



## Monthly Bulletin of the Venice Lions Club, Venice, Florida

July 2025

### President's Message – President Pamela Brown



What a night! Our June 19<sup>th</sup> Installation and Member Recognition Night was a wonderful finale to our 2024-2025 Lions year and an exciting beginning of the new Lions year just beginning...

We were honored by District 35 I Governor-elect Linda Gregory who installed the 2025-2026 Board of Directors. Lion Linda challenged the Board to be superheroes for service, something she knows we will continue to be. We have plenty of Wonder Women and Supermen among our members!

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of Lions for their continued outstanding service to the Venice Lions Club and to the community.

ALL Lions were awarded a Beauty of Sight Model Club Member vest pin in recognition of the Club's substantial donation to the Beauty of Sight building fund. The club is now a "Model Club" and our name will be inscribed in the lobby of the new building.

Lions Paddy Padmanabhan and Sharon Wilkins received Life Member awards and Lion Pat McNally received a Builder Award from the Saving Sight Foundation (Florida Foundation for the Blind) for their work in the Lions Vision Office.

Two long-serving teams that work year after year with little fanfare or recognition received Lions International vest pins for their work: Lions who served at the Keerl monthly Vision Clinic, on the Eyeglass Recycling Team, and the Preschool Vision Screening Team each received a "Vision" vest pin. Lions who served on the Environmental Team with cleanups along the waterway, public parks, the Urban Forest, Laurel Civic or distributed saplings for Earth Day received "Environment" vest pins.

Lion Sharon Wilkins was awarded a Humanitarian award for her generous assistance to Lions and neighbors who need support and special attention during difficult times.

Lion Mary Billings was awarded the Rising Star award for her excellence with special assignments even while she is a very new Lion.

Lions Bill and Jeannette Davis and Lion Bonnee Hagen all received Progressive Melvin Jones awards for their continued, long-term support of Lions projects with lives that reflect the ethics and values of Lionism.

The Venice Lions Club is fortunate to have so many talented members who continue to serve the club and the community year after year. These Lions and all members have made our club a community treasure. It's GREAT to be a Lion! We SERVE.

# CELEBRATE!



Melissa Burke 07/06  
Jody Fall 07/26  
Jeannette Davis 07/31

Alf and Denise Kirkeeng 07/02  
Sharon and Larry Wilkins 07/28

## Old Betsy Museum



There was a big crowd at the dedication of the new “house” for Old Betsy, the city of Venice’s 1926 fire truck. The speakers gave credit to the Venice Lions Club for its donations to refurbish the fire truck and to fund a bench outside the big window. Lion Pamela enjoys the bench with a plaque recognizing the Venice Lions Club. Even Roarie is immortalized on the picture of Old Betsy during one of the Halloween parades.





Be sure to attend the July 17<sup>th</sup> Lions meeting when we will plan our projects for the 2025-2026 Lions year! We need ideas from all members!

We will have three separate planning groups:

**MANE EVENT.** Lion Judy Rocquin has agreed to be the general chair of the Mane Event! This important event will GO ON! (THANK YOU, JUDY!!) Lion Judy will need a committee to be responsible for each element of the event: the sponsors, the door prizes, decorations, the raffle baskets, etc. This group will decide roles and responsibilities.

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual (?) Dog Walk.** We will set our goal to raise \$5,000 to help a disabled veteran receive a service dog from Dogs, Inc. Lions Jeff Sterne and Tim Werla will be co-chairing this January 24<sup>th</sup> event, but they will need a committee to help with all the details. Dog lovers unite!

**2025-2026 Lions International Global Causes Projects.** Our District 35 I Governor Linda Gregory has given us a list of month-by-month themes that will help us plan familiar projects: hunger, environment, youth and a new one we have not tackled so far: Mental Health.

I am asking that each of our projects be very public so that the community sees Lions in action. Attractive projects help to recruit new members, and we sorely need to increase our numbers. Finally, each team will record their plans on giant flip-chart paper and report to the membership at the end of the meeting. I am excited about this planning session which will allow every member an opportunity to help plan the direction we take in 2025-2026.



## **Lighthouse for the Blind**

Alexandra Elman Foley, CEO of Lighthouse Vision Loss Center, was the speaker in June. She demonstrated the META eyeglasses that describe what the wearer is seeing. The glasses will even read the text of a book, a real game-changer to people with vision loss.

Alex also explained the classes and education that was available at the Lighthouse.



## July Who's Tale?



1. This Venice Lion met Ronald Reagan years ago and has a nice framed picture of the event. Who is it?
2. Which Lion backpacked for 21 days seeing highlights of Europe?
3. Which Lion attended the Woodstock Festival with two friends, sleeping in the car during the long drive from home?



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Interview by Sharon Wilkins

Meet our newest member, Perri Brock. She was originally from Dayton, Ohio but found her way to Nokomis in 2024 where her grandmother has resided for many years. She still has ties to Ohio with siblings and many relatives living in the Cincinnati, Ohio area.

Luckily, Perri and Lion Sean worked together at the Yacht Club, so she heard about our Venice Lions Club. Perri has known about Lions since she was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Her mother organized a "Sight Night" event where trick-or-treating students knocked on doors asking for eyeglasses.

Perri is currently on a new quest as a Health and Wellness Consultant and will soon have her National Certification. Her story of helping people gain healthy life styles, comes from her history of fighting obesity and diabetes (At age 16 she weighed 250 lbs with diabetes looming) Thanks to her father's inspiration, the two of them went on a life changing healthy diet and exercise journey. Perri was able to lose 125 lbs. and get her health on a better path. She cautions that this does not happen overnight but it started her on a healthier journey that she would like to share with others.

## ***What I Did On My Summer Vacation***



Lion Alf took a cross-country trip to visit with family. Pictured are 4 generations with Great-Grandpa Alf after attending his great-granddaughter's graduation.



Lions Rocky and Judy Rocquin are enjoying their cabin on the lake in Canada.



Lion Jeff Sterne spent 4 days selling tickets at a Kentucky Lions Bluegrass Festival

Lions Jeff and Carole Myles vacationed in Rhode Island where Lion Jeff enjoyed taking art photos of the countryside



### ***Think about this:***

A culture of growth is critical to our service and the future of Lions. We are accountable to each other and the community we serve. Success depends on EVERY LION.

If you are proud of our Lions Club, then let other people in our community know. Every member of our club is part of our membership team. JUST ASK ONE.....

## To be ready for a hurricane or other disasters:

- Build an emergency kit with medical supplies.
- Make a family communication plan. Let people know where you will be if you must leave home.
- Start stocking up on water and dried goods **way before** there is a hurricane in the area, also, peanut butter, bread, canned goods, snacks...Do not forget a manual can opener!
- Don't forget to have food, treats and toys for any pets.
- Have on hand extra camping lights, flashlights, and candles. Test your lights beforehand to make sure they are in working order.
- Have a wind up or battery-operated radio.
- Have lots of extra batteries, and a Battery Daddy is great storage for them.
- Make sure that all your cell phones are charged and that you have portable cell phone battery chargers that are fully charged.
- Make sure you have a supply of water for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.
- Fill up coolers with food and water so you don't have to open the refrigerator or freezer. A refrigerator will keep cold items for about 4 hours and a freezer 48 hours if **not** opened after the power goes out.
- Put fuel in all vehicles and have extra full gas cans on hand.
- Have extra propane tanks for grilling or for generator use.
- Withdraw some cash from the bank, gas stations and ATMs may be closed after a hurricane.
- Have on hand games or other things to keep occupied during a storm.
- Purchase a generator and practice using it before you need it.
- Secure your property, bring inside all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that can become a missile hazard.
- Install hurricane shutters or plywood over windows.
- Have a waterproof safe or container to keep your important papers dry
- Keep a photo I.D. that shows your home address. You will need it when asking police if it is okay for you to re-enter your area or home.
- Know your evacuation routes. Locate your local emergency shelters.
- Closely watch/listen to the weather reports. Listening every hour as the storm nears.
- Stay calm and ride it out.

Prepared by Lion Tim Werla, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Disaster Chair  
Venice Lions Club



## Celebrating 2024 – 2025



Our 2025 – 2026 Officers take the oath of office from DG-Elect Linda Gregory.

Present at the Installation to accept their positions:

President Pamela, 1VP Tim, 2VP Judy, Admin Treasurer Barbara, Foundation Treasurer Ed, LCIF Chair Pat, Lion Tamer Bob, Directors Christal, Bonnee, Sean and Paddy



Pres. Pamela ready to start another year



The 2024 – 2025 Environmental Team



The 2024 – 2025 Vision Team



Lion Bonnee received a Progressive Melvin Jones recognition



Celebrating the 2024 – 2025 Lions Year



Lions Bill and Jeannette both received the Progressive Melvin Jones recognition





Lion Mary was recognized as the Club's Rising Star



Lion Sharon received the Club's Humanitarian Award



Lion Pamela presented Lions Barbara and Bev with T-shirts to help members recognized "Who's Who"



Lion Barbara presented the Saving Sight Foundation Awards (formally Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind). Lion Pat received the Builder Award (2<sup>nd</sup> Level) and Lions Paddy and Sharon were recognized with the Life Member Award (1<sup>st</sup> Level) for their work in the Vision Office.

