

Tales from the *Pride*

Lions District 35 I Newsletter December 2025

District 35 I: Governor Linda Gregory
Editor: Jan Kunka readinthehead1@aol.com

December District 35I Service Project

Honoring our Veterans

The December Service Project has been sponsored by IPDG Patty Jean Strong. “Wreaths across America” honors our veterans who are buried in our nation’s National Cementaries.

Additional Information for Wreaths Across America

Dear Patty J. Strong, Immediate Past District Governor:

Thank you for volunteering to help place veterans' wreaths on the headstones of American Heroes as part of National Wreaths Across America Day! We thank you for your support!

You're welcome to bring your family and friends to National Wreaths Across America Day — no separate registration is required.

Wreaths Across America ceremonies are open to the public, and everyone is invited to participate!

If you haven't yet sponsored a wreath, we encourage you to do so to help ensure that there are enough wreaths for every participant to place one in honor of our fallen heroes.

Please make note of the event details below and reach out with any questions. For your reference, a registration number is included below, but please note that it is not required for admittance:

Ceremony Registration No: FLBPNB-492548 1 Person

Event Name: **Ceremony**

Event Type: **Wreath Laying**

Ceremony Location: [FLBPNB - Bay Pines National Cemetery](#)

10000 Bay Pines Blvd

Saint Petersburg, FL 33708, United States

Ceremony Time: **From 12/13/25 at 12:00 pm to until wreaths are placed**

Placement Time: **11am EST**

Participant Limitations: **No limitations, please bring as many family and friends as possible.**

Tickets: **No Tickets Required**

Thank you for your support of the mission at Bay Pines National Cemetery! We look forward to seeing you there!

Ronalee Klase [FLBPNB - Bay Pines National Cemetery](#)

Notes from the Editor:

Bay Pines is not the only site for this event. Even small National Cemeteries all over the United States (such as Fort Bayard, New Mexico where my parents and my grandfather are buried) have wreath laying ceremonies. PCC Chip & I will be attending the Ceremony at Bay Pines, where his parents and uncle are buried.

Suggestions:

- ___ **Google the location first to determine the times of the opening ceremony**
- ___ **If you are actually going to lay a wreath(s)... instructions may vary ...**
 - A local Fort Bayard volunteer will lay the wreaths specifically on my relatives graves. Bay Pines is “huge” so wreaths will be spread out over different areas and are not site specific.**
- ___ **Wear long sleeves and Bring a broomstick or pole to hang the wreath(s) on while you carry them. They are sticky with pine sap which can irritate skin**

Be Respectful... Pause and reflect before placing a wreath (even if it is a stranger). Remember, even though we are honoring ALL of our veterans, it may be recommended by the cemetery’s guidelines to identify Star of Davids or Crescents on the headstones and honor those sites with a simple reflection, rather than a wreath.

Lion Jan Kunka

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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

Veterans IPDG Patty Jean Strong



Humanitarian Lion Jennifer Maillard

Elder Citizens Lion Paula Paquette



Childhood Cancer Lion Diane Clifton



Vision PCC Penny Gregrich



Mental Health Lion Paula Paquette



Environment Lion Jan Kunka



Diabetes Lion Diana LaSpina



Reading Lion Loretta Barksdale



Hunger Lion Kathy Lawless

Hearing SVD Drew Ogden

Multiple District and District Events Calendar

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 YTD Totals			# of Activities	# of People Serve
	Vision		195	51,100
	Hunger		32	10,613
	Environment		16	3,822
	Diabetes		10	247
	Childhood Cancer		18	1,882
	Disaster Relief		no report	
	Humanitarian		97	60,085
	Youth		49	11,116
	Mental Health		no report	

Who's Who in District 35I



District Governor

Linda Gregory

E-mail: Linda092355@gmail.com

Companion in Service: MD 35 CC Jimmy Gregory



1st Vice District Governor

Beverly Flynn

E-mail: Lionbevflynn@aol.com



2nd Vice District Governor

Drew Ogden

E-mail: drewogden@aol.com

Cabinet Secretary

JoAnn Rodgers

E-mail: dgrodders53@gmail.com

Cabinet Treasurer

Tom Mavor

E-mail: tmavor@wclions.org

Message from DG Linda Gregory

The Purest Gift During the Holidays

As the holiday season begins and our calendars start to fill with shopping, plots, and secrets, it's easy to get lost in the busyness of the season. Add in celebrations, family traditions, and gatherings and it can all become a blur! In the middle of the decorations and the exchange of gifts, it is sometimes difficult to remember that the holidays aren't so merry and bright for everyone. Some people dread this time of year as every twinkling light is a painful reminder of what has been lost. For others, the stress of obtaining gifts that will cause the family to have to make difficult financial choices in the New Year (or to make them now!) puts a fearsome damper on holiday happiness. For still others, everyday survival is a struggle which the holidays just add on to.

For Lions, these situations present a wonderful opportunity to give: the gift of service. And we have a benefit over many...we are a community of people who serve! "Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much." - Helen Keller

The holidays remind us that generosity is not measured in wrapped packages, but in acts of compassion. Service in December is especially meaningful as many families will face food insecurity, loneliness and depression as the season progresses. Some ways to serve your community include:

- ☐ *Adopt a family in need and provide a few gifts for the children so their hardworking parents aren't forced to choose between toys and the electric bill.*
- ☐ *Find a senior citizen facility and ask which residents never have visitors. Purchase a small gift bag of toiletries to let those people know someone thought of them and that they*
- ☐ *Write holiday cards and mail them to a hospitalized member of armed forces. Mail them to: A Recovering American Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue, Washington, D.C.*

Whether it's delivering meals to families in need, visiting those who feel forgotten, or lending a hand at community events, service becomes the most meaningful gift we can offer.

My apologies for the brevity of this message. I had cervical spine fusion done on 3 of the discs in my neck. I am currently in a neck brace and cannot bend my neck to use my computer. So this article was written on my phone! It's been "interesting" to say the least.

This month, however you choose to celebrate, however you choose to serve...know that I couldn't be prouder of this team of Lions known as District 35-I. You are all amazing!

**From Council Chair Jimmy and me-
the Happiest of Holidays to you and yours!**

Message from VDG Bev Flynn

FVDG December Newsletter Message:

“A Season of Gratitude: What Lions Should Be Thankful For”

As we enter a season of reflection and gratitude, it's the perfect time to pause and appreciate the many blessings that come with being part of Lions Clubs International. Whether we serve in bustling cities or quiet rural communities, every Lion has reasons to be thankful for the extraordinary impact we make—and for the fellowship that strengthens us along the way.

1. The Power of Service

Lions are united by a simple but powerful mission: *We Serve*. Each project—whether it's vision screening, food distribution, environmental cleanup, or disaster relief—reminds us of the privilege we have to lift others up. We can be thankful that our organization gives us the structure, resources, and global reach to turn compassion into action.

2. Our Fellow Lions

Every Lion knows that the true heart of service is the people who stand beside us. We can be grateful for the friendships forged through shared purpose, the mentors who guide us, the new members who bring fresh energy, and the legacy members whose dedication is our foundation. In Lions, we don't just serve together—we grow together.

3. Community Trust and Support

Communities rely on Lions because we show up—consistently, reliably, and with integrity. We should be thankful for the trust people place in us when they seek help, join our projects, or support our fundraisers. That trust is earned over decades of service and is one of our greatest assets.

4. A Global Network of Good

With more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries and geographic areas, Lions are part of one of the largest service organizations in the world. This global connection means we're never alone in our efforts. We can be thankful for the worldwide collaboration, knowledge sharing, and support that make even massive challenges—like vision loss, diabetes, hunger, and childhood cancer—within reach to overcome.

5. Leadership and Personal Growth Opportunities

Lions Clubs International offers countless opportunities to grow: leadership training, project coordination, public speaking, and committee work, just to name a few. Lions can be thankful for an organization that not only serves communities but also equips its members with skills that last a lifetime.

6. The Chance to Change Lives—including Our Own

Every act of service, big or small, creates ripples of hope. Lions can be grateful for the meaningful experiences that remind us why we serve: the smile of a child who receives eyeglasses, the gratitude of a family in crisis, the pride of a volunteer stepping into leadership for the first time. These moments transform us as much as they help others.

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to new opportunities, let us carry this spirit of gratitude into every meeting, project, and partnership. Together, we continue to prove that kindness matters—and that the world is a better place because Lions care.

Thank you, Lions, for all you do.

Believe in Lions and Share the passion.
1VDG Lion Bev Flynn

December: a Season of Light

- Monday, December 8: Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
- Friday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Day (Christianity)
- Sunday, December 14 – Monday, December 22: Chanukah (Judaism)
- Tuesday, December 16 – Wednesday, December 24: Las Posadas (Mexican/southwestern US Christianity)
- Sunday, December 21 – Thursday, January 1: Yule (Paganism)
- Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day (Christianity)
- Friday, December 26: St. Stephen's Day (Christianity)
- Friday, December 26 – Thursday, January 1: Kwanzaa (Pan-African)

**The inspiring message that follows was from
Lion Keith Backhaus member of the the Venice Lions Club. Thank you,
VDG Bev for sending this to me to share with all of you**

With many traditions, many celebrations, December is one season of love and light. It is packed with holidays and observances from the Winter Solstice to New Year's Eve, to Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

There is something for everyone. Even December 21st is "Bah Humbug", a day for the "Scrooges" among us. December actually has 45 awareness events. December is also called the "Season of Light" as there are many religious holidays during this time. Their themes span cultures that emphasize sharing with others, connecting with family, and of course delicious holiday foods and meals from around the world. These major holidays all center around a theme of light overcoming darkness, a time of peace.

December 21st is the Winter Solstice — the shortest day of the year and the longest night— If we pay attention we will see, in amazement, how quickly the light overcomes the darkness. The long sunrise of December 22nd is followed by those that come faster and faster each day. Darkness can be overcome by the light of a single candle, or a pair of new glasses that brings sight. A Teddy Bear to hug can bring calm when fear is all around. Darkness can be overcome by a smile of welcome, kindness, and respect for all.

Our World today presents us with many attractions and distractions making it easy to lose sight of the true meaning of this 'Season of Light.' But in fact, the 'Season of Light,' whether from the glow of Advent candles, the lights of a Christmas tree, the flame of a Menorah, or perhaps simply, the welcome light on our neighbor's front porch. These all let the light shine. May this season of light not only be a time of celebrations and merriment but also a time of reflection.

Let us celebrate the possibility of peace. Let us be centers of peace and light to help speed the day when we all may be one, let us Share it!

District 35 I Fall meeting

Editor's Note...The November issue of the Tales from the Pride featured the MD 35 Fall Conference in Orlando...This month features the fun and fellowship that District 35I shared at this event. Hosted by the Largo Lions, assisted by the St Pete Lions, and located at the Pinellas Lighthouse for the Blind....the meeting featured Casey Golden...guest speaker from the Florida Diabetes camp, Learning Opportunities, recognitions and awards, , DG candidate speeches, basket raffles, and the "Grand Finale" of our Tail Twister squeezing out dollars from attendees.



Guest speaker, Casey Golden, shared information about the Florida Diabetes Camps



These include two locations for a week long camping experience: Camp Winona in Deland and another in the Chipley area. An "Adventure Camp" is offered for older youths with advanced diabetic management skills complete with tent camping, and biking opportunities. Shorter weekend camps include a sports camp, "Bring a friend", and parent/child programs for children newly diagnosed with juvenile diabetes.

For more information:

<https://floridiadiabetescamp.org/>

Financial Donations can be sent to

Florida Diabetes Camp

PO Box 14136

Gainesville, FL 32604



District 35 I Guiding Lions

VDG Bev Flynn is honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from International President Singh for her work on the “Major Catastrophe” Action Team



PCC Cindy Beardsly is honored by PID Rod Wright for her LCIF fundraising efforts



Lion Pam Brown accepts two “Super Hero Awards” for the behalf of Lions Kelly and Lisa, members of the Venice Lions Lions Club

(Information about this grassroots award can be found later in this newsletter)



Lion Verna McKelvin had to drop her “tail” to hold the Flamingo Appreciation Award from PDG Gary LaSpina. It matches her shirt perfectly!



Lots of handouts to share with club members

The Presenters at the District 35I meeting also provided the following information:

PDG Judy Galm: Sunshine Chair...
send card requests to galmjudy@gmail.com

Lion Dave Blauers : Chaplain
Please send names & pictures of members who have passed away to dmblauers@gmail.com

PDG Vivian Henegar (35-O): RLLI March 19-22, 2026.
Application on p23 of this newsletter.

PID Rod Wright presented the 2026-27 candidates who have qualified and intend to run for District 35-I Offices.

DG: Lion Beverly Flynn

1VDG: Lion Drew Ogden

2VDG: Lion Tim Foreman

Lion Christine Timmons-Malone

CC Jimmy Gregory presented GET report on potential new clubs: American- Asian Lions, Spanish speaking club (sponsored by Naples), Nokomis Branch Club (sponsored by Venice Lions Club)

PID Rod Wright stated that many clubs have undesignated Melvin Jones Fellows.

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**

Zone 1



Awards!!!!



*Arcadia's
newest member*

Zone 2



Fish Hawk Ranch :

Filling glasses cases with toiletries for veterans



Sorting glasses

Zone 3



Zephyr Hills Lions

Shopping for community needs for the Holidays

Zone 4



White Cane Walk



*Gulfport Lions have "left the building"
They are moving to a New Home*



Zone 5



PCC Chip's Turkey hat entertains elementary students during vision screening



This is why Bradenton Lions conduct vision screening with state of the art equipment



Bradenton Lions braid recycled T-shirts to make pull toys for rescue dogs at animal shelter

New members at the Venice Lions Club





Venice Lions participate in the Fun and Whimsical Halloween Strut



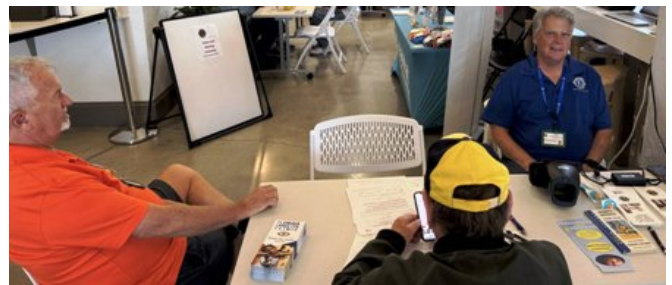
1600 cards prepared for residents at nursing homes!



Zone 6



Toys packaged for delivery



Health Fair : Vision, Diabetes, Hearing

Zone 7

*Bonita Springs, Everglades City
Zone 7 Meeting*



& Naples



The following Lions have been appointed by District Governor Linda Gregory to serve District 35I in the following roles:

Global Leadership Team Coordinator

PCC Gary LaSpina

Global Service Team Coordinator

Lion Tim Foreman

Global Membership Team Coordinator

PDG Paula Beach

Global Extension Team Coordinator

CC Jimmy Gregory

Election campaign for 26-27 2nd VDG:

Editor's Note: A sign of a healthy Lions District is the presence of Lions who are willing to serve as Leaders.

District 35 I has two qualified candidates for 2nd Vice District Governor. Both Lions Tim Foreman and Christine Timmons-Malone attended the Multiple District Conference and provided reflections on that event and other facets of their candidacy.

The “Tales from the Pride” does not endorse any candidate for any Lion's Leadership position. You are encouraged to welcome visits to your club by both candidates, participate in your club's discussions about future leaders and make sure that your club certifies the allowed number of voting delegates.

Additional information about the voting process will be presented in the March edition “Tale from the Pride”

Fellow Lions in District 35 I: The recent MD35 conference was a lot of fun and was great to see old friends and make some new ones. There was also a lot to learn there.

Our Keynote Speaker was PID Kembra Smith from Georgia. A timely piece of her address had to do with our current National situation promoting division. Whether it be Political parties, Religion, Views on health care, these topics can be used to stir up division among the people. This is easily done through Social Media platforms where especially now with AI, I could make a video of anyone saying something 180 degrees of what they actually believe or stand for. Most all of us use one or more of those platforms and we friend other Lions on them and in doing so we learn that sometimes they are on the other side of the fence from our own views.

Here is the potential issue. In Lions, we are diverse, not only in our clubs, but throughout the world. We all have different viewpoints about many things. We cannot let those differences divide us, instead we need to use them to strengthen us. We are all here to serve. We are all brothers and sisters in Lionism. We are family! Kindness matters!

If we can use our differences to find new ways of service, that is great. If our differences cause us to feel less about our fellow Lions, we need to take that, bundle it up and put it on the top shelf in the back of our closet and forget we have that piece of knowledge. Replace it with an act of service you enjoy together. Failure to do that creates animosity in the club. This will lower the culture of the club, cause existing members to leave and discourage new members from joining. If the division persists, it will destroy the club. Don't think it can't happen to us, our club is too strong. You would be wrong I have seen it in other districts and it has happened in this district. Each one of us needs to be constantly checking ourselves that we are not "that Lion" causing disruption in club and District.

On a different level, Campaigning for 2nd Vice District Governor. In a normal political campaign there is a lot of insulting and bullying of the opponent. In Lions it is not the same. We are all here to serve. In running for office we are offering our skills, knowledge and experience to strengthen the district. In the current race, Lion Christine and myself, we have and continue to work together well. We respect each other and get along well. You are not a traitor because you have known one of us longer or in the same club or whatever and you enjoy talking or serving with the other one also. We are all Lions before, now and after.

I hope this has awakened your awareness and inspires you to be kinder in your service.

Yours in Lionism

Lion Tim Foreman, District 35-I GST 21

DG, PDG's, Cabinet Officers and my fellow Lions,

Hello, it's great to be here today and have an opportunity to share a little of my leadership experience and thoughts with you.

It was exciting to attend the MD35 conference. We all had some great pirate fun! I brought some Pirate Booty snacks.

There were several remarks by senior leaders about family. I was so happy to hear this and want to share some of my leadership experience. In my first term as Club President, I started talking about my club as a family. This mindset continues and it helps us continue to grow and be successful. The members of the Zephyrhills Lions Club operate as a family. We no longer work side by side; we are serving shoulder to shoulder with our family! The results are we are experiencing growth in the number of members attending meetings, growth in membership, increase in participation in Service projects!

Every successful club, every strong District and every lasting legacy is built on Lions who understand how to collaborate, communicate and lift one another up!

Teamwork is dividing up tasks. In the Zephyrhills Family, we combine our strengths, we collaborate, we multiply our impact! The creative thinker pairs with the organizer, the dreamer pairs with the doer and suddenly our Service grows beyond what anyone of us could achieve alone! Strong families don't just happen, they are developed! They require trust, open communication, respect for different perspectives and a shared sense of purpose- Our mission of Service.

As Leaders, our role is to cultivate that environment, to listen, to delegate with confidence, to celebrate small victories and to resolve conflicts quickly and kindly! If I'm elected I will help grow our Lions families all across our District. We will invite every voice to the table. We will recount talents of others and give them room to shine. We will build bridges between committees, clubs and communities. I've experienced this and I truly believe that when Lions work together as a family, the ROAR of Service is louder, stronger and longer lasting. We serve not as individuals but as a family!

Thank you for your time and your attention.

Lion Christine Malone-Timmons

	Lions Club International MD-35 Florida Regional Lions Leadership Institute	
	Life Enrichment Center 4991 Picciola Road Fruitland Park, FL 34731	March 19-22, 2026
	Check in after 3:30 Thursday - Depart Sunday 11:30	
Name _____ Badge Name (if different) _____ District _____ Club _____ Highest Office Held _____ Current Office if any _____ Mailing Address _____ _____ Phone _____ Email _____ Have you ever attended a RLLI? Y____ N____		Institute Topics: - Opening Session - Diversity - Lions Fundamentals - Motivating Club Members - Personal Mission Statement - Public Speaking - Time Management - Working in Teams - Global Membership Approach Success Plan - District Success - Setting and Reaching Club Goals
Registration Fee of only \$200 includes: - Lodging 3 Nights - Eight Meals (Thu Din through Sun Bkfst) - Instructional Materials - Friday Night Campfire / Fun Night.		Please inform us of any special needs or diets. <i>Lodging Accommodations</i> <i>Double Occupancy</i> (Single Occupancy available add \$75) Roommate (if applicable - list below)
Registration Cut off is January 15th	Make Checks Payable to: Lions of Florida MD-35 Mail Checks and Registration to: Lion Vivian Henegar 9069 High Point Blvd. Brooksville, Florida 34613	
Lions of Florida and the South East come and enjoy 3 days of Lions Learning, Lions Fellowship, and Lions Enrichment with 30 Lions from MD-35 and beyond. You will experience a Lions event you will remember for years to come. You will go home energized and ready to help Lead your Club and District to success while making lifelong friends. Sounds like when you were a kid at camp, well you could be right. All for the LOW price of only \$200. Any questions? Call Lion Vivian at 810-444-4109. Reserve your spot now before they're gone! Registration ends January 15th, 2026.		

Potential Leaders Seminar
Saturday, February 7, 2026
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Lunch Provided

WHO:

1. Potential Governors (SVDGs & FVDGS).
2. Open to all Lions intersted in District Leadership.

Where:

MD35 Office Conference Room
331 W. Central Avenue, Suite 246
Winter Haven, Florida 33880
(any change of loction will be announced in advance)

Topics:

1. Constitutional Requirements & Guidelines.
2. Duties of a District Governor.
3. Role of the Partner/Companion in Service.
4. Time Commitment.
5. Preparing a Budget.
6. Expenses and Reimbursements.
7. Chosing your Cabinet.
8. Chosing MD Officers & their Duties.
9. Protocol.
10. Recognition.

AND MUCH MORE!

Contact either PDG Gary LaSpina or PDG Vivian Henegar
NLT January 23, 2026 to reserve your spot!

PDG Gary M. LaSpina
md35execsec@md35lions.org
407-859-7174

PDG Vivian henegar
vivianhenegar64@yahoo.com
810-444-4109

If no answer when calling leave a message!



**\$25 or
5/\$100**

2026 SUN CITY CENTER/SOUTH SHORE LIONS 52 Week Charity Raffle – 61 chances to win!

The Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Club is holding its 4th annual 52 Week Raffle to raise money for Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Foundation Charities and give you 61 chances to be a lucky winner!

ALL net proceeds are to benefit Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Foundation Charities. No portion of raffle ticket sales go to administrative costs, including the cost of printing.

**YOU HAVE 61
CHANCES TO WIN!!!**

*After each drawing the winning ticket
goes back in. That's right!!
One ticket lasts all year.*

First drawing January 2026

Based on the sale of a maximum of 400 tickets, payout will be as follows:

52 - \$50 Winners: One for each Tuesday

8 - \$100 Winners: One each for New Year's, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving.

1 - \$250 Winner: One for Christmas.

Drawings may not be made on the actual award date. All drawings will be held in a public place and may be observed by interested parties. A schedule of drawing dates will be posted at <http://www.scc lions.org>.

The Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Club is a service organization with a primary focus on service projects in Greater Sun City Center and the State of Florida. Membership dues cover all administrative costs, thereby allowing 100% of fundraising profits to be returned to the community and to others in need.

Sun City Center/South Shore Lions also support the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), which enables Lions to tackle global problems such as blindness, hearing loss, diabetes, and respond to major catastrophes such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods.

SUN CITY CENTER/SOUTH SHORE LIONS CONTRIBUTIONS & SERVICE

Organizations supported by Sun City Center/South Shore Lions Club include:

- Eye Care & Glasses for the Needy
- Eyeglass Collection Boxes for Distribution to Third World Nations
- Dogs, Inc. (f/ka Southeastern Guide Dogs)
- Tampa Lighthouse
- Campaign Against Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence
- Reading programs at local elementary schools
- Florida Lions Foundation
- Guadalupe Food Pantry
- Mary & Martha House
- Lions World Vision Institute
- Sun City Center Emergency Squad
- Sun City Center Security Patrol
- Hope Fund
- Annual Scholarships to local High School Seniors

and more.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

For more information: Contact a local Lion or send an e-mail to raffle@scc lions.org.



WIN A ONE-WEEK VACATION

*Your choice of locations:
Dominican Republic, Mexico
or many others*

**FORT MYERS
LIONS
RAFFLE**

**BEGINS JULY 1st, 2025
AND RUNS UNTIL
December 31st, 2025**

ONLY (300) TICKETS AVAILABLE

**\$25 PER
TICKET**

SCAN ME!



40+ RESORTS- ALL INCLUSIVE: HOTEL FOOD & DRINK

AIR FARE, TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORTS-NOT INCLUDED

(GOOD FOR ONE YEAR)

WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE

WWW.FORTMYERSLIONSCLUB.COM

Lions Clubs International Awards

International President's Certificate of Appreciation

is usually awarded personally by an International Director, after the recipient has been nominated by the District Governor. The award is in recognition of distinguished achievements in fulfilling the service mission of Lions Clubs. This is the 4th highest LCI award.

International Leadership Medal

is awarded for outstanding leadership by a Lion on Lions issues or service issues. Nominated by a District Governor. There are a limited number awarded each year and in each State and is the 3rd highest award from LCI.

International Presidential Award (Service Award)

is awarded for outstanding service by a Lion to the causes or activities Lions are active in. Nominated by a District Governor. There are a very limited number awarded each year and is the 2nd highest award from LCI.

Ambassador of Goodwill Award

The Ambassador Award is generally awarded to high level Lions for their many years of service. There are only a maximum of 35 awarded each year and is the highest award from LCI.

Other Lions International Awards: The following are awarded when a Lion or Club meet and document specific requirements.

100% District Governor
Club President Excellence Award
Extension Award
Guiding Lion Award
Member Key Award

Club Excellence Award: The criteria for this award has been changed for the 25-26 Lion Year. (following page for details)

Club Excellence Award

Membership

- Induct a minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or sponsor a new Lions club.

Service

- Report a minimum of four service activities to Lions International. Three of these activities must show participation in each of the three International [Weeks of Service](#).

Leadership

- Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15 of the current Lion year.
- A minimum of 10% of the club's members complete any three courses in the [Lions Learning Center](#).
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.
- A minimum of two or more club officers (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Of which, one must be the club president) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) between May 1 – December 31.

Donations

- [Contributed to LCIF](#) a minimum of the club's membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year, multiplied by US\$20.

Lions History & Traditions

Tail Twister

Tail Twisters have added elements of fun and surprise to Lions club meetings since the 1920s when many U.S. clubs had pep committees charged with enlivening routine club meetings. Lions entrusted this function to a single energetic and enthusiastic officer, known as the Tail Twister.

How did the name Tail Twister come about? The World's Biggest Doers, a 1949 history of the Lions, described this origin story, as recounted by Lions founder Melvin Jones: "One Sunday afternoon three or four of us were discussing this matter of putting pep into the meetings. One fellow who had been born on a farm said we needed to do what used to be done on the farm. When a cow refused to go through the gate, someone would grab her by the tail and twist. We all laughed, but one of the boys said, 'Why isn't that a good name—tail twister?'"

Now optional for all Lions clubs, the role of Tail Twister had been an established office under charter bylaws for decades. But as a 1941 article in LION Magazine made clear:

"Of all the officers in the club, (s)he [the Tail Twister] has no rigid code, no well-defined plan of action. (S)he must be a Lion of originality."

Lions Toast

*Not above you
Not below you
But with you*

Was used as a toast by Lions Clubs as early as 1923. The **Lions Toast** emphasizes the Lions goal of **working together with the people they serve.**

Pin the Tail on

the Tail Twister



Draw a “tail” on the Lions indicating a True Statement



The Tail Twister can be an elected member of the board of director (if stated in the club constitution)



The main purpose of the Tail Twister is to collect money for the club administrative account



The purpose of the Tail Twister is to “instill enthusiasm and good fellowship, promote harmony and reward special effort”



Traditionally the club can fine the Tail Twister at any time.



Guests can be fined by the Tail Twister.

**Source: TAIL-TWISTING HANDOUT Course #127 Bachelor's Program
Lions University USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum**