



LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

OCTOBER 2025

Inside This Issue

2	Club News
3	Lion Bev Flynn Nomination
4	New Branch Lions
5	Guest Speakers Birthdays & Anniversaries
6	Eyeglasses for Agape Flights
7	Zone 5 Meeting Flyer
8	Club Fall Social Flyer
9	Englewood Poinsettia Sale
10	Directory

OCTOBER

2nd	Vision Clinic 7:30 AM Club Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 Meeting @ 6:15 PM Lions Community Room
4th	Waterway Cleanup 8:30 AM Behind Publix on the Island
9th	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM Lions Community Room
14th	Zone 5 Meeting See Flyer on page 7
16th	Club Fall Social See flyer on page 8
16-19th	35-I Fall Conference

President's Message

I'm glad I was persuaded to attend the US-Canada Forum in Atlantic City last week. Nearly 2,000 Lions gathered, and I came home inspired and overflowing with ideas. The sea of colorful Lions shirts and the football-field-sized Lions store didn't hurt either—I spent more shopping than gambling.

One sad note: I learned that the Lions Club I first joined in Virginia Beach has closed. It was a club of retired military men, mostly Korean War veterans, who welcomed a young woman eager to serve. Their Vision Van screened vision at libraries and shopping centers, and they gave out Christmas food baskets. But they stopped recruiting, became a supper club, and eventually faded away.



At the "Forum", I attended a program on warning signs of a struggling club:

- Few new or younger members
- Writing checks instead of hands-on service
- Holding traditions that turn off new people
- Becoming a dinner club

The list rings alarm bells for me—and I hope for you too.

The Venice Lions Club is so fortunate: we have generous endowments and we live in a city where many nonprofits already address community needs. We've leaned into supporting them by writing checks, and our donations do good work. But there's a cost: we limit our own ability to take on meaningful projects.

Think about this—Lions Tim Werla and Jeff Sterne are working hard to raise \$5,000 to fund a veteran's service dog, while at the same time we wrote a \$5,000 check to the Venice Theater. Lion Carole Myles spent hours writing a grant to *hope* for \$5,000 for a SPOT vision camera, while we're planning to give away nearly \$20,000 to other organizations. Does that feel backwards to you?

Yes, we have strong service projects—our vision clinics, preschool screenings, eyeglass recycling, and environmental clean-ups are some of the best in the District. But what if we kept more of our budget for *our own* initiatives? Imagine what we could accomplish with \$10,000 focused on hands-on service projects that people would notice.

So, I ask you: what would *you* do with \$1,000, \$2,000, or even \$5,000 to meet a local need? Let's think boldly, together. If we focus our resources and talents, we'll make a lasting impact—and in doing so, we will expand our membership because others will ask to join us.

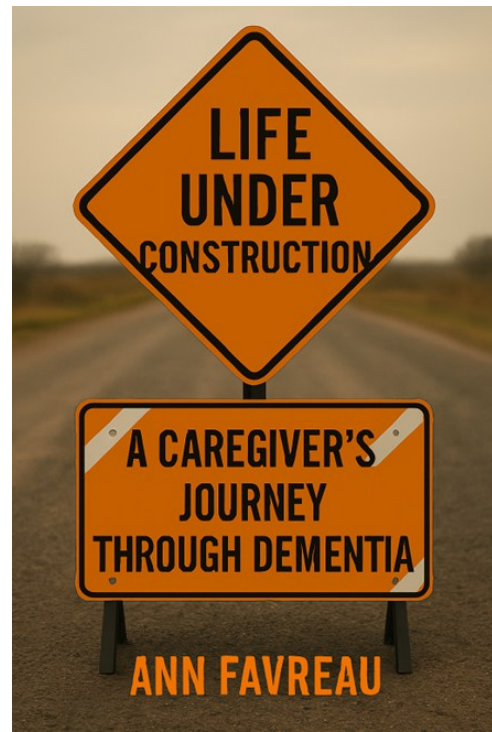
Serving with you, Lion Pamela



(above)

Lions Pat and Mike McNally, Beverly Flynn, and Pamela Brown attended the US-Canada Forum in Atlantic City, NJ.

We won the jackpot: tons of new ideas and renewed commitment to Lions and Lionism.



Lion Ann Favreau Has Done it Again!

Lion Ann Favreau has published her new book *Life Under Construction, A Caregiver's Journey Through Dementia*. Her story, told with honest, poetic words will provide inspiration and hope for others experiencing this condition with their loved ones.

Find it on Amazon.

September's Project: Childhood Cancer

The only thing left to do is to take a picture! In the previous Lions year, Venice Lions raised funds to purchase a "Hugs for Brady" wagon for children with cancer. Thanks to a successful Publix gift card raffle and a very successful Poker Run event by Lion Sean's Beach Club restaurant, we raised enough money to purchase FOUR wagons! These wagons are fun to ride and help parents move children along long hospital corridors. They have a hitch on the back to pull the IV pole. We ordered four wagons: a dolphin, a Lion, a shark, and an elephant. When they arrive at the hospital, we will take the 50+ fleece blankets we made last year and celebrate the joy of finishing this great project.



1st Vice-District Governor Bev Flynn Candidacy for District 35-I Governor Endorsed

!

On September 4, 2025, Venice Lions Voted to Endorse and Support Venice Lion Beverly Flynn as Candidate for District Governor of Lions District 35-I for the Lions year 2026-2027.

Lion Barbara McGillicuddy, Lion Beverly's Partner in Service, had the honor of placing the first motion on the floor.

Lion Jeff Myles, Secretary, made the 2nd motion.

Lion President Pamela Brown called for the vote.

The Venice Lions voted unanimously Aye on the following resolution.

WHEREAS LION BEVERLY FLYNN

- meets all Constitutional Requirements of Lions International and is Qualified to serve the District in the capacity and
- joined the Venice Lions Club in 2006
- served as District 35-I 2nd Vice District Governor for Lions year 2024-2025
- served as District 35-I 1st Vice District Governor for Lions year 2025-2026
- served as District 35-I Cabinet Treasurer for Lions year 2023-2024
- served as District 35-I Cabinet Secretary for Lions Year 2019-2020
- served as District 35-I Hearing Chair for Lions years 2016-2023
- served as District 35-I Zone Chairs for Lions years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2016-2017
- served as Venice Lions Club President for Lions years 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2014-2015, 2015-2016
- served as Venice Lions Club Secretary for Lions years 2013-2014, 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021
- served as Venice Lions Club Treasurer for Lions years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024

WHEREAS LION BEVERLY FLYNN

- received the International President's Award Metal from International President Jung-Yul Choi in 2020
- received the International President's certificate of Appreciation from International President Jung-Yul Choi in 2020, from International President Brian Sheehan in 2023, and from International President Fabricio Oliveira in 2025
- received the District 35-I Crusader Award for Lions year 2016-2017
- received the District 35-I Lion of the Year Award for 2021-2022
- received Certificates of Appreciation from District Governors John Geary 2016-2017, Kenneth Engstrom 2018-2019, Claudette Henry 2019-2020
- received a Melvin Jones Fellow recognition for Lions year 2009-2010 and a Progressive Melvin Jones recognition for Lions year 2011-2012

WHEREAS LION BEVERLY FLYNN

- holds a current certificate to serve as a Certified Guiding Lion and

Whereas Lion Beverly Flynn, if elected to the position of District Governor, will perform the duties of the office with Dedication, Distinction, Enthusiasm, and Dignity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Members and Board of Directors of the Venice Lions Club duly assembled in a regular session, do enthusiastically **ENDORSE AND SUPPORT** our friend and fellow member, **LION BEVERLY FLYNN**, for the **OFFICE OF DISTRICT 35-I DISTRICT GOVERNOR FOR LIONS YEAR 2026-2027**.

SIGNED BY Pamela Brown, President, Venice Lions Club and Jeffrey Myles, Secretary, Venice Lions Club



Congratulations New Laurel-Nokomis Lions !

The Laurel Nokomis Branch Club is adding new members at every meeting! On September 25, Lion President Peter Casamento (center) inducted (left to right) George and Lisa Barbiero, Kyle Hill, and Richard Kuertz.

"Lead to serve, Serve to lead"



Lions Roar!

A bachelor asked his computer to find him the perfect mate. "I want a companion who is small and cute, loves water sports, and enjoys group activities".

Back came the answer: "Marry a Penguin".

October Birthdays

1st Terry Burke
4th Ric Namikas
30th Ed Stack
30th Tim Werla

October Anniversaries

8th Jody & Jerry Fall
31st Mary & Ed Billings

September Guest Speakers

Lion Jeannette Davis introduced Mary Jane Hamilton and Tanya DeWitt from *The Women of the Shrine*. We were informed how and the Venice Club's Youth Recycle Program collection of aluminum pop-tops are used to support new or repaired wheelchairs for children at Shriners Hospitals.



Nicole Britton, Executive Director, represents The Twig organization (*The Way to Inspire and Give*) in the local community. Nicole spoke at our September 18th Club meeting about the service that TWIG provides to the Community. Nicole has developed and oversees a number of fundraising and development events for TWIG. Nicole has a heart for children and that heart led her to obtain a bachelor's degree in psychology to better understand the needs of children who have experienced trauma.

Club Service Report July—October 2025

Service Projects Completed - 14
People Served - 1957
Volunteers—86
Service Hours —296

Upcoming October Events Continued

14th	White Cane Event @ Laurel-Civic
16-19th	35-I Fall Conference
25th	35-I Cabinet Meeting
25th	Make a Difference Day Venezia Park— Volunteer Opportunity
31st	Halloween Strut Downtown Venice - Volunteer Opportunity

Eyeglasses for Haiti

The Venice Lions have been supporting Agape Flights with annual donations that help pay for the fuel to keep the airplanes flying. Agape delivers mail and vital supplies to people in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas. Pastor David Stockland and his Haitian wife Ceres visited the Venice Lions Office to pick up about 400 pairs of eyeglasses for Haiti. The eyeglasses will improve the vision of Haitians living in rural and mountainous areas.

Judy Terrell thanks the Eyeglass Recycling Team for responding so quickly to gather eyeglasses for the surprise visit from Pastor David.



“Where there’s a need there’s a Lion”

October “Whose Tale?”

Which Lion had a \$50 bill shoved down a grass skirt while doing the hula at a meeting?

From September:

Which Lion rang the opening and closing bell on Wall Street? - **Lion Paddy!**

(Still mysteries)

Which Lion lived in Saudi Arabia?

Which Lion served as District Secretary with a District Governor who lived in a different country?

Stump the members! Send your fun-fact to Lion Pamela:
pamelajeane.brown@gmail.com

You're Invited



Lions District 35-I , Zone 5 Meeting

*Bradenton, Sarasota, Englewood, Port Charlotte Centennial,
Venice, North Port & Punta Gorda Clubs*

Hosted by The Punta Gorda Lions

When: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Where: Eagles Aerie

23111 Harborview Road

Port Charlotte

Dinner @ 5PM—Meeting @ 6 PM

Cost: \$15 per person: Lasagna, Garlic Bread,
Salad, Dessert, & Beverages

Please RSVP: paulapaquette@aol.com

239-910-8615

The background of the entire page is a vibrant tropical pattern featuring various types of leaves in shades of green, yellow, and blue. A large, dark green oval is centered on the page, serving as a backdrop for the event information.

**Venice Lions
Lei'd Back
Fall Social
Luau**

**10.16.25 @ 5:30pm
St Andrews East Community
Association
1702 Celtic Drive
Venice Fl 34293**

**Sign up to contribute an
Appetizer or Dessert
(Island inspired dishes welcome)
Bring your own wine, beer or cocktail**

**Put on your island attire and floral prints
and Hula on over for an evening of Lei'd
back vibes with your Island tribe!**

**Contact Christal 781.985.1752
Christalsnell1216@gmail.com**

POINSETTIA SALE

Nothing signals Christmas like the beautiful blooms of a poinsettia!



**ENGLEWOOD
LIONS CLUB**



Pot Size	Cost	
4"(1 Stem)	\$6	\$5 each for 12 or more
6.5"(2 Stem)	\$12	12"-15" Tall
8"(3 Stem)	\$20	18"-22" Tall
10"(3-4 Stem)	\$28	24" Tall



**ALL PLANTS ARE IN POT
COVERS AND SLEEVED;
PRICING INCLUDES
LOCAL DELIVERY
ORDERS DUE BY 11/15
6.5 "are available in white
or red untill 12/19**

Contact:

**Email: flowers@englewoodlions.org
or call 941-698-7508**

REV 9/25

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

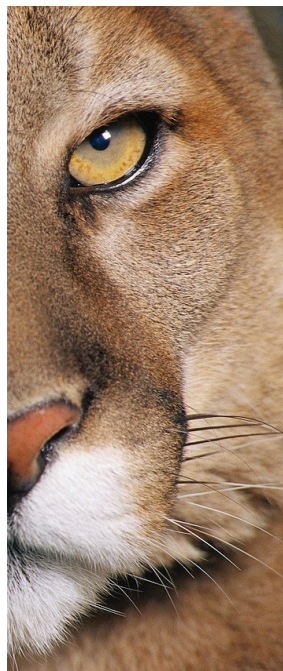
941-837-2789

www.venicelionsclub.com



Club Meetings
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Dinner at 5:30 PM
Meeting begins 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 2025—2026	
President	Pamela Brown
1st Vice President	Timothy Werla
2nd Vice President	Judy Terrell
Secretary	Jeff Myles
Assistant Secretary	Mary Billings
Treasurer (Admin.)	Barbara McGillicuddy
Treasurer (Found.)	Ed Billings
Tail Twister	Judy Rocquin
Lion Tamer	Robert Winstel
IPP	Jeffrey Myles
One Year Director	Christal Snell
One Year Director	Bonnee Hagen
Two Year Director	Paddy Padmanabhan
Two Year Director	Sean Higginbottom
LCIF Coordinator	Pat McNally
Membership Director	Jeff Myles
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	A.P. Singh
IPP	Fabricio Oliviera
District 35-I	
Website	www.lionsMD35.com
District Governor	Linda Gregory
IPDG	Patty Jean Strong
1st Vice District Governor	Beverly Flynn
2nd Vice District Governor	Drew Ogden
Cabinet Secretary	PDG JoAnne Rodgers
Treasurer	Tom Mavor
Bulletin	Jan Kunka
MD Executive Secretary / Treasurer	PDG Gary LaSpina/ PDG Paula Beach
Zone 5 Chair	Jeffrey Myles