



LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

JULY 2024

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Upcoming Events

JULY	
4	Independence Day Holiday No Club Meeting Happy 4th of July
11	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM Lions Community Room
18	Membership Meeting Lions Community Room Dinner @ 6 PM Meeting @ 6:45 PM
AUGUST	
1	Membership Meeting Lions Community Room Dinner @ 6 PM Meeting @ 6:45 PM
8	Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM Lions Community Room
15	Membership Meeting Lions Community Room Dinner @ 6 PM Meeting @ 6:45 PM

President's Message

Who said The Venice Lions Club slows down in the summer? Our seasonal members have retreated to cooler climates and many of our permanent residents are vacationing or traveling, but Venice Lions never stop!

On June 20, we held a program planning meeting for the upcoming Lions year. We broke into small groups to generate ideas for new club projects. The club as a whole will decide on

next year's projects, so no decisions were made that night. We will wait until we have heard from all members who have an idea for a project. If you could not attend the June 20 meeting, please email me with your ideas. We will continue the planning through August and the club will make final choices in September.

Send your ideas in! Pamelajeane.brown@gmail.com

Exciting Party! Do you know how old The Venice Lions Club is now? 77 years!

That is a lot of service to our community! Our club was chartered in 1947, and we will celebrate our birthday at the July 18 meeting. We will have a birthday cake and ice cream, party favors, and some surprises. This is what I am asking, if you can do it: please try to wear something with the flavor of 1947. Some of the women have their mother's vintage jewelry. Do any of you men have a Homburg hat, a vest, or a bow tie? Please wear anything at all that gives us the flavor of the late 1940s. Let's NOT wear our vests! This is a party!

The Club's new board of directors will begin July 1. Many of the members will stay on, although in different positions. However, there are members who deserve special thanks for taking a leadership position: Bonnee Hagen, Christal Snell and Mary Billings, Directors and Ed Billings Foundation Treasurer.

And, a final thank you to Lion Jeff Myles. Lion Jeff led a great Club year and will continue to serve as Immediate Past President AND Zone 6 Chair. You know what they say about great men....yes....thank you to Lion Carole who was surely a big part of President Jeff's success. In addition, Jeff has been incredibly helpful to me as I take my first few steps as incoming President.

We are so fortunate to have Venice Lions like Jeff and Carole Myles!

Lion President Pamela Jean Brown



Uniquely Venice Lions

Submitted by 2nd Vice-President Judy Terrell

All Clubs are only as good as the members that are in it.

That's what makes Venice Lions Club so great, all of you, its members! Whether you joined here in Venice, or transferred from another Club, you bring a uniqueness to the Venice Lions Club.

Because of that special uniqueness, President Pamela and Past President Jeff have asked all members, especially those who have transferred to our Club, what service projects have you participated in that have particularly resonated or struck a chord with you?

Don't limit your response to just Lions projects – we are a service organization, first and foremost.

The important questions we would ask are:

- Have any of you participated or worked in a service organization before becoming a Lion ?
- What was it that made you feel that you had made a difference?
- Was there something that made you smile proudly to have participated?

Please share your ideas and experiences. All your thoughts are welcome.

As President Pamela said in her President's Message, the Club will make a final choice in September.

Please send your ideas to Pamelajean.brown@gmail.com

Yours in Lionism.

Lion Judy Terrell



Club News

CANDYGRAM FROM ANN

The words 'thank you' seem too simple to express my appreciation for all that the former and current members of the Venice Lions Club have done.

I want to wrap the words in hand-dipped chocolate to make them richer and serve them with luscious red strawberries and a fine wine.

As caring people you have given so many fragile ribbon candy folks a coating of resilient taffy hope to make our community stronger.

You have served them lollipops of love to lick 'til they once again can reach their sweet center of resolve.

I wish all of you a fancy box of chocolates filled with life experiences as satisfying and varied as the center choices.

I know that you will continue to share your bonbons of encouragement as we serve.

Ann Favreau 2024

- Hold an event (with the activity director) at an assisted living or nursing home:
 - ⇒ Read to a resident
 - ⇒ Introduce music or a sing-a-long
 - ⇒ Help with a craft
- At a meeting...members act out a short play
- Take groups of people to a ballgame: find vans that will transport people
- Hold a LIONS NIGHT OUT at a ballgame
- Hold a Dog Walk fundraiser
- Investigate placing Lions mints or gumball candy dispensers at cash registers
- Sponsor a "hangout" for the Warehouse kids
- Sell \$1.00 hotdogs on the 4th of July. (contact Venice City)
- Prepare backpacks of school supplies (work through churches)
- Take a veteran fishing
- Collaborate with the VFW
- Hold a picnic: sell hotdogs - \$1.00 = \$2.00
- Have a booth at the Patriotic Rider Festival
- Attend Honor Flight again
- Stuffed animals for police cruisers (repeat activity)
- Coordinate an activity for firemen
- Continue Harry Chapin and expand support to a local food panty
 - ⇒ Members donate food for local food bank
- Explore childhood cancer centers beside Ft Myers or consider
 - ⇒ Support of local children with other health-impairing diseases
- Pop tab contest
- Reader glasses for needy – possible meal
- Hold a White Cane Awareness Day in July
- Activities for Hearing Impaired
- Hold a Restaurant Fund Raiser

Club Project Ideas

2024 – 2025

CLUB NEWS



Welcome Lion Sean !!

Lion Sean Higginbottom was inducted into the Venice Lions Club at our final meeting of the year on June 20th . Lion Sean is sponsored by Lion Christal Snell (Sean's cousin!)

Congratulations !

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

6th *Melissa Burke*
11th *Robert Spong*
18th *Al Gurley*
26th *Jody Fall*
30th *John Tagye*
31st *Jeannette Davis*
31st *Bob Winstel*

Happy
Anniversary

7th *Alf Kirkeeng (Denise)*



Meet the Gurleys

Submitted by Lion Jean Spitzer

Lions June and Al Gurley joined the Venice Lions on May 3rd, 2018.

Since then Lions Al and June worked together on the Sunshine Committee sending birthday and anniversary greetings to Club members. June also worked in the Lions Vision office. Al's devotion to June would have him coming to the office during her shift to make sure she was OK.

Al and June joined Venice Lions due on the recommendation of their Audiologist, Dr. Rick Namikas. We are so grateful that he referred them to us.

Looking back in time, Lion June and Al's student days at Florida State University united them. Lion Al was from North Carolina while June was born and raised as a local gal in our very own Nokomis. June not only attended Laurel Elementary, graduated from Venice High School, but actually taught a year at the newly opened Venice Elementary in 1954.

Lion June's parents worked during the summer carnivals, so she got to travel in the summers but returned every fall for school in Nokomis.

Lion Al was able to obtain his degree from Florida State by enlisting in the Air Force. He received a degree in Engineering and Meteorology. Lion Al became a weatherman – who would have thought it – but this gave him great pleasure.

While in the service Lion Al was stationed in France. During that time he took off ten days to return home to marry his college sweetheart in Dec. of 1954.

And so began an enduring relationship that is approaching its 70th year. After their wedding Al swept his bride back to France where she was able to teach on a military base for a semester.

However, the Air Force made a mistake when they asked Al to go to Japan. He turned down the request when June refused to go.

After military service Lion Al took a job with the Westinghouse Corporation.

They moved to Pittsburgh where Al worked on the first atomic submarine.

Al later took a job with Western Electric in Baltimore where they raised their family.

Thankfully when they retired 30 years ago, they came back to the Venice area to help care for June's Mother who never left the area.

June enjoys reading while Al is still into wood carving after 29 years of being involved with woodworking clubs in Venice and North Port.

We are so grateful that they found their way to our Venice Lions Club.

June Vision Clinic Screening Report

Submitted by Lion Carole Myles

Total Clients scheduled 19
Referred for complete exams 14

Total Screened 14
No Shows 1

Clients from Venice 8

Clients from Englewood 6

New clients 6

Total Volunteer Hours 50
Venice Volunteers 15 for 37 1/2 hours
Englewood Volunteers 5 for 12 1/2 hours

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Club Meetings
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Dinner at 6 PM
Meetings begin at 6:45 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	Jeff Myles Pat McNally
Treasurer (Admin.)	Barbara McGillicuddy
Treasurer (Found.)	Ed Billings
Tail Twister Lion Tamer IPP	Judy Rocquin Robert Winstel Jeff Myles
One Year Director One Year Director Two Year Director Two Year Director	Jean Spitzer Bonnee Hagen Mary Billings Christal Snell
Membership Chair	Beverly Flynn
Bulletin Editor Publisher	Jeff Myles Jeff Myles

Lions Club International

300 22nd Street, Oak Brook IL, 60521	
Website	www.lcif.org
President	Fabricio Oliveira
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	Judy Galm
Bulletin	Paula Paquette
MD Executive Secretary / Treasurer	Neil Spencer
Zone 6 Chair	Jeff Myles