

Local Audiologist Breaks the Six Year Cycle of Women as President of Venice Lions Club



Standing (L-R) Lions Tom McConnell – Treasurer, Foundation, Loretta Power – Secretary, Dave Mattson – Treasurer Administration, John Bohan – Director, Tom Christensen - Director, Ed Lynch – Lion Tamer,
Seated (L-R), Annette Goodsen – 3rd Vice President, Shelley Massey – 2nd Vice President, Richard Namikas - President, Beverly Kruger – Director, Anne Favreau – Membership Director, Ray Favreau – Director

Background Info:

Venice Lions Club was chartered with 29 (all male) members in 1947 with Philip Mallory, the City manager at the time as the President, Louis J. Pappas, a pharmacist at the Rexall store in town as secretary, and J. D. Arnall of the local lumberyard as treasurer. The club was sponsored by the Lions Club of Sarasota. Starting from that first meeting the Venice Lions Club has been busy in the community.

It took until 1987, forty years, for the club to open its doors to a woman member, Mrs. Emily Hightower, who was active in the club until her death in March, 2009. The second woman member is Lion Beverly Kruger, who joined the club in 1989. Lion Beverly is very much the doyen of the club even today.

In 1990 Dr. Dee Stephenson joined the Lions club and in 1994 she became the **First Woman President** of the Club opening the flood gates to women. Since then the club had the following as Presidents:

Barbara McGillicuddy-1998/1999, Beverly Kruger-2001/2002, Dusty Namikas-2005/2006, Pam Kruger- 2006/2007, Rosemary Christensen-2007/2008, Barbara McGillicuddy-2008/2009 and Beverly Flynn-2009/2010 and 2010/2011