



Tales from the *Pride*

Lions District 35 I Newsletter June 2026

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

Final words from your 2025-2026 editor or the Tales from the Pride: I must thank DG Linda Gregory for the opportunity to serve as this year's editor. I learned that the service provided by Lions to our District 35I and beyond our district boundary is amazing. Our District Leaders inspired me as I read and illustrated their messages. I was proud that we had two outstanding candidates for 2nd Vice District governors presenting their vision for the future of District 35I and their qualifications to achieve their goals. I laughed as I posted pictures of IPDG Patty Jean Strong's end of term gathering. I mourned the loss of our members at the District 35I ceremony of the empty chair. I celebrated the formation of new clubs with pictures of their Charter nights.

I hope that the informational articles were useful. The monthly Service Theme Chairs promoted the many ways that Lions can serve. Thank you, Lions Tim Foreman, Tom Mavor and PCC Bill Ringlestein for technical information about Portal Log-ins, District Treasurer duties and creating a Corporation. Guest editorials provided grass roots insights. The Lions Traditions were from my own club's archived newsletters.

There is so much talent in this District... I know that all future editors of the Tales from the Pride will use their own unique style to share and celebrate District 35I.

Lion Jan Kunka



Who's Who in District 35I



District Governor

Linda Gregory

E-mail: Linda092355@gmail.com

Companion in Service: MD 35 CC Jimmy Gregory



District Governor Elect

Beverly Flynn

E-mail: Lionbevflynn@aol.com



1st Vice District Governor Elect

Drew Ogden

E-mail: drewogden@gmail.com

Message from DG Linda Gregory

As My Time as District Governor Ends

As this year draws to a close, I find myself standing at the same crossroads every District Governor eventually reaches — a place where gratitude, nostalgia, and hope all meet. Serving the Lions of District 35-I has been one of the greatest honors of my life. What we have accomplished together is not just a list of projects or meetings; it is a living testament to what happens when people choose to dream of what could be and then choose to act on those dreams.

A Year Built on Service and Heart

Throughout this year, I witnessed Lions step forward again and again — not because it was easy, but because it mattered. Clubs embraced new ideas, strengthened traditions, and welcomed fresh faces into our family. We served veterans, fed families, supported children, protected vision, and lifted spirits. **We proved that service is not an event — it is a way of life.**



Every project, every fundraiser, every early morning and late night was a reminder of why Lions are known worldwide as the heartbeat of their communities.

The Strength of Our District Lies in You

What I will remember most is not the miles traveled or the meetings attended, but the people — you, the Lions who make this district extraordinary.

- The Lion who quietly stocks a food pantry before sunrise so everything is ready when the community arrives.
- The club who rallies around a family in crisis.
- The members who welcome newcomers with open arms and ready hearts.
- The leaders who step forward—not for recognition, but for impact.

You are the reason this district thrives. You are the reason our communities are stronger. You are the reason I leave this role with a full heart.



Leadership Passes, But Service Goes On

As I pass the torch to District Governor-Elect Bev Flynn, I do so with complete confidence. Our future is bright because it is in the hands of Lions like Lion Bev, who lead with courage, creativity, and unwavering dedication. She will be a wonderful leader who will inspire us all next year! I look forward to seeing great things under her leadership.

It is important to remember though that leadership is not a title — it is a relay. Each of us carries the flame for a time, then places it into the hands of the next runner. The flame continues. The mission continues. The service continues.

My Final Request to You as Your District Governor

As I step out of this role, I ask only one thing:

Keep serving with the same passion that brought you to Lions in the first place.

- Keep dreaming bigger.
- Keep welcoming others into our family.
- Keep showing the world what it means to be a Lion.

Because the world needs Lions more now than ever.

With Deepest Gratitude

Thank you for your trust.

Thank you for your partnership.

Thank you for allowing me to walk beside you this year.

I may be ending my term, but I am not ending my service. I remain — and will always be — a Lion, ready to serve alongside you.

Together, we served. Together, we grew. Together, we made a difference. And together, we will continue to shine.

**It has been a privilege to serve alongside you-
District Governor Linda**

Message from DG-elect Bev Flynn

Embracing Change and Its Challenges

As the time is fast approaching for our new Lion's year to commence, I started reflecting on the next part of my journey as the District Governor. One of my club members recently asked me if I was ready for the challenge. My response was "absolutely". I have always embraced change. I believe it keeps me relevant and embracing new ideas and technology while keeping my brain working. This last year of learning what I needed to know about being a District Governor has been a challenge, one that I have really tried to grasp onto with the best of my ability. **This Challenge is also a Change...going from a Servant Lion to a Servant Leader.**

We have to look how growth rarely happens without change. Every challenge presents an opportunity to learn, adapt, and become stronger. When we approach change with an open mind and a positive attitude, we often discover new possibilities that were not visible before. This is what I am hoping all Lions can **IMAGINE** this coming year.

Accepting change does not mean leaving our old ways behind—it means finding new ways to make things happen. By supporting one another, staying flexible, and focusing on our shared purpose, we can turn the Challenges of Change into stepping stones toward a brighter future.

I*M*A*G*I*N*A*T*I*O*N

"A mind once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension"

Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

Message from 1VDG-elect Drew Ogden

Every day, members of Lions Clubs International continue to make a meaningful impact in communities around the world. From vision and hearing screenings to hunger relief, disaster assistance, diabetes awareness, youth programs, and environmental projects, Lions remain dedicated to improving lives through service.

Our motto, “*We Serve*,” is more than just words — it is a commitment to helping others and strengthening our communities through compassion, leadership, and action.

As we approach the close of another successful Lions year, June becomes an especially important month for every club. It is not only a time to reflect on the incredible service we have accomplished together, but also a time to prepare for a strong and organized transition into the coming year.

We encourage all Club Presidents and Secretaries to take a few moments during the month of June to ensure that your incoming officers for the new Lions year have been properly entered into the LCI platform. Accurate officer reporting is essential to maintaining communication, leadership training opportunities, district updates, and club support services.

In addition, clubs are strongly encouraged to finalize and update all service activities within the LCI reporting system before the close of the current reporting year. Every vision screening, food drive, fundraiser, youth project, hearing screening, environmental cleanup, and community service event matters. Reporting these activities allows Lions International to accurately demonstrate the tremendous global impact Lions make every single day.

Remember, there is only one month remaining in this Lions year.

Let us finish strong by ensuring our records are current, our service is reported, and our leadership teams are prepared for another outstanding year of service. If you don't have access to the LCI portal and can't report your service events and hours please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to assist you.

Thank you to every Lion, club officer, and volunteer who continues to dedicate their time and energy to serving others. Because of your commitment, lives are being changed and communities are growing stronger every day.

Together, we continue to prove that when Lions unite in service, incredible things happen.

We Serve.

Drew Ogden, CEO
Guerrilla Marketing For Small Business
Cell-239-910-3635
Office 239-362-3839

MD 35 Spring Conference & Convention

Americana Theme:



Entertainment:

Impersonator
musical show:
Featuring "Ed Sullivan"
as Master of Ceremony





General Sessions and Memorial Service



Service Project



'Kid's Snack Bags' for Second Harvest Food Bank in Orlando.



Grand Entrance New Officer Installation Banquet



Installation of 26-27 District 35I Officers:



2VDGE: Christine Timmons- Malone
1VDGE: Drew Ogden
DGE: Bev Flynn

International President Award

Venice Lion Pam Brown presented by PID Justin Faber



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



Arcadia Centennial Lions partner w/ “Link to Success” to provide early intervention vision screening for their Youth Exploration Program



Wauchula Lions Club keeps up to date with their community through their guest speakers



Zones 2 & 3 Service & Activities



Tampa Downtown Lions with medical students from USF that have been doing outreach in the community with screenings and eye exams. They also participated in the Cereal for Summer Campaign for Feeding Tampa Bay.



Members of new Riverview Lions Club participate at a “Blindfold Dinner” sponsored by Plant City Lions along w/ members of Lions Club of Greater Zephyrhills



Riverview Lions are already serving: Sorting “Stamp Out Hunger Donations” at ECHO of Riverview for distribution.

Zone 4 Service & Activities



Clearwater Lions sponsored a community guest speaker

Clearwater continues to participate in Plastic “Bags to Benches” recycling



Safety Harbor Hands Across the Harbor service projects, partnering with **Good Neighbors**. Packing summer backpacks for kids, mini first aid kits, and reappportioning bulk dry goods for distribution



Zone 5 Service & Activities



Bradenton Lions love Publix patrons who donate in "Together We Can ... Fill the Can"

Venice Lions welcome new member Rachel and her daughter.



Zone 6 Lions (Cape Coral, N Fort Myers Noon and Fort Myers Beach)



Zone 6 Lions continue to combine a love for fishing with young people. This ongoing project always produces smiles



Fort Myers Lions place *Remembrance Plaques* at the Fort Myers Lions Park

***359 Past District Governor Association* is proud to honor Dr. Howard Friedman for his continuous effort to provide quality vision care for those in need.**



District 35I YTD Totals reported to Lions Portal 5-29-26

Type of Service	# of Activities	# of People Served
Childhood Cancer	39	6448
Diabetes	40	908
Disaster	10	3230
Environment	52	8781
Humanitarian	332	117982
Hunger	110	37025
Vision	444	124191
Youth	124	27190
Total	*1694	332430

*includes meetings

Celebrating District Governor Linda Gregory
*“Do what makes your **heart** sing”*

Join us in Celebrating a **GREAT** Lions District Governor year.

Celebration Date: June 6, 2026
From 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location: Englewood Lions Club
4611 Placida Road
Englewood, FL 34224

Chicken Salad on a Bed of Lettuce
Served with Fresh Fruit and a Croissant
Cupcakes for Dessert
Tea, Lemonade or Coffee

Reservation Required: **NO LATER THAN May 31st**

RSVP to DG-E Bev at lionbevflynn@aol.com or
text 941-773-5705

Reservations for Lunch: \$20.00

Please make checks payable to the Venice Lions Club
Mail checks to: Venice Lions Club, 1289 Jacaranda Blvd.,
Venice, FL 34292

ALL DISTRICT 35-I LIONS ARE INVITED

DISTRICT 35-I ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

JUNE 6, 2026

9:00 AM TO 11:45 AM

ONLY Coffee, Juice and Donuts will be available for the Organizational Meeting

Welcome	DG-E Bev Flynn
Pledge of Allegiance	CC Jimmy Gregory
Invocation	Lion Peter Casamento
Introduction of the Head Table	DG Linda Gregory
Opening Remarks	DG-E Bev Flynn
Introduction of District Officers	DG-E Bev Flynn
(3 minutes each)	
First Vice District Governor	FVDG-E Drew Ogden
Second Vice District Governor	SVDG-E Christine Malone
Cabinet Secretary	Lion Diane LaSpina
Cabinet Treasurer	Lion Barbara McGillicuddy
District Administrator	Lion Karen Douglas
LCIF Chairs MD35	PID Rod Wright
District 35-I	PCC Bob Jenkins
Introduction of the Global Action Team	DG-E Bev Flynn
GET Remarks 3 minutes	CC Jimmy Gregory
GLT Remarks 3 minutes	PDG Dave Hollern
GMT Remarks 3 minutes	DG Linda Gregory
GST Remarks 3 minutes	Lion Loretta Barksdale
Introduction of Zone & Region Chairs	DG-E Bev Flynn
(3 minutes each for remarks if they choose)	
Region North – Zones 1, 2, 3, 4	Lion Cheryl Hall
Region South – Zones 5, 6, 7	Lion Amy Gephart
Zone 1	Lion Jim Kirby
Zone 2	Lion Bridget Zickefoose
Zone 3	Lion Teri Barnett
Zone 4	Lion Helen Goble and PDG Judy Galm
Zone 5	Lion Pamela Brown
Zone 6	Lion Amy Gephart
Zone 7	Lion Elaine Middlestadt
Intro of remaining Committee/Chair members	DG-E Bev Flynn
Conventions & USA/Canada Forum	Lion Pat McNally
District Disaster Planning	Lion Peter Casamento
Website and new SMS system	1VDG-E Drew Ogden
Peace Poster	Lion Susan Todd
Peace Essay	Lion Pat McGuire
Newsletter Editor	Lion Paula Paquette
Sunshine Cards	PDG Judy Galm
Closing Remarks	DG-E Bev Flynn
Benediction/Reflection	Lion Peter Casamento
Meeting Adjourned	DG-E Bev Flynn

Break and Social time until 12:00 before District Governor Linda's Celebration

Punta Gorda Lions Club
June 9, 2026

Installation of Officers

Eagles Aerie

23111 Harborview Rd.
Corner of Kings Hwy.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

5:00 p.m. Social Hour -- 6:00 p.m. Lasagna Dinner

Salad, Lasagna with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread
Beverages
Dessert

PCC Lion Chip Kunka - Installing Officer
PCC Lion Penny Gregrich - Induction of New Member

Dinner reservations (by June 2) are a must !!

Call or e-mail Lion Bill 941 637-9979 or biljeanr@embarqmail.com

Pay at the door (\$ 15.00), all inclusive !

At Eagles Aerie, use the Kings Hwy. entrance, look for Lions sign

Charter Night Celebration

District 35-I

**invites you to join us in celebrating
The Southwest Florida Lighthouse Lions Club
as it joins District 35-I**

June 26, 2026

**Venezia Hotel and Restaurant
425 US 41 Bypass North
Venice, Florida 34285**

**Social Time Starts at 6:30 PM
Dinner Served at 7:00 PM**

Dinner \$39.00 per Guest (in advance)

**North Atlantic Salmon with Sundried Tomatoes and Shallot Beurre Blanc
Chicken Marsala with Marsala Wine Sauce and Shitake Mushrooms
Char-Grilled London Broil with Mushroom Demi-Glaze and Crispy Onions
Vegan or Vegetarian Entrée (upon request with reservation)
Fresh Vegetables, Salad, Rolls and Dessert**

**Business Casual Attire
Cash Bar Available**

**Email: lionbevflynn@aol.com
RSVP by June 19th**

**Make checks payable to: District 35-I
Please mail reservation checks to:
DGE Beverly Flynn, 4358 Summertree Road, Venice, FL 34293**

**To make hotel accommodations at a reduced rate,
please mention LIONS when making reservations**

District 35I Region, Zone and Club Officer's Training Schedule for 2026/2027

Good Afternoon District 35! Lions,

As you can see from above we are moving quickly to offer quality training for our Region, Zone, and Club Officers. I am asking you all to attend the appropriate training for your position. We are scheduling the meetings on Saturday through the month of July and it should take about two hours. Please RSVP me if you are coming so we have sufficient material for your training. PDG Dave Hollern 814-573-2568 or dhholler@hotmail.com If you can't join us in person we will also offer the training through the Zoom Meeting Program (the link is good for each session). To join the meeting hold the control button and click on the link at the bottom.

District 35I District and Club Officer's Training Program				
Topic	Presenter	Location	Date	Start Time
Zone Chair and Region Chair Training	1st VDG Drew Ogden	Venice Lions Club	6/27/26	10:00 AM
Club President Training	PDG Dave Hollern	Venice Lions Club	7/11/26	10:00 AM
Club Secretary Training	2nd VDG Cristine Malone	Venice Lions Club	7/18/26	10:00 AM
Club Treasurer Training	Lion Barb McGillicuddy	Venice Lions Club	7/25/26	10:00 AM

To Join the meeting by using Zoom

This link will be good for Each Meeting

David Hollern is inviting you to a Lions Training Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89488928317>

Join instructions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89488928317?signature=-ZlNm5TQ8IWA8Cb-kXgoMIit7lVWHBOsg7mpaJnGK5M>

Thank you for your service

PDG Dave Hollern



Lions International Peace Essay Contest

The International Peace Essay Contest gives visually-impaired children ages 11-13 the opportunity to share what peace means to them through writing. Each year, Lions clubs around the world sponsor the contest in schools and organized youth groups, giving young people the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings about the current year's theme through the written word. They'll also have the chance to win a prize of US\$5,000, an award and an invitation to a Lions International event.

How to sponsor a contest

Gather your team-Sponsoring a Peace Essay Contest takes teamwork. Start by identifying club members who will help you plan and run your contest, and reach out to your district Peace Essay chairperson for additional guidance. Together, your team will help you identify local partners and spread the word about the contest.

Connect with your community- Peace Essay Contests can be sponsored in schools and organized youth groups. Work with your team to reach out to these schools and youth groups and express your interest in sponsoring a contest with them.

Download the contest form- The official [International Essay Contest](#) form outlines the contest theme, rules, criteria and includes the official entry form to be completed and sent with each essay.

Club Important Dates

- **November 15:** Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning essay to the district governor. Note: A participating club should notify its district governor in advance of sending an entry and confirm the date of the district judging at that time.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a club not belonging to a district to send one winning entry directly to the Brand & Creative Department at Lions International Headquarters.
- **February 1:** The president of the club that sponsored the grand prize winner's school or youth group will be notified on or before this date.

For more information contact District 35I Peace Essay Chair, Lion Pat Maguire @ patmaguirept@gmail.com or 239-777-4508.