



LIONS TALE



Monthly Bulletin of Venice Lions Club Inc. Venice, Florida

APRIL 2026

After Governor Linda Gregory received my thank-you note for her official visit March 19, she wrote the following reply. With her permission, I am including it here as a lesson to myself that kindness and support wherever it is offered is so important, even in high places. As this Lions year comes to an end, and we install new officers and board of directors, let's keep in mind that they will all need every bit of encouragement and support we can give them.

Pamela

The Governor's Message

Pamela,

It is an easy thing for me to be a cheerleader when I am so blessed as to have clubs like Venice in my district!

When I first began this journey through the Vice District Governor positions, I felt so unqualified and unsure of myself. I did not see myself as capable nor did I truly think I was leadership material. Then I came to visit Venice, and I found it easier to believe in me, because the Venice Lions believed in me. Y'all would ask what project I was taking on and you never flinched at my reply! You never looked at me askance, trying to puzzle out why I chose a particular cause. You just accepted my passion of the year and took it on as though it made perfect sense. And because it made sense to you, I gained confidence that it would make sense to others (I wasn't just that crazy lady with a passion for kids and books!!).



You didn't know it, but you were helping to build a District Governor. And I thank you. You and your club have been my staunchest cheerleaders, whether you meant to be or not. And it has meant everything. You never know when your encouragement is going to be the one thing someone else really needs so they can find the courage to rise above voices of their past so they can learn to soar. Keep being a cheerleader, my friend. It is your greatest strength. And it is one the world needs perhaps more than any other.



VENICE LIONS CLUB CLUB OFFICER NOMINEES 2026-2027



President — Timothy Werla

1st Vice President - Paddy Padmanabhan

2nd Vice President - Mary Billings

Secretary — Jeffrey Myles

Admin Treasurer — Barbara McGillicuddy

Foundation Treasurer — Edward Billings

Directors — Hans Nichols, Charles De Guglielmo & Jennie Angell

Membership Director — Pamela Brown

Tail Twister — Judy Rocquin

Lion Tamer — Robert Angell

**PLEASE NOTE; The election of officers for the 2026 –2027 year will
take place during the April 2nd General Meeting**

BIRTHDAYS

8th	Jeff Myles
16th	Troy Hobick
17th	Ann Favreau
20th	Dr. Dee Stephenson
27th	Judy Rocquin

ANNIVERSARIES

11th	Tim & Kim Werla
16th	Tom Regan (Carol)

WELCOME NEW LIONS !!



During her visit on March 19th District Governor Linda Gregory inducted three new members into the Venice Club, Lions Susan Metevia-Frasik, Cindy Toepfer and Susan Shidler.

Pictured above (l-r);

District Governor Linda Gregory, Susan Metevia-Frasik and sponsor Anne Cummings, President Pamela Brown, Cindy Toepfer and Susan Shidler with sponsor 1st VDG Beverly Flynn and Concil Chair Lion Jimmy Gregory.

Congratulations and welcome new Venice Lions !!

THE MANE EVENT MARCH 13TH

The 18th Annual Mane Event Fashion Show and Champagne Luncheon was held March 13th. Co-chairs, Lions Judy Rocquin and Mary Billings want to thank the Lions Club members for their fantastic support of the event.

From sponsorships to door prizes, gift baskets to reservations, set up and registration, to 50/50 and raffle ticket sales, and much more; Team Venice Lions was there every step of the way, making this event a success.

The Woodstock Theme was very well received with many attendees wearing 60's attire. This year we added a DJ to support our Musical Theme. DJ Steve curated music from Woodstock and yes there was dancing! Island Way Boutique provided our fashions and comments on the items chosen was very positive.

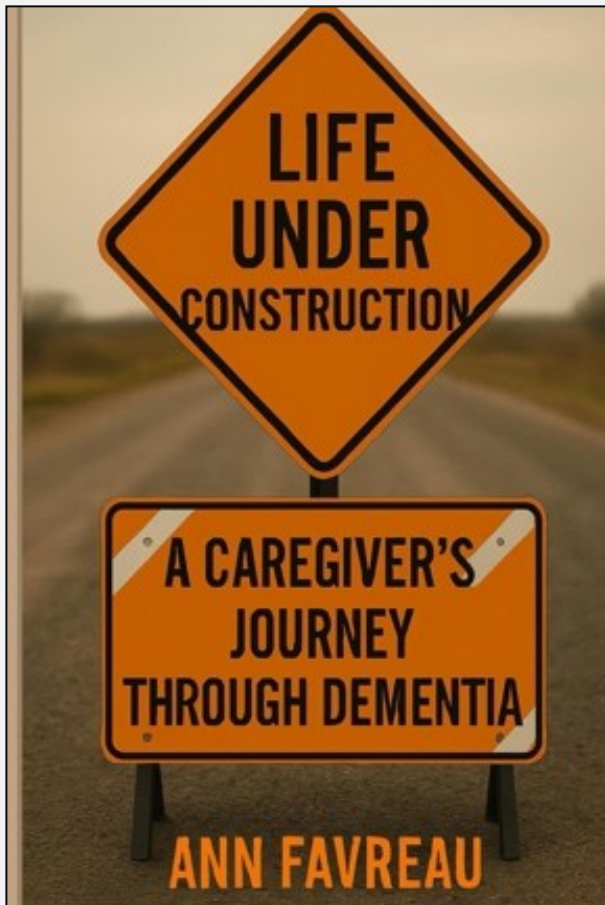
Overall, the feedback has been wonderful with many first timers saying they can't wait for next year's event. We look forward to March 12th, 2027. See you there!

Lions Judy and Mary



LION ANN FAVREAU'S BOOK GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION

The following is an excerpt from **Alzheimer's Today**



Like the accomplished poet that she is, Ann Favreau knows how to distill a great amount of emotion into a short number of words. In the case of her latest collection, *Life Under Construction, A Caregiver's Journey through Dementia*, she also knows how to zero in on the heartaches, acceptance and love of the care partner's experience and present them in a way that is profound in its simplicity. This latest volume is slim and as if you are reading someone's journal because of its intimacy. No poem is more than a page and is standalone, making it a good choice for a care partner with little time to read. In the pages between the poems, Favreau offers prose to tell the reader of her experiences.

Her first poem, "The Detour" tells of the expectation of travel until the realization that those special days are over. *"A brilliant mind so daunting/created parts for landing/on the surface of the moon."/Now needs to know which way to go/at every intersection."*

The single line conclusion is heartbreaking: *"I never saw it coming."*

In "Preserving the Pieces," she writes about substituting gratitude for sadness. *"It's a tear I won't let fall to rust the framework of my mind,/Seeking, searching, finding circles of hope, ellipses of care,/Gathering the pieces of my husband's shattered brain, trying to preserve the dignity that is him."*

Life Under Construction would make a comforting self-care time aside, just taking one poem at a time for reflection. Care partners will meet themselves and their loved ones in Favreau's poems. They capture the essence of what others on the journey are feeling, expressed with a touch of the poet.

Van of Valor: March Speakers



Kevin and Lauren Wallace described their journey through the 48 lower states to interview and record the stories of Purple Heart Veterans and Gold Star families. They have written the names of over 400 veterans on the sides of their van.



We Get Letters

In March a small team of Lions spent the morning with students and professors from Grand Valley State University, Michigan. They were in Venice to learn about service and the impact non-profit organizations have on a community. Venice Lions were selected as an outstanding example of community service. Lions Beverly Flynn, Carole Myles, Judy Terrell, Sharon Wilkins and Pamela Brown talked about Lions' 8 Global Causes and the club's local projects. The students practiced screening vision with the new SPOT camera and ended their experience by sorting eyeglasses to go to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Dear Pamela,

I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to you and your remarkable team at the Venice Lions Club for the generous time and hospitality you shared with our Grand Valley State University students today.

Your presentation and conversation with the students provided far more than an introduction to the Lions' work—it offered a powerful and inspiring glimpse into what a truly committed community organization can accomplish.

Hearing directly from you about the Lions Club's many initiatives, the scope of its service, its meaningful successes, and even the challenges that accompany such important work gave our students a level of insight that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom.

After our visit, I spoke with many of the students, and the response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. They were deeply impressed by the scale and impact of the Lions' contributions to the Venice community and moved by the spirit of service and dedication that your organization embodies.

Most importantly, the experience left them with a renewed understanding of what local community engagement truly looks like: individuals giving their time selflessly, working collectively toward meaningful causes, and creating lasting impact in the lives of others. For a group of young students and future leaders, this exposure was both eye-opening and profoundly meaningful.

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On a personal note, as both a faculty member and a resident of Venice, Florida, I could not have been more proud to introduce my students to such an extraordinary organization. Your gracious welcome, generosity of spirit, and the care with which you engaged our students made them feel genuinely valued. They spoke about the experience for hours afterward, and I have no doubt they will carry these impressions—and the lessons they learned—with them for many years to come.

Please accept my deepest appreciation for the time, thoughtfulness, and inspiration you shared with our students. Experiences like this are transformative, and we are incredibly grateful for your willingness to invest in the next generation.

With sincere gratitude,
~Lorie Tuma

Dr. Lorie A. Tuma, Associate Professor
Grand Valley State University



We are Celebrating Spring with New Sunshine Cards

Lions Jeannette Davis and Ann Favreau are working together to produce a spring sunshine card to be sent to over 1600 residents in Venice assisted, nursing and memory care facilities. Sunshine Cards have become a Venice Lions tradition and represent a service for older and frail residents. The signing-folding-envelope stuffing workshop will be in our Lions Community Room April 21st at 9am. We need lots of hands to help. Watch for a sign up sheet at the April meetings.



We Have a Winner!

The Lion of the Month Award recognizes a Lion who offered an act of unexpected compassion, empathy, or kindness to another Lion, a neighbor, a child, a colleague, or a stranger.

The Lion of the Month is announced at a meeting and takes home the “Star Trophy” as a reminder that someone in the club recognized their act of kindness and is appreciative. The trophy returns to the meeting in one month and is awarded to the next Lion who is recognized for their act of kindness.

The Star Trophy was made possible by a gift from Lion Lynn O’Brien in memory of her husband, Lion Joe O’Brien, a proud Lion for many years, and President of the Venice Lions Club from 2013-2014.

The first Lion to receive the Lion of the Month award is Lion Paddy Padmanabhan.



Thank you to Lion Lynn for the gift that allows us to continue the legacy of Lion Joe O’Brien’s life which was marked by kindness every day. Please send your suggestions for Lion of the Month to committee members Sharon Wilkins, Bonnee Hagen or Christal Snell along with the reason for the recognition. In most cases, the reason will not be announced at the meeting due to the possible privacy of the assistance



During her visit on March 19th District Governor Linda also presented service chevron awards to Venice Lions Ann Favreau and Barbara McGillicuddy

Show above , receiving **50 year** service chevrons are:

(left) Lion Ann Favreau accepting the award posthumously for Lion Ray Favreau

(right) Lion Barbara Mc Gillicuddy

Congratulations to all !!



Thanks to Lion Sean Higgenbottom, Lions attended Venice Pride held Hotel Venezia DeGuglielmo. Helping to set up at the event were Lions Sean, Pamela Brown, Rocky and Judy Rocquin. Lions Christal Snell, Charles de DeGuglielmo, Paddy Padmanabhan, and Judy Terrell also attended.

Beeping Egg Hunt

Sponsored by
The Venice Lions Club and
The Lighthouse Education Center

For Blind or Visually Impaired Children
Age 6 to 16
Saturday, April 4th, 11:00 AM
Centennial Park
200 W. Venice Avenue, Venice

Hop Little Bunnies Sensory and Social Play Event
Sponsored by Florida School for the Deaf & Blind
Ages 0 to 6
Saturday, April 4th, 12:30—2:00
Community Room, Jervy Venice Library
300 Nokomis Avenue South, Venice

Eggstravaganza

Sponsored by Venice Main Street
Saturday, April 4th
Easter Egg Hunt in
Centennial Park
10:00 - 11:30 AM



Breakfast Menu
Scrambled - Hard Boiled Eggs
Potatoes - Ham & Sausage
Biscuits & Gravy - Fruit
Danish - Beverages



District Convention

April 11, 2026

Englewood Lions Club
4611 Placida Road, Englewood, FL

Registration and Breakfast: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
\$15.00 RSVP by April 7th

RSVP to: Lion Cindy Laughlin - 941-828-0025 Call or Text
Send Checks To: Cindy Laughlin
6044 Coliseum Blvd, Pt Charlotte, FL 33981



PDG Meeting: 9:00 AM
General Meeting begins: 10:00 AM

World Wide Induction Day

All clubs are encouraged to bring **ALL** new members to this meeting (a new member is any Lion who joined your club since July 1, 2025). We will have a group induction of these new Lions (yes-even if they have been inducted before!!) in recognition of World-wide Induction Day. Following the induction, we will celebrate our newest Lions.

Election Results

The results of the election (which will have been held the week before) will be announced and we will hear from our incoming officers for 2026-2027. Your attendance is needed at the meeting so you can encourage these Lions as they take the next step in leadership!

District Recognitions

Our outgoing District Governor will have a few awards to hand out to some of the outstanding Lions in our district who have worked extremely hard this year to make our district a success.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS EVENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2nd	Vision Clinic, 7:30 AM, Lions Community Room
April 2nd	General Meeting, Dinner @ 5:30 PM, meeting @ 6:30 PM
April 4th	Venice Waterway Cleanup, 8:30 AM, behind Publix on the Island
April 9th	Board of Directors Meeting, 6 PM, Community Room (All members are invited)
April 11th	District 35-I Mini-Convention Englewood Lions Club
April 16th	Zone 5 and General Club Meeting, Dinner @ 5:30, Meeting @ 6:30 PM



The Monthly Bulletin of the Venice Lions Club

As we transition to the 2026 –2027 Lions year there will be an opportunity for a Venice Lion to assume the role of Editor / Publisher of the Lions Tale newsletter.

I will be transitioning out of this role on June 30th.

The Lions Tale is a monthly newsletter that keeps the Club informed as to Club news, service opportunities and Club events.

This opportunity will begin with the new year on July 1st.

I will provide any support needed to the Lion who assumes this important role.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact :

jmyles19@gmail.com

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve the Venice Lions Club; and always remember , ***“Where there is a need, there is a Lion”.***

Lion Jeff Myles



Venice Lions Club Inc.
Venice Health Park
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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