

Tales from the *Pride*

Lions District 35 I Newsletter November 2025

District 35 I: Governor Linda Gregory

Editor: Jan Kunka readinthehead1@aol.com

November District 35I

Service Project

Diabetes Awareness

Lion Diana LaSpina



District 35-I is partnering with the **Florida Diabetes Camp.**

They provide a fun, safe, educational, and diabetes-friendly camp environment for children with type1 diabetes and their families where they can gain the confidence, skills, and knowledge to achieve their full potential.

We have a wish list of supplies the camp needs for their programs each year.

Twin Sheets

Hand sanitizer

Pillowcases

Sanitizing/Bleach Wipes

Christmas Lights

Pillows

Aloe Gel

Name Tags

Sleeping Bags

Sunscreen

Extension Cords

Tissues

Bug Spray

Power Strips

Toiletries

Flashlights

Towels

Poster Board

Please have your club collect these items during the month of November. At the end of the month we will pick the items up and take them to a Tampa warehouse for the Florida Diabetes Camp to store and distribute as needed. Please contact Lion Diane Laspina when your club or zone is ready for pickup. Thanking you in advance

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes is a chronic health condition that affects **millions** of people worldwide. It occurs when the body is unable to properly regulate blood glucose (sugar) levels, leading to a range of health complications if left unmanaged. Raising awareness about diabetes is crucial for early detection, effective management, and prevention of related health issues. Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects how your body turns food into energy. About 1 in 10 Americans has diabetes. Among the U.S. population overall, crude estimates for 2021 were:

- Prevalence: **38.4 million Americans**, or 11.6% of the population, had diabetes.
- **2 million Americans** have **type1 diabetes**, including about **304,000 children and adolescents**.
- Diagnosed and undiagnosed: Of the 38.4 million adults with diabetes, 29.7 million were diagnosed, and 8.7 million were undiagnosed.
- Prevalence in seniors: The percentage of Americans age 65 and older remains high, at 29.2%, or 16.5 million seniors (diagnosed and undiagnosed).
- New cases: 1.2 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year.
- Pre-diabetes: 97.6 million Americans age 18 and older had pre-diabetes.

Types of Diabetes

- **Type 1 Diabetes**: An autoimmune condition where the body's immune system attacks insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. It often develops in childhood or adolescence but can occur at any age.
- **Type 2 Diabetes**: The most common form, which develops when the body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't produce enough insulin. It is often linked to lifestyle factors such as diet, physical activity, and weight.
- **Gestational Diabetes**: A temporary form of diabetes that occurs during pregnancy. It increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life for both mother and child.

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Lions of District 35I mourn the death of **Past District Governor Louis "Lou" Cantrell** on Tuesday October 21, 2025. A Lion since 1989, Lion “Lou” was a member of the St. Petersburg Lions Club and served as District Governor 2003-2004

PDG Lou was very involved with *Lions Saving Sight* (formerly Florida Lions Sight Foundation) serving as an intake coordinator for the applicants requesting assistance. His countless hours serving Lions will be missed by all of us District 35I.



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		145	33,177
	Hunger		20	9,098
	Environment		10	3,298
	Diabetes		9	203
	Childhood Cancer		15	1412
	Disaster Relief		5	700
	Humanitarian		80	55,616
	Youth		145	33,177
	Mental Health		42	9,195

Who's Who in District 35I



District Governor

Linda Gregory

E-mail: 092355@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: dgrodgers53@gmail.com

Cabinet Treasurer

Tom Mavor

E-mail: tmavor@wclions.org

Message from DG Linda Gregory

*Across the globe, Lions Clubs serve as beacons of community service, fellowship, and leadership. Yet while some clubs flourish with growing membership and vibrant programs, others face dwindling numbers and fading momentum. What makes the difference? The answer lies not in luck, but in **leadership, culture, and connection**.*

Growth Starts with Purpose

Thriving clubs have a clear, compelling mission that excites their members and communities. They don't just meet—their mission matters. They have purpose and those clubs understand that their purpose matters in their community. Whether it's feeding families, mentoring youth, or vision screening children's eyes, successful clubs align their activities with local needs and global impact. They create projects that inspire, and they invite others to be part of something meaningful.

Leadership That Lights the Way

Strong leadership is the heartbeat of a growing club. Leaders who listen, adapt, and empower others create a culture of ownership and enthusiasm. They don't just delegate—they elevate. They recognize contributions, celebrate milestones, and mentor the next generation of Lions. In contrast, clubs that struggle often rely on a few overburdened individuals or resist change, unintentionally stifling new energy. There is an old saying about 80% of the work in a club being done by 20% of the members. If that is true in your club, that is a sign of potential problems. And those problems need to be corrected!

Creativity and Collaboration

Growth isn't just about numbers—it's about spirit. Clubs that embrace creativity in their programs—from themed fundraisers to symbolic ceremonies—spark curiosity and joy. They collaborate across generations, cultures, and interests, making space for fresh ideas and diverse voices. Clubs that cling to rigid formats or outdated traditions may unintentionally alienate potential members who crave relevance and innovation.

Connection Over Recruitment

Successful clubs don't "recruit"—they build relationships. They show up in their communities, listen deeply, and invite participation. They make joining feel like coming home. Struggling clubs often focus on filling roles rather than fulfilling people. The difference? One is transactional; the other transformational. Clubs that attempt to try to **recruit** tend to talk **at** people. Clubs who **connect** with people talk **with** people. There's a world of difference!

Adaptability Is Key

The world is changing—and so must we.

Clubs that grow are those willing to evolve: embracing technology, re-thinking how we do meetings, and responding to shifting demographics. They ask, “What does our community need right now?” and “How can we serve in new ways?” They understand that the service project of ten or twenty years ago may not be meeting the needs in the demographics in our community today.

Clubs that resist change risk becoming relics rather than relevant. Do NOT become a club that says, “We already tried that. It won’t work.” Or, “We always do it this way.” There’s another old saying...., “If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always gotten.” That one isn’t even completely accurate because as times change, people change. If we don’t change with the times, our results will not keep up with the times....so eventually we won’t even get yesterday’s results with yesterday’s actions.

In the end, club growth isn’t a mystery—it’s a reflection of how well we live our values.

When Lions lead with heart, listen with humility, and serve with creativity, growth becomes a natural outcome. Let’s keep building clubs that roar with purpose, unity, and joy. International President A.P. Singh advises us to live a life a purpose by living a purpose-filled life. His theme is “**Live to Serve and Serve to Live.**” Both are great advice and both are attractive to prospective members.

Invite

At our most recent Cabinet Meeting I relayed a story to the attendees about my days as the Global Membership Team Coordinator. Years ago, I asked people at a meeting to look around and to notice all the differences in the room. Lions come in all sizes, and shapes, from all backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and cultures...in spite of all of our differences, we all have one thing in common. That one thing is that one day someone invited us to join a Lions Club. If you aren’t asking your friends and neighbors to a meeting, someday you will look around at a future meeting and realize that your meeting is missing a few people...those you never invited. **Invite someone to attend a service project or a meeting today!**

Proud to serve with you-
DG Linda



Message from 1VDG Bev Flynn

Having Fun While Serving —

The Key to Great Meetings!

Fellow Lions,

As I've been visiting clubs across our district, one thing always stands out — **the clubs that have the most fun are the ones that thrive!**

Their meetings are full of laughter, energy, and the spirit of friendship. You can see it in their smiles and hear it in their stories. Those clubs remind us that **service and joy go hand in hand**.

Sometimes we get so focused on agendas, reports, and logistics that we forget one important thing: **we joined Lions because it feels good to serve — and to serve together**. When our meetings are engaging and enjoyable, members stay connected and are excited to return. And when guests visit a lively, friendly meeting, they can't help but want to be part of it!

So how can we make our meetings both meaningful and fun?

It starts with the **3 C's**:



Creativity



Connection



Celebration

- Begin **Creatively** with an uplifting thought, a funny Lions trivia question, or a short “**Lion of the Week**” spotlight.
- Bring in guest speakers who inspire, educate, or make us laugh.
- Keep fellowship **Connections** strong with short social breaks, light refreshments, or even themed nights. -----
- Celebrate** your club’s successes — big or small. Recognize members for their service and milestones.

When members enjoy coming together, they leave every meeting feeling proud to be a Lion — re-energized and ready to serve. Let’s make every meeting a place where **We Serve** with **heart, purpose, and fun!**

Fun Meeting Ideas for Your Club!

- **Theme Nights:** “Crazy Hat Night,” “Lions Spirit Night,” or “Service Superhero Night.”
- **Member Spotlights:** Have one member share a 3-minute story about why they became a Lion.
- **Lions Trivia:** Test your club’s knowledge about Lions history or local service projects.
- **Mini Service Projects:** Assemble hygiene kits, write thank-you cards, or sort donated eyeglasses right at your meeting.
- **Friendly Competitions:** Which table can come up with the best new service idea in 5 minutes?
- **Celebrate Milestones:** Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, or member achievements monthly.
- **Photo Recap:** Share a short slideshow from your last project — laughter guaranteed!

Believe in Lions and Share the passion⁸

Message from 2VDG Drew Ogden

As we enter the month of November, our hearts are filled with gratitude — for the freedoms we enjoy, the community we share, and the people who make it all possible.



Veterans Day – Honoring Those Who Served

On November 11, we pause as a nation to honor the brave men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. Their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment have safeguarded our way of life and preserved the liberties we hold dear.

Let us take this opportunity not only to remember those who have served in the past but also to thank the veterans among us today — our neighbors, friends, and family members — for their continued contributions to our communities. Whether through a simple word of thanks, attending a local ceremony, or reaching out to a veteran in need, let's show them the appreciation they truly deserve.



Later this month, we gather around our tables for Thanksgiving, a day that reminds us to reflect on life's many blessings. It's a time to celebrate the power of kindness, fellowship, and community.

As we give thanks for family, friends, and the abundance in our lives, may we also remember those who may be facing hardship or loneliness. A thoughtful call, a shared meal, or an act of service can make a world of difference this holiday season.

From all of us who call ourselves "Lions", we extend our heartfelt thanks to our veterans and to each of you who make our community stronger through your compassion and service.

In Gratitude

Wishing you and your loved ones a meaningful Veterans Day and a warm, happy Thanksgiving!

MD35 Council of Governors Fall Conference

The Fall Conference is a gathering of Lions from all over MD35. Members of Districts L, I, O, N get together to share

FUN... FELLOWSHIP... and FULLFILLMENT

FUN (and Food): A gathering of Pirates (and a few ship captains spared from “Walking the Plank”) shared Music and Dancing and a Scavenger Hunt

And this is supposed to fit in the elevator ????



AARRGG



This ship's home port is Zephyr Hills Lions club...Beware



Pirate Fun

Pirates And more
Pirates



Captain Chip
Escapes the plank



FOOD

PCC Bob Jenkins finally
gets to the buffet
line



Lions Tim and Aileen
enjoy the elegant banquet

FELLOWSHIP: Reuniting with old Lion friends and meeting new friends:

Even though Convention Keynote Speaker
PID Kendra Smith represents Georgia,
She is an old friend to District 35 I...graduated from
Manatee High School in Bradenton, Florida.



Lion Christine and "Mom"

Best Friends
Forever



"Lounge Lions" Teri and Eileen
w/ new friend Rita from 35N



Lion Victor flashes a smile next to Lion Anita

Anyone need a ride?
PDG Judy is pushing!



FULFILLMENT: Celebrating our Service successes, Learning new skills to achieve our Lions mission of Service and Recognizing the value of our Districts Future Leaders,.



Several 351 Lions came to the Conference early to participate in the **conference service project** with other members of MD35



Learning how to assist a blind person:

(Use the term: “Blind” or “Low Vision”

Not: “Visually Impaired or “Visually Limited”)

Step 1: State your name

Step 2: Ask if the person would like assistance.

Step 3: If assistance is requested, ask what help is needed from you.

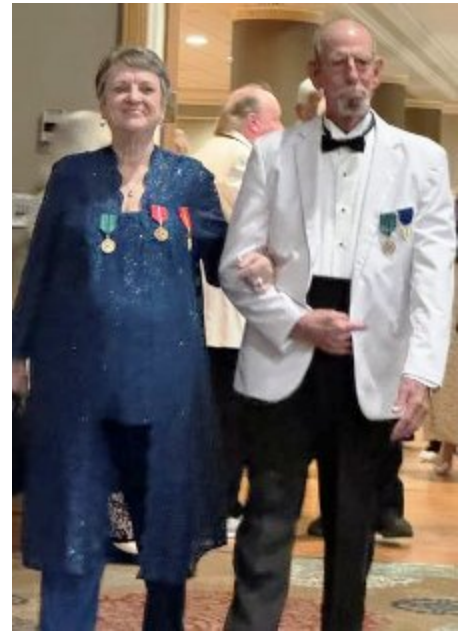
Your Editor found this learning opportunity to be amazing!!!



2nd VDG Drew Ogden



1st VDG Bev Flynn
CIS Barbara McGillicuddy



DG Linda Gregory
CIS CC Jimmy Gregory

35I Leaders are beginning their journey to Fulfill their Leadership Responsibilities



MD35 Treasurer Paula Beach
CIS PID Rod Wright



MD35 Secretary Gary LaSpina
CIS "Lady" Diane LaSpina

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



Lake Wales: Wilson Elementary students collected glasses

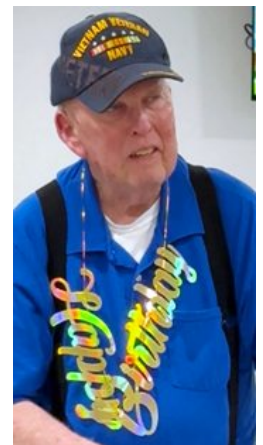
Wachula honors Dr James Roberts for graduating from the FBI Academy



Zone 2



Fishhawk Lions screeners for private schools, Bob & Bernie w/ Family Community Nurse Anne Conoway



Lions from all over honor the 80 Birthday of Plant City Lion Bob Fulks

Zone 3

Lion Lynn Sisson showing how a Guide Dog does its job to 50 home Schooled children at the Wesley Chapel Park district



Greater Zephyr Hills: Helen Keller Tea party: a Unique event to honor 100th Anniversary of her Knights of the Blind Speech:



Behind the scenes at the Helen Keller Tea party

Great Turnout for the event! (250 people)



The Table decorations were amazing!



Zone 4



Clearwater Lions honored Largo Lion Karen Douglas for her work with Lions Vision Care

Clearwater Lions participate in the Adopt a Mile Cleanup



Both Clearwater and Largo Lions are gold sponsors of Light House of Pinellas County White Cane Walks 2025



Gulfport sponsors a "Lets get Lei'd" Fund raiser



**Safety Harbor Lions
Decorated the Haunted
Trail for the
Folly Farms Fright Nite:**



Zone 5

Bradenton Lions receive a Thank you from Turning Points Community Resource Navigator

Good Morning, I hope you're enjoying the colder weather! I wanted to give you an update on our mutual client.

He came in yesterday, very grateful for his new glasses; he can now read paperwork, and it's much easier for him to navigate crossing the road.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Venice Lions also participated in a White Cane Walk sponsored by Light House Low Vision Center



Venice Lions prepare goodies for “Halloween Strut” event



Venice Lions assembling 400 “ Library Hygiene Kits” for the needy and homeless. Signs are placed in the restrooms of the Venice & Jacaranda libraries explaining that the kits are available at the library desk.



Laurel-Nokomis Lions (l-r)

Mary Jo Heider, Michael Pepper, Erick Carrera, Kristi Ackerman, Alicia Williams and Peter Casamento

Venice Lions are sponsoring a branch club:
Laurel-Nokomis Lions Club

Zone 6

Cape Coral and Fort Myers Lions serving our youth by helping young people to enjoy fishing:



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

Global Leadership Team Coordinator

Lion Christine Malone

Global Service Team Coordinator

Lion Tim Foreman

Global Membership Team Coordinator

PDG Paula Beach

Global Extension Team Coordinator

CC Jimmy Gregory

What are these Lion Leaders responsible for?

A description of their duties is in an article about your District Governor's Action Team in the "[Lions Leadership and Acronyms](#)" is presented later in this newsletter

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. They have provided information about themselves for you to review.

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"

Lion Tim Foreman
Candidate for 2nd Vice District Governor District 35-I



Over 20 Years Experience in Lions Service and Training

Building things since 1977

Self Employed Contractor for 35 years

Raised 2 Sons as a Single Dad

Served in 2 separate Multiple Districts

Over 15 years District level Experience

Always Learning



Continuing to Build A Stronger District

Lion Tim Foreman

Candidate for 2nd Vice District Governor District 35-I

In Connecticut Joined Killingworth Lions 2005

Served on BOD 11 years

VP's and President 4 years

Chaired and served on numerous fund raising and service committees

Several awards, including; Lion of the Year, Knight of the Blind & Melvin Jones Fellowship

Member of the Kids Sight Screening Team with a neighboring club

District 23-C Zone Chair 5 years

Served on various District fundraising and service committees

Club and Officer leadership Trainer.

Certified Guiding Lion

MD23 Train the Trainer Certification

Served on committee to create new MD Hearing and Speech Foundation

Developed Constitution and Bylaws for that foundation

2018 transferred to Brandon Lions Club in Florida

Served on BOD

Club President

Membership Chair & LCIF Coordinator

District 35-I Zone Chair & Region Chair

Certified Guiding Lion

Extention Chair

Formed, Chartered and Mentored the Fishhawk Club

GMT & GST

District 35-I Hearing Foundation VP

District 35-I Sight Foundation VP

Awards International Presidential Certificate of Appreciation

MD35 Hearing Foundation Committee & MD 35 Lions Saving Sight BOD

Attended USA/ Canada Forum, International Convention and Lions Portal Training

If elected I will serve to guide the Lions of District 35-I, with kindness and integrity, to being a stronger district



Continuing to Build A Stronger District

Christine Timmons- Malone



Lion Christine joined Lions in 2020 and has been very active with her home club, the Zephyrhills Lions Club.

She believes in the **LIONS INTERNATIONAL VISION STATEMENT: TO BE the global leader in community and humanitarian service** and strives to incorporate that not only in her club's vision, but in her everyday life.

The **LIONS INTERNATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT: TO EMPOWER** volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs falls into her life's purpose as she leads.

She educates to empower all LIONS to serve and take on leadership roles whether it be at the club level, District or Multiple. She believes in mentorships to encourage LIONS to step out of their comfort zone and become active at all levels of Lions.

Lion Christine strives to lead by example not only asking LIONS to step up, but by participating in Lions activities at the club, District, Multiple and International.

She has guided Lions through many endeavors, but the biggest is getting the Zephyrhills Lions building paid off and setting goals for the future of her club. These leadership skills will benefit District 35 I and Multiple District 35 if she is elected to become your next Second Vice District Governor.



— —

Lion Christine has shown her leadership serving as [Club President](#) for two years, serving as [Club Treasurer](#) for four years, and chairing committees and projects. Her District leadership goal as a trainer, is to assist clubs in understanding of what we need do to grow. She has served as [Zone Chair](#) for two years and is currently serving on the District [Long-Range Planning Committee](#) looking at the future of Lions in District 35 I and Florida.

She became a [Certified Guiding Lion](#) not only to work with new clubs, but to aid struggling clubs. She has challenged herself to grow and completed the [Faculty Development Institute](#) and the [Multiple District 35 Regional Lions Leadership Institute](#). To gain a better understanding of all aspects of Lions, she has attended several [USA/Canada Forums](#) and [Lions International Conventions](#). Using these skills she has present at numerous District and Multiple District events and provided an orientation training for Zephyrhills Lions.

Lion Christine has been recognized for her leadership with a [Lions International Presidential Medal](#), a [Lions Presidential Certificate of Appreciation](#), a [Melvin Jones Fellowship](#) presented by the Zephyrhills Lions Club.

Lion Christine has two sons, a granddaughter that has stolen her heart and is the caregiver for her mother Lion Gloria Timmons.

Please feel free to contact Lion Christine Malone at
lionchristinemalone@gmail.com





*\$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.scclions.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/k/a 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@scclions.org.



WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

Google address above to order wreaths for your loved ones buried in
any National Cemetery

December 13, 2025

District 35 I Service Project

Honoring our veterans

Chair: IPDG Patty Jean Strong

Additional Information on next page

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](#)

LCIF Charity Ratings:

Lions Club International Foundation consistently receives a **4 Star Charity Navigator Rating** ...the most recent is for **2024** with a score of **97%** for the areas of **Accountability/Finance** as well as **Leadership and Adaptability**.

A 4-star rating is the highest possible score, indicating that a charity is considered "Exceptional" and scores 90 or above in Charity Navigator's review.

- A 4-star rating means a charity exceeds industry standards and is financially responsible and ethical.
- This rating is based on Charity Navigator's objective evaluation system, which assesses factors like financial health, accountability, and leadership.

This is amazing since LCIF does not receive any portion of Lions membership dues. Gifts from foundations, corporations, governments, non-Lions and interest earned on investments also provide funding.

LCIF, like all organizations, does have administrative expenses. All expenses of LCIF are allocated into three functional allocations: administrative, fundraising and programs.

Through prudent and responsible management of funds, LCIF is able to cover the cost of administrative and fundraising expenses through investment income.

Lions need to promote LCIF as a charity option to those who are outside of our Lions family. LCIF truly makes a difference in its Areas of Global Service as well as Disaster Preparedness, Special Olympics and other Youth programs.

Lions History & Traditions

Lions Emblem/Logo

Lions decided to form a committee at the 1919 International Convention in Chicago to acquire a proper, professional logo. The committee turned to Maurice Blink, a Chicago commercial artist and founding member. Blink created a sketch of **circle with an "L" in the center and two lions' heads in profile looking in opposite directions.**

Melvin Jones explained its meaning. The emblem, Jones said, "**represents a lion facing the past with pride and the future with confidence, looking in all directions to render service.**"

In the earliest full-color expressions of Blink's design, the twin lions looked a lot more like real lions with wavy dark brown manes, glowing eyes, and ferociously sharp, white teeth. Over the years, the lions became less fierce as the logo was standardized to promote consistent use worldwide.

The Emblem has been refreshed and updated again but it is still recognized around the world as a **symbol of kindness and service**

Use of Lions International Emblem

Warning: Many of our clubs are using outdated Lions International Logos! Lions International has authorized very specific Logos to be used on apparel, stationary, and publicity materials. Below are the authorized **L** emblems



Lions Leadership & Acronyms

Who are the GAT: GLT/ GMT/ GST/ GET coordinators?

Quick Recall Question:

What does ZC stand for?

What does DG stand for?

The **DG** has helpers to accomplish the District goals for Leadership, Service, Membership and Extension.

Global Leadership Team Coordinator:

Develops, organizes and facilitates local district and club level learning events.

Reports participation in Learning Events in Learn" among other duties

Global Service Team Coordinator:

leads and facilitates service initiatives, encourages club engagement, and promotes

LCIF activities within their district

Global Membership Team Coordinator:

supports membership development by recruiting new members and promoting positive membership experiences

Global Extension Team Coordinator:

Global Extension Team (GET) is an offshoot of the Global Membership Team that is focused on starting new clubs within its district.

The above Lions, together with DG cabinet, the Zone & Region chairs, and the individual clubs' Presidents, Secretaries, and Membership Chairs, make up the

Global Action Team for District 351

Lions Emblems



1. Which emblem(s) are current?
2. Which emblem was the original?
3. Which emblem(s) should not be displayed on letterheads, promotional materials, or new apparel?

