

Lions Insight

DISTRICT 35L
◆
Informational
Newsletter



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District Governor Message

District 35 L Lions Family,

If you attended our first district meeting that was graciously hosted by the Ocala On Top of the World Lions Club this past Saturday, August 2nd. You heard me speak of my commitment to help Lions move forward. I am repeating my speech for all Lions so they will be aware of the changes in our district.

As District Governor, one of my key responsibilities is to ensure that our District Cabinet meetings are accessible, inclusive, and productive for all Lions.

It is my desire to bring a new life to old ways, help rebuild clubs, welcome new members and improve communication. While we reflect upon our traditions and the needs of our members, we know that new ways are needed to ensure our legacy for future Lions and Leos.

CHANGE IS NOT EASY. Change cannot be done by one person and is often met with resistance.

My motto for this Lions year is “Stronger Together-Limitless Possibilities”.

I firmly believe that together we can build a stronger foundation for the future.

With that in mind, we are introducing changes intended to make participation more accessible and meaningful to all. We are inviting fresh and new voices along with our seasoned voices to contribute AND be empowered to contribute. We are introducing changes intended to make participation more accessible and meaningful for all.

A) Cabinet meetings will no longer be held during the week.

The change will allow younger Lions and older Lions with full schedules to attend meetings. There will be no need to request time off from work or managing weekday family obligations. This will be an incentive to attend these meetings and become more involved with our Lions family, encourage diversity in leadership, especially from younger members or those still active in the workforce.

Also, No one part of the district should feel left out or always expected to travel. Bringing cabinet meetings to different club locations helps ensure fairness and fosters stronger bonds across our Lions family district.



District Governor Message

B) We will no longer have the “Parade of Checks”.

Over time, clubs have changed the way they contribute their hard-earned money by sending donations directly to the entities and organizations they support, and acknowledgement is generally given in written form.

As you proudly continue sending your checks to your favorite entity, we ask that you make a greater effort to report your contributions and service to our Lions Portal Services Activities section.

Let's show that we are committed to refining our communication channels by making reporting simpler and more meaningful.

C) We also recognize the value of celebrating our accomplishments.

Your bragging rights in the newsletters at the cabinet meetings are helpful to all Lions. Everything you do means something to someone.

Think about it this way.... One Lions could help one person, to us it is an act of service, to that one person it could make a major difference in their life for the rest of their life!

Remember everyone's efforts are important no matter how big or how small.

Please report, read your district newsletters, emails, and bragging rights!

Our vision for the future is to build on openness and collaboration. As we strengthen our connections with one another, we are better equipped to respond to the **unique needs** of every club and community we serve.

We are not one club by ourselves, but we are many clubs that can learn from each other. We are a team, a family. Together we can learn, strengthen our understanding of Lionism, energize each other, promote visibility and unity across our entire district.

In this spirit of unity, it is **crucial to ensure** that our district's story is told with every club's voice heard and every accomplishment counted.

Yet, we acknowledge that the systems in place are reporting and communication haven't always met the needs of every members or club. These growing pains remind us that progress depends not just on new policies, but on open dialogue and shared responsibility. This is about building a clearer picture of our impact - one that truly reflects the heart and soul of our Lions family. Let us continue adapting, learning, and supporting one another, no matter how big or small, and add to the vibrant tapestry of service we weave together.

District Governor Message

I am asking you to embrace these changes not as obstacles, but as opportunities to grow as members, improve honest dialogue and help to identify solutions that work for everyone.

Share your ideas and challenge something you don't understand. Maintain an open line of communication. By amplifying every voice and learning from one another's experiences, we will grow.

I hope every Lion joins me in accepting these new challenges, as well as future changes as we move forward into trying to help Lions International continue for future generations.

I welcome any thoughts and considerations that you may have as we are all in this Lions family together.

In Lionism We Serve,

Suzi Rodgers
District Governor
35 L



At our cabinet meeting on Saturday, August 2, we had a guest speaker from Florida Ocular Prosthetics. Tom began his career in aerospace, never imagining that ocular prosthetics would one day become his lifelong calling - a true passion rooted in service to others.

At age 12, Tom suffering an eye injury that led to the gradual deterioration of this right eye, eventually resulting in glaucoma. By age 35, he underwent an Enucleation and received his first prosthetic eye shortly thereafter. This personal journey gave him a deep understanding of the physical, emotional, and psychological challenges associated with vision loss.

Following a layoff in aerospace. Tom began training under an experienced ocularist more than 26 years ago. Since then, he has dedicated his career to restoring confidence and dignity to those who've lost an eye.

His motto: "You don't know me until you need me."

Tom Truly knows what it means to walk in his patients shoes - and he brings compassion, precision, and purpose to every case he handles.

<https://www.floridaocularprosthetics.com/>

Important – Don't Fall for Hoaxes Like This

Dear Fellow Lions,

Scammers routinely **spoof Lion officer emails**, asking for urgent money transfers or "processing payments" under false pretenses. This tactic is especially common at this time of year.

To keep everyone in your club and district safe, please consider sending this brief alert to members (via email, WhatsApp, club newsletter, etc.):

Subject Line: Urgent: Beware of Scam Emails Claiming to Be from Lion Officers

Fellow Lions,

Please be aware: we have seen **fake email messages** appearing to come from district governors (including IPDG Greg), requesting **urgent financial assistance** or payment. These are **NOT official emails** — no Lion officer will ever ask you this way, via private email.

If you receive such a message:

- Do **not** reply.
- Do **not** click on any links or download attachments.
- Instead, call or text the **official District Governor** using **the phone number from the official directory**, not the email's header.
- Forward the fraudulent message to your club secretary, or to helpdesk@lionsclubs.org for LCI verification.
- DO NOT send money — even if the message seems urgent or familiar.

Meticulous scammers train victims to act under pressure. Please take a moment and verify — better safe than sorry.

Yours in service,

District International Director / District Governor

How to Spot Lion Impersonation Scams

1. **Misleading or unfamiliar email address** (e.g. ending in @virginmedia.com, or using Gmail/Yahoo domains instead of an official lionsclubs.org or local district domain). Compare against known official addresses.
2. **Requests for immediate financial help**, gift cards, wire transfers, or purchasing something on behalf of an officer. Legitimate Lions never ask this.
3. **Poor grammar or odd phrasings**— scammers commonly open with greetings like "I trust this email finds you well," or jump right to asking favors without club business context.
4. **No carbon copy or signature block** — real District Governors always include contact details confirming their identity.
5. **Unsolicited messages with high pressure** — e.g. "Please respond ASAP," "close this deal for me fast," etc.



Important – Don't Fall for Hoaxes Like This

What LCI Says About Email Scams

According to Lions Clubs International official guidance, phishing scams may:

- impersonate LCI or LCIF staff,
- misuse logos or grant offers,
- request personal data or payments via email,
- or send unexpected checks claiming to be from funds that require you to refund or advance money to them .

LCI strongly advises to:

Delete unsolicited emails, never open suspicious links, and do not reply or comply with financial requests via email. If in doubt, verify the message by contacting the person or LCI Support (helpdesk@lionsclubs.org or 1-630-203-3847) directly using a known, trusted method.

Club or District Committee Procedures (Best Practices)

1. Report immediately
 - Forward the suspect email to your club secretary or VDGS so they can follow up with LCI.
2. Call out-of-band
 - If an email asks for money or personal info, call the supposed sender using a phone number you already have, not the email's signature.
3. Remind members
 - Periodically post disclaimers: "No payment request via private email is legitimate."
4. Train your devices
 - Educate your members to check for misspelled domains, Gmail/Yahoo spoofing, and to never send screenshots of club directories or MyLCI pages.
5. Strengthen personal email
 - Enable 2-factor authentication (2FA), use unique passwords, and keep antivirus software updated. Do not store credit-card or password info in email .

Why This Happens

Scammers research public club websites and district directories to gather names and email addresses. Then they spoof officer names claiming they're "attending conferences" or "traveled overseas" and ask for urgent financial favors. It's the same pattern repeated time and again in nonprofit organizations worldwide .

These are not isolated incidents—they're sophisticated **social engineering** and **spear-phishing** attacks intended to prey on trust and urgency.



Statutory Responsibilities of Lions Organizations

As a friendly reminder, there are certain annual statutory responsibilities that all civic organizations in Florida need to be mindful of. Each Lions Club should establish who within their organization is responsible for attending to these.

Florida Corporate Annual Report

- It is due between January 1st and May 1st each year
- Visit **sunbiz.org** to update your organization's officers and their information
- \$61.25 per non-profit organization (if your Lions Club has a separate Foundation, a report will need to be filed for each)
- Penalties may apply if late

Solicitations of Contributions Registration

- Issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (they will assign a registration number)
- Due on or before the expiration date of the previous registration (the Department will send a renewal package approximately 30 days prior to expiration)
- Fundraising activities must comply with certain disclosures as specified on the registration

990-N Annual Tax Filing

- Online at IRS.gov
- Requires an Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Due on the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the tax year (November 15th for fiscal years ending June 30th)

2025-2026

35 L Directory Information for Ads

Don't Miss Out!

*This is your chance to place an
advertisement in the District 35-L Directory!*

**SEND IN YOUR AD WITH A JPEG IMAGE AND/OR
ANY INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE IN THE AD.
DIRECTORY WILL BE LETTER SIZE (8 1/2 X 11).**

EMAIL IT TO FLDISTRICT35L@GMAIL.COM

SUBJECT LINE: DISTRICT DIRECTORY AD

FULL PAGE.....\$150.00

HALF PAGE.....\$75.00

QUARTER PAGE (BUSINESS CARD).....\$25.00

Important Update: District 35-L Directory Goes Digital!

This year's directory will be available online only—no printed copies. But don't worry, you'll be able to easily print the directory directly from the website if needed. This digital format ensures every Lion in District 35-L can access it with ease!

🇺🇸 All ad proceeds for the 2025-2026 Lions Year will be donated to LCIF!

Submitting Your Ad:

- Email submissions are strongly preferred to ensure timely delivery.
- Email to FLdistrict35L@gmail.com

Payment Options:

- **Payments will be accepted at the August 2 Cabinet Meeting.**
- Cash or check (payable to Lions District 35-L)
- Please write DIRECTORY in the memo line.
- Indicate the club name for LCIF credit

Mail to:

Lion Sue Hooten, District 35-L Treasurer
117 Magnolia Drive
East Palatka, FL 32131

✉ Questions? Email: FLdistrict35L@gmail.com

☎ Call or text Lion Brittny at (850) 832-6777



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2025 Lions International Convention Orlando



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2025 Lions International Convention Orlando



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August 2, 2025 District Meeting

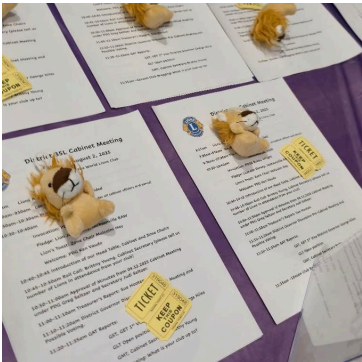


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August 2, 2025 District Meeting



August 2, 2025 District Meeting



August 2, 2025 District Meeting



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DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST



General

- ☐ Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies
- ☐ A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Flashlights
Do not use candles
- ☐ NOAA Weather Radio
Battery operated or hand cranked
- ☐ Cash
Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm
- ☐ Cell phone chargers
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Phone Numbers

- ☐ Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:
County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family

Clothing

- ☐ Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- ☐ Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

Special Needs Items

- ☐ Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities

First Aid

- ☐ First Aid Manual
- ☐ Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- ☐ Sterile gauze pads
- ☐ Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- ☐ Triangular bandages
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tweezers
- ☐ Sewing needle
- ☐ Moistened towelettes
- ☐ Antiseptic
- ☐ Disinfectant wipes
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ Tube of petroleum jelly
- ☐ Safety pins
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Latex gloves
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Aspirin or other pain reliever
- ☐ Anti-diarrheal medicine
- ☐ Antacid
- ☐ Laxative
- ☐ Cotton balls
- ☐ Q-tips

Food and Water

- ☐ Food
Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days
- ☐ Water
1 gallon per person per day
- ☐ Non-electric can opener
- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Utensils

Important Documents

- ☐ Insurance cards
- ☐ Medical records
- ☐ Banking information
- ☐ Credit card numbers
- ☐ Copies of social security cards
- ☐ Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
- ☐ Other personal documents
- ☐ Set of car, house, and office keys
- ☐ Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
- ☐ Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
- ☐ Copy of Will

**Items should be kept in a water proof container*

Vehicle

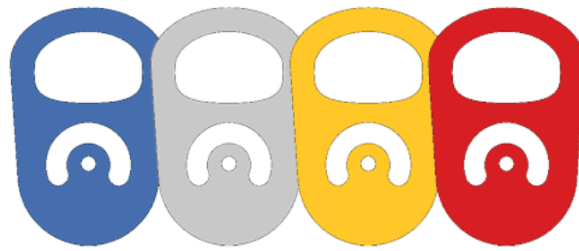
- ☐ Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

Pet Care Items

- ☐ Pet food and water to last at least 7 days
- ☐ Proper identification
- ☐ Medical records/microchip information
- ☐ A carrier or cage
- ☐ Muzzle and leash
- ☐ Water and food bowls
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Supplies for your service animal

Find more disaster preparedness tips at
FloridaDisaster.org





PULL TOGETHER

Collecting pop tops for Ronald McDonald House Charities is a simple way to support families with seriously ill children. The funds raised from recycling these tabs help provide housing, meals, and comfort to families staying close to hospitals during their child's treatment. This Lion year we will be collecting pop top can tabs from all types of cans. These will be recycled and used to pay the monthly electric bill for the Ronald McDonald Houses all over our district Please bring your tabs and tops to each of the District Cabinet meetings this year.



**Tab Toss
Days
November 15
January 24
April 18**



Canned Goods





CALLING ALL LIONS CLUBS OF DISTRICT 35L!

**Do you have an ongoing event that's been
running for 5+ years?**

Whether it's weekly, monthly, semi-annually, or annually, we
want to hear from you!

**Help us showcase the legacy and impact of your club
in the 2025–2026 District Directory!**

Please email the following information to:

fldistrict35L@gmail.com

INCLUDE:

- NAME OF THE EVENT
- CONTACT PERSON & CONTACT INFO
- LOCATION
- 2025–2026 EVENT DATE(S)
- A SHORT HISTORY — WHEN AND WHY YOUR CLUB STARTED THIS EVENT
- PHOTOS (IF AVAILABLE)

Note: Submission does not guarantee inclusion. Final selections will be made
by the District Governor and Directory Editor.

**Let's celebrate the traditions that make
District 35L shine!**



18-20 SEPTEMBER

**USA/CANADA LIONS
LEADERSHIP FORUM -
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ**

17-18 OCTOBER

**MD 35 FALL
CONFERENCE - ORLANDO**

15 NOVEMBER

**DISTRICT 35L DISTRICT
ADVISORY MEETING -
HIGH SPRINGS**

24 JANUARY

**DISTRICT 35L DISTRICT
ADVISORY MEETING -
CHIPLEY, FL**

25-26 LIONS EVENTS

18 APRIL

**DISTRICT 35L DISTRICT
ADVISORY MEETING -
TALLAHASSEE**

1-2 MAY

**MD 25 SPRING
CONVENTION - ORLANDO**



September 23, 2025

FALLTACULAR



Johnson & Johnson

Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



Vision Is Priceless

What is this?

Building on the success of last year's Spooktacular, this event will once again bring fun and vision care together for the community.

- Vision screenings for 700+ children
- Lions volunteers leading the screenings
- Held in collaboration with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Is Priceless
 - Mobile units on-site providing referral care
- Featuring a special appearance by the Jacksonville Jaguars Football Team
- Games, prizes, candy, and food



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What is needed?

- **40+ Lions Volunteers:**
 - ✓ Conduct vision screening
 - ✓ Chaperone children to the mobile units for referral care
 - ✓ Engage with children and ensure a fun atmosphere
- **15-20 Plusoptix / Spot Screeners**
- **Your Lions Energy and Smiles!**



Key Details

Sept 23, 2025 – EverBank Stadium

Proposed Timing:

- 1:00pm - Set up time
- 3:00pm - Activities and screenings begin
- 6:30pm - Event concludes
- 6:45pm - Post celebration event hosted by J&J and LCIF for special recognition for all Lions

LCIF Headquarters staff – Erik Brejla and Natalie Leon will be on site coordinating the event



Kindness matters.

At home and around the world

☀️ **Kindness Matters Service Award – Recognizing Lions & Leos Who Serve with Heart**

Each year, Lions Clubs International honors approximately 30 clubs from around the world with the Kindness Matters Service Award—a prestigious recognition given to Lions and Leo Clubs who have created exceptional, high-impact service projects that align with one or more of our global causes.

This is more than just an award—it's a **celebration of creativity, innovation, and meaningful service** that leaves a lasting mark on our communities. Projects must address at least one of the Lions' global causes:

- Childhood Cancer
- Diabetes
- Disaster Relief
- Environment
- Hunger
- Humanitarian
- Vision
- Youth

Nomination & Eligibility Requirements:

- Clubs must remain in **active status**
- Projects must be **reported in the Lion Portal by July 31, 2024**
- Clubs **cannot have received the award within the past three Lions years**

Projects should demonstrate:

- Creativity and innovation
- A lasting impact on the community
- Alignment with Lions values and brand visibility

Nomination Timeline for 2024–2025:

- **July 1 – August 1:** Clubs nominate a standout service project
- **August 1 – September 1:** District GST Coordinators select one Lions and/or one Leo project to advance
- **September 1 – October 1:** Multiple District GST Coordinators make final selections
- **October 31:** Final nominations must be submitted to Lions International

Winning clubs will be notified in **January** and recognized by Lions International through various media including LION Magazine, the Lions Blog, and the International Convention booklet.

Ready to Nominate?

Download the nomination form and learn more: [👉 Kindness Matters Service Award Info](#)

Let's celebrate kindness in action. If your club's project made a difference — big or small — it's time to share your story with the world. Because in Lionism, Kindness Matters.



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, Brittny 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 Brittny 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. Brittny offered training for portal use.

9. GAT Reports

Service (GST) and Extension (GMT): George Niles

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

Membership (GMT): Brittny 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.

