



YEARS OF SERVICE
OCALA LIONS CLUB

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

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,

August was a busy and productive month for the Ocala Lions and I am so proud of the work of our members. Five of our members represented the club at the District Cabinet Meeting in Jacksonville, FL, where we participated in the Parade of Checks and presented donations supporting important causes like Leader Dogs, Lions Saving Sight, the Florida Center for the Blind, and several others. It was wonderful to have such a great turnout at a district meeting. Closer to home, Lion Lou Barnes reported an outstanding August glasses collection of 784 pairs and 355 cases. It really is amazing to see these kinds of collection numbers and it is a powerful reminder that every pair of glasses we collect helps someone see the world more clearly.

We also had the honor of supporting two Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. Lions John and Diane Renyhart presented awards to Joseph Bova, and Lion Alan May and Connie May presented awards to Donovan McNeish. All of these accomplishments make us Lions proud. It is also moments like these remind us that service is not only about what we give, but about the example we set for the next generation.

Looking ahead, KidSight is gaining strong momentum. Lion Dani Fee has already contacted nine local preschools to schedule vision screenings, and we are looking for additional screeners. Please let Lion Kristi Hannen, who has now joined our board, know if you can help. Finally, our annual golf tournament is approx. 100 days away on Dec. 5th at Ocala Palms Golf & Country Club, and we need sponsors.

Service is the heart of what we do as Lions. When we show up for one another and for our community, we strengthen both.

Thank you for your dedication and Lion spirit. It is a privilege to serve with you.

In Service,

Renee E. Thompson

2026-2027 President, Ocala Lions Club

UPCOMING MEEETINGS

Programs courtesy of Lions
Richard, Patti and Diane

SEPTEMBER 3: Kimberly's Center, Dawn Westgate

SEPTEMBER 10: Marion Superintendent Dr. Danielle Brewer

SEPTEMBER 17: Business Meeting (Diane Renyhart on Club Excellence) and Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 24: Lotus Marion, Briittany Cecil

OCALA LIONS CLUB NEWSLETTER

KIDSIGHT

Lion Kristi Hannen announced that Lion Dani Fee will be making the phone calls to schedule screening appointments at local preschools. She has contacted nine schools so far. Please contact Lion Kristi Hannen if you would like to help out as a screener.



MEMBERSHIP

Lion Emily Leithauser encourages new members to become involved in our club's projects. If you chair a committee, ask the member if they would like to help. If you see our guest speakers sitting by themselves, please join them. It will give you the opportunity to learn more about their work and needs. You can also share the work that our Club is involved in.

Lion Emily sends out thank you letters to all of our guest speakers. She includes the page from our 100th Anniversary Program that shows all that the Ocala Lions Club does for our community and she invites the speakers to join us.

Our District Governor George Niles also announced Club Membership Goals:

1) Increasing Your Club growth by 5 Members by June 30th, 2) Sponsoring a Club Branch by September 30th, or 3) Sponsor a New Club by December 30th.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

As we start September there are approximately 100 days until the 33rd annual Jerry Cullison Memorial Golf Tournament to be held on December 5th. The Tournament will take place 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 a pancake breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Sponsor sheets are available at our meetings and they explain how funds raised support many of the projects that we do with children and adults in our community.

The more money we raise through the Golf Tournament, the more programs we can provide. Please encourage people to form teams and join us for a day of fun!

For additional information or to become a sponsor, contact: Lions Garry Adel at 352-895-1084 or Barry Fies at 352-362-7713.



Save the Date: Saturday, December 5, 2026

OCALA LIONS CLUB NEWSLETTER

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR



The Ocala Lions Club continues to support our local Boy Scouts as they complete work on their Eagle Scout Award. Achieving the Eagle Scout rank is no small feat. This is the highest attainable rank in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and represents years of dedication, perseverance, and commitment.

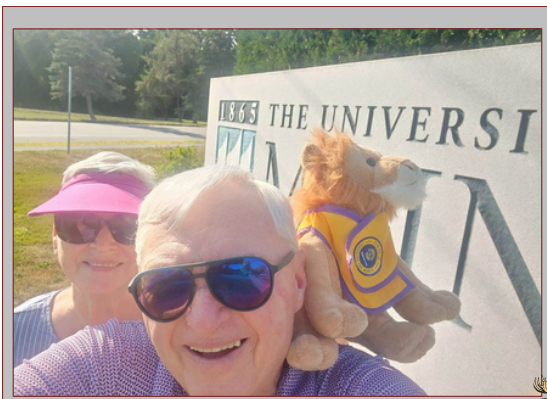
Two Eagle Scout Courts of Honor were held in Ocala in July and August. The first recipient was Eagle Scout Joseph Bova from Troup 574 on July 25, 2026. The ceremony took place at the 1st United Methodist Church in Dunnellon. Lions John and Diane Renyhart represented our Club and presented Joseph with the Eagle Scout neckerchief, certificates and letters from the Ocala Lions Club, Lions International and the Elks Lodge and a small American flag. The symbolism of the flag is shared and this is especially meaningful in our country's 250th Anniversary.

The second recipient was Eagle Scout Donovan McNeish on August 8, 2026 at the Knights of Columbus Christopher Hall. Lion Alan May and his wife Connie, who are leaders in the Boy Scouts Program, presented Donovan with the Eagle Scout neckerchief, certificates and letters from the Ocala Lions Club, Lions International and the Elks Lodge and the small American flag. They shared the symbolism of the flag and what it continues to represent.

Both Eagle Scouts completed service projects as part of the requirements for the award. Joseph Bova created a butterfly garden in his community and Donovan McNeish converted a pavilion into a storage building for the Arnette House.

CUBBY AND CUBBY JR.'S TRAVELS

Cubby headed to Maine this past month with Lions Barry and Leanne and our new member, Cubby Jr., flew to Europe, touring Spain and France with Lions Marilyn and Patti. What an adventure!



Cubby with Lions LeeAnn and Barry at the University of Maine



Cubby with our Past President at Bar Harbor Inn in Maine



Cubby Jr. with Lions Marilyn and Patti in Barcelona touring Sagrada Familia

OCALA LIONS CLUB NEWSLETTER

THIRD THURSDAY'S CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Lion Marilyn Hinds reminds members that we will be having a joint September 3rd Thursday collection for Arnette House and Saving Mercy on September 17th. Arnette House is in need of school supplies including: #2 pencils, markers, crayons, notebooks and binders. Saving Mercy can use any items that you might imagine one would need to set up a household. Thanks so much for helping the Arnette House kids and the needy at Saving Mercy...Lion Marilyn

PRE-OWNED GLASSES CAMPAIGN



Lion Lou Barnes reported on the glasses collected during the month of August:

Glasses – 784

Cases – 355



DISTRICT 35L CABINET MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2026 HOSTED BY THE JACKSONVILLE ARLINGTON LIONS CLUB

Five members of the Ocala Lions Club attended the District Cabinet Meeting –Sharron Albert, Lou Barnes, Levar Bruce, Diane Renyhart and PDG Jerry Skufe. New District Officers were introduced – District Governor George Niles, IVDG-Susan Oliva, 2VDG – John Hopkins,

The Parade of Checks took place. Ocala Lions Club presented their checks to PDG Tony Stefanowicz. A special thank you to our Treasurer Craig Silverman and Secretary Tricia Evans for facilitating this.

Ocala Lions Club August 2026 Donations

1. Leader Dogs for the Blind - \$250
2. Lions Saving Sight - \$500
3. Dogs, Inc. - \$250
4. The Beauty of Sight Foundation - \$500
5. Lions Diabetes Awareness - \$250
6. Florida Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Foundation - \$250
7. Conklin Davis Center - \$250
8. Lions Quest - \$500
9. Florida Center for the Blind - \$500



As part of the meeting, there were tours of the Jacksonville Eye & Hearing Clinic. Those who took the tour were very impressed with the facility and the Lions who volunteer their service.

OCALA LIONS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FOOD 4 KIDS

The Food 4 Kids program is again offering new backpacks and food to the 500 children participating in the program. The backpacks provide the children with a reliable source for receiving their weekend meals. The cost of each backpack is \$21.50 and donations are appreciated by the program staff.

Our Lions Club is continuing to collect food on the first Thursday of the month to support the program. We are very proud to be a member of the “Be Part of the Pack” partners. It is so special to deliver the food and cash donations to the IES storeroom and see the shelves filled with food supplies for the children. We know that we are helping the students to learn and grow and stay healthy.

**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.**



NEWS FROM LIONS INTERNATIONAL

The latest issue of the LION SUMMER 2026 MAGAZINE arrived and featured International President Mark Lyon on the cover. The magazine article on page 17 introduces the new president. He feels that “with every act of service, we grow stronger, reach farther and help our communities thrive. Service is the foundation of Lions. It’s who we are and what we do. Our roots run deep – stretching far and wide to build lasting connections and strengthen our world.” EVERY TIME WE SERVE, OUR ROOTS GROW STRONGER AND DEEPER. In the magazine’s MISSION MOMENT, Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Club shared their Club’s 5 Tips for Growth: 1) Partner with other community groups. Working together can help your club have a bigger impact and reach more people. 2) Promote your club. Share your story so others can see what your club does. 3) Use your club’s strengths. Put your skills, connections and resources where they can do the most good. 4) Listen to your community. Let local needs guide your service and shape your next steps. and 5) Connect with schools. Projects like the Peace Poster Contest, scholarships and KidSight screenings can help you build strong school partnerships.

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.



OCALA LIONS CLUB NEWSLETTER



WEEKS OF SERVICE 2026-2027

Participating in and reporting your service counts toward our Club Excellence Award criteria! This years scheduled focus areas and dates from Lions Club International are: VISION–October 8-18, 2026; YOUTH–February 13-21, 2027; ENVIRONMENT – May 29- June 6, 2027. Learn more at lionsclubs.org/weeks-of-service.

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/08 Paul Ventresca

9/13 Andy Pozzuto

9/14 John Renyhart

9/17 Bob Hightower

9/23 Ted Warner

9/27 Linda Caldwell

9/27 Michael Marks de Martino

Happy
Birthday

CLUB PHOTOS

August Program:
Saving Mercy



August Program:
Marion County
Sheriff Billy Woods



Meet Our New
Member, Cubby Jr.



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

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