



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

KidSight

Kristi Hannen

Tail Twister

Andy Pietrzyk

Lion Tamer

Lou Barnes

CLUB INFO

Meetings:

Thursdays at Noon
The Alcove
2210 SE 17TH Street
Suite 302
Ocala, FL 34471

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Club Members and Friends:

We are excited to launch our new website, ocalalions.com. Please visit our site and take a look around, and then share it. Let the community see what we already know: service has a name, and it is the Ocala Lions.

This past month really helped us get our programs up and running for the year. KidSight began on September 14, where Lions Kristi Hannen and Andy Pozzuto screened the first children of the school year. More schools are waiting, so if you can give a morning to help, please tell Lion Kristi. We are excited some of the other local Lions clubs are also considering joining our volunteer efforts.

Lion Dani and her volunteers are packing food for kids who would otherwise go without. Lions Lou and Natalia keep our glasses collection campaign moving. Silent Santa is gathering under Lion Emily with a kickoff the first Thursday in October. The 33rd Jerry Cullison Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, December 5 at Ocala Palms will help fund Silent Santa, KidSight, and our scholarships. Help us find sponsors and teams to make that possible.

Two dates to put on the calendar: October 15th: White Cane Safety Day and we will be at Bonefish Grill's Give Back Night at 4701 SW College Road. Wear your vest. Also save December 10th: for our annual Christmas Dinner at the Elliott Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Come enjoy a festive evening with your fellow Lions.

This past month we welcomed Lion April Williams-McDonald as a new member, inducted by Immediate Past President Barry Fies. Many of us already knew April through Project Hope and now she has joined us officially. Welcome, April!

Congratulations to Lions Herb Drum and Patti Palermo on their Membership Key Awards, and to the eleven members who received service chevrons from IPDC Suzi Rodgers. Those honors are not just decorations, but they are a record of showing up as Lions. Service is why we belong here, thank you for showing up for our club.

In Service,
Renee E. Thompson
2026-2027 President, Ocala Lions Club

UPCOMING MEETINGS

OCTOBER 1: VIP Care, John Snyder

OCTOBER 8: Marion County Roadway Design, Don Watson

OCTOBER 15: Business Meeting and Board Meeting

OCTOBER 22: Data Centers, Commissioner Michelle Stone

OCTOBER 29: Dogs for Patriots, Arlene and Ken West

Programs courtesy of Lions
Richard, Patti and Diane

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KIDSIGHT

Lions Kristi Hannen and Andy Pozzuto did the first screenings of the new school year on Monday, September 14th and it was great fun. They even did 2 one-year olds.

Thank you to all who have helped fill in the October screenings. There are still opportunities to join the screeners. Ask Kristi how you can be part of this important Lions mission.

The volunteer screeners who have signed up so far include: Sharron Albert, Scott Cross, Lee Ann Endicott, Barry Fies, Kristi Hannen, Marilyn Hinds, David Lee, Andy Pozzuto, Diane Renyhart, John Renyhart, Carol Savage, Chuck Savage and Jerry Wieland. Additional screeners are needed as the number of schools has increased in October.

FOOD 4 KIDS

Our club continues to bring food and cash donations to the IES Food for Kids Program. The food is carefully organized by Lion Dani Fee and her staff and volunteers distribute the backpacks on the weekend. We are proud to be part of the "Growing the Pack" program that provides nutritious food to the children.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

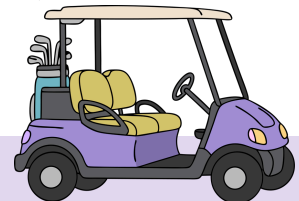
The 33rd annual Jerry Cullison Memorial Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, December 5th at the Ocala Palms Golf and Country Club, 5000 US Highway 27. The Presenting Sponsor is Cullison-Wright Construction and we appreciate their continued support.

The golf tournament is the major source of funding for the many charities and programs that our club supports. Our Silent Santa program brings joy to underprivileged children with gifts at the holidays and our Kidsight program screens preschoolers for lazy eye and other sight disorders. The golf tournament also provides us with funds to sponsor scholarships for participants in the Southeastern Youth Fair as well as scholarships at the College of Central Florida and the University of Florida.

Team form sign-ups for the golf tournament are now available. Please be sure to share the forms with family, friends and colleagues. Remind them that a free pancake breakfast and lunch are included and there are prizes for winning teams. We will also be raffling off a 4-foot Vermont Teddy Bear complete with his red bow tie!

The Ocala Lions Club Charities Foundation, Inc. is a 501c(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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THANK YOU LETTERS

Ocala Lions Club received thank you letters from the Florida Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Foundation, Dogs, Inc. and Lions Diabetes Awareness for our recent donations to their programs.

CLUB EXCELLENCE 2026-2027

This year we are working to achieve the International Lions “Club of Excellence Award”. We last received the award in 2009-2010. Lion Diane Renyhart reviewed the requirements for the award at the September 17th meeting.

The Weeks of Service are back as a requirement this year. We are encouraged to get everyone involved in our service projects during these 3 key weeks – VISION – October 8-18, 2026, YOUTH – February 13-21, 2027 and ENVIRONMENT – May 29-June 6, 2027.

Our Kidsight program fits well into the VISION Week of Service. We can continue screening preschoolers each month and also look for ways to do additional screenings in the community.

There is a special fundraiser planned in October at the Bonefish Grill in Ocala. The date of October 15th is being recognized internationally as “White Cane Safety Day”.

The Bonefish Grill at 4701 SW College Road will hold a “Give Back Night” on October 15th and donate a percentage of net sales during set hours to our club for our White Cane Day fund. You can enjoy dinner at the Bonefish Grill and encourage family and friends to dine. Be sure to wear your Lions Club vest or shirt.

CUBBY AND CUBBY JR.'S TRAVELS

Lions Garry Adel and Diane Renyhart took Cubby to visit Lion Jim Hall at Bridgewater and presented him with his chevron for dedicated service to the Lions Club. Both Garry and Jim have each served as Lions for 40 years!



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THIRD THURSDAY'S CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Saving Mercy was so appreciative of our recent Lion's donation. We had virtually 3 carloads of items to help furnish their apartments and duplexes. Yesterday I took over \$60 worth of school supplies for the kids at Arnette House.

Our October 3rd Thursday will be for the Kimberly Center Children... more information about their needs will be forthcoming. Thanks to all for your contributions! Lion Marilyn

PRE-OWNED GLASSES CAMPAIGN



Lion Lou Barnes reported: Glasses and cases collected for the Ocala Lions Club – Glasses 627 Cases 374

Local Donations: Interfaith 460 Project Hope 50

Brothers Keeper 120 County Jail 60

International Mission Trip to Honduras 100

NEWS FROM LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Membership Key Awards recognize individual Lions who invite and sponsor new members. Lions Herb Drum and Patti Palermo were presented with Key Pins by President Renee Thompson in September. Their enthusiasm for spreading the work of the club is helping our numbers to grow and we congratulate them!

IPDG Suzi Rodgers sent chevrons to 11 of our members in September. The awards recognize the years of dedicated service to the Ocala Lions Club and the unwavering commitment to serving others and making a difference in our community through Lionism.

Awards were presented to Lions Garry Adel, Scott Cross, Bob Cubbage, Nathan Garcia, Jim Hall, Frank Lawson, Ben Poole, Andy Pozzuto, Billy Rodgers, Bob Ruddick, and Ted Warner.

Ocala Lions Club also received a letter from the Plains Lions Club in Plains, PA. Lion Steve Friedman is a member of the club and a philatelist (stamp collector). He read about the Ocala Lions Club in the March issue of Linn's Stamp News and of Florida's postmark celebrating our 100th Anniversary and efforts to help children's vision.

Lion John Renyhart responded to Lion Steve and sent him one of our caches and also explained the process for creating it. We can be very proud of the work that went into the cache and that it is now an important part of our club's history.

Lion Steve sent a 2-page letter to our club that describes the work that went into our cache and also the 100-Year History of our club. A copy of Lion Steve's letter will be placed in our 100th Year Celebration materials and we appreciate the help that Lion John (who is also a Philatelist) provided to him.

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MEMBERSHIP

The Silent Santa program is underway and Lion Emily Leithauser is again chairing the committee. The groups that we have served in previous years are being contacted and volunteers are needed to assist. Please be aware that we do not contribute bikes, electrical items or very expensive items.

Our lists from last year will help our volunteers to complete the new lists for this year. Then the shopping begins and our members are great at getting this job done by the middle of November. We complete this entire activity by the first of December. Something new is giving the moms a little gift for Christmas also. Lions Patti Palermo and Emily Leithauser are already working on this new project. Silent Santa is a fun and rewarding activity for our club.

Please join the committee for a meeting the first Thursday in October to get organized. A special thank you to all of our members who did a great job last year!

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



Our newest Lion, April Williams-McDonald was inducted into the Ocala Lions Club on September 10th by Immediate Past President Barry Fies. April was proudly sponsored by President Renee Thompson and was also a guest speaker at our July 23rd meeting on Project Hope.

**Mark your Calendars: Our Annual Christmas Dinner will be
Thursday, December 10, 2026
at the Elliott Center from 6-8 pm. More Details to Follow.**



LCIF DONATION

Our club made a \$1,000 donation to LCIF for the Venezuelan Disaster Fund in August. The people of Venezuela are continuing to work on rebuilding and recovering.

WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

Our 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, or Gluten Free Option

Tea, lemonade and water will also be served. Contact Tricia by noon Monday.



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NEW WEBSITE



A special thank you to President Renee Thompson for creating the new Ocala Lions Club website. The link is ocalalions.com. Be sure to share this site with others to spread the news about the work that we are doing in our club. We need to encourage new members to join us so that this work will continue.

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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 David Shashy

10/2 Jim Hilty

10/6 Bob Ruddick

10/9 Jeremy Powers

10/17 Jim Evans

10/23 Jim Hall

Happy
Birthday

CLUB PHOTOS

September Program:
Lotus Marion, Brittany
Cecil



September Program:
CEO of CEP Matt McCormick &
Marion County School
Superintendent Danielle Brewer



September Program:
Dawn Westgate,
Kimberly's Center

