

District 35L Lions Pre-Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Date: August 2, 2025

Time: 9:35 AM

Location: Ocala On Top of the World Recreation Center

In Attendance: DG Suzi Rodgers, 1VDG George Niles, 2VDG Susan Oliva, Brittney Young, Sue Hooten, John Hopkins, PDG Jerry Skuffe, PDG Bobby Wright, Mike Poweleit, Debbie Duncan, Dan Mauldin, Denise Williams.

1. Call to Order

District Governor Suzi Rodgers called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. She emphasized the importance of communication throughout her term.

2. Governor's Priorities

- **Communication Focus:** The Governor stressed improving communication across the district, citing significant gaps and urging cabinet members to promote email contact for effective correspondence.

3. Budget Review & Approval

- Copies of the proposed budget were distributed.
MOTION: To approve the proposed budget as presented.
MADE BY: 1VDG George Niles
SECONDED BY: 2VDG Susan Oliva
VOTE: Passed unanimously.

4. Disaster Relief Discussion

- **Texas Disaster Support:** Bobby Wright briefed members on recent developments in Texas. Relief efforts are on hold due to state-level indecision.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Consider sending funds once needs are confirmed.
 - Clubs may contribute individually.
 - Tabled for future Zoom decision when more information is available.

5. Disaster Team Revamp

- Bobby Wright to train and lead a new team.
- Members are encouraged to identify volunteers across zones (East & West).
- **Needs:**
 - A second disaster trailer.
 - Updated inventory of supplies (to be conducted with Mary and Bobby).
 - Starlink communication systems (George to gather additional quotes; Sue to assist).
 - New storage location for trailers (Debbie Duncan offered property).

6. Trailer Offer

- Palatka New Vision Lions Club has a cargo trailer for sale (~\$6,500).
- It includes Lion branding, electrical, and tie-downs.
- George to inspect and evaluate potential purchase.

7. Entity Review and Oversight

- Discussion on clarity and oversight of district-supported entities.
- **Distinction Made:**
 - MD35 Entities: Officially sanctioned, statewide, with oversight.
 - District Projects: Local initiatives lacking formal vetting.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Create an entity oversight committee (2VDG Susan and Brittney to lead).
 - Start with MD35 entities, explore additional district-wide projects.
 - Clubs may submit suggestions.
 - Committee to verify nonprofit status via SunBiz and other resources.

8. Eyeglasses Recycling

- Need for an in-state location to handle scrap eyeglasses for revenue recovery.
- Discussion about known programs: Project Right to Sight, Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Voss, etc.
 - Clark County Lions Club and other leads will be investigated.

9. Next Steps

- Follow up on:
 - Disaster team volunteers.
 - Starlink and trailer quotes.
 - Inventory and storage plans.
 - Entity review process.
 - Eyeglass recycling logistics.

10. Adjournment: 10:33 AM

The meeting was adjourned with encouragement from the Governor for members to reach out with ideas and feedback.

District 35L Lions District Meeting Minutes

Date: August 2, 2025

Time: 10:48 AM

Location: Ocala On Top of the World Recreation Center

In Attendance: Alachua (1), Calhoun-Liberty (3), Cedar Key (6), Chipley Falling Water (3), Crestview (2), Dunnellon (1), Fleming Island (1), Gainesville (3), High Springs (2), Jacksonville Beaches (1), Jacksonville Riverside Argyle West (2), Middleburg Black Creek (1), Ocala (6), Ocala 200 (3), Ocala Ft King (17), Ocala OTOW (12), Orange Park (1), Palatka New Vision (4), Quincy (1), St Augustine (2), Tallahassee (5), Turkey Creek (2)

1. Opening and Welcome

District Governor Suzi Rodgers welcomed all Lions to the General Session.

- PDG Bobby Wright led the invocation.
- Joe Dorsey led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Malcolm Hay shared the traditional Lions cheer: "Not above you, not beneath you, but always with you."

2. Introduction of Head Table

- District Governor Suzi Rodgers
- 1st Vice District Governor: George Niles
- 2nd Vice District Governor: Susan Oliva
- District Secretary: Lion Brittny
- District Treasurer: Lion Sue Hooten
- Financial Oversight Chair: Lion John Hopkins

3. Roll Call and Club Attendance

District Secretary Brittny conducted a roll call and confirmed club attendance. Clubs reported their membership numbers. 22 clubs were represented.

4. Minutes Approval

Approval of previous minutes was postponed due to rescheduling from August 9. Past District Governor Greg and Lion Judy will present awards at the November 15th meeting in High Springs.

5. Treasurer's Report

John Hopkins delivered the financial report. 25-26 Budget was approved during the Pre-Cabinet Meeting.

6. Zone Chair Introduction

Zone chairs introduced:

- Zone 1: Kathleen O'Brien (absent)
- Zone 2: Debbie Duncan
- Zone 3: Mike Poweleit
- Zone 4: Dan Mauldin
- Zone 5: Malcolm Hay

Zone chairs will be points of contact for club needs and support.

7. Disaster Relief Updates

Governor called for participation in the District Disaster Team. Lions asked to recruit volunteers from clubs.

Plastic totes requested to support trailer reorganization. Discussion included:

- Need for Starlink satellite phones
- Donation to Texas flood relief (tabled)
- Inventory and potential purchase of second disaster trailer

8. Communication and Portal Use

Emphasis placed on using the Lions portal to:

- Report service activities
- Record donations (especially in lieu of Parade of Checks)
- Record fundraising events

Lions are encouraged to utilize newsletter, bragging Rights, and online resources. Brittany offered training for portal use.

9. GAT Reports

Service (GST): George Niles

- District 35L ranked #1 in service last year
- Clubs urged to complete service reports fully and click "Report is Complete"

Membership (GMT): Brittany Young

- District currently has 1,036 members, below the 1,250 required to avoid transitional status
- Last year: 248 new members added, but 277 lost
- Strategies shared: engage members, host fun and meaningful meetings, increase visibility, recognize partners
- Shared inspirational video "Superman Ain't Coming"

10. Club Reports & Bragging

Clubs shared impactful projects and fundraisers including:

- School supply drives
- Holiday meal programs
- Vision screening & eyeglass donations
- Veterans' breakfasts
- Casino nights and seafood festivals
- Dinner in the Dark event
- 100th Anniversary planning by Ocala Lions

11. Adjournment and Lunch (Provided by Southern Pig and Cattle)

Meeting adjourned and lunch was served by tables. Lions are encouraged to continue networking and share project ideas.

12. Call to order after lunch

13. Updates on Lions Eye Health Program Presented by: Bobby Wright

- Foundation is undergoing major restructuring and improvements.
- New protocols to streamline application processing and approval.
- Partnerships with medical professionals for surgeries and prosthetics.
- Emphasis on improved documentation, HIPAA compliance, and updated case files.
- Online systems are being introduced for transparency and efficiency.
- Plans to revise outdated procedures and ensure standardized training for new and current members.

14. Special Presentation: Ocular Prosthetics

Guest Speaker: Tom Johnson, Ocularist – Ocular Prosthetics of Florida

- Shared his personal journey from injury to becoming an ocularist.
- Overview of services provided: prosthetic eyes, facial restoration (ears, noses).
- Emphasized accessibility and affordability for all patients, especially children.
- Promotes early intervention for pediatric patients to ensure proper development.
- Takes insurance and provides pro bono work when needed.

15. District Governor Remarks – Suzi Rodgers

- Emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility, and innovation in leadership and meeting planning.
- Cabinet meetings to be held on weekends to improve attendance and participation.
- Clubs are encouraged to update donation records via the Lions Portal directly.
- Promotes open communication and transparency in all district operations.
- Motto for the year: **“Stronger Together, Limitless Possibilities.”**

16. Cabinet Introductions and Presentations

- Zone Chairs and Cabinet Officers introduced and presented with pins.
- Recognition of Past District Governors wearing orange blazers.

17. Volunteer Recognition

- Bobby Wright was recognized for his outstanding volunteer service during the International Convention.
- As he was unable to attend the official award presentation with Immediate Past International President Fabrício Oliveira, District Governor Suzi Rodgers presented the award to him on behalf of the International Convention organizers.

18. Special Announcement – Sight For Kids Event

- **Event Date:** September 23, 2025
- **Location:** Jacksonville Jaguars Stadium
- **Partners:** Johnson & Johnson, LCIF
- **Volunteers Needed:** 40+ Lions to assist in vision screenings.
- **Expected Participation:** 700+ children to be screened for eye care needs.
- A fulfilling, hands-on service opportunity for all Lions across the district.

19. Acknowledgements

- Host Club (Ocala On Top of the World Lions Club) recognized for excellent hospitality.
- Commendation of volunteers, catering staff, and event organizers.

20. Adjournment: 2:11 PM

- Meeting adjourned with appreciation to all attendees and contributors.
- Reminder: “We Serve” — commitment to service continues beyond the meeting.