

Venice Lions Host the MD 35-I Cabinet Meeting / Mini Convention



(photo above) Lion Annette Goodsen welcoming PDG Gary Nieskes.

This year the Venice Lions Club who hosted the District 35-I mini convention/cabinet meeting took it upon themselves to make the usually drab, business as usual cabinet meetings to a Hawaii themed festival. The tables were adorned with colorful table cloths, and all tables sported potted orchids in bloom. The Committee Chair Lion Shelley Massey and co-chairs Barbara McGillicuddy and President Bev Flynn made sure that all attendees were welcomed with a cheerful “Aloha” and a lei. Lion Dusty Namikas who was the contact person for the event did a splendid job of record keeping.



(above) head table, (left) boxes of used eyeglasses waiting to be loaded to the truck.



While the guests were being welcomed at the front door to the assembly area, there was another very important activity going on elsewhere. Stacks of cardboard boxes filled with used eye glasses for recycling were being loaded on to a waiting truck. With many Lions making a bucket brigade, the loading was completed easily, and just in time too. The weather of the day was a bit atypical for this time of the year, and starting to get hot and humid.



(left) The meeting started in earnest about 10 a.m. when the District Governor John Carbaugh took to the podium to attend to some necessary business.



(above) the bucket brigade loading eye glasses

The highlight of the morning was the Necrology Ceremony conducted by Lions Bill Ringlestein, and Susie Strathas, co-chaplains for the district. It was a solemn and dignified event that started with the wailing of a lone bag piper in full regalia, followed by the “*The Empty Chair*” ceremony dedicated to the Lions who passed away during the past year, and ended with the District Governor lighting a candle for each member while the Lion’s name is being announced.



(far left) – the lone Piper.
 (left upper) –Lions Bill Ringlestein and Susie Strathas conducting the necrology ceremony.
 (left lower) Governor Carbaugh lighting candles
 (below) – “The Empty Chair”



After a short break for coffee and to stretch one’s legs it was time for zone reports and other “businesses” that had to be taken care of.



All registered visitors to the cabinet meeting / mini-convention enjoyed a catered superb Continental breakfast with tropical fruits and a lunch choice of sweet and sour pork, mandarin orange chicken, rice, Hawaiian coleslaw, dessert of coconut cream pie, coffee and a choice of soft drinks. A total of 139 Lions attended the Cabinet meeting and about 20 Venice Lions Club members were there to make the event an outstanding success.

Half a truckload of used eye glasses collected at the meeting are still being counted.