



YEARS OF SERVICE
OCALA LIONS CLUB

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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 step into a brand-new Lions year, it is my privilege to get to welcome each of you to this exciting chapter in our club's history. Whether you are a long-time Lion or a newer member, your presence and dedication make our club stronger and more vibrant.

This year holds special significance as we celebrate 100 years of service as the Ocala Lions Club in the Marion County community. One hundred years of service, friendship, and impact in our community is an incredible milestone! From our earliest days to today, generations of Ocala Lions have lived by the motto "We Serve," and that legacy continues with each and every one of us.

There is no better way to honor our 100-year legacy than by continuing to serve with compassion, energy, and purpose. Together, we will build on the outstanding foundation laid by the past 100 presidents and their members, and we will create new memories and new successes that future Lions will celebrate in the coming century.

This year we will be holding our meetings at a new location, The Alcove, so please plan to join us for lunch at our new location on 17th Street, near Laurel Run. Meetings will start at noon. So that you are aware, we plan to use our third Thursdays for a shorter business-only meeting, followed by our monthly board meeting right after.

Thank you for your continued dedication and Lion spirit. I look forward to seeing all the great things we will accomplish together this year!

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

JULY 2: Marion County Veterans Services, Steve Jacobs

JULY 9: Sheltering Hands, Inc., April Lesage

JULY 16: Business Meeting and Board Meeting

JULY 23: Project Hope, April McDonald

JULY 30: TBA

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KIDSIGHT

It was a busy year for the Ocala Lions Club Kidsight Program organized by Lion Kristi Hannen with scheduling help from Peter Palermo and deliveries by Tricia & Jim Evans. Our club purchased two new Plusoptix cameras this year and they were a great addition. There were 17 screening volunteers who gave of their time as much as possible. The program ran from September through May and 34 schools participated. 842 children were screened and there were 96 referrals. Thank you to everyone involved.

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Leithauser has been busy encouraging recruitment of new members. She helps to coordinate the greeter's table and sends thank you notes to guest speakers including a copy of our 100-year history. Emily notes that there are a lot of materials about the Lions Club to hand out to friends, relatives and neighbors. Another helpful hint to recruit new members is to ask single people who might enjoy our activities and volunteering and people that you do business with. If anyone has any questions or would like to join the membership committee and help us reach out, contact Emily Leithauser.



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Our first Induction of the new program year will be at the July 16th meeting. PDG Jerry Skufe will induct Dani Fee who is sponsored by Diane Renyhart. Dani is the Food 4 Kids manager at IES and assists our club with donations on the first Friday of the month. The Program serves over 1500 children with backpacks filled with enough food for each child in the household to have six weekend meals. The program's goal is to increase the number of school children that are being served.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our annual Jerry Cullison Memorial Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, December 5th. It will again be held at the Ocala Palms Golf & Country Club. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we encourage members to help with the event. Sponsors are needed and you can become a sponsor by donating \$250, \$500 or \$1,000. Garry Adel is the chairperson and will have sponsorship forms available at meetings. Money raised will go to the scholarships we sponsor and our programs including Silent Santa and Kidsight. The funds are also used to support 9 different organizations that specialize in vision and hearing issues. Our club can be very proud of the funds that are raised for these charities.



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LIONS CLUB INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

The Ocala Lions Club held its 101st Installation of officers and awards banquet on June 18th. The event took place at the Empath Health/Hospice of Marion County's Elliot Center. Lions Bob Cabbage at the baby grand piano and singer Bill Thomas provided the entertainment. The dinner was catered by La Casella Catering.

Outgoing President Barry Fies presided over the event and Lions Susan Oliva and Helen Anderson from the Ocala 200 Lions Club swore in the new officers. Serving this year will be President - Renee 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, Lion Tamer - Lou Barnes, Tail Twister - Andy Pietrzyk, and Membership - Emily Leithauser. Directors will include Jim Evans, Chuck Savage, Marilyn Hinds, Bill Thomas, Garry Adel and Past District Governor Jerry Skufe.

For their commitment to meeting the humanitarian needs both here in Ocala and around the world, Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards went to Lions Tricia Evans and Diane Renyhart. For their outstanding service to the club and community during its 100th Year Celebration, Lions Garry Adel and Jerry Skufe were presented Lions of the Year Awards.

In her acceptance speech, President Renee Thompson noted the significance of the Club's 100 years of service to the Marion County community. She said that it is an incredible milestone and that our members will continue to live by the motto "We Serve". President Thompson looks forward to building on the outstanding foundation laid by the past 100 presidents and their members.

The Ocala Lions Club will hold its meetings at a new location beginning on Thursday, July 2nd. Meetings will be held every Thursday at the Alcove located at 2210 17th Street near Laurel Run from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. For further information about the work of the Ocala Lions Club and its membership opportunities, please contact Lion Emily Leithauser at 352-817-2765.



Our 2026 Melvin Jones
Fellows:
Lion Diane Renyhart and
Lion Tricia Evans



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THIRD THURSDAY'S CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The 3rd Thursday's Charitable Donations began in October of 2020 at the suggestion of Tricia Evans. The program has helped the poor and needy of Marion County through its contributions at least 60 times!

Lion Marilyn Hinds is now the dedicated leader of the program. This past year we contributed to Brother's Keeper twice, SoZo's Kids, College Park needy families at Thanksgiving, Silent Santa kids for Christmas, The Arc, Wear Gloves which helps the homeless, the Marion County Animal Shelter & Humane Society, and the grand finale baby shower for the Alpha Center.

Marilyn Hinds and Joe Sowa are already planning a Lion's Teddy Bear collection for the Kimberly Center for abused & neglected children. It is something that Marilyn's late husband Tom would have loved. She thanks the club members for their tremendous generosity.



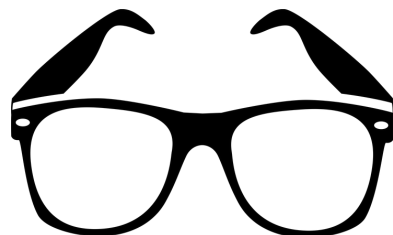
PRE-OWNED GLASSES CAMPAIGN

Lion Lou Barnes continues to turn in data on the collection and distribution of pre-owned glasses. The results are amazing! This is a summary:

Collected in Ocala Glasses 8,338 Cases 3,365
Donated in Ocala 1,700

International donations include glasses collected in Ocala plus other Lions Clubs:

Guatemala 4,000
Uganda 2,200
Peru 7,900
Nigeria 200
Cuba 2,500



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WHITE CANE DAY



Lions Club White Cane Day raises awareness about the white cane, a symbol of independence for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Our next White Cane Day will take place on **Saturday, July 18th** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Publix on Park View Road off Maricamp.

If you are interested in volunteering for an hour or two, please see John or Diane Renyhart. The money that is raised goes for vision and hearing charities.

IN MEMORY OF RUSSELL E. BAILLIE

A treasured lifetime member of the Ocala Lions Club has passed. Russell Baillie proudly served as our president and club member. He exemplified the Lions' motto, "We Serve" through his community service and helping others and was a Melvin Jones Fellow. Memorial contributions may be made in Russell's name to the David Baillie Scholarship Fund, established in memory of Russell's father, David Baillie. His father also served as an Ocala Lions Club President.

The Scholarship Fund, established by the Ocala Lions Club, supports students pursuing degrees in agriculture. The members of our Club have annually volunteered to serve as judges at the Youth Fair held at the Livestock Pavilion. The Scholarship is awarded at the event each year.

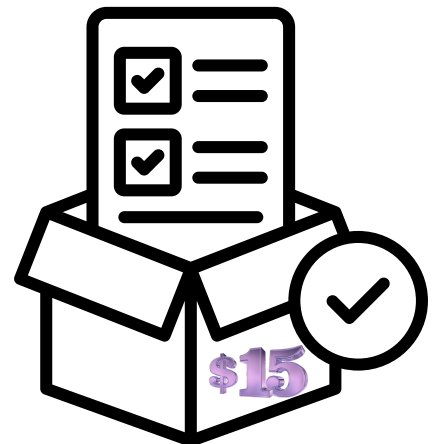
NEW WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

New Lunch Menu for Weekly Meetings – Boxed Lunches are \$15.00

The lunch includes 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.



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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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/04 Patti Palermo

7/08 David Oliver

7/10 Victor Perry

7/15 Ben Poole

7/17 Lou Barnes

7/19 Tricia Evans

7/28 Bill Thomas

7/31 Craig Silverman

Happy
Birthday



CLUB PHOTOS

June Meeting



Our Newest Member: Cubby



Lions Diane and John delivering donations for Food 4 Kids



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

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