



NOVEMBER 2025

Bragging Rights Bulletin

DISTRICT 35L

Club Events
and News



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**



Club Anniversaries

Fort Walton Beach 11/03/1949

Graceville 11/17/1937

St Augustine 11/14/1946

Memorium



Sadly we must inform you of the passing of another Past District Governor, Lion Audrey Hall of the Ocala Lions Club.

Lion Audrey served as District 20-Y2 Governor 1996-1997 in New York.

Expression of condolence may be sent to
Lion Jim Hall

Bridgewater Park Assisted Living

9174 SW 81st Court Apt 129

Ocala, FL 34481

Please keep Lion Jim and the family in your thoughts and prayers.



It is with sadness we inform you of the death of Past District Governor Louis "Lou" Cantrell on Tuesday October 21, 2025.

PDG Lou was a member of the St. Petersburg Lions Club and a Lion since 1989 and served as District Governor 2003-2004. He was predeceased by his wife Mary.

Members of his council were: Anne Davis, 35-F; Robert Respass, 35-L; Raymond "Rocky" Siracusa, PCC, 35-O (Deceased); William "Bill" Jerrett, 35-I (Deceased); A. Geoffrey Wade, PID, 35-D; Stacey W. Jones, PID, 35-A. Gary I Nieskes, PCC was the Council Chair.

Please remember Lion Lou's family in your thoughts and prayers.



Memorium



It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our fellow Lion, Ina Jeanette Thompson of Madison, Florida. Ina passed away peacefully on October 16, 2025, in Moultrie, Georgia, with her brother by her side. She was 76 years old.

Ina was born on September 9, 1949, in Tallahassee, Florida, to Julian and Patricia Thompson. A proud Lion and devoted community leader, she served faithfully as City Commissioner for District 2, first elected on March 13, 2012, where she embodied the true spirit of service.

Within the Madison Lions club, Ina worked tirelessly on the 4th of July Program, our primary annual fundraiser, and her dedication and leadership left a lasting mark on every project she touched.

Ina was recognized throughout her life for her compassion and impact – she was honored with the Dolores M. Jones Community Impact Award.

We are deeply grateful for the years of friendship, laughter, and service Ina shared with us. Her absence is felt profoundly, and her legacy of love and service will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Elma Nell Simmons, born on August 26, 1940, passed away on September 27, 2025, at the age of 85. Elma Nell Simmons was a long time resident of Pensacola.

Born and raised in Colquitt Georgia to Dee and Fannie Albritton, Elma was the fourth of five children.

All her life, Nell worked tirelessly for the efforts of helping and aiding our community for a better life for everyone. Her career with the State of Florida with the Parole and Probation Commission spanned more than twenty-five years and upon her retirement she continued her good works with the Lions Club in Pensacola raising money through fundraising, promoting new clubs, and serving as a Florida Governor. She loved sports, travel, and spending time with family and friends.



Alachua Lions Club



EYEGLOSS COLLECTIONS AT ALC

The Alachua Lions Vision Screening Team collected and sorted 741 pairs of eyeglasses and 100 pairs of sunglasses. The postal type box in front of the Clubhouse is a popular drop-off location for the residents of Alachua, and the club collects 200 to 300 pairs of glasses each month.

Pictured are Lions Sandy Burgess, Katy Plein and Terri Warrington who sorted and packed the glasses for transport to Jacksonville. Lion Gladys McMillian also assisted with the project. It was a blessing to have District Governor Suzi Rodgers conduct the District Officer Training at the Alachua clubhouse on October 25, as she was able to take the glasses with her to get them delivered.



ALACHUA LIONS CLUB SPONSORS A HALLOWEEN POLE

The Alachua Lions Club joins in on the City of Alachua's Annual Trick or Treat event. Businesses and residents are asked to decorate poles along Main Street in Alachua. Main Street is totally closed to traffic during the event and families are invited to bring their kids down for a safe and enjoyable candy collection time.

Pictured below is the pole that the Alachua Lions Club sponsored which was decorated by Boy Scout Troop 88, which is supported by the club.



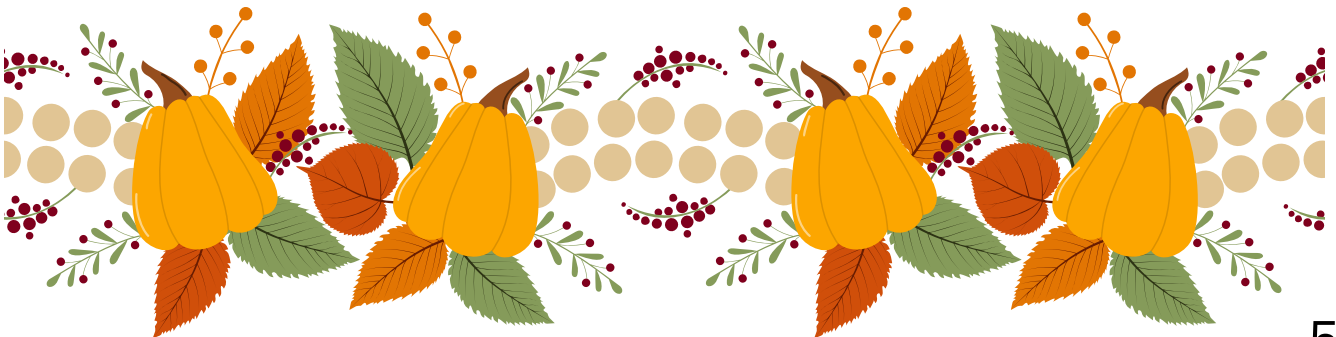
Cedar Key Lions Club



Hot off the crowd pleasing 54th Cedar Key Lions Seafood Festival, the Cedar Key Lions Vision and Hearing Committee and volunteers headed off to St. Augustine for a visit and tour of the Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind, and presented FSDF a check worth \$1,000 towards their endowment program.

Photo from left to right: Jay Bushnell, Debbie Piscura, Donna Bushnell, Patti Butler Coordinator for FSDB, Faye Sanders, Robert Belair, Jan Hendrix, Greg Martin, Traci Anderson Executive Director for FSDB, and Nancy Martin.

At the Cedar Key Lions Club's last planning and organizing meeting before the Cedar Key Seafood Festival, Festival Arts and Crafts fair organizer Lion Susan Rosenthal was surprised by Lions Officer Greg Martin (left) and President Robert Belair (right) with the presentation of the Outstanding Lions Club Leadership Award for her dedicated service as club Secretary from 2019-2025.



Graceville Lions Club

Graceville Lions Club Cornhole Tournament



Sunday, November 9, 2025

Graceville Civic Center (Inside)

SR 77, Graceville, FL

Starts at 2:00 pm

Registration Begins at 1:15

Prizes

\$ 10 per person

Awarded

Entry Fee



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ChIPLEY Falling Waters Lions Club



Falling Waters Lions Club Welcomes Florida Diabetes Camp Guest Speakers

The Falling Waters Lions Club welcomed two inspiring guest speakers at its October 27 meeting — Prescott Cowles, Executive Director of the Florida Diabetes Camp, and Tami Stevens, Camp Director.

Together, they shared how the camp continues to change lives for children with Type 1 diabetes across Florida through programs that blend medical care, education, and fun-filled activities.

A Legacy of Service and Support

Founded in 1970, the Florida Diabetes Camp was the first overnight residential diabetes camp in Florida. Over the past five decades, it has grown into a statewide network offering six week-long summer camps and multiple family or “bring-a-friend” weekend programs each year.

Each camp is uniquely tailored to specific age groups, allowing children to learn essential diabetes management skills alongside peers facing similar challenges. The camps are fully staffed by volunteers—including doctors, nurses, dietitians, counselors, and mental health professionals—many of whom return year after year.

Financial need is never a barrier, as the organization provides partial and full scholarships to ensure every child who wishes to attend can do so.

Camp Dogwood Acres in Chipley

Right here in Washington County, Camp Dogwood Acres serves as one of the Foundation’s newest camp locations. Attendance has grown rapidly—rising from 16 campers last year to 34 this year. The next session will take place June 9–13, 2026, and is open to children ages 7–12.

Camp Director Tami Stevens shared her deeply personal connection to the program. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 1997, she attended the camp that same summer and has returned every year since.

“Diabetes camp is the best thing my parents ever did for me,” Stevens said. “It showed me I wasn’t alone and gave me lifelong friends who understood exactly what I was going through.”



Chipley Falling Waters Lions Club

Continued....

Building Confidence, Skills, and Community

At Camp Dogwood Acres, campers enjoy a traditional camp experience—archery, swimming, arts and crafts, team-building games, and a glow-in-the-dark dance party—while also learning vital self-care practices. Under supervision, children monitor blood sugar, manage insulin, and gain independence in a safe, supportive environment.

Stevens shared one touching story about a camper who arrived newly diagnosed and hesitant to participate.

“By the end of the week,” she said, “he told us he wished he’d been diagnosed sooner—just so he could have come to camp earlier.”

Community Support Makes It Possible

The Florida Diabetes Camp receives no government funding. **Each week-long session costs approximately \$30,000 to operate**, covering meals, medical supplies, insurance, and facility rentals. It costs around \$500 per child per week to attend, but thanks to scholarships and community partners like the Lions Clubs of Florida, every child who wants to attend has the opportunity.

The organization also offers opportunities for volunteers of all ages. Teens 15 and older can serve as Counselors-in-Training, while those 19 and older can become full counselors. All training is provided on-site.

“Every year we see lives changed,” said Cowles. “These kids leave knowing they’re capable, confident, and part of a community that truly understands them.”

Get Involved

To learn more about the Florida Diabetes Camp, volunteer opportunities, or sponsorship options, contact:

☎ 352-334-1321

🌐 www.floridadiabetescamp.org



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Crestview Lions Club

The 2025 Crestview Fall Festival was a huge success, and we want to thank everyone who stopped by our booth! It was great seeing so many familiar faces — and meeting new friends too. We're grateful for the outpouring of community spirit, smiles, and support that make events like this so special.



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Dunnellon 2 Lions Club

Poinsettia Sale

**\$11 each
or
2 for \$20**

Plants are in a 6 inch Foil Wrapped Pot,
around 16 inches tall total



Payment is collected at time of order

Cash or Check

Checks made payable to Dunnellon 2 Lions Club
Hand Delivered around December 4th

ORDERS DUE BY NOVEMBER 6th



DUNNELLON 2 LIONS CLUB

Cynthia Straight 352.586.0506



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High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday October 11th, the High Springs Lions Club held a community yard sale (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) to benefit our local children's Christmas charities. It was the first yard sale held in several years. We had an amazing vendor turnout! The weather was perfect! Breakfast and lunch items were available for purchase as well. It was an amazing day! Plans are already in the works for our next one.



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High Springs Lions Club



On Saturday October 11th, the High Springs Lions Club hosted The Gainesville Retro Society band (7 p.m. To 10 p.m.) Tunes were centered around iconic bands - Earth Wind and Fire, Tower of Power, Chicago, etc. A food truck was on hand to satisfy evening cravings....a great time was enjoyed by all!!



On Saturday October 18th, the High Springs Lions Club hosted the annual hot dogs and burger sale for the High Springs Recreational Council soccer league...

It was a very busy day and funds generated will go to the soccer league.



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High Springs Lions Club

On Saturday October 25th, the High Springs Lions Club hosted its 4th annual car and bike show to benefit the Florida Diabetes Camp! There were 101 entries this year! As you can see we had a great turnout including some special guests. The weather was beautiful. There was lots of delicious Lions Club BBQ, raffles, door prizes and special awards were presented. A 50/50 raffle was held and the winner donated it back to the cause. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all!



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



Jax Beach Lions Club Night with the Icemen

-Saturday, November 8th – 7:00 PM

-VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena

-Icemen vs. SC Stingrays

Join us for an action-packed night of hockey while
giving back to the community!

For every ticket purchased through this special link, \$5
will be donated directly to the Jax Beach Lions Club.



TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Lionsbeach2>



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Jax Beaches Lions Club

This was an exciting day! A group from our Lions Club visited the Jacksonville Icemen today, and we are thrilled to officially announce our Partnership!

The Icemen and our club share a deep commitment to giving back to our community in Jacksonville. We are really looking forward to the upcoming events.



Today our President Linda introduced the newest (and biggest!) member of our club:

"Mr. Banner!"

He's huge, he's handsome, and he finally made it home.



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Jax Beaches Lions Club

Fueling up with a delicious team breakfast before diving into the final touches for our big Barktoberfest event tonight!



We are so grateful for our amazing Platinum Sponsors for Barktoberfest 2025! Their generous support made a huge difference to the success of our event. A massive THANK YOU to American Legion Post 129 and Sons of American Legion Post 129! Because of their commitment, we are able to provide even more funding to Guiding Eyes for the Blind Dog Training School. Thank you for helping!



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Jax Beaches Lions Club

What an absolutely paw-some night at our Barktoberfest 2025 event yesterday! It was a huge success, and we're so grateful to everyone who joined us! We raised funds for Guiding Eyes for the Blind Dog Training School, helping to change lives with guide dogs. A big thank you to all our wonderful guests, volunteers, and especially our amazing sponsors who helped make this evening possible. More posts honoring our generous sponsors and about Barktoberfest are coming up over the next few days! Go to the Facebook page to see more! <https://www.facebook.com/jaxbeachlions>



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



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Jax Beaches Lions Club



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Jax Beaches Lions Club

Great representation at the MD 35 District Conference in Orlando! 🐘

Big thanks to Lion Meredyth Mason and Lion Nick Mendler for attending the Fall Conference. We're especially proud of Lion Meredyth, who hosted an excellent and essential etiquette class! 🌞

The session covered best practices for interacting with the visually impaired community, focusing on guide dogs, sighted guides, and canes. 🦮🐕

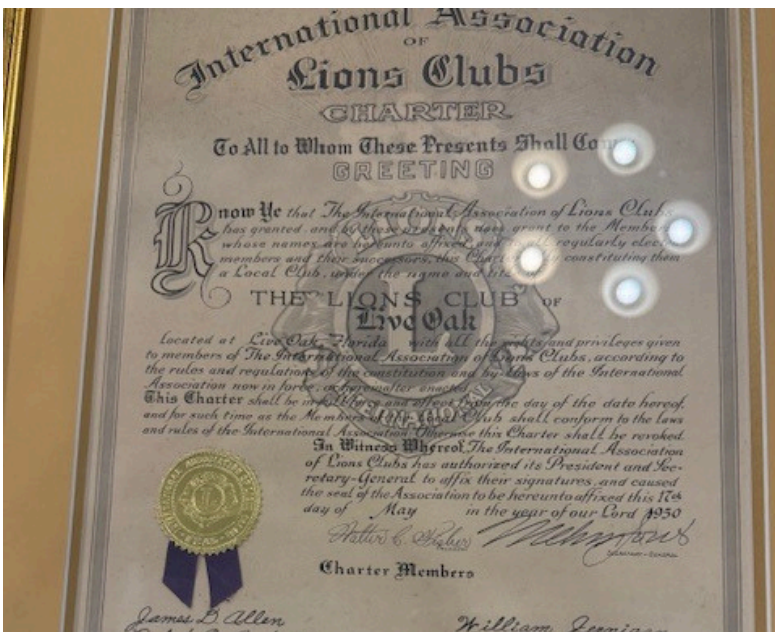
This commitment to education helps all of us better serve those in need.



Live Oak Lions Club

Live Oak Lions Club Celebrates 75 Years of Service

The Live Oak Lions Club recently celebrated its 75th Anniversary, marking three-quarters of a century of dedicated service to the Suwannee County community. Chartered in 1950, the club has a proud history of supporting sight and hearing programs, providing scholarships, and fostering leadership through its active Leo Club for youth members. The anniversary event, held at the Suwannee County Chamber of Commerce, brought together Lions past and present to honor the club's legacy of service and fellowship. With inspiring words from District Governor Suzi Rodgers and a meal shared among friends, the celebration reflected the enduring Lions motto – “We Serve.”



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Ocala 200 Lions Club

HEALTH FAIR

We had a very successful Blood Glucose Screening on Oct. 25 at Oak Run Health Fair. 64 people were tested with the Assistance of Lions Bob Barto, Patti Barto, Bonnie Livingston, Toni Ancrum, Sandy Verrier and Alan Verrier. Lion Susan Oliva did hearing testing for 16 individuals.



We held our October Flea Market with almost a full compliment of vendors. Sales were brisk, hot dogs were good, Lions booth did excellent and we hit our financial goal. Thanks to Lions Pat Greaves, Laurie Keesler, Sandy Verrier, Alan Verrier, Don Keesler, Susan Oliva, Helen Anderson, Bonnie Livingston, Toni Ancrum, Patti Barto, Marion Brenon, Grey Henschen and Bob Barto for a very good day.



Ocala 200 Lions Club

Our club participated in the week of service for Mental Health, first by having a guest speaker, Rick Townsend, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, talked to us about suicide awareness and prevention. We then distributed information at our Flea Market and Blood Glucose Screening



A LOOK AHEAD

Nov. 1: Train Show take down-Silver Spring Lions

Nov. 4: Business Meeting 10:30 am

Countryside Presbyterian Church

Nov. 7: Poinsettias Sales End

Nov. 11: VETERANS DAY

Nov. 14: World Diabetes Day

Nov. 18: Regular Meeting 10:30 am

Speaker: Renee Arnett, His House For Her

Nov. 22: LIGHT UP OCALA

Funnel Cake Sales with

Silver Springs Lions 3 – 9 pm

Nov. 27: THANKSGIVING

BE THANKFUL



Ocala Lions Club



Presentation of \$500 check to Renee Thompson, 1st Vice President Ocala Lions Club - White Cane Day proceeds.

Kristi Hannen, Sharron Albert,
Renee Thompson, Diane
Renyhart, Chuck Oliveros, Sue
Hoaglund

Ocala Lions Club KidSight Program

By Diane Renyhart

The Ocala Lions Club KidSight program is making good progress this year. The Preschool screenings began in September and have continued through October. Thus far 545 children at 21 schools have been screened using the Plusoptix cameras and 27 children have been referred for further evaluation. Members of the Club have volunteered a total of 162 hours. The program will continue into the spring.



Ocala Lions Club

Ocala Lions Club White Cane Day

Ocala Lions Club held a White Cane Day Fundraiser on Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at Publix at Churchill Square in Ocala. The Club raised a total of \$500 and the money will be used to support Ocala Lions Club vision and hearing programs.

A special thank you to the manager and staff at Publix and to the many people who made donations. We even received a special machine for the hearing impaired that was donated by a shopper. It was heartwarming to hear shoppers thank us for our volunteer work and several told us how the Lions Club has helped their families.



Kristi Hannen, Tricia Evans & Sharron Albert



Chuck Oliveros, Sharron Albert, Sue Hoaglund



Ocala Lions Club

The Ocala Lions Club Jerry Cullison 32nd Memorial Golf Tournament
December 6, 2025 Ocala Palms Golf & Country Club 8:30 am Shotgun Start

Hole-in-One Sponsors

Phillips
CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM
WWW.PHILLIPS CJDR.COM

OCALA GOLF CART RENTALS

MILLER'S MARINE

SULLIVAN CADILLAC

--- This Tournament is for Amateurs Only ---
Limited to 30 Foursomes

Scramble Format - Four Person Team
Entry Fee: \$75 per person

Ocala Palms Golf & Country Club
December 6, 2025 8:30 am Shotgun Start

Fee Includes: Pancake breakfast, lunch, goody bag, range balls, green fee, cart, and prizes. Prizes awarded to the top teams, and for longest drive and closest-to-the-pin.

Ocala Lions Club
Jerry Cullison
32nd Memorial
Golf Tournament



December 6, 2025
Ocala Palms Golf & Country Club
8:30 am Shotgun Start

Four Hole-in-One Chances for two Cars, a Golf Cart, and a Boat.
Plus, A Super Door Prize...Big Screen HDTV



OcalaLionsClub.org

Ocala Lions Club Charities Foundation, Inc.



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Ocala Fort King Lions Club

The Fort King Lions Club of Ocala, Florida, is proud to reflect on a successful and rewarding October. Following last month's announcement, our annual Casino Night proved to be an outstanding success and one of our most memorable events to date. The evening drew a strong turnout from members, guests, and supporters, all coming together for an enjoyable night of games, fellowship, and philanthropy. The funds raised from the event will directly support the Lions' ongoing initiatives in vision and hearing assistance, youth engagement, and local community outreach throughout Marion County.

Just a few weeks later, our members gathered again for the Trunk or Treat celebration at Lake Lillian. Families from across the area joined us for a fun, safe evening of seasonal festivities. The children especially enjoyed the opportunity to paint pumpkins by the lake and take part in the fall activities hosted by our volunteers. The event was filled with laughter, smiles, and the kind of genuine community spirit that continues to define our club's mission and values.

As we look ahead to the coming months, the Fort King Lions Club remains committed to serving the needs of our community and supporting the projects that bring people together. We extend our gratitude to every member, volunteer, and supporter who helped make October a success. Your continued participation and generosity keep our mission strong. Together, we carry forward the proud tradition of Lionism in Ocala and beyond — united by our simple and lasting commitment: We Serve.



Orange Park Lions Club

Orange Park Lions Club honors World Blindness Awareness Month

The Orange Park Lions knew they had their work cut out since October was World Blindness Awareness Month and they wanted to do their part, and they did in grand fashion. At an October meeting of the Orange Park Town Council, Mayor Randy Anderson and the council presented a proclamation to a group of Lions for White Cane Awareness Day that week in Orange Park to bring awareness about the white cane as a tool of independence for those who are visually impaired. The Orange Park Lions accepting the proclamation were Mike Poweleit, Jimmy Hofer, Richard Campbell, Erika Gilbert, visiting Lion and Leader Dog representative Meredyth Mason and her guide dog Luna. Later that week on Saturday, the official White Cane Day, a group of Lions set up an information table at a local Winn-Dixie informing folks about White Canes and collecting money for their new White Cane Fund to help those in need to purchase them. Lions taking part included Carl Crosby, Celia and Dave Vencil, Don and Kittie Minor, and Mike Poweleit. The third vision project of the month was at the Impact Clay Train in Clay Hill. The Lions Club provided free vision screening to kids at the event which served over 100 guests. Taking part at the screening table were Mike Poweleit, Celia and Dave Vencil. And Don and Kittie Minor. The Lions are no stranger to this monthly event haven served several times all over the county. This was the third Impact Clay Train where the Lions did what they do best, help with vision. Learn more about Impact Clay Train at www.ImpactClay.org.

If you would like to learn more about the Orange Park Lions and possibly join or volunteer at events, you can call them at (904) 264-5866 or visit them online at www.orangeparklionsclub.com or visit them on Facebook (OrangePark Lions Club)

Mike Poweleit, Secretary Orange Park Lions Club



Sopchoppy Lions Club

Sopchoppy Lions Welcome New Members

Sopchoppy Lions Club members were all smiles on Monday, October 27 as two new members were inducted into the club! Lion president Sal Martocci welcomed the new members, congratulated their sponsors and gave a brief history of the Lions. The club received them with a hearty Lions Roar! New members are Robert Pilkington and Kathleen Chung. Their sponsors are Lions Jill Rudd and Arlene Vause, respectively.



Tallahassee Lions Club



The Tallahassee Lions Club recently participated in a Garage Sale held at the Tallahassee Elks Lodge.

Even though we made a small profit, most importantly we raised awareness about Who we are and What we do! Many thanks to those that donated and to our President Jim Lee and Vice President Paula Vantassell for organizing the display and selling items!



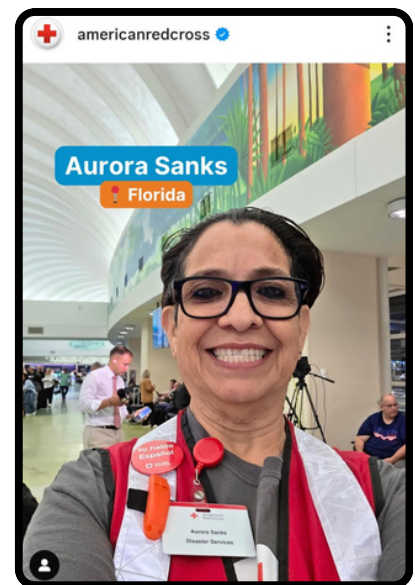
St Augustine Lions Club

Also on Oct 4 2025, Lion Yvette Moore was awarded a trip for the First Coast Honor Flight that went to Washington DC. She was the guardian of a well deserving female Vietnam veteran. The memorials visited included WWII, Vietnam and Korean War, along with changing of the wreath and changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. There were 22 veterans that were honored to go on this trip along with their 22 guardians. Lion Yvette had been on the list since 2022.

Lions John and Sammie Decknick presented a \$1000 donation to St Johns County Veteran Council from our club.



Lion Aurora Sanks was deployed on Oct 16, 2025 by the American Red Cross to Alaska to help with the Typhoon disaster. She was interviewed by several news stations at the airport prior to departing Florida. Lion Aurora is set to stay in Alaska for 3 weeks to render aid to those that were devastated by this disaster.



St Augustine Lions Club

Our club participated with the Muscular Dystrophy Association for the (Multiple Sclerosis) MS Bike Ride on Oct 4, 2025. Our members were stationed at stop no. 2, St Augustine Alligator Farm. All the while trying to stay dry and holding signs to direct the riders to our area. They helped the riders with quenching their thirst, providing refreshments, rendering first aid, as well as keeping them motivated and encouraged to continue on their journey. We had seven of our Lions show up volunteering 3.5 hours of service to the participants. Lions John and Sammie Decknick, Aurora and Mama Sanks, Dan Powell, Charlie Bonfante, and Judy Decker.

