



*Guest Editorial from 1st Vice District Governor
Venice Lion Beverly Flynn*

*Fresh Ideas for Lions Membership Recruitment and New Club
Development*

When I returned home from the USA/Canada Lions Forum, my head was exploding with new ideas. After taking a breath, I wondered how I was going to introduce these new concepts to my District and to my club. So as they say, "How do you eat an elephant?One bite at a time!" So in this month's article I am going to share with you just one of the ideas - Recruitment.

As we all know, Lions International has long been known for service, but today's world calls for **fresh approaches** to attract new members and build strong clubs. We need to encourage Lions to think outside the box when it comes to recruitment and development. Here are a few ideas to think about:

One of the newest strategies focuses on **special interest clubs**, built around hobbies, professions, or passions. Whether it's a club for educators, young professionals, veterans, or environmental advocates, the goal is to meet people where their interests already lie and connect them with service opportunities that inspire them.

Another growing idea is **flexible membership models**. Traditional meeting times and formats don't always fit busy schedules, so Lions are embracing options like virtual clubs, hybrid meetings, or "club branches" that allow a small group to form under an existing club before growing into their own. This flexibility helps include younger members and those balancing careers or families.

Lions International is also promoting **cause-based clubs**, where members unite around a specific service mission such as vision, hunger relief, childhood cancer, or disaster response. These clubs allow individuals who are passionate about a single cause to make a direct impact with like-minded volunteers.

Finally, Lions are exploring **community partnerships**—building relationships with businesses, schools, and local organizations to share service opportunities. This opens the door to new networks of potential members and makes clubs more visible in their communities.

With these innovative approaches, Lions International is showing that membership recruitment and new club development aren't just about numbers—they're about creating meaningful opportunities for service that attract people with the same heart for giving back. Bringing the **Power of Service** into neighborhoods and tackling the needs of our communities is what Lions do best!

Believe in Lions and Share the passion.

1VDG Lion Bev Flynn



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Upcoming Events

6th	Vision Clinic 7 AM Lions Community Room
6th	Club Meeting Dinner @ 5:30 PM Meeting @ 6:15PM
8th	Waterway Cleanup
11th	Sunshine Card Workshop
13th	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM Lions Community Room
27th	Thanksgiving
29th	Holiday Parade

Lottery Ticket Scratch-off Fundraiser

Back by Popular Demand! Starting with the November 6 meeting, members may buy a raffle ticket to win a bundle of scratch-off cards. The tickets are \$5.00 each. The raffle will continue until the December 18 Holiday Party when the winning ticket will be drawn. Lion Pat McNally arranged on the scratch-off tickets on a giant Snowflake that will be at the door for the next 4 meetings. Tickets are for members, other Lions, and close family and friends, not the general public, because all proceeds will go to the Venice Lions Administrative Fund.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Bonnee Hagen

Anniversaries

Anne Cummings
(David)

7th

13th

If we are missing your birthday and (or) your anniversary please email [Lion Jeff Myles](#) with your information.

Thanks !



District 35-I Zone 5 Meeting

Zone 5 Chair, Lion Jeff Myles, presided at the October 14 Zone meeting in Punta Gorda. Lion Jeff shared a video of the Seal Beach Lions Club, the largest Lions Club in the United States with over 400 members. What is their secret? Stay tuned as Venice Lions will see the video soon.

Lion Jeff also had the honor of inducting a new member into the Punta Gorda Lions Club, and he shared the combined service statistics of Zone 5 organized by the Global Cause.

Which global cause to you think receives the most attention by Lions Clubs?

President Pamela's Club Report focused on the Care Kits partnership between the Venice Lions and the two local libraries and urged Zone clubs to extend the project into their service areas.

Attending the meeting were Lions Jeff Myles, Beverly Flynn, Pamela Brown, Barbara McGillicuddy and Mike and Pat McNally.

White Cane Day



Lions Bonnee Hagen and Sharon Wilkins represented the Venice Lions Club at the White Cane Awareness event at Laurel Civic arranged by the Venice Lions. Lighthouse staff demonstrated the purpose of the White Cane and service dogs to help people with limited sight navigate safely through buildings and streets. About 40 young people tried their skills with the white cane while blindfolded to experience the challenge of using the cane. Sarasota County Commissioner Mark Smith, of District 2, issued a proclamation declaring October 14 White Cane Awareness Day in Sarasota County.

New Wind Blowing in Lions Clubs

During the US-Canada Forum, in the zone and district meetings, and our District conferences, the message is urgent: we must grow membership by strengthening existing clubs and launching new ones. (Be sure to read Lion Beverly Flynn's Guest Editorial in this newsletter.) Clubs are urged to rethink their traditions, practices, and dues that may not be appealing to the new and younger members we need to recruit.

In November the Venice Lions will consider one practical change that may remove two barriers to recruiting new members: our traditional gold vest and the \$60 cost new members must pay to buy it. Younger people and many recently retired members prefer more casual, modern attire—golf shirts with club embroidery—over a polyester gold vest. Currently, whenever Lions meet, about half of members wear vests and half wear collared golf shirts with insignia or t-shirts.

This is a membership decision, not a decision by the Board of Directors. At the November 20 meeting we'll discuss whether the vest should remain required, become optional (as in Englewood), or be replaced by a club golf shirt. There are attractive alternatives for displaying pins. After the discussion members will vote by paper ballot. Please come ready to add your thoughts to the conversation.

Why does the Lions emblem have two Lions faces with one looking backward and one looking forward?

Because we look to our past with pride, and we look to the future with courage to grow and be relevant in a changing world.



“We Serve”



Make a Difference Day, October 25

There was a great turnout for Make a Difference Day from the Venice Lions Club, Laurel Nokomis Club Branch and the folks from The Warehouse. We accomplished a lot in short order picking up litter, wiping down the playground equipment and spreading mulch at Venezia Park.

Another great project that makes our City of Venice staying beautiful.

Whose Tale?

- Which Lion received a real love letter from award winning singer/actor John Davidson, who starred on several game shows and off-Broadway productions?
- Which Lion donated blood while on a cruise ship?
- Which Lion played on an intercollegiate sports team?

Club Fall Social
October, 16th



District 35-I Guiding Lions



At the October 25th District 35 I Cabinet Meeting, three Venice Lions were recognized for achieving "Guiding Lion" status. This means they are certified to assist new clubs form, develop, and grow. Honored were Lions Pamela Brown, Beverly Flynn, and Jeff Myles. Also recognized were 2nd Vice District Governor, Drew Ogden and Past District Governor Jimmy Gregory. Absent for the photo was Lion Paddy Padmanabhan.

October Speakers



Introduced by Lion Paddy Padmanabhan we were joined by Kristin Szafraniec and Dennis Parker from The United Way of South Sarasota County at our October 2nd Club Meeting.

Venice Halloween Event



Above, Club members prepare candy for distribution to trick-or-treaters at the annual Venice Main Street Halloween event. The Venice Lions are annual supporters of the event.



Venice Lions Club
Peace Poster Contest Winners
2025

Epiphany School

Kayleigh Gavagan - 1st Place
Josephine Navarro - 2nd Place
Madison Leisenring - 3rd Place



Venice Middle School

Glienifer Sanchez - 1st Place
Sidney Atkins - 2nd Place
Elizabeth Zhrebenco - 3rd Place



Laurel - Nokomis

Taylor Pohl—1st Place
Lilly Allen - 2nd Place
Amelia Bazyar - 3rd Place





Care Kit Project

Venice Lions funded 400 basic hygiene kits for homeless and displaced men and women. The Venice Lions Club will receive excellent publicity with signs in all the restrooms at the Venice and the Jacaranda Libraries where the kits are offered free of charge to anyone who need one. Lions, Library staff and Friends of the Library gathered to assemble the kits and to build partnerships between these two great service organizations.

Where There's a Need There's a Lion



National and World Organizations Focus on Mental Health

Contributed by
Lions Tim Werla

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

<https://www.nami.org/affiliate/florida/>

Phone: 850-671-4445

Email: info@namiflorida.org

Veteran suicide prevention website

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/988

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988, or visit 988lifeline.org/chat

Florida Health

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/mental-health/index.html>

Anonymous Teen Help Line

The Teen Line can be reached at 800-852-8336 Nationwide (6P M - 10 PM PST)
or TEXT TEEN to 839863 (6 PM - 9 PM PST)

Mental Health Warm Line (to just talk):

The Clear Warm Line can be reached at 1(800) 945-1355. Hours: 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST Every night of the year including holidays.

Yoga for Inner Peace: Prevent, Manage, and Heal

Contributed by Lion Christal Snell

Yoga offers a path toward balance of mind, body, and spirit
Through breath, movement, and mindful awareness, you can prevent stress from taking root, manage challenges as they arise, and heal from within.

1. Prevention.... Building a Resilient Mind-Body Connection

Practice regularly to reduce stress hormones and increase emotional balance.
Start mornings with gentle breathwork and movement to set a calm tone.
Notice physical cues: your body often whispers before your mind shouts
Use grounding postures like Mountain or Warrior to cultivate steadiness.
Connect with gratitude and community to prevent isolation.

2. Management...-Regulating Emotions and Easing the Mind

Move with your breath to calm anxiety and find presence.
Practice restorative or gentle yoga to reset the nervous system.
Explore meditation or Yoga Nidra to quiet racing thoughts.
Open the heart through gentle backbends to release emotion.
Balance postures to build focus and inner clarity.

Use affirmations to shift from self-criticism to compassion.

3. Healing... Supporting Recovery and Emotional Growth

Approach practice gently and consistently, healing takes time.
Try trauma-informed or yin yoga to cultivate safety and release
Use alternate nostril breathing to restore emotional balance.
Meditate on self-compassion and forgiveness.
Integrate yoga with therapy or counseling for whole-person healing
Serve others, sometimes purpose is found in giving back.

4. Everyday Coping Tools.... On & Off the Mat

Pause for three deep breaths before responding to stress.
Use forward folds to calm the nervous system when overwhelmed.
Try mindful walking as meditation in motion.
End the day with Legs-Up-the-Wall to release tension.
Listen to your body and rest when your body asks.
Remember: "This moment is temporary. I can breathe through it."



Lions International

LIONS AND LEOS ARE WORKING TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, TO EDUCATE AND SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND ADVOCATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Facts and Statistics

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. The 17 goals are an urgent call for action by all countries — developed and developing — in a global partnership. Achievement of the SDGs also relies on the involvement of volunteer organizations who connect governmental strategies and initiatives with complementary, yet essential, community action.

THIS GLOBAL CAUSE SUPPORTS SDG #3



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



An estimated **700,000 people die by suicide every year** (World Health Organization).



On average, **2% of health budgets go to mental health** (World Health Organization).



People who are exposed to adverse circumstances — including poverty, violence, disability and inequality — are at **higher risk of developing a mental health condition** (World Health Organization).



Depression is the leading cause of disability globally, affecting an estimated more than 300 million people worldwide — the majority of them women, young people and the elderly (United Nations).



For depression, the gaps in service coverage are wide across all countries: in high-income countries, an estimated **23% of cases receive minimally adequate treatment for depression** and in low- and lower-middle income countries **this is estimated at 3% of cases** (World Health Organization).



More than 80% of all people with mental disorders live in low- and middle-income countries, where the vicious cycle between mental health and poverty is particularly prevalent because of a lack of welfare safety nets and poor accessibility to effective treatment (World Health Organization).



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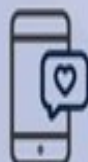
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Service Ideas

lionsclubs.org/mental-health



Promote education, awareness and advocacy resources and tools from reputable organizations such as the [World Health Organization](#) and [World Federation for Mental Health](#).



Find your region or country's suicide prevention hotline using the [International Association for Suicide Prevention's international suicide crisis hotline search feature](#) and promote the hotline at awareness events and on social media.



Volunteer at your local center for elderly care to assist with enrichment and well-being events.



Explore the [World Health Organization's mental health and well-being stigma reduction resources](#) and promote them using social media to highlight the importance of lessening mental health stigma and debunking common misconceptions.



Use resources, facts and statistics from the World Health Organization and World Federation for Mental Health to create a [World Mental Health Day](#) social media campaign with your club, district or multiple district. Share your impact on social media with photos, videos and other assets using the hashtag #WorldMentalHealthDay.



Support [Lions Quest](#) social-emotional learning and well-being curriculum for youth in your community. Consider providing promotional support and curriculum delivery for Lions Quest by applying for a [Lions Quest Promotional Grant](#) or [Lions Quest Community Partnership Grant](#).



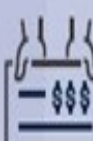
Contact local, state/province and federal government representatives to advocate for increased mental health funding and expanded services. Use our [Lions Advocacy Toolkit](#) to get started.



Donate food, toiletries or maintenance services to a local transitional living home serving disabled individuals and/or those living with various mental health conditions in your community.



Use resources from the [International Association for Suicide Prevention](#) to highlight [World Suicide Prevention Day](#) in your community.



Provide assistance to mental health agencies and treatment centers by hosting fundraisers, providing publicity on social media and collecting needed supplies.



Explore ways to increase access to vital mental health screening services in your community among underserved groups by contacting and utilizing mental health professionals, psychologists and psychiatric physicians in your networks. Connect with local stakeholders such as schools, hospitals and community leaders to collaborate on shared goals.



Host a walk or event in partnership with a local mental health organization to raise mental health and well-being awareness utilizing the World Health Organization's [mental well-being resources and depression infographics](#).



Encourage well-being and development of life skills among youth by creating a local social and mentorship group in your community. Get started by [watching this video](#) about Camp Conquer, a community-based youth wellness group created by Lions in Delaware, USA.

EN 9/24

In Closing

Dear Fellow Lions,

It is with a very heavy heart that I let you know that Lion Ray Favreau passed away peacefully on Monday, October 27th. Lion Ray was a Lion for about 55 years having joined the Agawam Lions in Massachusetts in 1962. He took a Lions hiatus from 1965 to 1974 when he rejoined the Agawam Lions. He and Lion Ann moved to Venice and transferred their membership to our club in 2003. Lion Ray was recognized as a Progressive Melvin Jones recipient.

For many years, Lion Ray volunteered in the Vision Office helping on the computer and in the clinic on clinic days. He volunteered on many of our service projects like the Waterway Clean up. Lion Ray lived his life as a great Lion Where there's a need, There's a Lion. That was Lion Ray.



While Lion Ray served on our Board of Directors for several years, his Lion's experience was greatly appreciated in the many the years he served on the Keerl Committee. Lion Ray served as the Keerl Chair for two years as our Venice representative, be a committee member for the next two years, then go right back on as the Keerl Chair again. His voice on the committee was always respected and valued.

If you ever had the wonderful opportunity to talk to Lion Ray about his career then you know that he traveled overseas for Power Systems, the company he worked for. Lion Ann said that he was sent all over the world to work on special projects, some of which were top secret!

Lions Ray and Ann traveled the world together too, experiencing the big cities as well as the quaint areas soaking in all the different cultures, foods and traditions. Lion Ann has given us a glimpse of what they experienced through her books and a slide show she presented at one of our meetings. I remember Lion Ray telling the story of a Lions sponsored strawberry festival that they stumbled upon in Slovenia. In the town center was a "world record" mile long cake that was being shared with everyone as a fundraiser for Children's Cancer. The story goes that Lion Ray was introduced to the Club's president and was presented with his Lion's hat. Lion Ray and Lion Ann never traveled without our club's Friendship Banners so Lion Ray went back to the hotel and retrieved a banner and returned to the event and presented the Club President with one of our banners.

As of now, there has been no date set for the services for Lion Ray. When the plans are made available I will make sure to get another announcement out to everyone.

If you wish to send a sympathy card to Lion Ann, here is her contact information:

Lion Ann Favreau
249 E. Seminole Drive
Venice, FL 34293

Rest in Peace, Lion Ray.

Lion Bev
Club Communications

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

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IPP	Fabricio Oliviera
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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