

Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions LOWDOWN

Volume 40 | Number 10 | May 2025



www.lowlioness.org

President's Corner

By Darcy Jennings LOW Lioness Lions President

Ahh May... a busy month: May Day, National Chocolate Parfait Day (May 1), Cinco de Mayo, Star Wars Day (May 4), Mother's Day (May 11), Lucky Penny Day (May 23) and, of course, Memorial Day (May 26) to start our summer. All you Mighty Lionesses will be busy too!

A big thank you goes to Barbara and other past presidents on filling next year's board positions. Some new to the board will learn a great deal about the operations of our Lioness Club.

A second thank you to Heidi for her relentless work on creating and finalizing the new, updated version of our Constitution and By-Laws. And to our amazing former Lioness, Brigitte Still, who moved to California, but did ALL the revisions.

On to business: Our big yard sale is Saturday, May 10. Many of you have signed up for one of the shifts, even the EARLY one at 6:30AM. Thank you! This is a big fundraiser for our foundation budget. Please keep cleaning out your treasures, pricing them if you have time. My garage is open to anyone who would like to get those items out of their house. Just call me, Darcy, at 703-772-2080, and I'll open my garage for you.

Many of you have enlisted neighbors and other groups to keep donating plastic bags. The LGA and the stitching group have been very active in helping us get to our 1000-pound goal. If you would like to have a small job assisting in this process, please let me know.

Happy May! Keep your attitudes and actions positive. Making someone else smile is always a gift. And keep on Serving!

What Shall I Bring to this Month's Meeting?

Annual dues will be accepted at the May and June meetings and are \$85 this year. Please find more information about this on page 7.

Here's a fun pic of an outing to one of our supporters - Sweet Vines Farm Winery!



Such happy, lovely Lionesses!!!

What will I find inside this LOWDOWN?

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The Insider's View

Minutes from the Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 5:30pm at B. Tomayko's home

BOD meeting called to order by **President** Darcy Jennings at 5:35PM

Present: **President:** Darcy Jennings; **Secretary:** Gloria Bishop Oliveri; **Foundation Treasurer:** Loretta Lafley; **Administrative Treasurer:** Beth Newton; **1st Vice President:** Heidi Brown; **2nd Vice President:** Teresa Wisniewski; **Tamers:** Mary Lou Ambrose, Linda Corsones; **Directors:** Mary Lou Ambrose, Ellen Bearden, Nicki Buell and Claire Donohoe; **Immediate Past President:** Barbara Tomayko

Absent: **3rd Vice President:** Arlene Rich; **Tail Twister:** Nicole Pappas; **Membership:** Cindy Coover

Secretary's Report: Gloria Bishop Oliveri

1. **Motion** to approve Minutes from the **March 27, 2025**, which were previously submitted.
Motion made by Darcy Jennings and seconded by Barbara Tomayko. **Motion** passed.
2. **Monthly Reports** from Committee Chairs for: **March 2025**
PS=3,856 L=178 H=748 \$= \$14,304.00*
***Book Sale:** \$261.00; **50/50:** \$61.00; **Director's Outing:** \$85.00; **Mardi Gras:** \$12,697.00;
Safe House: Donated luggage valued at \$1,200.00
3. **Old Business**
 - a. Judy Pendergrass, sponsored by Rosemary Butcher, was approved by the BOD on December 19, 2024, and will be inducted at our May dinner meeting.
 - b. **Medicine Bottles Fundraiser:** As of January 2025, we had 97 active members. So far we have collected 58 bottles so I'm hoping BOD have brought at least 39 or more bottles to reach our goal. **Update:** We surpassed our goal of 97. **Final count: 118 bottles.** Thank you, Lionesses for your support!
4. BOD Minutes: The new LOWDOWN editor(s) reminded all of us to submit announcements, articles etc., no later than the 20th of the month. Since our board meetings are always held on the 4th Thursday of each month, minutes will only be submitted to the executive board for approval and a quick turnaround.

Treasurer's Report (Foundation) for March 2025: Loretta Lafley

1. **Total Receipts:** \$9,874.60
2. **Total Expenses:** \$12,227.30
3. **Adjusted Bank balance:** \$85,822.24
4. **Savings Balance:** \$10,222.62
5. Loretta presented the 2025-2026 proposed budget for review and will submit final draft for board approval before presenting to membership.

Treasurer's Report (Administrative) for March 2025: Beth Newton

1. **Total Income:** \$3,995.00
2. **Total Expenses:** \$2,228.58
3. **Account Balance:** \$20,096.06

President's Report: Darcy Jennings

1. **"A Ball for All"** for vision impaired children in Zone G. This is a project which will allow these children to be active in their school and at home. These balls are designed to rattle as they move in the air or on the ground. Each ball costs \$35.00. **Motion** made by Mary Lou Ambrose to donate \$105.00 to purchase 3 balls. Seconded by Darcy Jennings. **Motion** passed.
2. **Jewelry Idea:** It seems that we still have quite a collection of costume jewelry and need to create a monthly event to sell.
3. **May Yard Sale:** this is being held on May 10th from 8 AM – 1 PM at The Sweetbriar Pavilion. Darcy still needs volunteers for the 2nd shift.

The Insider's View

April BOD Meeting Minutes, continued

President's Report, continued

4. **Baskets:** Darcy will continue to bring to dinner meetings to raffle and funds collected will go toward our Administrative Fund.

1st Vice President: Heidi Brown

1. **Constitution & Bylaws:** Heidi will have final copy for BOD to approve so we can present to Membership at our dinner meeting in June and ready to forward to Lions International.
2. **Volunteerism:** We need NEW volunteers. Heidi would like to have a workshop at our May dinner meeting for recruiting volunteers.

2nd Vice President: Teresa Wisniewski

1. **Fundraiser Dinner Dance:** Teresa and Sharla have graciously volunteered to chair this event in 2026. More information to follow in the coming months.
2. **School Supply:** Teresa and Nancy Bidus will chair again. Scheduled date is July 12th from 9 AM – 12 PM. More information to follow in the LOWDOWN.

Directors: Mary Lou Ambrose, Ellen Bearden, Nicki Buell and Claire Donohoe

Director's Event: Fall Fling. Mary Lou and Nicki talked about the possibility of this new event. This could be a social hour event where 200 tickets are sold beforehand at \$20.00 each. One ticket gets pulled out every 5 minutes and wins \$100.00. Last ticket pulled earns \$500.00. You don't have to be present to win. More information to follow.

Immediate Past President: Barbara Tomayko

Nominations for 2025-2026: Barbara shared with us the nominees for BOD 2026-2027.

Loretta made **motion** to approve, and it was seconded by: Darcy Jennings. **Motion** passed.

Nominees will be present and voted for at our June meeting.

There being no further business to come before the LOW Lioness Lions Board of Directors at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Bishop Oliveri, LOW Lioness Lions Secretary

Next BOD Meeting: May 22, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Community Center

2024-2025 Board of Directors

President – Darcy Jennings

Secretary – Gloria Bishop Oliveri

Foundation Treasurer – Loretta Lafley

Administrative Treasurer – Beth Newton

1st Vice President – Heidi Brown

2nd Vice President – Teresa Wisniewski

3rd Vice President – Arlene Rich

Immediate Past President – Barbara Tomayko

Membership – Cindy Coover

Tail Twister – Nicole Pappas

Lioness Tamers:

- Mary Lou Ambrose
- Linda Corsones
- Emily Florence

Directors:

- Mary Lou Ambrose
- Ellen Bearden
- Nicolette Buell
- Claire Donohoe

Have a Question, Suggestion or Concern?

lionessclub@lowlioness.org

Reach out via the email above or contact our president or secretary directly via phone, email or direct mail.

Darcy Jennings

419 Wilderness Dr
Locust Grove, VA 22508
(703) 772-2080
2darcyj@gmail.com

Gloria Bishop Oliveri

14612 Junction Court
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
(909) 772-2716
gloria@cubicles-and-more.com

♥ We Missed YOU! And here is what you missed...

Quick High-Level Recap of the April 10 Meeting

Program

Our speaker, Shannah Mort, spoke about tourism here in Orange County... very informative, fun and engaging. She left information with us and encouraged us to volunteer with her, too. She loves our girl power! If you would like more info, please check out their website [here](#) or email Shannah directly [here](#).



Business

Heidi asked for a motion to approve the Bylaws and Constitution document that a group of Lionesses have been working so hard to complete – and it was done. Congratulations on a job well done, ladies!

Awards

Awards were given to these wonderful women for their amazing years of service – and we got to celebrate! There were other women celebrated in the previous month's meeting, too. Thank YOU for your service, too.

- Yvette Ruiz – 10 years
- Ann Walker – 25 years
- Mary Lou McFarland – 30 years

Visitors

Emily Florence brought Michele McKeown as her visitor. Michele will be inducted in July and has already been volunteering with us. Welcome, Michele! We will be thrilled to call you a fellow Lioness, soon.



Committee Announcements

Many announcements made were about events that have, by the time you are reading this, already taken place (i.e., Pat Licata reminded people about the Shred Event on Saturday, April 26).

For items that have not taken place yet or are more evergreen, we will note them:

- **More Volunteers, please?** Darcy made another plea for Lionesses to engage and serve more. She mentioned many of the same people are volunteering repeatedly and it would be great to see new faces at events.
- **Coins for Change** Gloria gave an update in the meeting on the need for coins. Per the BOD meeting notes, we did great! *We surpassed our goal of 97. Final count: 118 bottles. Thank you, Lionesses for your support!*
- **Yard Sale May 10** There were sheets on the tables for people to sign up to help. There is still time! Please call Darcy (703) 772-2080 if you can help. Don't you need to get rid of stuff anyway? And have some fun with friends? 😊
- **Plastic collection update.** Anne reported we are doing great so far – with over 150 lbs. collected so far (much better than where we were last year. YAY!) Darcy is having a plaque made to go on the bench we already earned from last year's efforts, and it will be placed down by the Point.

Social Events Update

Mary Lou Ambrose spoke on behalf of the Directors about the outing to My Avocado – reporting it was very fun. She reminded us about the upcoming event (now passed, see page 7) at Sweet Vines Farm Winery.

Both these businesses have been cheerful and willing supporters of our club. It's great we can give back to them and have fun while we're doing it!

How Can I Serve?

What Fundraising Events or Service Activities are Coming Up? How Can I Engage?

Spring Yard Sale – MAY 10

When: Saturday, May 10, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: The Sweetbriar Pavillion

What: We still need volunteers to help – or just bring your stuff!

How: Are you an early riser? Sign up for the early shift. 😊

- First shift: 6:30 – 9:30 AM
- Second shift: 9:30 – 12:30 PM
- The late shift will be cleaning up and packaging the “leftovers” to go to Goodwill

Please select items to sell, price and bring them to the pavilion at 6:30 AM (yes that early!) so we can unload, sort and get ready for the sale. If you need pricing stickers or if you can’t bring your items at that time, please arrange to drop off your items with Darcy: 2darcyj@gmail.com or 703-772-2080

Book Sale– MAY 31 & JUNE 28

The LOW Lioness

Book Sale will be held May 31 and June 28.



We are in the Ferris Building across from the Lions Yard Sale and are open from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you.

For info: Call Ann Walker 540-972-4338, Sherri Lasover 540-412-9854 or Helene Burns 540- 412-0798 if you have any questions.

School Supply Drive – JULY 12

School Supply Support Drive

Date: July 12

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Clubhouse Lower Parking Lot

Join us for a meaningful cause! Help local students gear up for the school year by donating essential supplies. Together, we can support every child’s success in our community. **Volunteers needed:** Please watch for sign-up sheets at the dinner meeting in May.



Concert on the Point – AUGUST 22

Concert on the Point

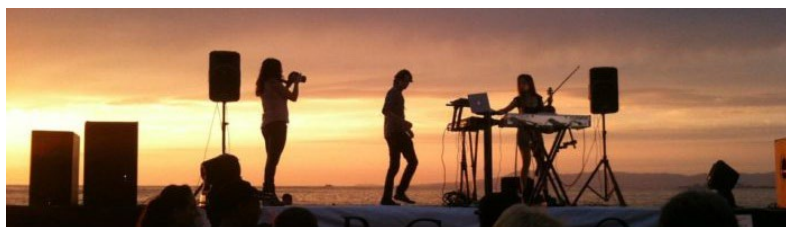
Date: August 22

Time: Evening Event

Location: Clubhouse Grounds

Get ready for an unforgettable night! Enjoy the Reunion Band, line dancing, and a **50/50 fundraiser**. Let’s come together for music, fun, and supporting local initiatives!

Volunteers needed: Please watch for sign-up sheets at the July meeting to **sell 50/50 tickets** and provide moral support.



Eyeglass Recycling | Mondays 9:30 AM

We meet from 9:30 – 11:00 AM Mondays at the Ferris Building. We wash, dry, and have good conversations. It’s a great way to start the week, and we usually finish the morning with a trip to Fareways for lunch. Please join us when you can. Thanks!

For info: Marian Rood 540-412-0214

Note: No eyeglass recycling on May 26.

Food Pantry | Fridays 9:30 AM

The pantry will be open five Fridays in May. Our regular USDA days will be May 2, 16, and 23. Those days generally benefit from having more volunteers. Overstock days will be May 9 and 30.

For info: Nicki Buell 703-217-5615

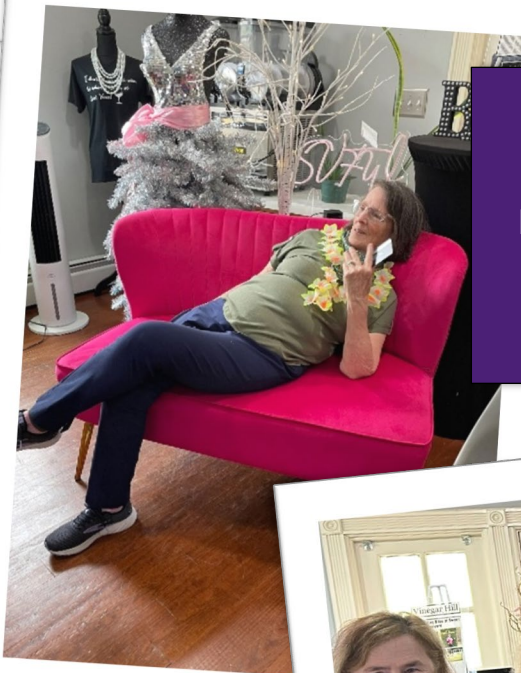
What's Happening? 🍷

Update on Social Events, Fundraising Events, and other “Happenin’” News to Share...

Lioness Social – Sweet Vines Farm Winery – April 25



Thank you to the Directors for planning another fabulous event! Fun was had by all! And we got to show our support to another business that has supported us.



Did You Know?

Miscellaneous Club News & Information

A Word About Annual Dues

The Board voted unanimously to increase the annual membership dues to \$85.00 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Dues were previously \$80.00 with no recent increases. With the dinner location and costs resolved, we have locked down meal costs for next year with no other increases anticipated, and we felt it was time to increase the dues for the following reasons: Annual dues for the Lions Club International Federation (LCIF) (our parent organization) are \$50.00 and state dues have been \$16.00, which currently leaves \$14.00 for our Club. Originally our Club’s share of the dues was \$25.00, so the Board decided on a \$5.00 increase to address budgetary needs.

Membership dues of \$85 need to be paid by June 30, when LCIF bills the Club.

Beth Newton, our Administrative Treasurer, will be collecting payments at the May and June dinner meetings. You may pay by cash or check—or mail payment to the Club at P.O. Box 811, Locust Grove, VA 22508. Please make checks payable to LOW Lioness Lions Club.

If you have questions, please contact Beth at newtonern@gmail.com or 574-248-0526.
Thank you!

Did You Know?

Two years after Melvin Jones founded Lions Clubs International in Chicago, Illinois, he expanded his vision by establishing clubs in Canada. Now, 108 years later, countries around the world have surpassed the USA in terms of the number of clubs, membership, and donations.

- India leads the world with 12,561 Lions Clubs, while the USA has 9,910 clubs.
- India also boasts the highest number of members, with 375,952, followed by Japan and then the United States.
- Japan is the top donor, contributing \$25 million, followed by the USA with \$8,837 million, and Europe with \$8,291 million.
- Worldwide, there are about 500,000 women who are Lion members.

Astonishingly, a homegrown organization founded by a Midwest salesman over 100 years ago and developed into an international organization within two years has grown into one of the most significant international civic associations. What a legacy!

Yet, the United States Lions is now overshadowed by clubs, membership, and donations from other countries worldwide.

Our club is fortunate to have Lionesses like Kathy Merritt, who has sponsored more members than anyone, and President Darcy Jennings a close second. Both are committed to sharing the Lion vision and expanding our club, district, and state membership.

New Procedures for Submitting to the LOWDOWN

Sharla Bailey and Julie Phend have taken on the job of producing the LOWDOWN each month. Consequently, procedures for submitting have changed.
From now on, please send articles and announcements to [Julie Phend](#) by the 20th of the previous month to allow us time to get the newsletter out by the first of the month.
For example, submissions for the June LOWDOWN should be sent by May 20.
Thanks for your patience and cooperation as we make this transition!

Monthly Stuff (not service related...)

Menu, Birthdays, etc.

From the Tamers

The LOW Lioness Lions Club dinner meeting will be held at the clubhouse with a 5:15 PM social gathering followed by dinner at 6:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month except January.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you **MUST** contact us, the Tamers, by the Monday before the meeting or you will be billed \$30.

Also, please contact us about **guests or alternate meal requests** by that Monday.

Notice: We reply to emails and phone calls. Contact Tamers only. **Please DO NOT contact the clubhouse.**

Mary Lou Ambrose	703-581-5577	ambrosemarylou@gmail.com
Linda Corsones	914-466-2610	lindacorsones@gmail.com
Emily Florence	571-239-0591	emilyjflorence@aol.com

Dinner for May Meeting

Garden Salad w/Balsamic Vinaigrette; Ranch
Herb Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast
Baked Potatoes
Sauteed Spinach
Fresh Dinner Rolls
Banana Pudding

Vegetarian Alternative:

Ratatouille stuffed eggplant



May and June Meeting Programming



For May & June, the dinner program will be scholarships awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The May meeting will include presentation of the Germanna College scholarship. The June meeting will include presentation of the high school scholarships.

May Birthdays!!

Deborah Baird	May 1
Rani Manhard	May 12
Beth Newton	May 10
Val Protiva	May 8
Deborah Raines	May 20
Susie Wright	May 26



Share and Care!

Share and Care is a way for us to let members know when someone is ill, in the hospital or has had a death in the family. Please call or email me so I can get a message out to let our members know right away. I will send a card signed from The Lioness Lions Club.

Thank you for your help with this!

Shellee Williams 571-277-8618
bufsof@msn.com

From the Editors

Editors: Sharla Bailey 703-989-5519 sdbailey1429@gmail.com
Julie Phend 630-854-4126 julie.phend@gmail.com


Please submit information, articles and photos for the LOWDOWN to Julie Phend via email no later than the 20th of the month before the first of the month when the newsletter comes out. Call Julie if you don't have access to email.

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