

The Imagineers Tale



Lions District 35i – Florida

OCTOBER 2026

District Governor Beverly Flynn

Imagine What We Can Accomplish Together

As your District Governor, I continue to be humbled and honored by the opportunity to represent each and every one of you. Serving as your District Governor is more than a position—it is a privilege that I do not take for granted. Every time I visit one of our clubs, meet a new Lion, or hear about another service project taking place in our communities, I am reminded of what makes our District so special: **YOU!**



One of the highlights of my time at the USA/Canada Forum was accepting an award on behalf of our District from International President Mark Lyon for reaching one of our membership goals. Standing there and accepting that recognition was certainly an honor, but the credit belongs to our Lions throughout the District. This award represents **your** hard work, **your** enthusiasm, and **your** willingness to invite others to become part of the Lions family.

And I could not be prouder of what I am seeing across our District. **Our Lions are working hard to bring new members into our clubs!** New Lions bring new ideas, new energy, new talents, and new opportunities to serve. Every new member we induct represents another person who has decided to make a difference in their community.

As we approach the close of the **first quarter of our Club Membership Challenge**, I encourage every club to keep the momentum going, keep the spark lit. Think about the people in your community who would make great Lions. Invite them to a meeting, bring them to a service

project, or simply share with them why **you** are a Lion. Sometimes the most powerful membership invitation is simply telling someone, *“Come see what we do.”*

Two Great Opportunities Are Coming!

Please don't forget to **register for our Multiple District Conference**, being held **November 6–8 at The Florida Hotel in Orlando**. We have a lot of exciting things planned, including some great new seminars. Whether you are looking for new ideas for membership, service, leadership, fundraising, or simply want to connect with fellow Lions from across Florida, there will be something for everyone.

Then, on **November 21st**, we will gather for another fun and informative **District Meeting**. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there!

And remember—I am **still asking for your suggestions and ideas!**

One of the things I want to encourage this year is for every Lion to know that their ideas matter. That's why we have our **“Brilliant Idea”** challenge. When you turn in a suggestion or idea, you will receive a **Brilliant Idea light bulb filled with M&M's!** Who doesn't love a little chocolate along with a great idea?

So, if you can **IMAGINE** a new service project, have an idea for a fundraiser, have a suggestion for our District, or simply have something you would like to share with other Lions—**let us know!**

We will share the ideas, talk about them, and see what happens. Because some of the greatest things we accomplish as Lions begin with one simple thought:

“What if we tried this?”

This year, let's continue to **IMAGINE** what is possible, share our ideas, welcome new Lions, and turn those ideas into action.

I am incredibly proud to serve as your District Governor, but even more proud to serve **alongside you**.

“Keep imagining. Keep serving. Keep writing the story—because the best chapter of our Imagineers Tale is the one we are writing together!”

Beverly Flynn
District Governor

Just **iMAGiNE** what Lions can do!

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Around Our District – Photos,
Reports, Events, Upcoming



Calendar and Upcoming

October 25, 2026 – 5:00 PM Zoom Training, Lions Portal 101
(details and Zoom link below)

November 6-8, 2026 Fall Conference, Multiple District 35,
Orlando, The Florida Hotel

March 11-14, 2027 Regional Lions Leadership Institute,
Orlando, The Florida Hotel

Please mark your calendars for Wreaths
Across America. The 2026 date is set for
Saturday, December 19. Wreaths will be
placed at over 5,500 cemeteries at the
graves of deceased military service persons.
Additional information will be provided.



Service Spotlights 2026-2027

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

Turning Membership Into Momentum: Invite, Engage, Serve

by Lion Drew Ogden

First Vice District Governor, District 35I

As Lions, we often talk about membership—and for good reason. Membership is the foundation that allows us to continue serving our communities. But growing our organization isn't simply about adding names to a roster. It's about creating **momentum**.

And that momentum begins with three simple words: **Invite. Engage. Serve.**

Invite

Think about the people you interact with every day—friends, neighbors, coworkers, business associates and family members. How many of them truly know what Lions do?

Sometimes the best way to recruit a new Lion isn't to invite someone to a meeting. It's to invite them to **serve**.

Ask someone to join you at a vision screening, food drive, community cleanup, fundraising event or another Lions service project. Let them experience firsthand the satisfaction that comes from helping another person.

People may forget what we tell them about Lions, but they will remember how it felt to serve beside us.

Imagine what could happen if **every Lion in District 35-I invited just one person to participate in a service project this year.**

Engage

Bringing someone into Lions is only the beginning. The next challenge is making sure they feel that they are truly part of the organization.

Give new members something meaningful to do. Ask for their ideas. Invite them to participate on a committee. Let them help organize a project. Most importantly, listen to them.

We should also remember that engagement isn't limited to new members. Longtime Lions need opportunities to remain excited and involved as well.

Every member should feel that their time, experience and talents matter.



When people feel needed, appreciated and connected to a purpose, they are much more likely to remain active Lions.

Serve

Service is where everything comes together.

Throughout District 35-I, Lions are changing lives through vision and hearing programs, hunger relief, youth activities, diabetes awareness, environmental projects and countless other efforts.

But our service does something else—it tells the story of Lions.

Every time someone sees Lions working in their community, we have an opportunity to show them who we are and what we stand for.

Our Lions motto is beautifully simple:

We Serve.

Those two words have united Lions around the world for generations. But they are more than a motto. They are an invitation.

An invitation to make a difference.

An invitation to build friendships.

An invitation to become part of something larger than ourselves.

As we move forward this Lions year, I challenge every club in District 35-I to think about how we can turn membership into momentum.

Invite someone. Engage them. Serve together.

Because ultimately, we don't grow Lions simply by talking about what we do.

We grow Lions by inviting people to serve beside us.

Together, we can strengthen our clubs, expand our service and ensure that Lions remain a powerful force for good throughout our communities for generations to come.

Yours in Service,

Lion Drew Ogden
Vice District Governor
District 35-I, Florida

Invite . Engage . Serve



September Service Spotlight **Mental Health:**

Live Well, Serve Well

A Lions Community Wellness Initiative

Breath First

In a world that moves quickly, asks a lot, and rarely pauses, mental health is no longer something we can afford to put on the back burner. It touches every one of us. It can be quiet or loud, come in waves, or all at once. There is no ceiling on the resources we need for our loved ones and ourselves when it comes to mental health. While there are many paths to support and healing, I want to offer one that is simple, accessible, and already within you. **Your breath.**



In our daily lives, we often skim the surface of everything we do: our thoughts, our conversations, even our own emotions. We become stretched thin not necessarily because we're doing too much, but because we're not fully present in all that we do.

One of the most powerful things we can do for our mental health is to create space. Space to feel, process, pause instead of reacting. The remarkable thing? This space is available to all. In a simple moment of awareness, you can provide the space you need. It's where balance and compassion begin. It's where serving yourself empowers you to serve others with presence and care.

Wherever you are right now — physically, mentally, emotionally — allow yourself to take this moment to pause. Sit or lie comfortably and find stillness. Follow along for one minute before you continue reading:

Take a slow, intentional breath in, and a long, releasing breath out. Release a sigh if that feels right... Close your eyes and repeat four or five times before you open your eyes. When you open your eyes, observe how you feel in your body and your mind. Maybe say out loud or to yourself, "I have what I need to anchor me, to support me, right here, right now"

"For those in need, sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is presence or a listening ear. A kind word. A shared moment. A reminder that they are not alone, you are not alone, we are not alone."

Let it be a gentle reminder that mental wellness doesn't begin somewhere far away. It begins right here, within you. If you have ever thought, "I cannot do yoga," you just proved yourself wrong. Yoga practice is uniting the inner and outer, the self and the whole, alone or in community. You don't need a studio, an expensive membership, or to twist your body into a pretzel. Everyone can do yoga. Everyone has the tool to begin — breath.

When we begin to care for ourselves in this way, we become more available, not just in our own lives, but in the lives of others. We listen more deeply. We respond with more patience. We recognize when someone else may be struggling, because we've taken the time to understand our own inner landscape.

Now IMAGINE what becomes possible when we take the steps to care for ourselves and then carry that presence into the communities We Serve. For those in need, sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is presence or a

listening ear. A kind word. A shared moment. A reminder that they are not alone, you are not alone, we are not alone.

We don't need to have all the answers to make a difference. We just need to show up — with compassion, with openness, and with a willingness to meet people where they are.

Know that wherever you are right now is exactly where you need to be.

With Infinite Love and Light, from my heart to each and every one of you beautiful Lions in District 35-I, across Florida, across the country, and around the world,

Namaste,

Lion Christal Snell

Venice Lions Club Committee for

Live Well, Serve Well

A Lions Community Wellness Initiative



Next Month Service Spotlight: November – Diabetes

Message from 2nd VDG Christine Timmons-Malone

Mentorship

District 35I Newsletter Series

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

OCTOBER – *Imagine the Power of Mentorship*



No Lion grows alone. Somewhere along the way, each of us benefits from someone who answers a question, offers encouragement, shares experience, or simply believes in us before we fully believe in ourselves.

Imagine the difference we could make if every Lion chose to encourage one other person this year. A newer member who needs a warm welcome. A future leader who needs reassurance. A fellow Lion who has potential but may not yet see it in themselves.

Mentorship does not have to be formal to be meaningful. Sometimes it looks like sitting beside someone at a meeting, explaining how something works, inviting them to join a project, or saying, “I think you’d be great at this.” Those small moments can build confidence, belonging, and a sense of purpose.

One of the greatest gifts we can offer in Lions is to help someone else grow. When we mentor, we do more than share information—we strengthen the future of our clubs and our district.

Imagine whose path you could brighten with a little encouragement—and then reach out.

It's That Time of Year Again –

Fall Conference Registration is LIVE!



Registration is officially LIVE for the
Multiple District 35 November Fall Conference!

 November 6-8, 2026

 The Florida Hotel – Orlando, Florida

Get ready for a great weekend of fellowship, learning, Lions, and FUN! This is always a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Lions from across Florida, meet new friends, exchange ideas, and attend interesting and informative seminars.

Ready to register?

Simply click the registration sign on the attached flyer or scan the QR code with your phone or tablet to get started.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/lionsofmd35/2369372>

Make your plans, invite your fellow Lions, and get registered!

We can't wait to see everyone in Orlando this November! 🦁 🌴

See you at Fall Conference!

Multiple District 35 – Florida Lions





Reaching Out to MD 35 District I – WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for one or two Lions Saving Sight Intake Administrator volunteers

As an Intake Administrator, you will be assigned by the Director of Operations, eye saving surgery cases as they are being processed. Since case information is taken via your phone, assigned cases may be outside of District I.

As an Intake Administrator, you will assist applicants with completing their application for support and assist them with gathering needed documents. Once all documents are completed and gathered, you will send them to the Director of Operations who makes the final decision on Lions Saving Sight coverage.

As an Intake Administrator, you will be expected to join team Zoom calls and complete HIPAA certification (this will be provided to you by the Director of Operations). You must feel confident in speaking on the phone with applicants, good handwriting is a must and you must be able to scan applicant documents. You will not be assigned more than 1-2 cases per month to make sure the work load is not over powering. Training will be provided by the Director of Operations.

If you would like to be considered for this voluntary role, please reach out to the Director of Operations, Lion Judi Seltzer- cell: 443-910-7604 or email: lionseltzerjudi@gmail.com. Feel free to review our website www.lionssavingsight.org for more information.

Submitted by PCC Blair S. “Chip” Kunka

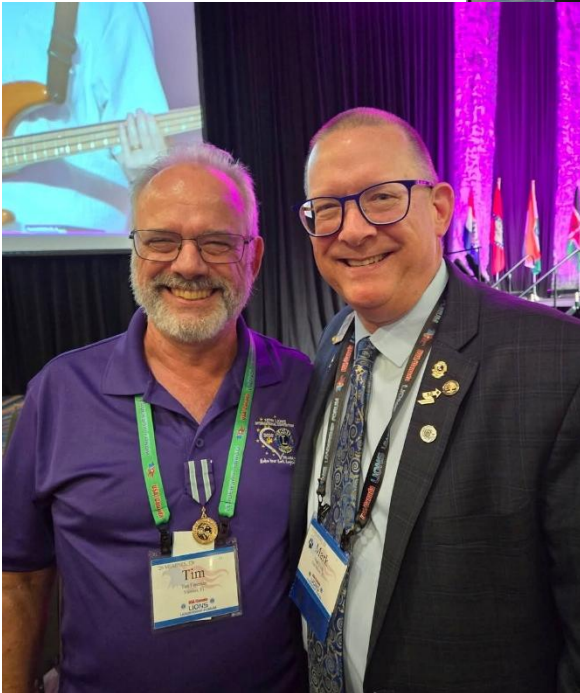
President, Lions Saving Sight Foundation
Director, Beauty of Sight Eye Bank
Past Council Chair. Lions MD35
Past District Governor, Lions District 35I
captainbk@aol.com



Lions at the USA-Canada Forum

A grand time was had by all!

The streets of Memphis were filled with the echoes of the Lions Roar ringing proudly as before as Lions from around the world dropped in for education, sharing, training, celebration and camaraderie. Our own Lions from District 35i were feted by the Lions International President and his team. Congratulations to the graduates of Lions University! Congratulations to others who received international recognition! Congratulations to all who took the journey and were enriched by it!



Multiple District 35 was well-represented at the Forum. Congratulations to 1st VDG Drew Ogden for receiving his Lions University Bachelor's degree. PDG Patty Jean Strong and Lion Tim Foreman posed for photos with International President Mark Lyons.



Lion Tim Foreman received an International President's Leadership Award. It was presented by Immediate Past President A.P. Singh. Congratulations to our own District Governor Bev Flynn for being recognized by International President Mark Lyons. A number of Florida Lions received their diplomas for completing Lions University Bachelors or Masters degrees. Congratulations to all!



District Governor Beverly Flynn received an award from International President Mark Lyons since the District has already achieved 20% of it's recruitment target



District 35i Leaders

Happy Fall District 35I Lions,

With the help of Lion Jeff Myles, this month we will be offering a basic Zoom training session on the use of the Lions Portal.

Our plan is to hold two sessions, the first which will be held on October 25th at 5:00 is for basic use that every Lion should understand. How to log in, download information about your membership, club, district and International will be discussed.

If you have never logged in or are unsure of its use this session is for you. In the near future we will hold an intermediate session that is geared more towards club officers as current reporting is all through the portal, no more PU 101. The log in information for the basic session is in the flyer companion that will also appear in our newsletter. Please pass this information on to those Lions who you think might benefit from this training and I hope to see you at the session.

Quote of the Day by Winston S. Churchill

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Dave Hollern, District 35I GLT

October Lions Training on the Portal

PDG David Hollern 35I GLT is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88370397976>

Join and take notes

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88370397976?mynotes=on>

Meeting chat link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/88370397976>

View meeting insights

<https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=4b56deb6-41c1-4d7d-88a1-344baed062a3>

Meeting ID: 883 7039 7976



Lions Portal 101 - October 25th 5:00 PM

Regional Lions Leadership Institute

The Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) prepares Lions and Leos who are ready to pursue leadership roles at the club, zone, district, or multiple district level. The core + elective curriculum offers a consistent foundation while allowing flexibility to meet local leadership development needs.

Core Sessions:

- Fast and Effective Teams (90 minutes): Discover how to quickly build effective teams and what makes them perform at their best.
- Keeping Members Engaged (90 minutes): Increase member engagement and retention by discussing various strategies to ensure that club members, especially new members, feel they are an important part of the club.
- International Priorities (90 minutes): Learn about and actively support our organization's international priorities.
- Overcoming Resistance (60 minutes): Recognize how to get to the root cause of resistance and how to communicate an empathetic solution. Electives Recommended for Club Level Leaders:
 - Communicating in a Fast-paced World (60 minutes) : Explore the pros and cons of using digital communication tools as well as best practices to ensure digital communication is effective.
 - Meeting in a Fast-paced World (60 minutes): Understand the benefits and best practices of virtual meetings.
 - Delegation (90 minutes): Identify the advantages of delegating and how to implement delegation effectively.
 - Goal Setting (120 minutes): Understand the value of establishing goals and develop a plan to achieve goals.

Additional Electives

- Opening Session (60 minutes): Get to know your faculty and fellow participants.
- Lions Fundamentals (120 minutes): Understand the association's history, principles and structure, while exploring the benefits of membership.
- Diversity (90 minutes): Recognize the value of diversity and the benefits it can provide clubs.
- Public Speaking (60 minutes): Use a framework for preparing speeches and learn guidelines for effective delivery.
- Time Management (60 minutes): Review the importance of time management, identify obstacles and provide strategies for overcoming those obstacles.
- Personal Mission Statement. (60 minutes): Develop your own personal mission statement
- Local Issues & Opportunities (90 minutes): Discuss topic-specific needs or interests of your local area.

Lions International MD-35 Regional Lions Leadership Institute

March 11-14, 2027 Florida Hotel, 1500 Saad Lake Rd., Orlando, FL

Check in 3:30 PM Thursday-Depart Sunday 11:20 AM

Registration Fee of only \$250 includes:

Hotel Room for 3 Nights Eight Meals (Thursday Diner -Sunday Breakfast)

Name _____ Badge Name (if different) _____

District _____ Club _____

Highest Office Held _____ Current Office if any _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Have you ever attended a RLLI? Y ___ N ___

Please inform us of any special needs or diets.

Room Accommodations: Double Occupancy (Single Occupancy add \$100)

Roommate, Special Needs & Diets (if applicable – list below)

Make Checks Payable to: MD-35 Lions

Send Check and Registration to: MD-35 Lions 331 W. Central Ave., Suite 246 Winter Haven, Florida 33880

LEADERSHIP ROOTED IN SERVICE

District 35I Cookbook Coming

Once again, our District will be putting together an amazing cookbook. All recipes will fall into specific categories. Watch our District Facebook page and our District 35I website in September for details! So, start thinking of your grandmother's favorite Sunday recipes, or your wife or husband's favorite dish! Do you have a secret BBQ sauce? Want to share it?

The plan is to have it printed and ready for sale at our Mini Convention and then the MD Convention. The project will benefit Lions Clubs International Foundation.

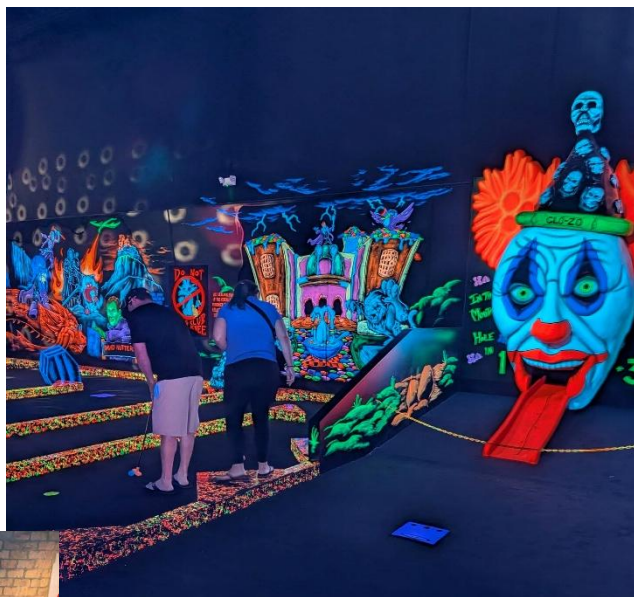
PDG Patty Jean Strong

Around Our District – Celebrating Service

*The **Clearwater Lions Club** has a number of service activities underway!*

A Monster Mini Golf Tournament Fundraiser was their inaugural event and 17 teams participated. The Club raised \$551 for their childhood cancer charity, Greg's All Kids Are Gifted. The funds purchase small toys, activity kits, fast food gift cards, etc. for the Child Life Team at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Pete. Lion Greg Farley, Jr. heads up this committee and delivers these items each and every month of the year!

The Club is also sponsoring their Annual Corn Hole Tournament in November. They are a second-year Gold Sponsor of the 2nd Lighthouse of Pinellas's White Cane Walk on October 17th.



— CLEARWATER LIONS CLUB —

BAGS, BREWS, AND BARBECUE

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

★ **NOVEMBER 7, 2026** ★



**CHECK IN
12:30 PM**



**TOURNAMENT BEGINS
1:30 PM**

**\$40
PER TEAM**

**Must use our
bags & boards
NO EXCEPTIONS**

SOGGY BOTTOM BREWERY
662 Main St.
Dunedin, FL 34698

Come out for a fun day of cornhole, great music, awesome raffle baskets, cold beer, and delicious BBQ from Q Barbeque (available for purchase next door).
All proceeds benefit the Clearwater Lions Club and our local service projects.





SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
& REGISTER!



The Punta Gorda Lions Club conducted children's vision and hearing screenings at Baker Center and several other childhood education centers. They also participate in food distributions for the Harry Chapin Food Bank on a monthly basis.



Lions International
We are serving a world in need.
One act of kindness at a time.
1.4 Million Lions 50,000 Lions Clubs



**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 Riverview Lions Club has been busy. Over the last month, they screened children's vision at three events, totaling 114 children. They also trained on using the hearing machine, as they tested 27 children for hearing at the Wesley Chapel Cool Students homeschool event. This event was set up by the Zephyrhills Lions Club with the assistance of the Plant City Lions and Riverview Lions, who were there to help. They are also working on setting up diabetic screening at a church food pantry.



Englewood in photos

Sep 7, 2026



The Englewood Lions on the March

On Labor Day the Englewood Lions took part in the Englewood Pioneer Day Parade. We were marching proud with the disaster trailer in tow and a Lion in a Mustang leading the group. Our Lions passed out candy to the happy children along the way. A special shoutout to Lion Shaun Coleman who drove to Zephyrhills to pick up and return the trailer and Katy Hawkens who wore that very hot Lions Costume.

Clearwater Lions Support Healthy Bites at Directions for Living

Clearwater Lions Club members recently visited Directions for Living to see the Healthy Bites Snack Stand in action and learn how this simple resource is making a meaningful difference for children, families, and individuals receiving services.

The stand is intentionally placed where clients can easily access it, with snacks and drinks available without having to ask. Staff shared that it is restocked several times each day and has created thousands of client touchpoints. They also described how something as simple as a snack or bottle of water can help calm a difficult moment, open the door to conversation, and allow someone to better engage in the mental-health and family services being provided.

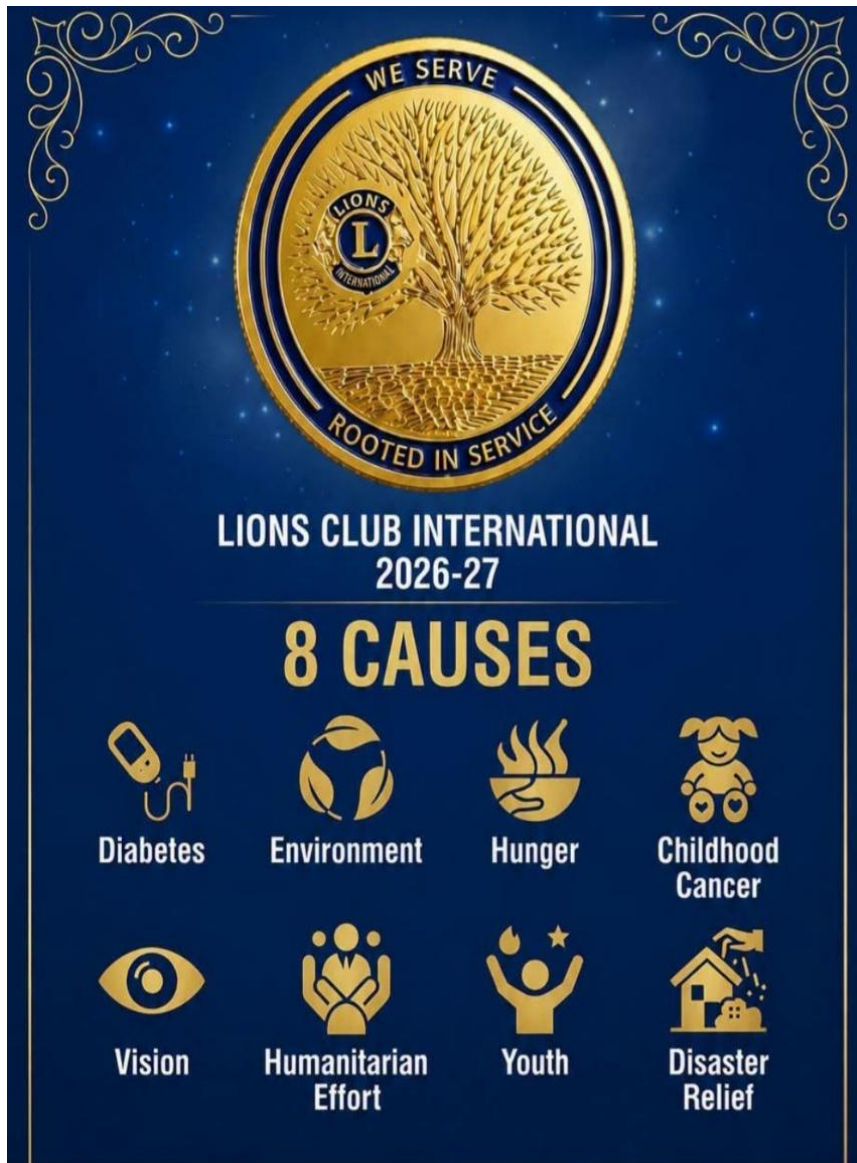
Healthy Bites is about more than food. It meets an immediate basic need with dignity and helps create a welcoming environment where people feel cared for.

Directions for Living expressed its gratitude for the Clearwater Lions Club's support and partnership and is preparing to seek continued funding for the program.

We Serve — one healthy bite at a time.



Lions International – News



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

Huntsville, Alabama

September 16-18, 2027

Lions International has carefully curated its EIGHT GLOBAL CAUSES. The association has undertaken thoughtful study and conversation to find its primary focuses within these eight needs that impact every Lions service area around the world. Here in District 35I, we strive to positively impact these needs in our local communities to make all of the todays and tomorrows brighter for those WE SERVE.

THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST RETURNS

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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

