



OCALA LIONS CLUB

Newsletter

Editor: Diane Renyhart

OFFICERS

President:

Renee E. Thompson

Immediate Past

President:

Barry Fies

1st Vice President:

Diane Renyhart

2nd Vice President:

Garry Adel

3rd Vice President:

John Renyhart

Secretary:

Tricia Evans

Treasurer:

Craig Silverman

Membership

Emily Leithauser

Tail Twister

Andy Pietrzyk

Lion Tamer

Lou Barnes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Club Members and Friends,

As we launch into this exciting new Lions year, it is my great privilege to welcome everyone—long-time members and our newest Ocala Lions, Levar Bruce and Dani Fee, to another exciting year of service, fun and fellowship. I am truly inspired by the energy and commitment I see across our club. With your continued support and enthusiasm, we will carry forward our proud 100-year tradition of service, while creating new opportunities to help those in our community who are in need.

It was great to see that our recent successful White Cane collection raised over \$370.00! Thank you, Lion Diane, for organizing this event and thank you to Lions John & Diane Renyhart, Sharron Albert, Tricia & Jim Evans, Chuck Oliveros, and Chuck Savage for volunteering with the collection. Our ongoing Food 4 Kids deliveries, glasses collection, Kidsight screenings, Silent Santa, and your dedication continue to make a real difference in our community—bringing joy to children, improving sight and hearing, and supporting scholarships. As you may know, plans for the 33rd Jerry Cullison Memorial Golf Tournament are underway, and we hope to have even more participation this year for this annual event. Please help the committee by getting sponsor forms to sponsors.

We are up to 45 followers on our Facebook social media page now. My goal is to get us to 101 in honor of our 101st year. If you are on Facebook, please give our club a follow. We post photos and updates about the club and the work we do in our community. The interaction online has been growing.

Thank you for your Lion spirit and continued commitment. You make a difference every day.

In Service,

Renee E. Thompson

2026-2027 President, Ocala Lions Club

CLUB INFO

Meetings:

Thursdays at Noon

The Alcove

2210 SE 17TH Street

Suite 302

Ocala, FL 34471

UPCOMING MEEETINGS

Programs courtesy of Lion Richard

AUGUST 6: Saving Mercy, Penny Beehler

AUGUST 13: Appleton Museum, Kerry Elkins

AUGUST 20: Business Meeting and Board Meeting

AUGUST 27: Marion County Sheriff's Office, Fellow Lion and
Marion County Sheriff, Billie Woods

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KIDSIGHT

It's time to organize Kidsight screenings for back to school! Thank you very much to all who helped over 800 children get their eyes screened during the 2025-2026 school year.

Screeners are so important in this mission. Please see or contact Kristi Hannen to inquire or volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP

Lion Emily Leithauser is seeking new ideas to increase the membership of our club. She has begun work on the Silent Santa program and would welcome new members to the committee. The budget will remain the same as last year.

Lion Patti Palermo is exploring the idea of purchasing a gift of Christmas pj's for the moms as part of Silent Santa. We have purchased gifts for moms in the past and Patti feels that these moms need some special recognition also.

Emily reminds us that every committee can use help and many hands make light work!

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 33rd annual Jerry Cullison Memorial Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, December 5th at the Ocala Palms Golf and Country Club, 5000 US Highway 27. The Presenting Sponsor is Cullison-Wright Construction and we appreciate their continued support. The tournament is a four person scramble and lunch will be provided by LaCasella Catering.

Funds raised help to bring joy to underprivileged children through our Silent Santa program and to improve sight and hearing through our Kidsight project. The newly purchased Plusoptix cameras screen for lazy eye and other sight disorders. The golf tournament also enables us to sponsor scholarships to participants in the Southeastern Youth Fair as well as scholarships at the College of Central Florida and the University of Florida.

The Ocala Lions Club Charities Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) charity in service to our community. For additional information or to become a sponsor, contact: Lions Garry Adel – 352-895-1084 or Barry Fies – 352-362-7713.

Save the Date: Saturday, December 5, 2026



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WHITE CANE DAY



Our White Cane collection took place on Saturday, July 18th at the Publix on Park View Road. A special thank you to Lions Sharron Albert, Tricia & Jim Evans, Chuck Oliveros, and Chuck Savage for their help. The manager and staff at the Publix was wonderful to us.

We raised a total of \$370.00 and met some very nice customers who shared stories about how the Lions Club has helped them and their families. The money raised will go for vision and hearing charities.

FOOD 4 KIDS

Lion Jerry Wieland collected food and other donations at the July 2nd meeting and delivered it to Food 4 Kids at Interfaith Emergency Services. The Ocala Lions Club was recognized in an article in the Interfaith Emergency Services entitled "Growing the Pack" by Dani Fee as a new community partner.

Did you know that a \$25 donation can feed a child in the Food 4 Kids program for a month!

NEW WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

Our new Boxed Lunches offer a variety of choices for \$15 and include chips, macaroni salad, fruit and a cookie with a choice of:

Ham & Cheese
Turkey & Provolone
Chicken Salad Croissant
Roast Beef & Swiss
Vegetarian
Gluten Free Option

Place your order for the next week at the end of the current week's meeting or contact Tricia with your order by Monday at noon. The Orders are submitted to the caterer on Monday by noon for the meeting that week. Tea, lemonade and water will also be served.

A special thank to Tricia for managing this new lunch program and to Patty McQueen at LaCasella Catering for working with us.



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

How can you HELP our club? Volunteer your talent and experience to:

Diabetes Screening (Sue Hoagland) 863-221-9656

Golf Tournament (Garry Adel) 352-895-1084

Kidsight Screening (Kristi Hannen) 813-382-0783

Membership (Emily Leithauser) 352-817-2765

S.E. Youth Fair (Bill Thomas) 352-615-8090

Silent Santa (Emily Leithauser) 352-817-2765

White Cane Day (Diane Renyhart) 352-789-5180

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/18 Linda Thomas

8/19 Frank Lawson

8/23 Michael Rutledge

8/23 Chuck Savage

Happy
Birthday



CLUB PHOTOS

July Program:
Sheltering Hands,
Inc., April Lesage



July Program:
Project Hope, April
Williams McDonald



July Program:
GWFC Women's Club
of Ocala, Debbie Ivey



Ocala Lions Club- We Serve - Proudly serving Ocala, Marion County since 1926

P.O. Box 801 Ocala, FL 34478 | evanstricia1@gmail.com

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NEWS FROM LIONS INTERNATIONAL



The new calendar year for the International Lions Club began on July 1, 2026. The new President of the International Lions Club is Lion Mark S. Lyon. He was elected at the 108th International Convention in Hong Kong, China.

Mark is from the Brookfield Lions Club in Connecticut and has been a member since 1996. He believes that “Lions are at their best when we unite in service and leadership to strengthen our communities and support people in need.” His theme for his presidential year is “Rooted in Service.” There is a video expressing Mark’s goals and service on Lions Clubs International Official Website.

CUBBY’S TRAVELS

Cubby enjoyed a trip to Scandinavia for two weeks in June and July with Lions John & Diane Renyhart. He traveled by plane, boat, ferry and bus and made friends along the way as he visited Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

At the Grand Hotel in Oslo the Concierge, Jaume Arisa, was able to call Lion Morton Bjerke, the President of Norway District IO4E. We spoke with him and we left one of the Ocala Lions Club 100 Year Anniversary pins with the Concierge for the President to pick up. President Bjerke said that he looked forward to meeting us at a future International Lions Convention. The 2027 Convention will be in Washington, DC so it may happen!

Cubby at the
Grand Hotel, Oslo



Cubby meeting the pilot
in Frankfurt, Germany



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THIRD THURSDAY'S CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The tax free holiday for school supplies is July 20-Aug 20. The Arnette House can use school supplies at any time, so we have a joint Sept 3rd Thursday for school supplies AND Saving Mercy, so you can start shopping for school items soon. Saving Mercy can use any items that you might imagine one would need to set up a household... more later. Suggested school supplies: #2 pencils, markers, crayons. Construction paper, notebooks, binders, loose leaf paper, pens, pocket folders, notebooks, binders, blunt tip scissors, and, of course, backpacks.

Thanks so much for helping the Arnette House kids and the needy at Saving Mercy...
Lion Marilyn

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

PDG Jerry Skufe swears-in new club members Levar Bruce and Dani Fee

≡Welcome≡



The first inductions of the new calendar year took place on Thursday, July 16, 2026. Our new President, Lion Renee Thompson, welcomed Levar Bruce sponsored by Lou Barnes and Dani Fee sponsored by Lion Diane Renyhart. PDG Jerry Skufe* inducted the new members and encouraged them to work toward achieving the Governor's Award. He said that it is a wonderful way to become active in the Ocala Lions Club.

*PDG Lion Jerry Skufe received the honor of Life Membership from the St. Augustine Club and received the Lion of the Year from our club. He is a very special Lion!

PRE-OWNED GLASSES CAMPAIGN

Lion Lou Barnes shares June's monthly report and the report for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This is a summary:

June Monthly:

Glasses 1,303 Cases 420

Fiscal Year:

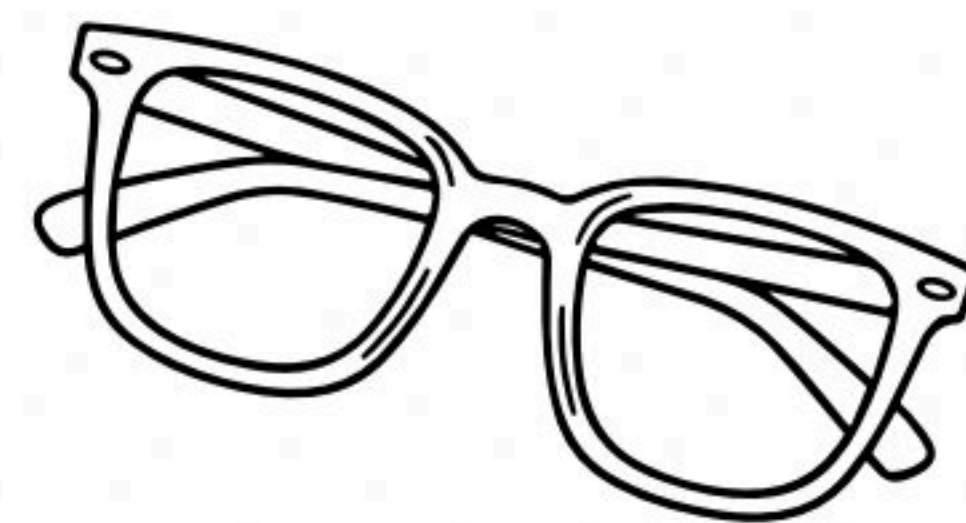
Glasses 9,641 Cases 3,785

Donated glasses in Ocala:

Interfaith 1,600

Thrift Shops 800

Mission trips by various churches: 32,000



The donation to churches includes reading glasses and sunglasses donated to VOSH from other Lions Clubs as well as the Ocala Lions Club. Additionally VOSH has shipped over 40,000 new glasses internationally. Incredible!

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