



# LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

FEBRUARY 2025

## President's Message

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

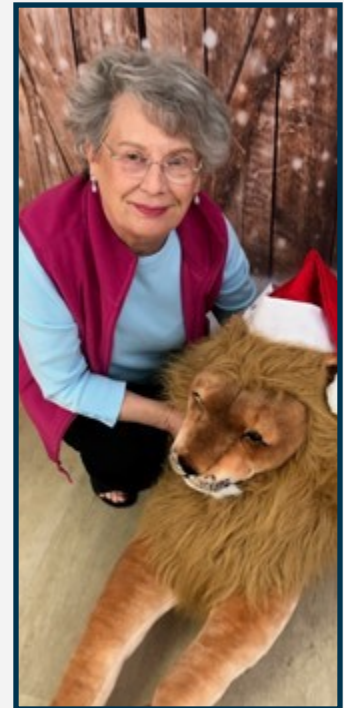
13th	Dinner @ 5:30PM Business Meeting @ 6:15 PM
25th	Zone 6 Meeting (page 3)

#### MARCH

6	Lions Community Room Vision Clinic 7 AM General Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 PM Meeting @ 6:15 PM
13	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM
20	General Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 PM Meeting @ 6:15 PM

In addition to Valentine's Day, when we celebrate those we love, February is also a month to practice *Random Acts of Kindness*. I hope you have noticed that the decal on the office wall that reads "Kindness Matters", and indeed it does. Kindness is so easy, after all...why is this concept so unusual that we need a special month to promote it? I copied a few suggestions from an article online that we might practice this month. This month, let's each choose at least one, and experience the little surge of joy it gives to the recipient as well as ourselves.

- Pay for the coffee of the person behind you in line.
- Hold the door open for someone.
- Donate to a local charity.
- Give a small gift to a stranger.
- Bake cookies for your neighbors.
- Leave a positive sticky note on a public bathroom mirror.
- Give a small gift like a flower or a candy bar to a stranger.
- Help someone with a stroller get up stairs.
- Send a handwritten card to a friend or family member.
- Offer to pick up groceries for someone who is unable,
- Send a motivational message to someone going through a tough time.
- Leave a positive note on someone's car.
- Offer to help someone carry groceries.
- Send a handwritten compliment to someone.
- Offer a genuine compliment to someone you pass by.
- Compliment someone's outfit or hairstyle.
- Offer to walk someone's dog.
- Leave a book in a Little Free Library.
- Check on an elderly neighbor.
- Call a friend you haven't spoke to in a while.



We will all find many opportunities to practice Random Acts of Kindness as we go about our daily living. Stay alert to the possibilities!

*Pamela*

# Members' Book Exchange, February 20th

## Do you have books you have read and are falling off your shelves?

We can help with that! Bring your extra books to our "First Annual Book Exchange". On February 20th we will place books on a table, we can all browse the collection and pick up a book or two we have not read. Bring any book: hardback, paperback, novels, history, biography, mysteries, romance and cookbooks.



## Happy Meals!

We tried a new caterer at our January 16 meeting and the survey results are in: 100% in favor! The meals will come from Hotel Venezia for the same price we have been paying for several years: \$15.00 each. We will receive this price because the caterer will give us the quantity discount he gives his other clients. The "catch" is, we will not know what the meal will be before it is delivered to us, the same situation we had with Caterer Mike. We hope that will not be too much of a concern to most members.

### More About Meals

After our meetings, there are items to clean and put away. Lion Cheryl has been managing most of the clean-up by herself and she has done it cheerfully. However, she admits she is ready for assistance. We will need two Lions to help serve the dessert and to stay a short time after the meeting to put things away and make sure the kitchen area is left in good order. Lion Pamela will be asking from the podium for two volunteers to stay a few minutes and attend to clean-up after each meal.



# Zone Me UP!

In January's Newsletter we talked about the four Lions Districts in Florida: : Districts 35-L, 35-I (that's our District), 35-O and 35-N. Each of the four Districts is divided into Zones. The Venice Lions Club is in Zone 6 along with Englewood, Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte Centennial, and Northport

A Zone represents a smaller geographical division of a District for the purpose of developing relationships between Lions Clubs in close proximity and individual Lions. Zone meetings are the opportunity to discuss common interests and challenges and to support each other's projects.

A good example of inter-club cooperation in our Zone is Venice's support of the Harry Chapin food drive, a project of the Punta Gorda Club. The monthly Vision Clinic is a project of the Venice and the Englewood Clubs. Venice Lions assisted the Englewood Club when their members served free meals after Hurricane Milton. Venice members appreciated the Englewood Lions member-catered dinner at our Holiday Social. Relationships are important, and that is one of the purposes of the Zone structure.

The District Governor appoints a Zone Chair each year, and Venice Lion Jeff Myles is this year's Zone 6 Chair. The Zone Chair is responsible for overseeing and supporting the Lions Clubs within the Zone, ensuring they are functioning effectively, growing membership, and actively participating in community service initiatives; essentially acting as a bridge between individual clubs and the district leadership to facilitate communication and coordinated efforts.

There are three Zone meetings a year. The Venice Lions Club hosted the first one last Fall. There is only one remaining Zone meeting this year. It is on February 25th hosted by the Port Charlotte Centennial Lions Club. Let's all go, meet the Lions in our Zone, hear about their service projects and build some relationships!

## **DISTRICT 35-I ZONE 6 MEETING**

Lions Clubs of  
Venice, Englewood, Punta Gorda  
Port Charlotte Centennial & North Port

**Tuesday February 25th**

**(Please note the change of date from the original scheduled time of  
February 18th)**

Hosted by the Port Charlotte Centennial Lions Club  
VFW Hall  
4860 Trott Circle  
North Port, FL

Dinner @ 6 PM

Spaghetti Dinner, Salad, Rolls, Dessert & Beverages

Cost: \$15.00

Please RSVP for dinner by February 18th to:

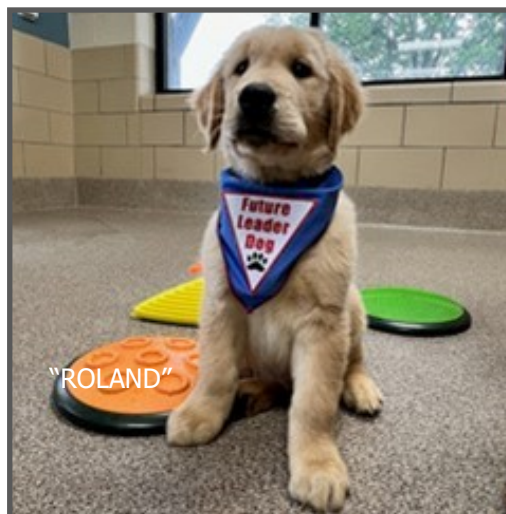
PCC Lion Penny Gregrich  
pccpennygregrich@gmail.com  
941-740-2860

# Adopt a Puppy

We received an invitation to adopt a Leader puppy as a reward for our annual donation to Leader Dogs for the Blind. At the January 16th meeting, Lion Judy Rocquin arranged three bowls with photos of the three puppy-candidates. Voting was \$1.00 a vote with the proceeds going to the Administrative Fund. When the votes were counted, puppy "Roland" won as our adoptee. We will receive a portrait of Roland and a stuffed Leader puppy for our display case.

Roland is with a volunteer puppy raiser until he is ready to return to Leader Dogs for his training to be a Leader Service Dog.

Personality: Attentive, Entertaining, Spirited  
Gender: Male  
Favorite Toy: Benebone® wishbone  
Zodiac Sign: Taurus



# Publix Gift Card Raffle

**VENICE LIONS CLUB  
PUBLIX GIFT CARD RAFFLE  
GRAND PRIZE - \$500 gift card  
Second Prize: \$250 gift card  
Third Prize: \$100 gift card  
Drawing March 31, 2025  
Proceeds used to purchase a Brady Buggy for  
children with cancer  
Donation - \$5.00**

**Winner need not be present to win**  
A copy of official registration & financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-HEL PFLA (435-7352). Registration does not imply endorsement approval or recommendation by the State. Website: FDACS.GOV

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. 0102

No. 0102



This year the President's Project will support children with cancer. Part of the program is donations of child-size fleece blankets to the patients for cozy naps. Another part of the project is the donation of a Brady Buggy to Golisano Hospital in Fort Myers. The buggy is fun for children, and helps parents move their children through the long hospital corridors with ease. The buggy has a hitch the back to pull the IV pole. The cost of the buggy is \$1,000. We are selling \$5.00 raffle tickets to raise the money to buy the buggy. There are three prizes: Publix gift cards for \$500, \$250 and \$100. The tickets will be available at meetings until the end of March, and at every public event we attend, including Zone and District Cabinet meetings.

# MEMBER PROFILE

## Lion Bonnee Hagen , Director

Submitted by Lion Sharon Wilkins

Bonnee Hagen was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Education. After marriage in 1971, she was a homemaker with daughters born in 1973 and 1976. Lion Bonnee and her late husband, Gary ,were an active Lion family. Her husband, Gary, was president of Fridley Lions. Bonnee joined the Fridley Lionesses in 1976, and was a charter member of 5 Star Lions Club when women were allowed to be Lions. She was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship in 2001. District 5M7 had an International Youth Exchange camp where Bonnee's family hosted students from Norway, Peru, Finland and Australia. Her daughters participated in camps in Norway, Turkey, Australia and New Zealand. Bonnee has also attended two international conventions.

Upon retirement Bonnee and Gary were snowbirds in Hot Springs, Arkansas where they did several Habitat for Humanity builds with the RV club. Summers in Minnesota were spent close to the Wisconsin border.

In 2019 the Hagen's moved to Venice Florida and transferred membership here.

In addition to travel , Bonnee's other hobbies are reading and sewing.



★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

4th Dan Long  
6th Paddy Padmanabhan  
15th Bill Davis  
22nd Carole Myles  
25th Jan Stack  
26th Jean Spitzer



Happy  
Anniversary

24th Jude & Paul Waggoner

28th Bernie Deckman  
(Corey)

# TEDDY BEAR PROJECT

February must be the month to buy the world's cutest teddy bears and stuffed animals. Lion Judy Terrell discovered a goldmine of bargain-priced, squeezable, adorable stuffed toys at the Dollar Store in the Bealls-Target shopping center on Route 41 South. They have classic teddy bears and a colorful assortment of fanciful elephants, unicorns, alligators, and....LIONS. If you will be buying stuffed animals for the Venice Police Department, you might want to check out this Dollar Store or perhaps one closer to you. Watch your wallet: it seems to fly open when it comes close to these fabulous "stuffies."



Bring your favorite to our meetings starting in February.

## JANUARY SPEAKER

We were treated to Lion Ann Favreau presenting her "Children Around the World" program. Lion Ann read her own poetry and illustrated her talk with photographs she had taken of her travels with Lion Ray.

Thank You Lion Ann !!



## MEMBER RECOGNITION

Lion Rick Mares received the Club President's Appreciation Award for his faithful promotion of Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Thank You and Congratulations Lion Rick !



## MEMBER RECOGNITION



*(Above )* Lion Paddy Padmanabhan receives a Membership award from LCI for sponsoring Lions who have completed 2 years of continuous service to the Venice Lions Club.

*(Below)* Lion Jan Laird receives her 10-year service chevron.



Venice Lions Club Inc.  
 Venice Health Park  
 1289 Jacaranda Blvd  
 Venice, FL 34292-4522  
 Tel: (941) 837-2789  
 Fax: (941) 837-2804

[www.venicelionsclub.com](http://www.venicelionsclub.com)  
[secretary@venicelionsclub.com](mailto:secretary@venicelionsclub.com)



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

Board of Directors Meeting  
 2nd Thursday at 6 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**

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

**Lions Club International**

300 22nd Street, Oak Brook IL, 60521

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lcif.org">www.lcif.org</a>
<b>President</b>	Fabricio Oliviera
<b>IPP</b>	Dr. Patty Hill

**District 35-I**

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lionsMD35.com">www.lionsMD35.com</a>
<b>District Governor</b>	Patty Jean Strong
<b>IPDG</b>	Gary LaSpina
<b>1st Vice District Governor</b>	Linda Gregory
<b>2nd Vice District Governor</b>	Beverly Flynn
<b>Cabinet Secretary</b>	Penny Gregrich
<b>Treasurer</b>	Diane Clifton
<b>Bulletin</b>	Paula Paquette
<b>MD Executive Secretary / Treasurer</b>	IPDG Gary LaSpina/ PDG Paula Beach
<b>Zone 6 Chair</b>	Jeffrey Myles