



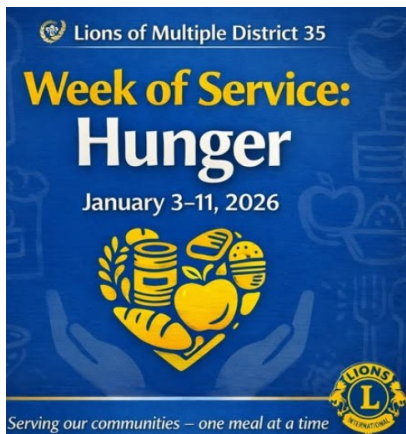
Tales from the *Pride*

Lions District 35 I Newsletter January 2026

District 35 I: Governor Linda Gregory
Editor: Jan Kunka 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



1st Vice District Governor

Beverly Flynn

E-mail: Lionbevflynn@aol.com



2nd 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

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 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

Lion Dave Blauers : Chaplain

Please send names & pictures of members who have passed away to 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: Wreaths 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 Centennial and St Pete Lions at Bay Pines National Cemetary



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



*Wachula
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... Sherrif
Department with dog making
new
friends*



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

*"Nice to meet you. I work
for the Sherriff
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 4th, 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.sccclions.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. (f/k/a 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@sccclions.org.

The Lions Code of Ethics

Was developed at the first convention of Lions Clubs held October 8-10, 1917. Even though the language 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!

<https://lionsfloat.org/>