



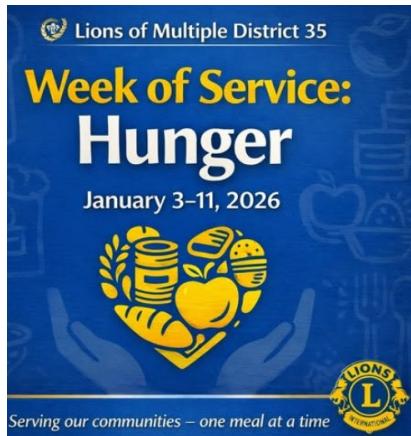
# Tales from the *Pride*

## Lions District 35 I Newsletter January 2026

District 35 I: Governor Linda Gregory  
Editor: Jan Kunka [readinthehead1@aol.com](mailto:readinthehead1@aol.com)

### January District 35I Service Project

#### Hunger: Kathy Lawless



Back in July of 2020, Charlotte County C.O.A.D. partnered with the Charlotte County Lions & Lower Sarasota County Lions to organize a **Farmers to Families** event in Port Charlotte. The **Lions were the worker bees** & C.O.A.D. was the non -profit organization that did the paperwork & was the contact organization for the events. We received 3 MEGA deliveries- 53 ft trailers jampacked with food for our communities. **Lions from all over Florida arrived early & ready to work.**

We had a line of cars awaiting the unloading of those trailers that wrapped thru the park and down the street. We worked from 8:00 till 3:00 filling the trunks of cars & also supplying the local food pantries with food. Many people were impacted by their employers closing down their businesses, people too sick to work, losing their cars, etc.

Our clubs had been supporting the food pantries but now we were face to face with the individuals who really needed our help. I feel this was the AHA Moment when so many Lions realized the scope of the food insecurities of our communities.

We as Lions talk about that moment that we really became a Lion & for me it was July 24, 2020- as I looked out over the parking lot & the hundreds of cars waiting for our help.

In February 2021, we transitioned to COVID 19 Vaccines being offered in the parking lots of the Charlotte County Recreation Center. That was a partnership with the Charlotte County Health Department. From there in 2022, we moved to Harry Chapin Food Distributions on a bi-weekly rotation in Port Charlotte.

Since then, the Charlotte County Lions clubs- Englewood, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda & Sarasota County Lions Clubs- North Port and Venice have worked on a rotation to ensure the food distribution is manned and servicing the communities. Other clubs are also involved in serving the hungry and food insecure. Sanibel & Captiva Lions have been supporting Save the Children Organization every January for many years. Volunteers gather & pack meals for children.



Bradenton Lions monthly collect cereal (a high demand item) and other food items for Manatee County's largest food pantry's (St Joseph's) distribution program.

There are many opportunities for our clubs to be involved with helping in the communities- food pantries, Meals on Wheel deliveries, making contributions to local non profits that are helping our senior citizens & needy families.

I'm sure there are many stories from our Lions clubs throughout the world & our district. Please plan and share an event for your club during **Lions International WEEK of SERVICE --HUNGER, January 3 through January 11, 2026.**

Editor's note...Don't forget to report your service in the PORTAL

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Each month, one of your 25-26 District 35I Service Chairs will promote 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

## **Multiple District and District Events Calendar**

**1/10 Winter Council of Governors**

**1/31 District 35I Meeting Lake Placid**

**3/7 Spring Council of Governors**

**4/11 Mini Convention Englewood**

**5/1-5/2 MD Convention Florida Hotel Orlando**



## District 35I YTD Totals # of Activities # of People Serve

Vision	224	57615
Hunger	41	12185
Environment	18	4772
Diabetes	16	362
Childhood Cancer	26	2756
Disaster Relief	6	1200
Humanitarian	140	67050
Youth	62	12671

## Who's Who in District 35I



**District Governor**  
**Linda Gregory**  
**E-mail: Linda092355@gmail.com**

**Companion in Service: MD 35 CC Jimmy Gregory**



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor**  
**Beverly Flynn**  
**E-mail: Lionbevflynn@aol.com**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor**  
**Drew Ogden**  
**E-mail: drewogden@aol.com**

## Members of DG Linda's Administrative Team

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

JoAnn Rodgers      E-mail: [dgrodgers53@gmail.com](mailto:dgrodgers53@gmail.com)

**Cabinet Treasurer:** responsible for billings, charges and financial records

Tom Mavor      E-mail: [tmavor@wclions.org](mailto: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 can be found in the Club 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](mailto:galmjudy@gmail.com)**

**Lion Dave Blauers : Chaplain**

**Please send names & pictures of members who have passed away to [dmblauers@gmail.com](mailto:dmblauers@gmail.com)**

# Message from 1VDG Bev Flynn

## Looking Forward to the New Year



As we look ahead to 2026, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for the dedication and heart each of you brings to Lionism. A new year is more than a change on the calendar—it is an opportunity to renew our commitment to service, strengthen our clubs, and expand our impact across our district.

In the coming months, we can look forward to **meaningful service projects** that respond to the needs of our communities while advancing the global causes of Lions International. Together, we will continue to protect vision, support our youth, address hunger, care for the environment, and reach out to those in need. **Every project, no matter the size, reflects the power of Lions united in service.**



The New Year also brings opportunities for **growth and leadership development**. Through training, district events, and club visits, we will share ideas, learn from one another, and support the success of every club. **By welcoming new members and mentoring future leaders, we ensure that Lionism remains strong and vibrant for years to come.**

Perhaps most importantly, the year ahead offers continued **fellowship**. The friendships formed through service and shared purpose are among the greatest rewards of being a Lion. As we gather for meetings, projects, and celebrations, let us **take time to appreciate one another and the joy that comes from serving together.**



Thank you for your ongoing service and commitment. I look forward to working alongside you in the New Year as we move forward with enthusiasm, unity, and pride in all that it means to be a Lion. Together, we will continue to make a difference—one act of service at a time. **Believe in Lions and Share the passion.**

# Pictures from the December Service Project: Honoring our Veterans: Wreathes Across America 2025



Nearly 5,600 locations participated across the country, including Arlington National Cemetery and over 700 cemeteries, with volunteers placing over 3.1 million wreaths to honor fallen heroes at local, national, and military cemeteries, as well as memorials and historic sites.

## Fort Myers : Buckingham Cemetery



## Zephyr Hills Lions: Oakside Cemetery





Bradenton,

## Fort Myers, Port Charlotte Centenial and St Pete Lions at Bay Pines National Cemetery



A personal visit:

PCC Chip at his  
Parents' grave

PDG Patty Jean  
Honored the  
Love of her Life



The  
ceremony  
brought tears  
to all of us  
who  
remember  
the service of  
our veterans.



# 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 Dan Rodgers
- Zone 4:** Clearwater, Gulfport, Largo, Palm Harbor, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg **Zone Chair:** Lion Teri Barnett
- Zone 5:** Bradenton, Englewood, North Port, Port Charlotte, 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 Schultz

## Zone 1



Wauchula  
Lions  
Bellringing for  
Salvation Army



**Lake Placid Lions** Denise Dressel, Judy Galm and Helen Goble volunteered at a Farm to Table establishment in Sebring. Our job was to help youngsters paint huge pumpkins.



*Lake Placid  
Lions  
bring gifts to*

*Southern Life Assisted Living*

*PDG Judy Galm, Club President Bob Asbury, PDG Gary  
LaSpina and Lion Diane LaSpina and visiting Lion*



## Zone 2



### Brandon



Making  
Luminarias  
fundraiser)



### Santa is making the rounds

Santa (Lion Bob Kalle) had the pleasure to visit the Brandon Lions Club annual event for children from A Kids Place. Then he had the pleasure of joining with Mrs Claus at Grace Community Church for their

Christmas Around the World event and today he had the pleasure of visiting with children at Family Ministries in Seffner.

# Zone 3



Zephyr Hills  
Shopping at Target... Sheriff  
Department with dog making  
new  
friends



"Hi! I'm a guide dog in  
training"

"Nice to meet you. I work  
for the Sheriff  
Department"

## Zone 4



*Everyone loves Santa's Breakfast visit (St Pete)*





*Clearwater Lions are dancing to  
the sounds of Salvation Army  
Bells.*



*Largo Lions provided  
dog bones for  
a "puppyfest at Light  
House of Pinellas*



*Both Largo and Safety Harbor were in Holiday Parades*



## Zone 5



Bradenton Lions collected underwear for the "Clinic Closets" at Manatee County Title One elementary schools

The Bradenton Lions also support the Manatee Lions Sight Conservation Foundation

Hello Chip, I would like to thank your organization so much for the assistance, which I very much need at this time. I will be sure to follow the instructions and follow up with an email after receiving the corrective lenses. I am so excited this is my Christmas present to myself because I need them so badly.



Venice Lions display at the Monty Andrews Arboretum



Venice Lions deliver  
Brady Buggy Lion to  
Golisano's Childrens  
Hospital



## Zone 6



Toy collection for  
North Fort Myers  
Fire Fighters

The Fort Myers Beach Lions Club  
is spreading cheer with a beautifully  
decorated Christmas tree submission,  
a silent auction entry, and the **Fort  
Myers Beach Lions Club Shrimp  
Festival** merchandise booth



# Sun City Center/South Shore Lions

## New Meeting Place:

**KINGS POINT (OFF HWY. 674)**

**1224 NEWPOINT LOOP**

**SUN CITY CENTER, FL 33573**

**MEET IN THE JUBILE ROOM**

**SOCIAL HOUR 11:30 AM, MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT  
12:00 PM**



**\$25 or  
5/\$100**

### ***2026 SUN CITY CENTER/SOUTH SHORE LIONS 52 Week Charity Raffle – 61 chances to win!***

The Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Club is holding its 4th annual 52 Week Raffle to raise money for Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Foundation Charities and give you 61 chances to be a lucky winner!

**ALL** net proceeds are to benefit Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Foundation Charities. No portion of raffle ticket sales go to administrative costs, including the cost of printing.

**YOU HAVE 61  
CHANCES TO WIN!!!**

*After each drawing the winning ticket  
goes back in. That's right!!  
One ticket lasts all year.*

*First drawing January 2026*

*Based on the sale of a maximum of 400 tickets, payout will be as follows:*

**52 - \$50 Winners:** One for each Tuesday  
**8 - \$100 Winners:** One each for New Year's, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Thanksgiving.  
**1 - \$250 Winner:** One for Christmas.

*Drawings may not be made on the actual award date. All drawings will be held in a public place and may be observed by interested parties. A schedule of drawing dates will be posted at <http://www.scclions.org>.*

The Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Club is a service organization with a primary focus on service projects in Greater Sun City Center and the State of Florida. Membership dues cover all administrative costs, thereby allowing 100% of fundraising profits to be returned to the community and to others in need.

Sun City Center/South Shore Lions also support the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), which enables Lions to tackle global problems such as blindness, hearing loss, diabetes, and respond to major catastrophes such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods.

#### **SUN CITY CENTER/SOUTH SHORE LIONS CONTRIBUTIONS & SERVICE**

Organizations supported by Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Club include:

- Eye Care & Glasses for the Needy
- Eyeglass Collection Boxes for Distribution to Third World Nations
- Dogs, Inc. (fka Southeastern Guide Dogs)
- Tampa Lighthouse
- Campaign Against Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence
- Reading programs at local elementary schools
- Florida Lions Foundation
- Guadalupe Food Pantry
- Mary & Martha House
- Lions World Vision Institute
- Sun City Center Emergency Squad
- Sun City Center Security Patrol
- Hope Fund
- Annual Scholarships to local High School Seniors

and more.

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

For more information: Contact a local Lion or send an e-mail to [raffle@scclions.org](mailto:raffle@scclions.org).

# *The Lions Code of Ethics*

Was developed at the first convention of Lions Clubs held October 8-10, 1917. Even though the language is reflects the times in which they were developed, the Ethics are a valuable guide for personal behavior as a member of the world's largest service club.

**Melvin Jones** described the Lions Code of Ethics as a “Leadership Code,’ and there isn’t a ‘Thou shalt not’ in it. The points... to emphasize were:

...you must give the other fellow the benefit of the doubt

...friendship is an end, not a means;

...a (hu)man must accept nothing that has a string tied to it.

**“What we will, we are, and what we love, we yet will be.”**

**To Show** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

**To Seek** success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

**To Remember** that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

**Whenever** a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

**To Hold** friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

**Always** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

**To** Aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

**To Be Careful** with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

# Lions History & Traditions

## Rose Parade Float

Lions first displayed a float in the 1948 Rose Parade. Since 1992 Lions Clubs International has continuously presented a float in the New Year's Day Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

The parade is viewed by an estimated 400 million people in 85 countries around the world. The production price for the Lions float is a tiny fraction of the cost of purchasing television advertising of this magnitude. It serves as a message to the world that Lions are people who serve others.

Each year LCI's President and 1st Lady ride the float in the parade. Television commentary will once again highlight Lions' service and note the presence of these special units.



**2026 Rose Parade  
Lions International Float**



Won the Tournament  
Volunteer Award with  
the theme:  
“In Harmony we serve”

The link below includes pictures of past floats (go to Gallery)....enjoy!