



LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

*Summer
Little Compton, RI*

July President's Message

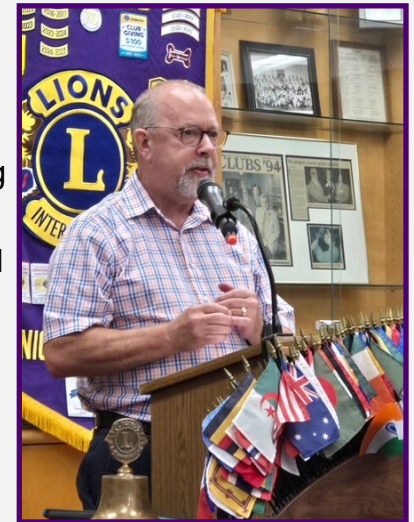
I am not only honored to be the next President of the Venice Lions Club but to also celebrate our nation's 250th birthday with you. I have some big shoes to fill following Lion Pamela and will do my best to keep the same level of high standards and involvement with the community. I am excited to be leading our Venice Lions into the next chapter, serving our community and I look forward to finding new ways to reaching new heights of service.

This first message from me will be a simple one, it will be an introduction so you can get to know a little bit about me. I grew up in Columbus, WI and in 1982 joined the United States Navy where for 22 years worked in Aviation Ordnance, Bomb Disposal, and Deep-Sea Diving. During this time, I met Lion Kim, married, and had our twins Nick and Grace.

I have had the opportunity to travel the world. I have been to all fifty states and have seen thirty countries on four continents. All I have left is Africa, South America, and Antarctica, I will not lose sleep if I do not make it to the bottom of our globe, I hear it is quite cold. It was not only exciting to travel the world, but it also gave me better respect and perspective of how other cultures live and sadly sometimes suffer. We as Lions cannot always control what affects people, but we can as a group be effective by trying to make their lives a little better.

As far as work and education goes, I have an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts, Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Management and Organizational Behavior. I work with my wife Kim in Real Estate here in the local area. We are also members of the Patriot Riders of America who go out and assist Veterans and others in the community who need a hand up.

Thank you again for selecting me as your new Lion President, I promise to serve you well.



Outgoing President's Message

“To Everything, There is a Season”

My faith is deeply rooted in the celebration of cycles.

From the rhythm of each week to the changing seasons and the milestones of life, my tradition recognizes that life moves in recurring patterns that connect people to God, family, and community.

The weekly cycle culminates in a sacred day of rest that arrives every seven days.

Throughout the year, Jewish holidays follow the cycle of the seasons, commemorating historical events while reminding believers of enduring values such as freedom, gratitude, repentance, and hope.

Judaism also honors the cycles of human life. Ceremonies such as birth celebrations, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, and memorial observances mark important transitions and affirm the continuity of life throughout generations.

By embracing recurring cycles of time, nature, and life itself, we learn that every ending leads to a new beginning.

As I yield the podium and the gavel to a new President, I remind myself of this cycle; This change happens every year and is an important part of our Club's growth and renewal.

Growth and progress happen when we yield to new ideas, new ways, new people with fresh perspectives.

This year the change signals a turn toward our younger members taking leadership. This is such an important change! We older Lions need to recognize this change signals growth and opportunity. We are all shaped by our own generation's experiences. We see things through a lens shaped by our times and the cultural experiences we knew when we came of age.

Our “Young Lions” will bring fresh and new life to our projects and services and give us another generation of Lion leaders.

It is hard to yield sometimes, but let us give them space to shine.

They will shine.

They will make us all proud.

Lion Pamela

Lion Beverly Goes to Hong Kong!

Venice Lion and District 35 I Governor-Elect, Beverly Flynn traveled to Hong Kong to participate in the Lions International Convention. She was accompanied by Lion Barbara McGillicuddy, her Partner-in-Service. At a special banquet, Lion Beverly OFFICIALLY became District 35-I **Lion Governor Beverly!**



(Above) Governors George Niles, District N; Beverly Flynn, District I; Gaston Correa, District N

When Lion Beverly returns from Hong Kong, she will be the **GOVERNOR** of District 35I. !!

Congratulations Lion Bev !!



Installation of 2026 –2027 Club Officers
June 2026

Venice Lions Club Officers 2026-2027



Venice Lions Club officers for the 2026-2027 year were installed by incoming District Governor Lion Beverly Flynn.

(Above l-r)

Hans Nichols — 2 Year Director

Ed Stack — Lion Tamer

Christal Snell — 1 Year Director

Charlie De Guglielmo — 2 Year Director

Pamela Brown — Immediate Past President, Membership Director & Service Chair

Ed Billings — Foundation Treasurer

Mary Billings — 2nd Vice-President

Barbara McGillicuddy — Administration Treasurer

Beverly Flynn — District Governor-Elect

Paddy Padmanabhan — 1st Vice-President

Tim Werla — Club President 2026-2027

(missing from photo)

Jeff Myles — Secretary

Judy Rocquin — Tail Twister

Venice Lions Recognition and Awards

President Pamela Brown was proud to recognize Lions for their outstanding service.

Mary Billings

“Lion of the Year”



John Tagye

“Melvin Jones Fellow”



Keith Backhaus

“Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow”

2nd Award Recipient



Barbara McGillicuddy

“Grand Lion Award”

Lions Saving Sight

Lifetime Member



Previous Melvin Jones Fellows Greeted This Year’s Additions to the Melvin Jones Fellowship

The Southwest Florida Lions Club Joins District 35 I

District 35 I added three new Lions clubs in 2025-2026.

The most recent is the Southwest Florida Lions Club.

Although the Club was a project by Governor Beverly and President Pamela, it was sponsored by District 35 I because members will come from five of the counties served by District 35I. The members of the new Club are blind, have impaired vision, have family members who are blind, or are advocates for people with vision loss.

It was a night for celebration!

The new club is modeled on the success of the Virginia Beach-Town Center Blind Lions Club that Lion Pamela knew in Virginia. The keynote speaker was Past District Governor Beth Stevens who lost her sight at age 28, became President of her club, and rose through Lions leadership to high and higher positions due to her inspirational leadership.



(Left)
Lion Pamela with Southwest Florida Lions President, George Heudorfer

(Below)

Lion Paddy and PCC Gary Nieskes (Englewood) share a good time!

Venice Lions shared a toast: President Tim Werla, Lions Jean Spitzer, Keith Backhaus, Bonnee Hagen, Pat McNally, and Paddy Padmanbhan.



Lion Barbara McGillicuddy Retires After 8 Years as Office Manager

Contributed by Lion Sharon Wilkins

Retiring from a job never means you retire as a Lion, and Lion Barbara proves it again.

Lion Barbara began her Lions journey in 1976 as a Lioness when she and her husband started their business and decided to become involved in their community. Lions Clubs were for men only at the time so young Barbara became a Lioness and took it to the max. When her husband went up the ranks to become the District Governor, Barbara also advanced. Barbara became the first Lioness President in New England and the 14th International Lioness President. In 1982 when Lions International was held in Phoenix, Arizona, Lioness Barbara was the keynote speaker!

In 1994 after the passing of her husband, mother and sister-in-law, she left New Hampshire for the warm Florida sunshine. In Venice she had a ready-made family with Venice Lions. The first meeting she attended was the installation of Dr. Dee Stephenson as The Venice Lions first woman President. Lion Barbara has been an active member ever since and served as President for two terms! She is finally stepping away from the job of office manager for the Keerl Foundation but she continues to stay involved by assisting District Governor-Elect Beverly Flynn as Beverly's Partner in Service.

During Lions Beverly's year as Governor, Lion Barbara will be treasurer for District 35I, and Administrative Treasurer for The Venice Lions Club as well as all the projects she continues to assist. Her tireless efforts on behalf of our Venice Lions Club is a testimony to her Lion/Lioness devotion with the many projects, offices, and duties she has performed.

Thank you, Lion Barbara for your many years of service!

Getting to Know You!

Contributed by Lion Sharon Wilkins

In May, 2026, our Venice Lions Club found a new Office Manager! Sue Shidler was hired to replace retiring Office Manager Lion Barbara McGillicuddy.

Lion Sue is a transplant from Medina, New York. She came to Venice in 1974 when her parents decided to retire here to avoid the cold New York winters. Sue was a teenager in a new state and was not at all pleased. Thankfully, many years later she is glad her family moved, and loves being a Floridian.

Sue and her husband, Dean, have been married for 43 years. They have 3 children: Jeff, Jon, and Jen. Sadly, Jon passed away in 2012. Sue and Dean also became guardians of their great niece, Aaliyan in 2008. They have 2 grandchildren who help keep them young and active.

Sue had knowledge of Lions Club and the services they provide to the community, but only recently has become aware of the scope of the Lions mission. Now that she is a Lion and the office manager, she will no doubt see first-hand how widespread the mission really is.

Sue's was working at Island Optical when she met our District Governor, Beverly Flynn. We are so fortunate their paths crossed. Welcome to our Venice Lions Club, Lion, Sue Shidler! We're glad you are here!



The Lions International Peace Poster Contest

For nearly four decades, the Lions International Peace Poster Contest has given children ages 11-13 the opportunity to share what peace means to them by creating posters that reflect their aspirations for peace. Each year, Lions clubs around the world sponsor the contest in schools and organized youth groups, giving young people the opportunity to be recognized at local and international levels and awarded a grand prize of \$5,000.

Venice Lions will continue to support this fine project and award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of the three schools we support. Below are last years' International winners. Perhaps a student from Venice will win this year!



(Above Left:)

Artist: ***Yi Fan He***, 13 years old, China

(Above Right:)

Artist: ***Kelly Du***, 12 years old, Canada

(Left:)

Artist: ***Shuyu Wu***, 12 years old, Taiwan



July Birthdays

6th — Melissa Burke
26th — Jody Fall
30th — Bob Angell
30th — John Tagye
31st — Jeannette Davis
31st — Bob Winstel

July Anniversaries

2nd — Alf and Denise Kirkeeng
28th — Sharon & Larry Wilkins

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16th — General Meeting
Lions Community Room,
Dinner @ 5PM Meeting @ 6:15PM

August 6th — Vision Clinic
Lions Community Room, 7:30AM

August 6th — General Meeting
Lions Community Room,
Dinner @ 5PM Meeting @ 6:15PM

August 13th — Board of Directors Meeting
(all members are invited)
6 PM, Lions Community Room

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for all that you and the Venice Lion's Club does in support of Gear Up Florida and the mission of The Ability Experience!

-Liza Daisley



What It Means to Be a Lion

Submitted by Lion Susan Metevia-Frasik

Being a Lion means more than simply belonging to an organization.

To me, it means showing up for people, caring about our community, and doing what we can to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Lions have always been about service, but it is the heart behind that service that makes this organization so special.

One of the things I appreciate most about Lions is our commitment to service. We are called to respond to the needs around us, whether those needs are right here in our own community or somewhere across the world. Lions understand that even small acts of kindness can create meaningful change. When we serve, we help make the people and places around us better.

We also believe in doing things with excellence. The causes we support matter, and the people we serve deserve our very best. Whether we are helping with vision care, supporting local families, raising funds, or giving our time, we take pride in doing it well. It is not about recognition. It is about knowing that what we do truly matters.

Another important part of being a Lion is appreciating diversity. Each person brings different experiences, talents, ideas, and perspectives to the table. That is what makes us stronger. When we listen to each other and value those differences, we become a better team and a better organization. Together, we can accomplish more than any one of us could alone.

Lions also know the value of working together. Service comes to life when people join hands, share ideas, and work toward a common goal. We meet challenges as a team, and we build stronger communities by partnering with others. That spirit of collaboration is what allows us to solve problems and make a real impact.

Integrity is also at the heart of who we are. Lions strive to be dependable, trustworthy, and accountable. We believe in good citizenship and in doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. Our actions reflect not only who we are as individuals, but who we are as Lions.

Finally, Lions continue to grow and evolve. The needs of our communities change, and we must be willing to change with them. Innovation, creativity, and new ideas help us serve better. By staying open to improvement and fresh ways of thinking, we can continue making a difference for generations to come. At the end of the day, being a Lion is about heart. It is about service, kindness, teamwork, integrity, and a willingness to help wherever we can. I am proud to be part of an organization that believes in making the world a better place, one act of service at a time.

Traveling Lions



Lions Bob and Cheryl Winstel vacationed in Yellowstone National Park



Lions Jeff and Carole Myles spent a month traveling north to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, Canada. (My advice to anyone traveling to the Canadian maritime provinces in June is, bring a jacket or a sweatshirt.) While visiting we had the opportunity to stop by the Cymbria Lions Club on Prince Edward Island and exchange Club pins. The Cymbria Lions are celebrating their 50 year anniversary.

Venice Lions Club Inc.
Venice Health Park
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Venice, FL 34292-4522

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www.venicelionsclub.com



Club Meetings
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting begins at 6:15 p.m.

Board of Directors
Meeting 2nd Thursday at
6 p.m.



Our Venice club is part of the largest international service organization in the world. We support international efforts to save the sight of millions, provide measles vaccinations and disaster relief. At the local community level, Lions provide free vision and hearing services to those in need, screen the vision of preschool children and collect used eyeglasses. Every dollar donated goes back to the community in the form of grants, scholarships, and educational and fun activities for children. Our members like serving in a club with a purpose. It makes us feel good to give back to our community.

Venice Lions Club 2026—2027

President	Tim Werla
Immediate Past President	Pamela Brown
1st Vice President	Paddy Padmanabhan
2nd Vice President	Mary Billings
Secretary	Jeff Myles
Assistant Secretary	OPEN
Treasurer (Admin.)	Barbara McGillicuddy
Treasurer (Found.)	Ed Billings
Tail Twister	Judy Rocquin
Lion Tamer	Ed Stack
One Year Director	Christal Snell
One Year Director	OPEN
Two Year Director	Charlie DeGuglielmo
Two Year Director	Hans Nichols
LCIF Coordinator	Pamela Brown
Service Chair	Pamela Brown
Membership Director	Pamela Brown
Bulletin Editor	OPEN
Publisher	

Lions Club International

300 22nd Street, Oak Brook IL, 60521

Website	www.lcif.org
President	Mark S. Lyon
IPP	A.P. Singh
District 35-I	
Website	www.lionsMD35.com
District Governor	Beverly Flynn
IPDG	Linda Gregory
1st Vice District Governor	Drew Ogden
2nd Vice District Governor	Christine Malone
Cabinet Secretary	Diane LaSpina
Treasurer	Barbara McGillicuddy
Bulletin	Paula Paquette
MD Executive Secretary / Treasurer	PDG Gary LaSpina/ PDG Paula Beach
Zone 5 Chair	Pamela Brown