



President's Message

It is hard to believe, but we have almost completed our Lions year.

Robert Spong and the nominating committee have prepared a roster of strong candidates for next year's officers and Board of Directors, and the election on April 3 may have been held before you read this newsletter. But contrary to winding down, our pace will be even faster in April with so many traditional and new programs happening this month.

In addition to our usual two meetings and the Board of Directors meeting, the vision clinic and preschool vision screening, get ready for these special events:

April 9, 6:00. Lions host an ice cream party for the Lions' Little League team near the concession stand in the ball park off Field Road.

April 12, 1:00-8:00; April 13, 10:00-5:00. Sharks Tooth Festival, Centennial Park.

April 19, 10:00-12:00. Eggstravaganza and Beeping Egg Hunt.

April 25, 4:00. Earth Day Celebration (free Crepe Myrtle saplings for students). Laurel Civic. 500 Collins Road.

April 26, 1:00. Lions cheer on their Little League team in one of the last games of the season. Ball Park on Field Road.

April 27, 12:00-4:00. Poker Run Fundraiser. The Beach Club, Siesta Key

We will need all Lions to help with these big projects. There will be sign-up sheets at the April 3rd meeting. You will want to attend that meeting because, in addition to voting for next year's officers and Board, we will be drawing the THREE WINNERS of the Publix gift card raffle. We will also be announcing the Lion who sold the most raffle tickets and wins the \$50.00 gift card to the Venezia Hotel Restaurant.

Buckle up for April!

Pamela



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April Birthdays

3 rd	Jude Waggoner
7 th	Suzanne McCormack
8 th	Jeff Myles
17 th	Ann Favreau
20 th	Dee Stephenson
21 st	Elli Burr
27 th	Judy Rocquin

April Anniversaries

11 th	Tim & Kim Werla
12 th	Tom Regan (Carol)

March Guest Speakers



Bohdana Puzyk and Christyna Sheldon shared their childhood journeys escaping from war-torn Ukraine and finding new life in the United States.

17th Annual Mane Event

March 21, 2025

A very special thanks goes out to all Lions who worked diligently over the past months to make this fundraiser a success.



"Alice in Wonderland 2025"





The Mane Event Fashion Models

(l-r) Carole Myles

Christal Snell

Jan Stack

Lisa Slonaker

Shelley Devine

&

Anne Cummings





Children's Vision Screening

When was the last time you were over the moon to receive a sticker for your t-shirt? The Venice Lions Preschool Vision Screening Team sees big smiles as the youngest children receive a Lions' sticker after their vision check. Vision screening has been a Venice Lions Club essential service for many years. This spring new teams have formed with a new Team Leader in Carole Myles. In their first "day on the job" the new team screened 70 children and they look forward to screening hundreds of additional children soon. The Plusoptix screening camera checks for six concerning vision conditions, and alerts parents if there is a possible problem that needs correction. How fabulous is it that Lions' service to our community reaches the youngest children and the most elderly. Be Proud, Lions!

The Lions International Convention is Coming to Orlando!

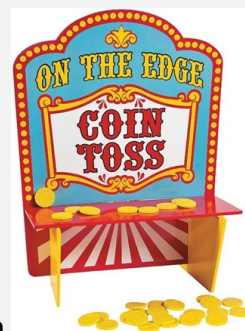
July 14 - 17

We can only imagine the vast cost of hosting the Lions 117th International Convention. This year, because it is in our own state, we have the opportunity to attend AND to help with the expenses. Every Lions Club in Florida is helping to defray the cost of sponsoring such an enormous enterprise, and VENICE LIONS want to be part of bringing this convention "to town."

Our Multiple District is sponsoring a fundraiser in support of the convention. All clubs in District 35 are asked to take QUARTERS (yes – the coins) to the Multiple District 35 Conference on May 2nd.

We are going to have FUN with this challenge. Bring your quarters to the April 17th general meeting and win a gift certificate to a nice restaurant! If you are low on quarters, we will exchange your paper money into quarters at the meeting.

During an extended dinner time, we will toss quarters at the coin toss board (above). How many quarters can you keep on the ledge? The Lion who has the highest score wins the prize. Save your quarters, bring them to the April 17th meeting and try your skill! And of course, all quarters support the International Conference in Orlando!



Member Profile

Lion Jody Fall

Submitted by Lion Sharon Wilkins

Lion Jody Fall was originally from Mount Vernon, Ohio. She and her husband Jerry lived in the Greater Cincinnati area for 25 years before moving to Venice in 2017.

In 2007 tragedy struck when Jody's only child, Rob Forman, died from a heart virus. In true Jody style, she became part of a support group of mothers here in Venice.

Most of her professional career was spent working in the field of workers' compensation, representing Ohio' employers regarding their administrative hearings. She owned her own business for 18 years, but most recently she was a licensed realtor.

In Ohio she was an active Kiwanis member, and past president of the Fairfield Kiwanis Club. She was also involved in Corvettes of Hamilton, Life Span, United Way, and Fairfield Chamber of Commerce.

In 2020 Lions Bob and Cheryl Winstel sponsored Jody in our Venice Lions Club where she has continued with her spirit of involvement in the Waterway Cleanup, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Easter Egg Hunt, Mane Event, and other projects.

Crayon Recycling



What do you do with 400 boxes of crayons stuffed in a closet? Give 'em away, that's what! Lion Pat McNally suggested a project that Lion Pamela adopted as part of her President's Project: Childhood Cancer. Last August, when the back-to-school sales were in high gear, the club purchased 400 boxes of crayons. Now Lions are reaching out to preschools to ask the classes to donate their old, broken crayons. As a reward for being recycling good citizens each child in the class will receive a brand new box of crayons. The old crayons will be

shipped to The Crayons Initiative by Staples (at their own cost) and will be melted down and made into new crayons. The new crayons are larger and triangular so they will not roll off hospital trays. We will be asking Crayons Initiative to ship the finished crayons to the Golisano Children's Hospital near Ft. Myers. There, children being treated for cancer will enjoy the bright new colors for their art.

<https://thecrayoninitiative.org/>

Youth Recycle Program 2025



Taylor Ranch: The Kiwanis Kids are sponsored by Venice Kiwanis Club at this elementary school. We appreciate the time and effort that these "Kids" put into their collection of eyeglasses (929) over the last eight years, and collecting pop tops that are shared with our Shriners'

Sky Academy: SKY (strength and knowledge at the Y) Since 2020, a group of NJHS students have collected 191 pairs of eyeglasses for worldwide distribution, as well as collected many pounds of pop tops to recycle. The pop top money is turned over to the Shriners Hospitals for Children for games, books, and repaired wheelchairs.



Grace Methodist Preschool: This was our first experience with eyeglass collecting for distribution worldwide. These young students have been delightful to spend time with over the past ten years. Meanwhile, they have collected 246 pairs of glasses for worldwide distribution. We appreciate the efforts of their teachers and parents.

(Youth Recycle Program continues on page 8)

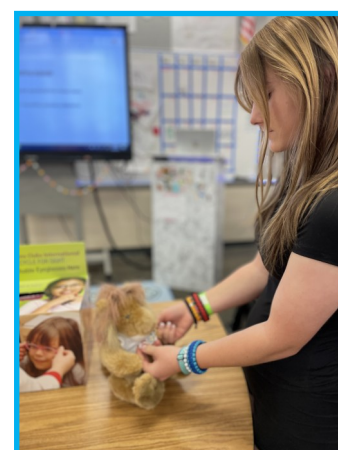


Epiphany Cathedral School: This 1st through 8th grade school initially started with the Venice Lions in 2017 as the Student Council. Since then the project has been the responsibility of the 5th grade class, who have had an enthusiastic mentor and teacher. Over the years, they have collected 992 pairs of glasses and many pounds of pop tops!

Venice Middle School: Since 2018 NJHS and Ambassadors have collected a total of 180 pairs of glasses to be shared worldwide. Like many of the older students, they have managed to “market” their campaign through weekly announcements, encouraging the rest of the middle school to share their project.



Laurel Nokomis is a kindergarten through 8th grade school. A progressive group of 7th and 8th grade NJHS students continue to find ways to market their collection of eyeglasses for worldwide distribution. During their time with us, they have collected 486 pairs of glasses. Their mentors always encourage their campaign.





OLD Laptops?



FLORIDA
GUARDIAN
AD LITEM
OFFICE

DONATE
your
Laptop



Laptop Donation Drive for Foster Kids



The Children's Guardian Fund (CGF) and Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG) have teamed up to collect used computer laptops.



- STUG sanitizes the hard drive with a seven-step process that deletes your information.
- STUG refurbishes the laptop and installs Microsoft Office under free license from Microsoft Corp.
- Refurbished laptops are distributed to area students in foster or state care through the CGF and the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Drop off :
1750 17th Street, Building J-1,
Sarasota FL

Pickup:
Call MARK at 941.374.1107 or
e-mail msharff@gmail.com

Donate Old Computers, iPad, and Telephones

Mark Sharff addressed the Venice Lions several months ago and urged members to donate excess equipment to Children's Guardian Fund. After his presentation Lions donated several computers, iPads, and cell phones, which were all refurbished and given to foster children or other students whose families could not afford to purchase them. Mark has reached out recently with his offer to pick up equipment from your home if you call him. Several of us have done that, and Mark is completely reliable.

New Club Branch!



The Venice Lions Club has had a great partnership with Laurel Civic over the past several years. It started with Venice Lions' donation to their after-school meals program and later included gifts of books for the children and a donation of a red "post office box" for free books. A team of Lions cleaned up their patio and garden several times after the hurricanes. On April 25 Venice Lions will help almost 100 children plant and care for tiny crepe myrtle trees. Through it all, their teachers and executive director have become friends. Now we are just months away from forming a club branch in the Osprey-Laurel-Nokomis area. A new Lions Club will have many more people to dream the projects needed for their community. Venice Lions and the new Lions Club will have strong bonds created by friendship and common devotion to making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. When they are chartered, it will surely be the best party of the year!

Teddy Bears and Easter Bunnies

For the second year, the Venice Lions donated Teddy Bears and stuffed animals, including some fanciful creatures, to the Venice Police Department. The Bunnies will be the first to ride in the police cruisers, since it is April, in case the officers meet a child who needs comforting.



FINAL NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 –2026 BOARD of DIRECTORS

President— Pamela Brown

1st VP—Timothy Werla

2-Year Director—Paddy Padmanabhan

Admin Treasurer — Barbara McGillicuddy

Foundation Treasurer — Ed Billings

Lion Tamer — Bob Winstel

Secretary — Jeff Myles

2nd VP — Judy Terrell

2-Year Director—Sean Higginbottom

Tail Twister — Judy Rocquin

Membership Director — Jeff Myles

The Club election will be held during the April 3rd General Meeting.

Venice Lions Schedule of Events April – June 2025

April 3	Vision Clinic 7 AM General Meeting , Dinner at 5:30, Meeting @ 6:15 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Night • Election of Officers • Announcement of Publix Raffle Ticket Winners
April 9	Ice Cream Social with Lions Little League Chuck Reiter Field, 6PM
April 10	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM
April 12	Mini-Convention, Bonita Springs
April 12-13	Sharks Tooth Festival, Centennial Park
April 17	General Meeting with Speaker Dinner @ 5:30, Meeting @ 6:15 PM Quarter-Toss Fundraiser for the International Conference
April 19	Eggstravaganza and Beeping Egg Hunt, 10:00-12:00, Centennial Park
April 25	Earth Day Free Sapling Giveaway to Students, Laurel Civic. 4 PM
April 26	Cheer the Lions Little League Team, Chuck Reiter Field, 1 PM
April 27	Poker Run Fundraiser, Beach Club Restaurant, Siesta Key 12—4 PM
May 1	General Meeting, Dinner at 5:30, Meeting @ 6:15 PM Scholarship Night
May 2-4	Multi-District Conference, Orlando
May 8	Board of Directors Meeting
May 15	General Meeting, Dinner at 5:30, Meeting @ 6:15 PM
June 5	Vision Clinic 7 AM General Meeting, Dinner at 5:30, Meeting @ 6:15 PM
June 10	Honor Flight, Punta Gorda Airport
June 12	Board of Directors Meeting, 6 PM
June 19	General Meeting, Dinner at 5:30, Meeting @ 6:15 PM Officer Installation Night

**Venice Lions Club Inc.
Venice Health Park
1289 Jacaranda Blvd
Venice, FL 34292-4522**



**Club Meetings
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Dinner at 5:30 PM
Meetings begin at 6:15 PM**



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 2024—2025

President	Pamela Brown
1st Vice President	Timothy Werla
2nd Vice President	Judy Terrell
Secretary	Jeffrey Myles
Assistant Secretary	
Treasurer (Admin.)	Barbara McGillicuddy
Treasurer (Found.)	Ed Billings
Tail Twister	Judy Rocquin
Lion Tamer	Robert Winstel
IPP	Jeffrey Myles
One Year Director	Jean Spitzer
One Year Director	Bonnee Hagen
Two Year Director	Mary Billings
Two Year Director	Christal Snell
Membership Director	Beverly Flynn
Bulletin Editor	Jeff Myles
Publisher	Jeff Myles
Staff	Pamela Brown Sharon Wilkins

Lions Club International

300 22nd Street, Oak Brook IL, 60521	
Website	www.lcif.org
President	Fabricio Oliviera
IPP	Dr. Patty Hill
District 35-I	
Website	www.lionsMD35.com
District Governor	Patty Jean Strong
IPDG	Gary LaSpina
1st Vice District Governor	Linda Gregory
2nd Vice District Governor	Beverly Flynn
Cabinet Secretary	Penny Gregrich
Treasurer	Diane Clifton
Bulletin	Paula Paquette
MD Executive Secretary /	IPDG Gary LaSpina/
Treasurer	PDG Paula Beach
Zone 6 Chair	Jeffrey Myles