



LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

FEBRUARY 2026

President's Message

Some years ago, my sister asked me what my legacy will be when I die. I laughed out loud at the thought of my having a legacy. My name will never be on a building; I am not a philanthropist, an artist, or a composer. I have not invented a vaccine or found a cure for anything. I have not managed to improve the delivery of justice or civil rights. I have given up believing I can change the world and I struggle just to change myself.

What can an ordinary person hope to leave behind as a legacy? Everything I do is so SMALL.

On reflection, I believe I share a legacy with the long chain of Lions who came before me and will come after me around the world. Beginning in 1917, Lions created, still create, and will create into the future, a legacy of service that eases the pain and hardship faced by children and struggling families around the globe. It seems such a small thing to provide a pair of glasses, a small thing to donate canned goods, a small thing to comfort a child with a teddy bear, or give diapers to a young mother. It is a small thing to offer toothpaste and shampoo to someone without a home, a small thing to pay off meal debt for a child, and even a small thing to help one veteran obtain a service dog.

But if we look at our small things from the other side, from the side of the person receiving our small things, it is not so small after all. Like the parable of the starfish says, "It makes a difference to THAT one!" One by one, small things add up to make an amazing legacy of very big things for our neighbors. All the small things Lions do around the globe, delivered with love and kindness, creates a legacy that is far better than our names on a building. Lions individually – each of us – are part of an organization creating a huge legacy around the globe that we are part of and we should be proud of. I guess that's what I'll tell my sister the next time she asks.

Pamela



BIG CELEBRATION!

We have a new club in District 35I. Effective January 8, 2026 the Laurel-Nokomis Club was chartered as an independent Lions Club. It is an amazing achievement by President Peter Casamento and the Laurel-Nokomis members who recruited the mandatory 20 members in just 6 months! We will celebrate this new Lions Club with a grand party on February 7 at the Pelican Golf and Country Club. The party will include special guests from the city and county and past and present District and International Lions leadership. The new charter will be presented along with special gifts to the new club. Lion Beverly Flynn and Barbara McGillicuddy are applying their party planning experience to make this celebration a special affair. Please see the attached party invitation and plan to attend. This new club will always be our sister-club and it deserves a grand kick-off celebration.

Please see flyer on page 5 for information.

No Hungry Children! In Honor of Lion Ray Favreau

If you went to public school when the federal government subsidized milk for school lunches, you may have paid 2-3 cents for a box of milk, like my 4 siblings and I did. Lunch may have been 35 cents. In 2026, elementary school breakfast costs **\$2.25**, and lunch costs **\$3.25**. Imagine the weekly expense a family with 2-3 children will incur. Some families qualify for reduced-cost meals, but they still fall behind in paying the bills. When that happens, the child is given a small substitute meal and everyone knows. The Board of Directors sent \$1,000 to reduce school meal debt at Garden Elementary School. *The gift was only made possible by a very generous donation from Lion Ann Favreau.* Lion Ann made the donation in honor and in memory of Lion Ray Favreau. Lion Ray loved children and especially enjoyed his service with the little ones he met through preschool vision screening.

Thank you, Lion Ann and thank you Lion Ray!





MUTT STRUTT

January 24, 2026



The first annual Mutt Strutt dog walk event was held Saturday January 24 at Laurel Park. The event included a food truck, ice cream truck, 8 vendors, face painting, dog agility demo and photo booth. In addition to the fantastic support of many of our fellow Lions, we gave out a "goodie bag" to those attending along with a 50/50 raffle opportunity and made dog toys for those who wished to participate. The amount of money raised to support the Service Dog to a Veteran is yet to be determined but we feel that we are close to our goal! - **Lion Jeff Sterne**

18th Annual Mane Event Fashion Show

After 17 years of outstanding leadership, Lions Bev Flynn and Barbara McGillicuddy have stepped down as Coordinators of the Mane Event Fashion Show. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their years of dedication to this important event. For 17 years, the Mane Event has been the highlight of Venice Lions' fundraising efforts. Since 2009 the event has raised over **one hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars!** The proceeds have funded countless local projects and have touched the lives of thousands in our community!

Lions Judy Rocquin and Mary Billings have agreed to take over the Mane Event Coordination. They realize they have very big shoes to fill and they will be relying heavily on the Venice Lions membership to provide support as they have in the past.

The 18th Annual Mane Event Fashion show will be held Friday May 13th, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at Plantation Golf and Country Club. This year's Theme is "Woodstock." We are hoping everyone will "Get Their GROOVE ON" and join in the fun.

Member information packets were distributed at the December 4th meeting and will be available at subsequent meetings. Please be thinking about businesses you frequent that you could reach out to for a Sponsorship. Sponsorships are the main source of income for the Mane Event and currently these are mostly provided by our membership. We will also be looking for Door Prizes such as restaurant gift certificates, spa gift certificates, and massage gift certificates.

Lions Christal Snell and Sean Higginbottom are again coordinating the Raffle Baskets. Please see them if you would like to make a financial donation towards a raffle basket or would like to donate items towards a raffle basket.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

26th Jean Spitzer (John)
28th Bernie Deckman (Jill Corey)
28

Pat McNally (left) accepts a *Kindness Award* from District Governor Linda Gregory. The *Kindness Award* is given to a Lion for an act of kindness that goes above and beyond.

A “Two-fer” Service Project

Global Causes? Venice Lions addressed two Global Causes at the same time: Environment and Hunger. To protect the environment and to keep plastic out of the waterways, Lions offered 200 free reusable grocery bags to customers entering Publix. As customers accepted the bags, Lions asked them to donate non-perishable food for a local food pantry. Our big grey food barrel was so full of cans, pasta, peanut butter, and more, we had to put bags on the sidewalk. Lion Hans had to get his truck to haul it all away. We did not expect the cash donations people put into a jar that Lion Bev insisted we take “just in case”. That just-in-case jar held over \$315 in 90 minutes! Most gratifying was the community’s recognition of Lions and the appreciation they expressed for the work we all do. Thanks to: Lions Jennie and Bob Angell, Hans Nichols, Jan and Ed Stack, Anne Cummings and Pamela. Lion Hans and Pamela took the food donations to the food pantry at the Laurel—Nokomis Civic Center where they were just as overwhelmed as we were!

Great project!



Charter Night Celebration

The Venice Lions Club
invites you to join us in celebrating the
Laurel-Nokomis Lions Club
as it joins District 35-I

February 7, 2026
Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club
499 Derbyshire Drive
Venice, Florida 34285

Dinner Served at 6:00 PM
Limited Seating

Semi-Formal Attire
Cash Bar Available
Reservations Required by 02/01/26
Email: venicelionsclub@gmail.com
to reserve your seat ASAP

Dinner \$50.00 (in advance)
Please specify Entrée with RSVP
Salmon with Maple Glaze
Chicken Savannah (with Pecans)
Vegetarian Entrée (upon request)
Salad and Dessert

New Club Needs:

Lions Gong
American Flag

Flag pole and stand
LCI Recycle for Sight Boxes

If you are purchasing one of the gifts listed, please email
the Venice Lions Club so no duplicates are received

Please mail Reservation checks to:
Venice Lions Club, 1289 Jacaranda Boulevard, Venice, Florida 34292



The Venice Lions Club
presents the
18th Annual Mane Event
Fashion Show and Champagne Luncheon

Woodstock
Peace Love Music

Plantation Golf and Country Club
500 Rockley Boulevard, Venice

Friday, March 13th at 11:30 AM

Featuring Fashions by
"Island Way Boutique"

Music by DJ Steve, Raffle Baskets, Door Prizes, 50/50 Draw
Reservations \$50.00 each

Put on your bellbottom jeans, tie dye t-shirt and love beads
and join in the fun!

For additional information, call Lion Judy at 360-580-9608
or email at jroquin55@gmail.com

RSVP's due no later than February 27th

Lions Club Dues Payment Schedule

VENICE LIONS CLUB					
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP					
DUES 2025 - 2026	LCI	MD-35	DIS-TRICT	CLUB	TOTAL
JANUARY or JULY	\$25.00	\$11.00	\$5.00	\$15.50	\$56.50
FEBRUARY or AUGUST	\$20.84	\$9.17	\$4.17	\$12.92	\$47.10
MARCH or SEPTEMBER	\$16.68	\$7.33	\$3.33	\$10.34	\$37.68
APRIL or OCTOBER	\$12.52	\$5.50	\$2.50	\$7.76	\$28.28
MAY or NOVEMBER	\$8.36	\$3.67	\$1.67	\$5.18	\$18.88
JUNE or DECEMBER	\$4.17	\$1.83	\$0.83	\$2.60	\$9.43
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (must have same address)					
DUES 2025 - 2026	LCI	MD-35	DIS-TRICT	CLUB	TOTAL
JANUARY or JULY	\$12.50	\$11.00	\$5.00	\$15.50	\$44.00
FEBRUARY or AUGUST	\$10.42	\$9.17	\$4.17	\$12.92	\$36.68
MARCH or SEPTEMBER	\$8.34	\$7.33	\$3.33	\$10.34	\$29.34
APRIL or OCTOBER	\$6.26	\$5.50	\$2.50	\$7.76	\$22.02
MAY or NOVEMBER	\$4.18	\$3.67	\$1.67	\$5.18	\$14.70
JUNE or DECEMBER	\$2.09	\$1.83	\$0.83	\$2.60	\$7.35
ADDITIONAL ONE TIME COSTS					
LCI ENTRANCE FEE (submitted with the application)		\$35.00 (Waived for 2025 by the Venice Lions Club)			
LIONS VEST & NAME TAG (optional)		\$50.00			

Lions Dues Explained

All dues, at every level of the Lions organization, are used for administrative costs. There is a separate account for monies raised from the public which is used 100% to benefit the community in programs and projects. The Club Administrative Treasurer is responsible for billing each member of the club for all dues.

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Lions International Dues:

International dues are **billed to the clubs** by Lions Clubs International (LCI) in January and in July. Currently the dues are **\$50 per year** per Lion.

The **Family Membership Program** provides families with a dues discount when they join a Lions club together. The first family member (head of household) pays full international dues (\$50 annually), and up to four additional family members pay only half the international dues (\$25 annually).

International dues are used by the organization for administrative costs: brochures, the cost of the website, general liability insurance that is available for public events, utilities for the official International offices around the globe, phones, etc.....the usual business expenses for running an international organization.

Florida Lions and Local Lions Dues

Multiple District (MD-35 includes the State of Florida) and District 35 (includes District 35-I)

Multiple District (MD-35) dues are billed to each club by the Multiple District Treasurer in January and July. Currently the dues are **\$22 per year**. There is no discount for family members.

District dues (District 35-I) are also billed by the Multiple District Treasurer in January and July. Currently the dues are **\$11 per year**.

MD dues are used by the Multiple District to pay for the expense of a central office (currently located in Winter Haven) and also the salaries of the MD secretary and the MD treasurer. Monies are also used to pay for a MD website and to help finance the Multiple District meetings that are held twice a year.

District dues are used to finance the expenses of the District: reimbursement for the District Governor, and the First and Second Vice District Governors' travel expenses as well as other cabinet members' expenses up to a budgeted amount. The dues also pay for the cost of the directories, awards and supplies.

Club Dues

Each Lions club determines the amount that they want to assign as club's dues. Club dues pay for extra dinner expenses, supplies and equipment, awards and other club expenses.

Pro-rated Dues: New members inducted into a club during different months of the year, pay pro-rated dues.

Lion Beverly Flynn

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 5th	Vision Clinic, 7:30 AM, Community Room
February 5th	General Meeting, Dinner @ 5:30, Meeting @ 6:30 PM; Community Room
February 7th	Charter Night, Laurel-Nokomis Club, Pelican Point Golf & CC
February 12th	Board of Directors Meeting, 6 PM, Community Room
February 19th	General Meeting, Dinner @ 5:30, Meeting @ 6:30 PM; Community Room
March 5th	General Meeting, Dinner @ 5:30, Meeting @ 6:30 PM; Community Room 1st Round of Nominations for 2026—2027 Club Officers
March 12th	Board of Directors Meeting, 6 PM, Community Room
March 13th	<i>The Mane Event</i> , Plantation Golf & CC, 11:30 AM
March 19th	General Meeting, Dinner @ 5:30, Meeting @ 6:30 PM; Community Room 2nd/ Final Round of Nominations for 2026—2027 Club Officers



We Serve



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 p.m.
Meeting begins at 6:15 p.m.

Board of Directors
Meeting 2nd Thursday at
6 p.m.



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	Christine Malone
Treasurer	Tom Mavor
Bulletin	Jan Kunka
MD Executive Secretary / Treasurer	PDG Gary LaSpina/ PDG Paula Beach
Zone 5 Chair	Jeffrey Myles