



# Tales from the *Pride*

## Lions District 35 I Newsletter September 2025

District 35 I: Governor Linda Gregory

Editor: Jan Kunka [readinthehead1@aol.com](mailto:readinthehead1@aol.com)



### September District 35I Service Project Therapeutic Coloring for Children with Cancer Childhood Cancer Service

**Chair: Diane Clifton**



When children are in the hospital they often need something to help pass the time. Coloring can be a wonderful activity and has been found to help them relax and further has shown to improve mental health and fine motor skills.



When you color the brain enters a semi-meditative state, releasing dopamine, the 'feel-good' hormone. Consequently it is reducing stress and bringing the feeling of calm

The challenge to all of you will be, to take the books that were distributed at the cabinet meeting on August 16th and distribute to Moffitt Cancer Center if it is near you or to any hospital or physician office where children may be present. Also purchase a box of colored pencils for each book that is distributed so that each child would have their own set. The book is very informative about the birds and sea life at the beach. The book is written about Fort Myers Beach though the same sea life can be seen at any beach along the coast of Florida. The book can be read to a child if it is above their reading level. Happy Colorist (October 16, 2023). *The Healing Power of Coloring*.

<https://www.happycolorist.com/therapeutic-coloring/the-healing-power-of-coloring/>

**Editor's note: This month's LCIF information has a focus on "What does LCIF do to help Children with Cancer"**



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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



**Humanitarian** Lion Jennifer Maillard



**Childhood Cancer** Lion Diane Clifton



**Mental Health** Lion Paula Paquette



**Diabetes** Lion Diana LaSpina

**Military/Veterans**

IPDG Patty Jean Strong



**Hunger** Lion Kathy Lawless

**Elder Citizens** Lion Paula Paquette



**Vision** PCC Penny Gregrich



**Environment** Lion Jan Kunka



**Youth/Reading** Lion Loretta Barksdale

**Hearing** SVD Drew Ogden



July 1, 2025- August 28, 2025

# of Activities      # of People Served

**District 35I Totals**



**Vision**



**Hunger**



**Environment**



**Diabetes**



**Childhood Cancer**



**Disaster Relief**



**Humanitarian**



**Youth**



**Mental Health**

**Don't forget to enter your club's Service: Instructions on how to use your phone to access the Lions Portal and to enter service are on the next page.**

## Steps to connect to the Lions Portal on your phone:

Lion Tim Foreman MD35-I GST  
Cell: 860-490-5846

### 1. If not connected to WiFi

- A. Go to settings
- B. Go to Wi-Fi
- C. Click and select on
- D. Return to home page

2. If you are connected to WiFi or step 1 is completed: Open your web browser (Safari on an I Phone)

3. Type into the Search Bar: [lionsinternational.my.site.com](http://lionsinternational.my.site.com)

4. If you haven't registered, you will need your membership number which can be found on your Lions Card or from your club secretary.

5. Log in and then click the box to "remember you" or save your log in information for the next time.

## Entering Service:

1. Click on the blue box: "Create a Service Activity"

2. Fill out as much information as you can and click next. Not everything has to be filled in....the required information is indicated.

3. Submit or Edit?: Click Edit.

**Congratulations!!** You have just entered a service project on the Portal.

**Let your Secretary know...** Only Lion Presidents, Secretary and Club Administrators will be able to **Submit** the information to Lions International.

## Who's Who in District 35I



### **District Governor**

**Linda Gregory**

**E-mail: 092355@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**

### **Cabinet Secretary**

**JoAnn Rodgers**

**E-mail: [dgrodders53@aol.com](mailto:dgrodders53@aol.com)**

### **Cabinet Treasurer**

**Tom Mavor**

**E-mail: [tmavor@wclions.org](mailto:tmavor@wclions.org)**



# Message from DG Linda Gregory

E-mail: [092355@gmail.com](mailto:092355@gmail.com)

## Growing Stronger Together:

### The Importance of New Members During Mission 1.5

As Lions, we live by the motto “We Serve.” But to serve more people, meet more needs, and create a greater impact in our communities, we must continue to grow. That’s the heart of Mission 1.5—an international Lions initiative to reach 1.5 million members worldwide by 2027.

### Why is bringing in new members so important right now?



- **Fresh Energy and Ideas** – Every new Lion brings unique talents, skills, and perspectives. Their creativity can spark new service projects, improve existing efforts, and help us reach people in ways we may not have thought of before.
- **Sustainability for the Future** – Just like any strong organization, a Lions Club thrives when it welcomes the next generation of leaders. Inviting younger members, families, and diverse individuals ensures that our legacy of service continues for decades to come.



- **Strength in Unity** – A larger club means more support for each member. No one carries the load alone, and we all benefit from the fellowship and friendships that come from serving together.
- **Expanding Our Reach** – The more members we have, the more hands, hearts, and voices we have working together to make a difference. One additional Lion can multiply our service impact—feeding more families, helping more children see, and reaching more neighbors in need.



## **What can you do to support Mission 1.5?**

Invite a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, or even a family member to attend a meeting or a service project. Share your story of what being a Lion means to you, and show them how they can be part of something bigger than themselves.

Our strength as Lions lies in our people. With each new member, we grow not just in numbers, but in compassion, creativity, and capacity to serve. Mission 1.5 is more than a goal—it's our opportunity to ensure that Lions Clubs remain a powerful force for good well into the future.

For District 35-I, growth is even more critical because we are a district in transition. That means that we are below the optimal minimum member number of 1,250. This is a situation we, as a District, have dealt with for several years. As of the writing of this article, we need 257 additional members (with no losses) to come out of transition.

Together, let's make it happen.

## **2025-2026 District 35I Global Action Team (GAT)**

These **Team Leaders will** work with DG Linda to help all of the Lions in District 35I to achieve District Goals in Extension, Leadership, Membership and Service.

|                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Global Extension Team (GET):</b>  | <b>FVDG Bev Flynn</b>   |
| <b>Global Leadership Team (GLT):</b> | <b>PDG Gary LaSpina</b> |
| <b>Global Membership Team (GMT):</b> | <b>PDG Paula Beach</b>  |
| <b>Global Service Team (GST):</b>    | <b>Lion Tim Foreman</b> |



# Message from 1VDG Bev Flynn

## An Unforgettable Lions Experience

In this month's message, I want to share with you one of the experiences that every First Vice District Governor has the opportunity to partake in: a trip to the **Leader Dog for the Blind School in Rochester Hills, Michigan.**

**I could not have been prouder to be a Lion while visiting this incredible facility. Everywhere we turned, the presence of Lions was felt—on the walls, where the Lions logo proudly hung, in the dedicated faculty and staff who were Lions themselves, and in the three graduates of the school who, with their guide dog partners at their side, were also Lions.**

Our group was given a full tour of the facility, including engaging and informative sessions about the school's 86-year history—beginning with just three Detroit-area Lions club members who had a vision. We heard heartfelt testimonials from three Lions graduates, had ample time to ask questions, and enjoyed a delicious lunch (with donuts that lived up to their legendary reputation among past visitors!).

One of the most powerful parts of the visit was experiencing, in a small way, what students go through when they first arrive. Every new student begins with orientation and mobility training, learning to walk with a white cane. With blindfolds on, we practiced walking down a hallway, using the cane to sense walls and feel tactile changes in the floor that signal obstacles or turns ahead. We also experienced what it felt like to walk blindfolded with a guide dog—learning to place full trust in a partner who would faithfully lead the way. Students at Leader Dog spend three weeks living and working with their new guide dog, building that trust and learning how to operate as a team.

As the day came to a close, we were invited to join "Dining in the Dark," an unforgettable dinner where blindfolds were once again put in place. Eating salad and a full meal without sight gave us a glimpse into the daily challenges faced by those who are visually impaired, and a renewed respect for their strength and resilience.

Since 1939, Leader Dog has served 633 clients in Florida alone. According to the Foundation, those services equate to more than **\$59 million in life-changing support.** What's even more meaningful for us as Lions is knowing that **Leader Dogs for the Blind is a Multiple District supported entity—something every club in our district can be proud to help sustain.**

**This experience reminded me, once again, of the impact we as Lions can make when we come together in service. Leader Dog isn't just about training dogs—it's about restoring independence, dignity, and confidence to people who need it most.**

Truly, it was an **unforgettable Lions experience.**

**Believe in Lions and Share the passion.**

# Multiple District and District Events Calendar

## DATE:

**10/16-10/19** MD 35 Fall  
Conference Florida Hotel  
Orlando

Editor's Note If you couldn't make the International Convention or US Canada Forum....this is the next best thing to enjoy the fellowship of your Lions Family.



**10/25** District 35I Meeting  
Largo

**12/13** Wreaths Across America District Service Project

**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 Meeting Highlights:

## Special Award

**DG Linda Gregory** was honored with a Leadership Medal from Lions International  
PCC Chip Kunka made the presentation.



**Thank you**  
**Sun City Center/South Shore**

## *Food*



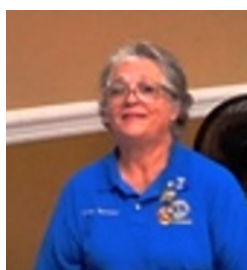
## *Fun*

(every one loves a raffle)





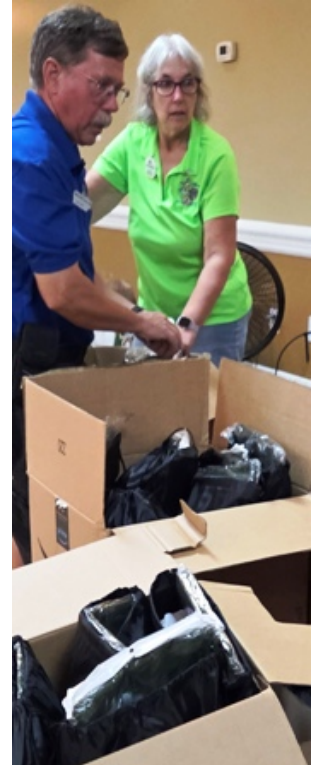
# *Fellowship*



# *Service, Service, Service*

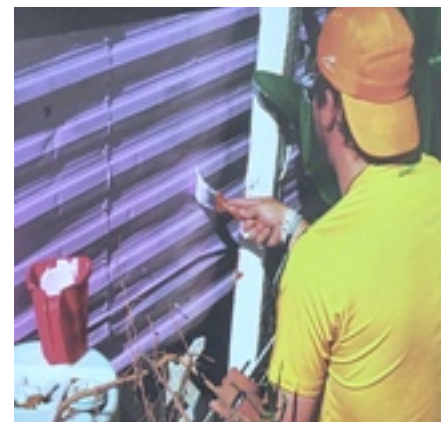


**Back packs for the Homeless Assembly Line**



**Disaster Relief Supplies**

**LCIF Grant funded repairs**





# Lion Tom Mavor's Treasurer's Corner:

**Income – General \$55,639 and Designated \$19,557**

|                             |          |               |  |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------|--|
| Previous Year Carry Forward | \$21,639 |               |  |
| District Dues               | \$10,000 | \$10 / Member |  |
| MD Dues                     | \$22,000 | \$22 / Member |  |

**Expenses - \$37,815 = expected surplus \$15,824**

|                             |          |                               |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| MD Dues Payment             | \$22,000 | Passthrough to MD             |
| DG Travel / Office          | \$ 1,500 | Office Expenses and Travel    |
| 1VDG Travel / Office        | \$ 2,000 |                               |
| 2VDG Travel / Office        | \$ 2,000 |                               |
| District Secretary Office   | \$ 250   | Office Expenses               |
| District Treasurer Office   | \$ 250   |                               |
| Global Extension Team       | \$ 500   | Travel and Budgeted Items     |
| Global Leadership Team      | \$ 500   |                               |
| Global Membership Team      | \$ 500   |                               |
| Global Service Team         | \$ 500   |                               |
| Zone Chairs (7)             | \$ 700   | Office Expenses and Travel    |
| Sunshine Chair              | \$ 100   |                               |
| Chaplain / Necrology        | \$ 500   |                               |
| Awards Chair                | \$ 100   | Office Expenses               |
| Governor Awards             | \$ 1,500 | Governor's Discretion         |
| Peace Poster / Essay        | \$ 500   | District Prize Money          |
| Cabinet Meeting Supplies    | \$ 1,000 | Purchase equipment / supplies |
| Corporate Filings           | \$ 65    | SunBiz                        |
| Software - Financials       | \$ 500   | Financial Software            |
| Marketing and Website       | \$ 250   | Website - and software        |
| Monthly Newsletter          | \$ 100   | Office Expenses               |
| 1VD - 2026 Pins / Directory | \$ 2,500 | Per ByLaws                    |

## NOTES

Income is predicted on a 1,000 members. As we fall below a \$100 members this may be less.

The designated funds are the money passed from the previous governor that are designated either for Disaster Relief or other projects of the District. They will be distributed at the direction of the Cabinet when a need arises.

These are planned expenditures. In addition, Projects may raise additional money that we will track. This is this money is the net amount that comes out of District funds.

The DG or a delegate will authorize the individual expenses for accuracy and applicability to the Lions District.

Lions in leadership roles can at their discretion submit mileage and general expense requests for reimbursement.

Feel Free to submit any questions to

Lion Tom Mavor  
tmavor@wclions.org

## A FOUNDATION FOR YOUR LIONS CLUB

Lions Clubs can benefit greatly from having their own Club level tax-exempt 501c3 Foundation. It makes them eligible for grants, donations and local government support limited to those with tax exempt status. Donations to Lions Clubs are not tax deductible since they are 501c4.

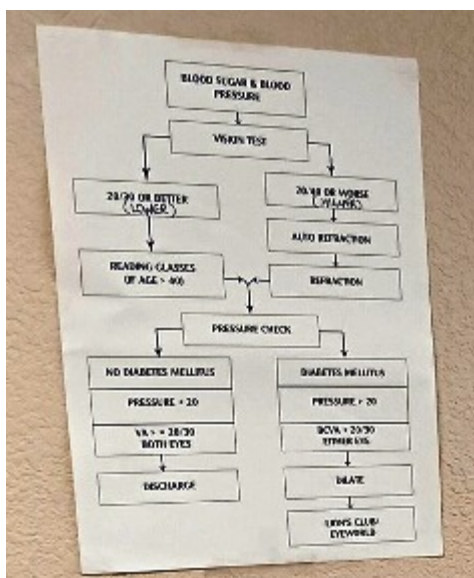
My revised Foundation Cookbook now meets new IRS requirements for Lions Clubs who want to form their own 501c3 Foundation. It covers details on filing IRS forms 1023-EZ and IRS Instructions 1023-EZ. The Cookbook is available via e-mail without any fee as a pdf document only. It can be used by all Lions Clubs who are under Florida jurisdiction or modified for any other USA based Lions Clubs.

**PCC Bill Ringelstein**, e-mail [biljeanr@embarqmail.com](mailto:biljeanr@embarqmail.com). (941 637-9979) (no text) with any questions.

## *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**

*Lions from St. Petersburg, Safety Harbor, and Sarasota volunteering at a Homeless Empowerment Program. They did Vision Screenings, Diabetes, Bblood Pressure as well as giving away toiletries.*





*Lions from Zone 6 collected 15000 Eyeglasses!*



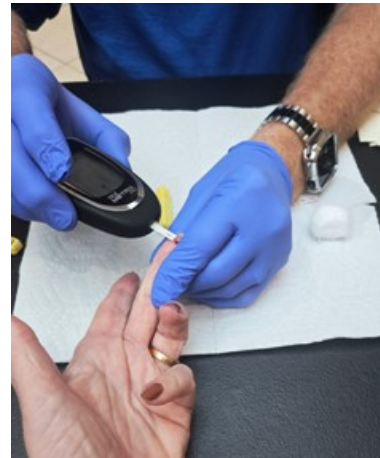
*Fishhawk Lions Club, Plant City Lions and the Brandon Lions Club volunteered at the Back to School event hosted by Echo and Hope for Her.*





*Lions from Fort Myers,  
Cape Coral, and Fort Myers Beach*

*Diabetes Screenig at the  
Macy's Courtyard in the Edison Mall*



# Welcome to the Pride!!!!

The first meeting of the Venice Lions Branch Club met at Laurel Civic on August 14 for a luncheon—meeting.



Seated around the table from the left: Lions Michal Tepper, Mary Jo Heider, Paddy Padmanbhan, Jeff Myle, Alicia Williams, Kristi Ackerman, Peter Casamento, Kevin O'Brien, Pamela Brown, and Beverly Flynn



Lion Peter Casamento had the honor of inducting Kevin O'Brien, the first member of what will soon be the Laurel—Nokomis Lions Club. Standing with them are Venice Lions President Pamela Brown and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor, Beverly Flynn



# Recognizing our Clubs & Members Achievements

## Zone 6



**Lion Carol Lassen earned her Golden Chain Certificate**

**Lions Amy Gebhart and Spencer Spraily received Presidential Certificates**



*Awards are an important part of Lionism. While some people may say "I don't want an AWARD", Recognition of achievements may inspire others. Examples of District/Multiple District level awards include: Crusader, Pilot, Anchor, Order of the Golden Chain, & Governors Achievement Award*

**<https://www.lionsmd35.com/award-information>**



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TOURNAMENT  
2025**

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filling fast!*

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Lions  
Sports*

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9am**

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**Wreaths Across America**

**December 13, 2025**

**District 35 I Service Project**

**Honoring our veterans**

**Chair: IPDG Patty Jean Strong**





**WIN A ONE-WEEK VACATION**

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Dominican Republic, Mexico  
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**P22**



# LCIF & Pediatric Cancer

Nearly 80% of children with cancer live in low or middle-income countries, where only 10% of children survive cancer. In developed countries like Canada, Japan, and the United States, more than 80% of children with cancer survive. The good news is that the world can be more successful at curing cancer in children. However, much work needs to be done to improve access to drugs and treatment, train healthcare providers, improve facilities and technology, and address socio-cultural barriers to improve global childhood cancer survival rates.

## What LCIF Does for Childhood Cancer

### Promotes Awareness

### Supports Families

The LI link below provides information and resources for club service activities

[https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md\\_wxvH3kewurq516qW.jpg.pdf?v=1](https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_wxvH3kewurq516qW.jpg.pdf?v=1)

An LI recommended resource information is available from

Childhood Cancer International

<https://www.childhoodcancerinternational.org/resources>

### Funds Grants:

Grants and community projects aim to provide a sense of hope and offer tangible support for families facing childhood cancer.

LCIF provides grants for projects that focus on infrastructure and support for childhood cancer, not medical care directly. Childhood Cancer Grants are awarded from US\$10,000 to US\$150,000. These grants support projects that are implemented in coordination or collaboration with existing government or charitable childhood cancer medical facilities. Two US Districts received Childhood Cancer grants of at least \$10,000.

In May 2019, LCIF entered into a formal partnership with **Global HOPE** (Hematology-Oncology Pediatric Excellence), a program of Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine. This program is focused on improving the standard of care for children with cancer in sub-Saharan Africa by using the respected approaches developed in treating Pediatric AIDS in the same region. 23

# Lions History & Traditions:

## Lions Become International

**In 1920, the Border Cities Lions Club was established in Ontario, Canada.** The Association of Lions Clubs had now become an international organization. The club's name later was changed to the Windsor Lions Club. Lions Clubs in Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario, were chartered immediately after.

**On October 01, 1926, China became the third nation to join the Association of Lions Clubs,** International. The Tientsin Lions Club in China initially included 55 members – they consisted of: Chinese, British, German, Italian, French, Japanese, Austrian, Hungarian and American citizens. This was also the year that the Association of Lions Clubs passed the 1,000 Club mark.

**Mexico came next as an international member** nation when the Nuevo Laredo Lions Club was formed in 1927. Shortly after, the Havana, Cuba Lions held their first meeting. The Havana Lions Club remained strong for more than 30 years following their charter date, but they were forced into inactivity following the Cuban revolution in 1959.

## CA, MD35, DG/PIS, CC

**DG** stands for **D**istrict **G**overnor

**PDG** stands for **P**ast **D**istrict **G**overnor

**CIS** is a **C**ompanion **I**n **S**ervice, (formerly PIS or Partner In Service)

**CC** is the **C**ouncil **C**hair

**MD 35** stands for **M**ultiple **D**istrict 35

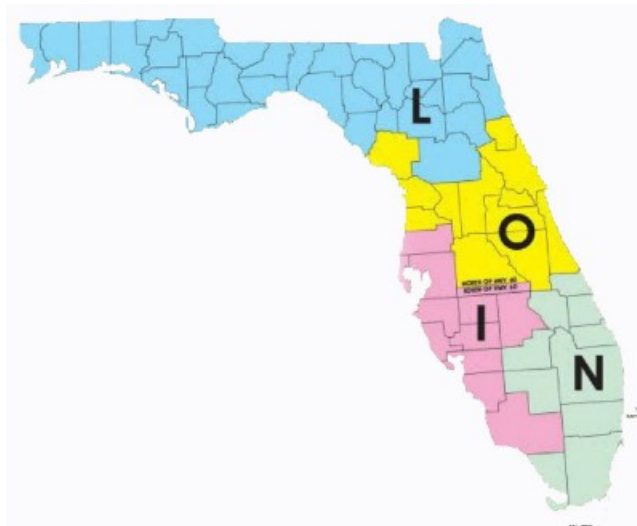
The clubs that are members of the Lions International organization is divided into **C**onstitutional **A**reas (**CA**) and then subdivided into **M**ultiple **D**istricts (**MD**). Your club is in **MD35** which encompasses the clubs in the geographic areas of Florida, Bahamas, Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao.

There are four **Districts in MD35:**

**Districts L, I, O, N.**

Your club is in **District I** which is lead by a District Governor. The four **District G**overnors form a governing council for the **M**ultiple **D**istrict which is coordinated by a **C**ouncil **C**hair chosen by those **DG**'s.

Each year, there will be two opportunities for Lions from all four districts to share ideas, attend sessions, participate in training, celebrate our achievements and have Fun at the **MD35** Fall Conference and the **MD35** Convention



## Where in the World is Mount Dora?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | R | U | B | A | E | V | Z | I | S | A | V | O | E | H | B | A | F |
| Q | T | H | T | D | B | Y | U | H | P | X | W | H | X | H | O | P | O |
| V | J | J | Z | C | T | U | J | O | M | X | E | Q | Z | H | N | C | S |
| A | B | O | R | A | C | W | U | R | F | L | O | R | I | D | A | U | X |
| O | H | P | J | N | H | M | U | L | S | R | R | E | B | J | I | B | E |
| A | A | F | V | A | I | P | H | A | K | C | C | N | Q | N | R | A | F |
| T | X | P | M | D | C | R | L | N | E | H | C | R | I | J | E | F | N |
| B | D | P | G | A | A | K | G | D | U | I | S | F | J | C | M | A | T |
| N | F | F | M | N | G | X | A | O | P | N | M | E | X | I | C | O | E |
| K | O | I | N | O | O | B | K | Y | U | A | J | D | D | G | T | A | N |
| V | L | H | C | U | R | A | C | A | O | O | E | W | C | Q | R | B | Y |
| H | K | Z | Y | A | B | A | H | A | M | A | S | L | M | W | B | V | F |

### Clues :

**First in the Alphabet of the ABC Islands**

**The closest to the US of the four non US islands that are members of MD 35**

**Second in the Alphabet of the ABC Islands**

**First non-US country to have a Lions Club.**

**City where the first Lions Club Meetings were held**

**Third nation to join Association of Lions Clubs International**

**Fifth nation to join Association of Lions Clubs International**

**Third in the Alphabet of the ABC Islands**

**Mt Dora is in this US state**

**Fourth Nation to join the Association of Lions Clubs International**

**Location of the 2025 Lions International Convention**