

## DISTRICT 35-L PRE-CABINET MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** April 11, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 9:52 a.m.

**Location:** Tallahassee Moose Lodge  
1478 Capital Circle NW, Tallahassee

These minutes have been prepared by Brittany Young, District 35L Secretary.

### **Members Present:**

1VDG George Niles, 2VDG Susan Oliva, PCC Stanley Rodgers, PDG Tony Stefanowicz, IPDG Greg Seltzer, PDG Bobby Wright, John Hopkins, Sue Hooten, Brittany Young, Debbie Duncan

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by 1VDG George Niles, who presided in the absence of the District Governor due to health concerns.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting were presented. Motion was made to add John Hopkins to the members that attended the meeting in January.

- Motion to approve minutes as amended: IPDG Greg Seltzer
- Second: PDG Tony Stefanowicz
- Vote: Approved unanimously

### **Disaster Trailer Update**

- Liability insurance has been secured for both trailers; documentation is included with registration.
- Physical damage insurance is not available due to depreciation; cargo insurance is an option.
- Recommendation made to use charcoal grills instead of propane for safety and availability in disaster areas.
- Discussion included Avoid storing perishable items in trailers.
- Trailer is currently awaiting tire replacement and wheel bearing service before relocation to High Springs.
- Denise and Mike Williams will oversee storage and readiness once repairs are completed.
- Barbara Kowats will be appointed as Disaster Chairperson for the 2026-2027 Lion Year.
- Plans include:
  - Updating the district disaster plan
  - Coordinating with FEMA, Red Cross, and OSHA for trainings

### **Disaster Supplies & Organization**

- Clubs will donate supplies for the trailer (not pre-made “blessing bags”).
- A registry (Amazon-Style) will be created for clubs and individuals to donate items. This will ensure multiple of the same items are not purchased. Everything will be shipped directly to Denise Williams.
- Reminder to ensure donated items are new, usable, and not expired

### **Starlink Communication System**

- Proposal to purchase a Starlink Mini Kit for disaster communication.
- Cost: ~\$249 equipment, \$165/month active use, \$5/month standby.
- Motion to purchase one unit (pending possible sale, to be acquired by June 1):
  - Motion made by 2VDG Susan Oliva
  - Seconded by Debbie Duncan
  - Vote: Approved unanimously
  - Brittany Young to handle setup and activation

## Hearing Foundation Update

- New officers elected:
  - President: Kathleen Marusich
  - Vice President: Diane Renyhart
  - Secretary: Bobby Jackson
  - Treasurer: Tony Stefanowicz
- Board structure and bylaws require updates.
- Immediate actions:
  - File the state of FL non-profit filing
  - Update banking signatures
  - Continue meetings over the next 3 months to move operations forward

## Club Status & Closures

- Discussion on inactive clubs with outstanding dues and lack of communication:
  - Keystone-Melrose Lions Club
  - DeFuniak Springs Lions Club
- Motion to close both clubs:
  - Motion made by 2 VDG Susan Oliva
  - Seconded by IPDG Greg Seltzer
  - Vote: Approved unanimously
- Emphasis placed on stopping further financial losses to the district.

## New Club Development

- Efforts ongoing in Bellevue area.
- Concerns noted about low membership in some existing clubs.
- Plans to apply for:
  - New club development
  - Membership growth initiatives
  - Club revitalization grants

## Disaster Trailer Supplies Reimbursement

- Debbie Duncan purchased storage totes and securing materials totaling \$165.49 to organize trailer contents.
- Motion to reimburse:
  - Motion made by PDG Greg Seltzer
  - Seconded by 2VDG Susan Oliva
  - Vote: Approved unanimously

## Nominations

- PCC Stanley Rodgers discussed nominations for 2VDG and the process that would happen during the Advisory Meeting.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned following completion of business at 9:52 AM

## DISTRICT 35-L ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** April 11, 2026

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.- 2:40 p.m.

**Location:** Tallahassee Moose Lodge  
1478 Capital Circle NW, Tallahassee

These minutes have been prepared by Brittany Young, District 35L Secretary.

**In Attendance:** Alachua (1), Calhoun-Liberty (1), Chattahoochee (2), Chipley Falling Waters (2), Fleming Island (1), Gulf Breeze (1), Jacksonville RAW (1), Jax Lions Quest of 35-L Cyber (2), Jefferson County (2), Lynn Haven 2 (1), Ocala 200 (1), Ocala Fort King (2), Palatka New Vision (1), Pensacola (1), Quincy (2), Tallahassee (6), Turkey Creek (2)

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by 1VDG George Niles, who presided in the absence of the District Governor due to health concerns.

### Call to Order

- Invocation - Led by IPDG Greg Seltzer
- Pledge of Allegiance- Led by Tallahassee Lion Carolyn
- Welcome and introduction of head table Given by James Lee, President of Tallahassee Club
- Roll Call - Conducted by Brittany Young

### Approval of Minutes

- Motion made by 2VDG Susan Oliva and seconded by Debbie Duncan to approve January 24, 2026 minutes
- Result: Approved unanimously

### Treasurer's Report

Reporting period: January 2026 through March 2026

Presented by John Hopkins

- Income: \$15,394.36
- Expenses: \$11,262.18
- Net Gain: ~\$4,100

Account Balances:

- Operating: \$30,451.44
- Restricted: \$59,930.46
  - Disaster Relief: \$55,391
  - KidSight: \$2,243
  - Lions Quest: \$1,800

### Pre-Cabinet Meeting Discussion

Led by 1VDG George Niles

Key Topics:

- Second disaster trailer preparation
- Need for:
  - Zone Chairs
  - Leadership development
  - 2nd Vice District Governor
- Declining membership concerns
- Importance of:
  - Club collaboration
  - Communication
  - Recruitment

## **District Nominations**

Facilitated by PCC Stan Rodgers

- No qualified candidate accepted nomination for 2nd Vice District Governor
- Nominations closed

Outcome:

- Special election process to be initiated per Lions International rules

## **Peace Poster Program**

Presented by Lion Blanche Day

- Limited participation this year (Ocala 200 submitted)
- Program details:
  - Ages 11–13
  - Deadline: November 10
- Clubs encouraged to:
  - Partner with schools early
  - Increase submissions

## **GAT REPORTS**

### **GST / GET – Service & Growth**

Presented by 1VDG George Niles

- Emphasis on:
  - Service visibility in communities
  - Reporting service in Lions Portal
  - Supporting struggling clubs
  - Membership growth through service

### **GLT – Leadership Training**

Presented by 2VDG Susan Oliva

- Officer Training:
  - June 6, 2026
  - Orange Park Lions Club
- Covers all officer roles
- Additional training planned for August

### **GMT – Membership**

Presented by Brittny Young

Membership Status:

- -122 members lost
- +121 gained
- Net decline

Requirement:

- Minimum 1,250 members to remain a district

Contest (Jan–June):

- Incentives:
  - Banner patches
  - Cash prizes
  - Recognition

Strategies:

- Invite-a-friend meetings
- Social media visibility
- Re-engaging former members

## **Lions Saving Sight**

Presented by:

- PDG Bobby Wright, President of Lions Saving Sight
- Judy Seltzer, Director of Operations

Highlights:

- Rebranding from Florida Foundation for the Blind
- Expanded services:
  - Cataract surgery
  - Laser procedures
  - Complex eye care

Impact:

- District cases increased to ~40 this year

Needs:

- More physician partners
- Club referrals
- Financial support

## **Northeast Florida Lions Hearing Aid Bank**

Presented by 2VDG Susan Oliva

Updates:

- New officers elected:
  - President: Kathleen Marusich
  - Vice President: Diane Renyhart
  - Secretary: Bobby Jackson
  - Treasurer: Tony Stefanowicz

New Program:

- Partnership with Starkey
- Hearing aid bank can help pay for the application fee

## **Club Bragging**

Several clubs shared service and fundraising updates:

- Tallahassee, Chattahoochee, Alachua, Jefferson County, Ocala Fort King, Lynn Haven 2,

## **Guest Speaker Introduction**

- Introduced by PCC Stan Rodgers

## **Guest Speaker - Dr. Rita Smith**

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Overview:

- Largest centralized juvenile system in the U.S.
- Focus on:
  - Prevention
  - Reducing recidivism

Key Stats:

- Arrests reduced from 148K → 42K
- Recidivism reduced by ~10%

Programs:

- Prevention programs (youth outreach)
- Civil citation (avoid arrest)
- Education (virtual school system)
- Mental health & medical care

## **Final Nomination Status**

- No 2nd Vice District Governor candidate
- Special election process to proceed

**Adjournment**

- Motion made by Brad Ashberry from Chattahoochee, seconded by Debbie Duncan, and approved
- Meeting adjourned

**Important Dates**

- April 18–26: Worldwide Service Initiative (Environment)
- May 1–3: MD35 Convention – Orlando
- June 6: Club Officer Training – Orange Park
- Sept 3–5: USA/Canada Leadership Forum – Memphis