lions year with excitement. Let us dream boldly, serve generously, and lead with compassion. Let us **IMAGINE** what is possible when we come together as one district, united by service and driven by hope.

Thank you for all you do, for the lives you touch, and for the spirit you bring to our Lions family.

Just **iMAGiNE** what Lions can do!

Beverly Flynn
District Governor

Calendar and Upcoming

August 15 District 35I meeting

August 22 Guiding Lions Training, Zephyrhills

August 23 Zoom Training, Sharpen Your Lions Skills

August 29 Guiding Lions Training, Englewood

September 3-5 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

September 18 Fort Myers Lions Club Annual Charity Golf Scramble

Service Spotlights 2026-2027

August	Humanitarian
September	Childhood Cancer
October	Mental Health
November	Diabetes
December	Military/Veterans
January	Hunger
February	Elder Citizens
March	Vision
April	Environment
May	Youth/Reading Action
June	Hearing



Message from 1st VDG Drew Ogden

Humanitarian Month – Compassion in Action

by Lion Drew Ogden, First Vice District Governor, District 35I

This month, we celebrate **Humanitarian Month**, recognizing the heart of what it means to be a Lion. Every vision screening, hearing test, food drive, back to school donation, disaster relief effort, scholarship, and act of kindness reflect our commitment to improving lives and strengthening our communities.

Humanitarian service isn't measured by the size of the project—it is measured by the difference we make in the life of another person.

Whether you volunteer for an hour or lead a major service project, your efforts demonstrate the true spirit of our motto, **“We Serve.”**

I also want to bring the information to every club, zone, region and district that there are grants available to any 501c3 just for the asking. To find grants in your county, city or state, just go to **Chat GPT** and enter the question, “please give me a list of grants available in **MY** county that are available to **MY** Lions Club”.

I did that in Lee County, FL, and I found many large companies that offer these grants to the organizations in their area. Florida has state grants that are available. There are also national foundations that offer grants that you can apply for. This is an area that most of our clubs fail to take advantage of and it's **FREE MONEY**. If we don't ask, we will not receive anything and all you have to do is complete the application to apply.

Perhaps, there is someone in your club who would take on this project. If we have funds that we can put back into our communities, then Lions will be stronger and attract more not-yet-Lions to join with us to help build our clubs. If you need help with this, please call or message me directly.

Thank you to every Lion who gives their time, talents, and compassion to make our world a better place. Together, we continue to prove that the greatest gift we can offer is service to others.

Yours In Service, Drew Ogden, VDG



August Service Spotlight **Humanitarian:**

“Projects that meet you where you are”

by Lion Nicole Blauers

“We Serve.” It’s more than a motto—it’s the heart of who we are as Lions. Yet we also recognize that while many of us *want* to serve, not every project fits every Lion’s skillset, physical ability, or schedule. True service begins with meeting people where they are, and that includes our fellow Lions.

Serving in Ways That Fit Every Lion

This August, we’re focusing on service opportunities that offer flexibility and variety. Food insecurity continues to rise, but it rarely exists alone. Housing instability, unemployment, and lack of access to skill-building resources often make it difficult for families to find long-term solutions.

To support both our members and our community, consider partnering with organizations that offer multiple ways to get involved, such as:

- Metropolitan Ministries
- Feeding Tampa Bay
- Feeding America
- Ronald McDonald House

These organizations provide a wide range of volunteer options, allowing each Lion to serve in a way that feels meaningful and manageable. You can cook a meal. You can hand out food. You can organize a food drive. You can teach a class on food, housing, or financial instability.

This approach helps us meet people where *they* are—while also meeting Lions where *they* are.

Why This Matters: A Personal Reflection

As a child, my family faced many of these same challenges. Volunteers, food pantries, churches, and programs like Toys for Tots made a tremendous difference in our lives. I still remember the kindness, the generosity, and the hope those moments brought us.

Those experiences shaped my heart for service. Giving back to the organizations that once supported my family is deeply meaningful to me, and I believe that when we show compassion during someone’s hardest moments, we demonstrate what it truly means to be a Lion. Sometimes, that simple act of kindness can even open the door to a future conversation about membership.

Finding the Right Fit for Your Club

If these particular projects don’t align with your club’s focus, remember that there are countless other opportunities available in your community and on the Lions Club portal. There is always a way to serve—and always someone who needs what Lions have to offer.

Next Month Service Spotlight: September – Childhood Cancer

Message from 2nd VDG Christine Timmons-Malone

Imagine What's Possible

District 35I Newsletter Series

by Lion Christine Timmons-Malone, Second Vice District Governor, District 35I

AUGUST –

Imagine Yourself In Leadership

When we hear the word “leadership,” it is easy to think first about titles. But in Lions, leadership often begins long before a title is ever attached to it. Leadership begins when someone volunteers to help, steps forward to solve a problem, welcomes a new member, or simply asks, “How can I serve?”

Imagine yourself in leadership—not because you have to have all the answers, but because you care enough to keep learning. Strong Lions leaders are not perfect. They are willing. They are teachable. They listen, they grow, and they continue to serve with humility and purpose.



If you have ever thought, “Maybe someday I could do more,” I hope you will listen to that voice. Leadership in Lions belongs to every Lion willing to serve with heart, courage, and commitment.

Imagine the leader you could become—and then take the first step.

Imagine your next step—and then take it.





District 35-I Meeting | Saturday, August 15, 2026

This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to:

- 🦁 Connect with fellow Lions from across District 35-I
- 💡 Learn about new ideas, upcoming projects, and district initiatives
- 🗨️ Receive important updates from District leadership
- 🤝 Share successes, ask questions, and strengthen our service together

Meeting Details

📍 Location:

Park East Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 8333 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL

🕒 Time:

8 AM Registration and Breakfast, 9:30 AM Meeting Start Time

The agenda will be sent as soon as it is finalized.

We encourage every club to have representatives attend as we continue leading, growing, and serving together. Your participation helps strengthen our district and ensures we continue making a positive impact in our communities.

Thank you for your dedication to Lionism.

We look forward to seeing you on August 15!

We Serve.

Warm regards, District 35-I Leadership

Lions Together, Making a Difference 🦁

35-1 CABINET MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2026
8:00 AM - 12:30 PM
MEETING BEGINS AT 9:30 AM

PARKEAST MOBILE HOME PARK CLUBHOUSE
8333 S. TAMiami TRAIL
SARASOTA, FL 34238

REGISTRATION:
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

SERVICE PROJECT:
8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

PDG MEETING:
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM

BREAKFAST:
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM
ONLY \$10.00

RSVP BY AUGUST 12TH TO
DSLASPINA@MSN.COM

BRING USED HEARING AIDS FOR THE
35-1 HEARING FOUNDATION
AND
PULL TABS FOR THE SHRINERS HOSPITAL



THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST RETURNS

...

Are you ready for a little friendly competition?

This year, the District is sponsoring a contest to recognize some of the best Lions Club's communication newsletters.

NEWSLETTER CONTEST RULES:

Here is the criteria for scoring, each category is worth **10 points** –

1. Masthead – Name of the newsletter, the edition number or the month published
2. Club name, City, State and website
3. Announcement of day, time, and place of the club meeting
4. A Member's Message – A Club President's message or any other club member sharing an idea or thought for the good of the club
5. List of upcoming events for the club, zone, district, etc., with the date
6. Items about the zone and district events
7. Committee reports
8. Club Activities planned for club socials
9. Announcements of activities or projects completed by the club with pictures
10. Names of the Club President, 1VP, 2VP, Secretary and Treasurer along with the Newsletter Editor's name (email addresses if permitted)

25 POINTS EXTRA CREDIT: Personal interviews or stories about club members – “Getting to know our members”

The contest will run from September through April. The winners will be recognized at the Multiple District Convention in May. The District Governor's home club, as well as the club judging the contest, will abstain from participation in the contest.

All newsletters must be emailed and received by the judging committee no later than the 10th of the month of the newsletter edition.

All entries should be sent to: The Riverview Lions Club at bkalle813@gmail.com

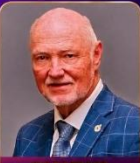


Lions International – News



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW
**FIRST-YEAR
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS**
2026-2027

We are proud to announce the election of five exceptional Lions to serve as First-Year International Directors for 2026-2027.
Their leadership. Their passion. Our global impact.
Together, we serve.



JIM BARBARE



GREGORY K. "GREG" CRAFO



DIANA M. CASTILLO



KATHLEEN DORMAN



DANIEL MARNEY ELKINS

Thank you for stepping forward to lead and inspire.
We look forward to the incredible impact you will make in our global Lions family and the communities we serve.

WE SERVE. WE LEAD. WE IMPACT.



Executive Officers
2026-2027



Mark S. Lyon
Intl. President



A.P. Singh
LCIF Chairperson



Dr. Manoj Shah
Intl. First Vice President



Tony Benbow
Intl. Second Vice President



Robert Rettby
Intl. Third Vice President

Congratulations
to the **2026–2027 Council of Governors!**
Installed in Hong Kong this week!



George Niles District L	Gaston Correa District N	Elbio Gimenez Council Chair	John Hanna District O	Beverly Flynn District I
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Your leadership, dedication, and commitment continue to
Make Our Mark across Multiple District 35.



Proud to be Lions!
Lions of MD 35

Lions of Multiple District 35
🎉 Congratulations to the 2026–2027 Multiple District 35 Council of Governors! 🌍 🐘

Future LIONS International Conventions

Washington D.C. July 2-6, 2027

Singapore, June 23-27, 2028

Minneapolis, MN 2029

San Antonio TX 2030

Helsinki Finland 2031

Future USA/Canada LIONS Leadership Forums

Memphis, Tennessee

September 3 - 5, 2026

Huntsville, Alabama

September 16-18, 2027



LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL
2026-27

8 CAUSES

 Diabetes	 Environment	 Hunger	 Childhood Cancer
 Vision	 Humanitarian Effort	 Youth	 Disaster Relief

1.37M

Total Membership



0.66%

Membership Growth in FY



50,515

Total Clubs



\$894,600

Total Donations in FY



46,123

Total Activities in FY



7.92M

Total People Served LCI



0.75M

Total People Served LCIF



12,062

Total Participants in FY



Data as of: 07/22/26 11:07:...

Calling All District 35i Motivated Lions

...

You are Invited to Certified
Guiding Lions Training

Two Dates and Locations:



Zephyrhills Lions Club

5827 Dean Dairy Rd.

Zephyrhills FL 33451

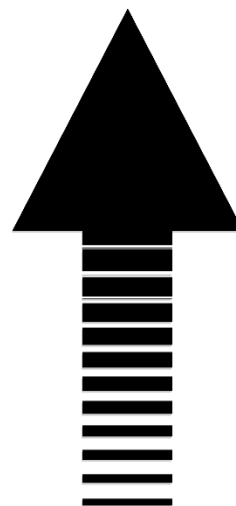
Date 08.22.26 Time 10:00

Englewood Lions Club

4611 Placida Rd.

Englewood FL 34224

Date 08.29.26 Time 10:00



RSVP PDG Dave Hollern

dhholler@hotmail – 814-573-2568

District 35I Opportunities to Sharpen Your Lion's Skills

As your Global Leadership Team Coordinator, it is my pleasure to bring opportunities for you to expand your Lions skills. In July with the help of our 1st VDG Drew Ogden, 2nd VDG Christine Malone and Lion Barbara McGillicuddy, we provided quality training to your Region, Zone and Club Officers.

This month, we are providing a mixed bag of opportunities. There will be two sessions for Certified Guiding Lion training, one on August 22nd at the Zephyrhills Lions Club and August 29th at the Englewood Lions Club. Information for both are in this newsletter. For those who do not know what a Certified Guiding Lion's responsibility is, you are assigned by the District Governor to provide guidance and help to either new Lions Clubs or those older clubs who may be struggling. If you want to know more, please sign up for the training.

As part of the monthly learning session kicking off in August, we will have a Zoom training opportunity for all interested, but especially Club Membership Chairpersons presented by IPDG Linda Gregory. This will be on recruiting and keeping club members. Many of our clubs struggle with membership and this is an easy way to sharpen your skills. Below is the information to log into that training on August 23rd at 7:00 PM. Please plan for an hour's session.

David Hollern is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83008822315?pwd=xcBq5OGxKlp8qLcRMWXh0Rqp1KRiUD.1>

Meeting ID: 830 0882 2315

Passcode: 284842

Quote of the Day by Satya Nadel

"Listening was the most important thing I accomplished each day because it would build the foundation of my leadership for years to come."

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Dave Hollern

District 35I GLT

Around Our District – Celebrating Service



Even though the Riverview Lions Club just chartered on 5/7/26, they have been busy. They had their charter party on 6/13/26 that was attended by over 75 people. The ceremony was impressive and got the club off to a great start.

The club has already participated in a Dinner in the Dark at Plant City, collected used glasses from several doctor offices in the area, done vision screening for children at a Days4Hope event, and had six members become certified to do diabetic testing. We are on our way.



**Please email your news, notes, photos and announcements
for our 2026-27 Lions District 35I newsletter to:
paulapaquette@aol.com (newsletter editor)**

*Photos can be e mailed in any format as an attachment.
Please email documents in Word (not as a pdf). THANK YOU!*



The Punta Gorda Lions Club inducted new member Kaylie Chavarria who is the Charlotte High School Whipple Chapter Leos Club Advisor. She is a teacher at the school who additionally guides the wonderful Leos Club. The induction ceremony was conducted by PDG Vergne Gregrich from the Port Charlotte and North Port Lions Clubs. Welcome, Lion Kaylie. Pictured above, Lion Judy Barclay is the Leos Liaison. PCC Bill Ringelstein, also at that meeting, installed Lion Neal Kuniansky as the 2nd Vice President of the Club. It was an action-packed evening. PDG Vergne gave a rousing presentation on “Do we think Lions are really important?” He gave such an enthusiastic list of the myriad people Lions Clubs reach through their service projects. And, the answer is, YES, Lions are really important!



District Governor Bev Flynn installed the officers of the Laurel-Nokomis Lions Club. Congratulations to all! Well done!

Florida Lions Diabetes Foundation

News and Notes

The Florida Lions Diabetes Foundation has released several important updates regarding diabetic screening, trainer certification, supply procedures, and upcoming training opportunities. If your club participates in diabetes screenings—or is interested in becoming involved—please review the information below carefully.

Diabetes Screening Training – August 13, 2026

The Florida Lions Diabetes Foundation will be hosting both New Screener Training and Re-Certification Training on:

Thursday, August 13, 2026

 Jacksonville Arlington Lions Club House

6523 Commerce Street

Jacksonville, FL 32211

Training Schedule

- New Screener Training: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Re-Certification Class: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Lead Trainers:

- Lion Norma Callahan
- Lion Judi Seltzer

Please bring your screening kits (if applicable) for updates. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Training will begin promptly, so please arrive on time.

RSVP: Lion Judi Seltzer

 lionseltzerjudi@gmail.com

 443-910-7604

Important Trainer Updates

To maintain the Florida Lions Diabetes Foundation's certification standards:

- Only the ten approved trainers are currently authorized to conduct diabetic screener training for MD35.
- Two certified trainers are required at every training session unless specifically approved otherwise by Lion Judi Seltzer.
- Trainers must have all required supplies available during training.
- A new Trainer Certification Class is planned for October in DeLand for those interested in becoming trainers.
- Current trainers will be required to re-certify every other year.

Updated Diabetic Supply Procedures

Please note these important changes regarding diabetic screening supplies:

- Supply requests must be submitted directly to Dr. Norma Callahan, who will determine quantities to be distributed.
- Each club must request its own supplies unless otherwise directed.
- Supplies shared with another club will not be automatically replaced without prior approval.
- Supply requests should be submitted within two weeks of your screening event, including:
 - quantities needed, and
 - anticipated number of participants.
- Clubs that have not submitted their current supply inventory will not receive additional supplies until that information has been received.
- New clubs beginning diabetic screening may purchase a starter kit for \$100, which includes a meter, strips, lancets, and cards. Clubs will need to provide additional items such as bandages.
- Completed screening forms and cover sheets must be mailed within two weeks of each event in order for results to be counted.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving your communities through diabetes awareness and screening. Your dedication helps identify individuals at risk and improves the health of countless Floridians.

Kindness Matters Award Process

Club submissions – by February 28

Lions club service chairpersons and Leo club presidents select one of their service projects, complete a [nomination form](#) (found on the Lions International website), and email it to their district global service team (D-GST) coordinator (District 35-I: Lion Loretta Barksdale at barsdaleloretta@gmail.com).



District selections – by March 31

Following a vote by their district cabinet, D-GST coordinators select one nomination as winner of their District Kindness Matters Service Award. They endorse the winning nomination form and email it to their multiple district global service team (MD-GST: PDG Elizabeth Fisher at lionlizfisher@gmail.com) coordinator.

Multiple District review – by April 30

Following a vote by their council of governors, MD-GST coordinators select one nomination as winner of their Multiple District Kindness Matters Service Award. They endorse the winning nomination form and [email it to Lions International](#).

International winner selection & announcement

Lions International will randomly select one nomination from each constitutional area as a winner of the International Kindness Matters Service Award. Winners will be announced by the end of the Lions International Convention.

USA/Canada LIONS Leadership Forum



LAST CALL!

SEPTEMBER 3 – 5, 2026 – MEMPHIS

CONNECT

BE INSPIRED

LEARN

**Come for the
learning. Stay for the
fellowship. Leave
inspired to serve.**

****FOR MORE INFO SCAN BARCODE OR GO TO [LIONSFORUM.ORG](https://lionsforum.org)****

Questions?? Call Lion Pat McNally 718-810-4749 or email statpat123@aol.com

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Making a global impact

1.4 million Lions serving

50,000 Lions clubs

200 countries and regions served

US \$1.3 billion in grants





**FORT MYERS LIONS CLUB
ANNUAL CHARITY**



GOLF Scramble



Eastwood Golf Course

4600 Bruce Herd Lane,
Fort Myers, FL 33905



Friday, September 18th, 2026

Shot Gun Start: 1 pm

Entry Fee:

- **\$100 per player**

Prizes & Awards:

- **1st Place**
- **2nd Place**

Contests:

- **Longest Drive**
- **Putting Contest**
- **Closest to the Pin**

Hole Sponsorship

- **\$100**

Mulligans Available
for Purchase

Lunch Included

**Single Players Welcome
RSVP Today-Spots are filling
fast**

**Register Online -in advance
www.fortmyerslions.com**

“We Serve”



Contact Jeremy :
239-822-8134



jeremyjtotten@gmail.com



Fort Myers Lions Club
239-313-5603



www.fortmyerslions.com



**All proceeds will support Fort
Myers Lions Club's Prevent
Hunger Program**