



LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

March 2025

President's Message

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

6	Vision Clinic 7 AM Community Room Membership Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 PM Meeting @ 6:15 PM Officer Nominations
13	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM Community Room
20	Membership Meeting Final Nomination of Officers

Upcoming Events

APRIL

6	Membership Meeting Election of Club Officers
13	Board of Directors Meeting
20	Membership Meeting

Do you know that March is Women's History Month? In March we celebrate remember the women who dedicated their lives to ensuring that women are granted equal rights and opportunities as men.

Like most "women of a certain age", the women in my family had career choices of teacher, nurse, or secretary. (We were too short to be airline "stewardesses".) I chose to be a librarian, the same safe choice.

Now we know there were always women who chose to break through those expectations and challenge the status quo. We know about the suffragettes, but let's look at the history of women in Lions.



Lion Pamela at a Mexican Vision Clinic

In 1917, at the first convention of Lions International, a measure was approved to admit women as full members, but the gesture was short lived. A year later, at the 2nd convention, that bylaw was rescinded. A woman who had been admitted in to a Texas Lions Club earlier had been dismissed by the third convention in 1919. Lions Clubs were not the only club to exclude women: Rotary and Kiwanis had the same policy.

Good women are hard to keep down! Not to be deterred by their exclusion from male Lions Clubs, women formed separate Lioness Clubs for female associates. Some of the busiest and most accomplished Venice Lions were once members of the Lioness.

It was finally a Rotary Club in Duarte, California that persisted in allowing women into their club that set the ball rolling toward equality. Because the Duarte Rotary would not dismiss their women members, it was expelled from Rotary International. The club brought a series of cases appealing their expulsion through the courts until, in 1987, they won in the US Supreme Court! The Court's ruling applied to other service clubs as well, and that decision opened the door to full membership into Lions Clubs for women.

The rest, as we say, is history. Women flocked to join Lions Clubs and many are in leadership positions from the club level to the national and international level.

Happy Women's History Month Everyone!

Pamela



Laurel Civic Has Big Plans

Laurel Civic Executive Director, Peter Casamento, and Alicia Williams, Youth Director, made a big impression on Venice Lions. Mr. Casamento presented plans to build a new "Community Empowerment" building on Laurel Road. The new building will expand the space available for the after-school meal and tutoring program for children. It will include office space for the area's nonprofit helping organizations, a commercial kitchen, and it will be a hurricane disaster site. This new building will bring services for vulnerable individuals together in one place. It will change the face of South Sarasota County.

More Good News!

Peter Casamento announced that Venice Lions can move forward with forming a CLUB BRANCH in the Laurel-Nokomis area. He and his staff will help to get it started. Plans are underway to announce an information meeting, an organization meeting, and to get started. Laurel Civic has many volunteers who may be willing to join together to deliver even more service to the Laurel community as Lions. More willing hands means more service.

This is great news!



Venice Lion Member Profile : Lion Jean Spitzer

submitted by Lion Sharon Wilkins

Lion Jean Spitzer grew up in Eastern Iowa.

She graduated from the University of Iowa. She left the Midwest for Tucson, Arizona to earn her master's degree in speech and hearing therapy.

Her family includes her daughter Sarah and husband Justin, Peter 10, Joy 8, her son Eli with wife Karina, Amaya 8, and Arden 6.

They all live in California so going to visit is a great treat.

Jean and husband John had the pleasure of moving to Florida 11 years ago near our Lion Barb McGillicuddy.

She became a Venice Lion in 2020 and has served as a Director and has worked on many projects.

Lion Jean recently started up the Club's Care Committee.

Jean's interests are volunteering, visiting family, reading, biking, and swimming. Lion Jean now resides at Village on the Isle where she and John moved in December 2024.

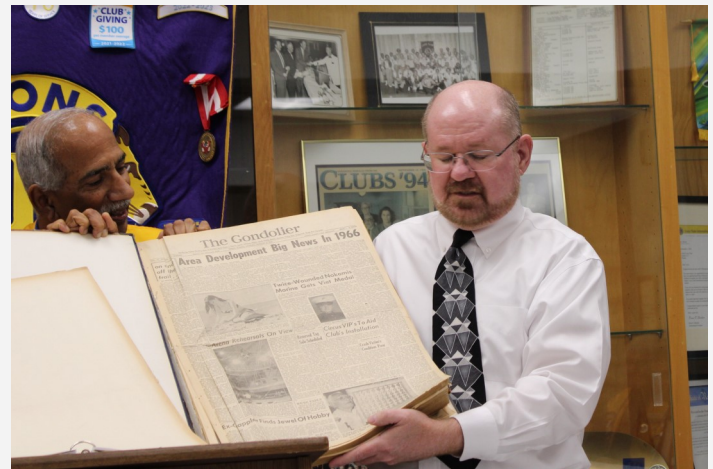


LION DREW OGDEN



LION TIM FOREMAN

(above) Region Chairs Tim Foreman and Drew Ogden introduced themselves campaign-style. They are both candidates for 2nd Vice District Governor of District 35 I. The two men are best friends and were good sports about the competition set up as a boxing match. Lion Paddy served as Referee and compared the match to the "Rumble in the Jungle" between



(above) Ronald Dupont, Jr., the Editor of the Venice Gondolier was the speaker at the Feb 20th meeting. Lions enjoyed his talk about the role of journalism and the role of community newspapers in preserving local history.

Happy Anniversary

MARCH 12th

Lion Pat McNally and Mike

Play Ball!

Lion Sean Higginbottom is the Venice Lions liaison to the Lions team. He organized a stalwart team of Lions to wade into hamburger and hotdog territory, cooking, taking orders, and trying to maintain calm in the face of hungry children and their parents.

We were fortunate to have Lion Tony Steyer at the grill where President Pamela mistook him for a professional. Lions Sean and Christal took the early shift with Lions Sharon, Bonnee, Paddy, and Pamela taking over until the end.

McDonald's it wasn't, but there were no complaints, and at least we didn't have to wash the dishes!

Venice Lions have been sponsoring team "LIONS" in the Venice Little League since 1948. In addition to sending a generous check for uniforms and supplies, Lions have been volunteering to staff the concession stand on Opening Day, so parents can cheer on their team.



Make a Difference Day



Lions had beautiful weather for Make A Difference Day. Fourteen Lions and a group from a local church did a fantastic job cleaning and mulching Venezia Park. The city dumped many truckloads of mulch in giant piles for Lions to spread, but the group worked hard and accomplished the task. After working hard at Venezia Park, some of our Lions then went on to help at the Venice Little League.

What a busy day!

Win a \$50.00 Gift Certificate to the Venezia Hotel Restaurant!

The competition is stiff, but winning would be sweet!



The Venice Lions are raising money to purchase a Brady Wagon (above) for the Lions Global Cause , Childhood Cancer. The **Brady Wagon** is designed to move patients through the long Golisano Hospital corridors as they go to test sites, labs, or just get out of their hospital rooms.

The children love to "go for a ride", and the parents' job is easier because the wagon is equipped with a "hitch" to pull the IV tower. The "hitch" for Venice Lions is that the wagons are expensive: \$1000 each.

We are selling **\$5.00** raffle tickets to raise money for at least one wagon, maybe two !!, if we work hard.

There are three chances to win:

- Purchase Publix gift cards for **\$500, \$250, or \$100.**
- Tickets can be sold to family and friends.
- They make a nice small gift.
- We will be selling them at the Zone meeting, the District Cabinet meeting, and in front of the Publix on East Venice Avenue on **March 22.**

Each Venice Lion was given 5 tickets at the February 6 meeting.

There are additional tickets in the office and will be available at each meeting.

Enter the competition for a \$50.00 gift certificate to the Venezia Hotel Restaurant, by turning in your ticket sales money to Lion Mary Billings at each meeting until the end of March.

The winner will be announced at the **April 3** meeting.

It could be you!

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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	
President	Pamela Brown
1st Vice President 2nd Vice President	Timothy Werla Judy Terrell
Secretary Assistant Secretary	Jeffrey Myles
Treasurer (Admin.)	Barbara McGillicuddy
Treasurer (Found.)	Ed Billings
Tail Twister Lion Tamer IPP	Judy Rocquin Robert Winstel Jeffrey Myles
One Year Director One Year Director Two Year Director Two Year Director	Jean Spitzer Bonnee Hagen Mary Billing Christal Snell
Membership Chair	Beverly Flynn
Bulletin Editor Publisher Staff	Jeff Myles Jeff Myles 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 / Treasurer	IPDG Gary LaSpina/ PDG Paula each
Zone 6 Chair	Jeffrey Myles