

# Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions LOWDOWN

Volume 41 | Number 5 | November 2025



www.lowlioness.org

## President's Corner

By Heidi Brown, LOW Lioness Lions President

What a month! There are so many things that we are all involved in every month. This month was action-packed. Let me thank you writ LARGE for all you do and now let me **zoom** into some specific events.

The Fall Festival sponsored by LOWA was a great success. So many Lionesses came out and set up our booth. Thank you all for showing up and spending a beautiful October day together. Darcy and Mary Lou donated baskets that were sold in record time. Thank you very much.

We were invited to participate with the Lions and LOWLINC for the hazardous waste collection this past Friday. We had more than enough volunteers and more than enough vehicles. I want to thank all the Lionesses who showed up and especially Don Kuhn and Scott Bartel who volunteered their vehicles. We had a panel truck from the Licata Group that we ended up not needing but thank you Pat for providing it for us.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered for the Christmas Treasures set-up and sale. I don't have the final numbers, but it was a tremendous success. Thank you to Carol and her committee for all you did.

Several Lionesses volunteered to support the Lions' Sight & Hearing screenings for children in Orange County Public Schools. Thank you to Susan Powers, Teresa Wisniewski, Emily Florence, and Gloria Bishop Oliveri. I also want to thank Nan Lamb and Kathy Hayes for their interest in participating.

We have the Treats on the Point coming up on Halloween. That is always a fun event, and the children love it. Thank you in advance to Arlene and her committee for taking this on.

Several of you have volunteered to attend other Lions' Club dinners and lunches. Thank you all for doing that.

I think we might have some breathing room in November. We'll have the normal things we do each week: with the coat drive, book sale, food pantry, eye glass recycling—to name a few. Thank you all very much for what you do.

---Heidi

## What Shall I Bring to this Month's Meeting?

- Items for SAFE House
- 5 lb. bag of potatoes for the Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners



So FUN! **Two Men Walking A-Breast!!**  
Thanks for making us smile,  
Mary Lou and Heidi!!! 😊

## What will I find inside this LOWDOWN?

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## The Insider's View

Highlights from the Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting Thursday, October 23, 2025

To read the full meeting minutes, please go to the [LOW Lioness website BOD Meeting Minutes Tab](#)

**Secretary's Report:** G Bishop Oliveri (by Beth Newton)

- **New Members:** **Moira Ricketts**, sponsored by Anne LeHuray, and **Lara Berry**, sponsored by Deborah Baird. Both will be inducted at the November 9, 2025, Dinner Meeting.
- **Resignations:** Rosemary Butcher resigned 10/08/25. Rosemary has been an active Lioness since 05/11/23. She most recently chaired the Card Party, Luncheon and Fashion Show Committee. We will miss Rosemary and wish her the very best. Beth Newton made a **Motion** to remove Denise Russell from Club membership. Denise has been inactive since an illness and is unable to continue.
- **Visitation Committee:** ML Ambrose, N Pappas, L Kovach, D Lovelace, and G Bishop Oliveri visited the **Culpeper Mid-Day Lions Club** for lunch on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Their members shared fundraiser ideas and discussed the various ways their club serves their local community.
- **Old Business:** Bylaws and Constitution update: Heidi is still working on final edits.

**Treasurer's Reports:** Loretta Lafley and Beth Newton

- LOWLINC requested we contribute \$500.00 as we did last year to assist with their Holiday Acts of Kindness Appeal. The funds would assist with Thanksgiving Dinners, a Holiday Party and small holiday member gifts. B Tomayko motioned we do so again but make the contribution in memory of Ray Greeney. It was approved.
- The October dinner meeting raised \$138.00 for Breast Cancer.
- \$30,000 was moved from checking and savings to a 13-month CD.
- \$10,000 moved from Admin bank account to CD as 6-month investment in October.
- Other account details were shared by both Treasurers.

**President's Report:** Heidi Brown

- We are close to the required weight of plastic for our second Trex bench. The LOW Lions Club has asked to place the bench in the Tree of Love Garden by the Ferris Building. Heidi agrees it is a lovely site with great visibility.
- Heidi will ask the membership for a volunteer to write *Lake Currents* articles.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report:** Mary Lou Ambrose

- Mary Lou suggested a survey to ask members for a list of any Club items they have. The Club is seeking a common storage site for Club materials and records. A master list would help identify where items are located.
- Mary Lou will follow up with the Culpeper Mid-Day Lions Club about their weekly Bingo games, a major fundraiser.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report:** Teresa Wisniewski

Teresa gave an update on the dance committee that she and Sharla Bailey co-chair. The group will vote on one of six themes for the March fundraiser.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Report:** Arlene Rich

Trick or Treat on the Point is organized by Darcy Jennings and Teresa Wisniewski.

**Tamers:** Ann Turner, Sharon Corner, and **Temporary Tamer:** Emily Florence

Dinner collections are going smoothly. Ann will create a list of members frequently absent to determine what the Club can do better to attract members to dinners.

**Tail Twister:** Nicole Pappas

The "honor system" jar for missing nametag fees went well at the dinner meeting and Nicole requested suggestions for "Mighty Lioness" recognition.

**Directors Report:** Caroline Collantes, and Emily Florence; Nicki Buell and Claire Donohoe

Sign-up at November dinner for wreath-making outing on 12/4. Only 25 spots available. Cost is \$40.00.

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

Quick High-Level Recap of the October 9 Meeting

### PROGRAM

We had a wonderful speaker, Jennifer Jenkins from Childhelp, talk with us about the special place Childhelp is, and what a tremendous impact they have on the lives of so many children. It was very special to hear about the difference Childhelp makes, and how we, as a club overall, as well as many individual Lionesses, are involved in serving that community. Jennifer is the contact for the LOW Childhelp Auxiliary, whose President is Christine Purtell. The Auxiliary meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 in Lake of the Woods Church Social Hall. If you'd like more information about how to get involved, please contact Marian Rood at 540-270-7554.



### VISITORS



**Emily Florence brought Danielle Pilon.** Danielle lives here in the Lake and works full time for an insurance company. She has a son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren in NOVA. She's a volunteer at the Orange County shelter and has volunteered at our food bank.

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



**Michele McKeown**

**Bev Kuhn**

## MIGHTY LIONESSES

We are fortunate and honored to have members who, by just being themselves, bring joy and happiness to others. Their acts of kindness, generosity and selflessness show the world the true heart of a Lioness. Congratulations to the Mighty Lionesses recognized at our October meeting.

### **ROSEMARY BUTCHER, You Mighty Lioness!**

You make us proud! Seeing how you poured your heart into creating a beautiful, flawless Card Party filled us with admiration. Your calm determination and genuine warmth shone through every moment, making the day as delightful and special as you are. Thank you for sharing your light with all of us. *Cheers to you!*

### **JUDY PENDERGRASS, You Mighty Lioness!**

You make us proud! At the Card Party you embraced our-soon-to-be newest member, Moira, with kindness and understanding. These qualities are an essential part of the Lioness. Thank you for being a friend. *Cheers to you!*

Even the smallest acts of kindness and caring make a difference. As **We Serve**, may we continue to make a difference in the world around us.

To nominate a Mighty Lioness, contact Nicole Pappas at 619-709-5163 or [pappasnm@gmail.com](mailto:pappasnm@gmail.com).

### **Have a Question, Suggestion or Concern?**

[lionessclub@lowlioness.org](mailto:lionessclub@lowlioness.org)

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

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## 2025-2026 Board of Directors

**President** – Heidi Brown

**Secretary** – Gloria Bishop Oliveri

**Foundation Treasurer** – Loretta Lafley

**Administrative Treasurer** – Beth Newton

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – Mary Lou Ambrose

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – Teresa Wisniewski

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President** – Arlene Rich

**Immediate Past President** – Darcy Jennings

**Membership** – Pat Licata, Barbara Tomayko

**Tail Twister** – Nicole Pappas

### **Lioness Tamers:**

- Nicki Buell
- Sharon Corner
- Ann Turner

### **Directors:**

- Nicki Buell
- Caroline Collantes
- Claire Donohoe
- Emily Florence

## How Can I Serve?

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

### SAFE HOUSE

Our third and final Lioness donation collection for 2025 will be held at the November meeting. Household cleaning products, paper towels, TP, tissues etc. are always needed. Also, personal hygiene and toiletries, luggage, and winter hats, gloves and scarves. And, checks (made out to SAFE), cash, and gas cards. Your generosity goes a long way for victims of abuse seeking refuge. Thank you very much.

### THE BOOK STORE

The next book sale is **November 29**. This is the last book sale until February as the Book Store is **CLOSED in DECEMBER and JANUARY**.

Please contact Ann Walker, Sherri Lasover or Helene Burns if you have questions or need help when the Book Store is closed.

### THE FOOD PANTRY

Fridays @ 9:30am

**The pantry will be open three days in November due to the holiday.**

The Food Pantry will be open November 7, 14 and 21 for regular USDA clients and closed on November 28 – the day after Thanksgiving. No overstock day in November.

**For info:** Nicki Buell 703-217-5615

### EYEGLOSS RECYCLING

Mondays @ 9:30am

**Upcoming Dates: There will be NO eyeglass recycling on November 24, December 22, and December 29.** When we meet, 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

## WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

### GENTLE REMINDER

Lake of the Woods Lions and Lioness Clubs  
2025 Winter Clothing Drive  
Wilderness Food Pantry



We are still collecting clean, gently used, and new warm coats, scarves, gloves, hats, boots and socks for the Wilderness Food Pantry. **Children and teen coats, hats and gloves are especially needed.**

**Last day for donations is Wednesday, November 11, 2025**

Drop off boxes are located at the following places:

- Lake of the Woods Club House
- Holcomb Building (Lower Level)
- Fareways/Pro Shop entrance
- Licata Group Real Estate (Near CVS)
- Edward Jones Investment (Across from LOW Gate)
- LOW Church
- LOW Community Center
- Lions Yard Sale at the Velona Building (Saturdays 9:00 – 12:00)

For more information, please call Lynne Kovach at 540-920-8528 or [lynnebkovach@gmail.com](mailto:lynnebkovach@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for your support in helping our neighbors keep warm this winter.

## WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS

2025 White House Ornaments will be available for sale and pickup on October 1st. This year's ornament focuses on the White House Dinners – the ornament is of the China Plate and Seal. Ornaments cost \$25.00 each (same as last year), Cash or Check. For orders, text Kathy Merritt at 540/538-6605 or Jan Stockman at 703/943-9314.



## Calendar of Events

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

### November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3 Eyeglass recycling 9:30-11am	4 <b>Election Day!</b>	5	6	7 Food Pantry 9:30	8	9
10 Eyeglass recycling 9:30-11am NLT No RSVP to Tamers for Dinner Mtg	11 Last chance to donate for Winter Coat Drive	12	13 Dinner Meeting 5:15-8:00pm	14 Food Pantry 9:30 Clearwater Dinner % Kley Pilot Charity	15	16
17 Eyeglass recycling 9:30-11am	18	19	20	21 Food Pantry 9:30	22	23
24 <u>NO</u> Eyeglass recycling	25 <b>Blood Drive 11am-5pm</b>	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 No Food Pantry	29 <b>Book Sale 8:30am – 1pm</b>	30

### December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Eyeglass recycling 9:30-11am	2	3	4 Wreathmaking Event 1-2:30pm	5 Food Pantry 9:30	6	7
8 Eyeglass recycling 9:30-11am NLT No RSVP to Tamers for Dinner Mtg	9	10	11 Dinner Meeting 5:15-8:00pm	12 Food Pantry 9:30	13	14
15 Eyeglass recycling 9:30-11am	16	17	18 BOD Meeting	19 Food Pantry 9:30	20	21
22 <u>NO</u> Eyeglass recycling	23	24	25 Christmas Day!	26	27 No Book Sale	28
29 NO Eyeglass recycling	30	31 New Year's Eve!				

## Did You Know?

Miscellaneous Club News & Information

### VISITATION CLUB

#### LOW Lions and Lionesses Visit Culpeper Mid-Day Lions Club

On behalf of the LOW Lions and Lioness Lions clubs, seven members united to attend the **Culpeper Mid-Day Lions Club** lunch meeting held at Peppers Restaurant in Culpeper, VA, where the club meets monthly.

Our group enjoyed meaningful connections with Culpeper members, who enthusiastically shared fundraising ideas and discussed the various ways their club serves the local community.

#### LOW Lions Club Representatives

- Sheila Carney, Lions President
- Sharon Coleman, Co-Chair of the Lions Medical Equipment Loan Committee

#### LOW Lioness Lions Club Representatives

- Donalda Lovelace, Past 24L District Governor
- Mary Lou Ambrose, 1st Vice President
- Nicole Pappas, Tail Twister
- Lynne Kovach, Co-Chair of Christmas Treasures and Chair of the Winter Coat Drive Committee
- Gloria Bishop Oliveri, Club Secretary



## THANK YOU!

By Carol Greeney, Christmas Treasures Chair

We have completed our first October CHRISTMAS TREASURES event! They say it takes a village, but, in this case, it took a lot of Lionesses! It was a huge success, but it couldn't and wouldn't have been without the work of so many members of our club. I first want to thank my committee: Lynne Kovach, Julie Phend, Colleen Cameron, Val Protiva, Ellen Bearden, Kathy Walters, Kathy Phillips, Kathy Haynes and Diane Wiard. Each and everyone went above and beyond with their given tasks. In addition, we have those who helped set up, collect, organize and price on Friday night. Saturday morning Colleen arrived with much-needed coffee and doughnuts, which we enjoyed after everything was ready to go. We opened the doors to our customers right at 9 A.M. and the flow was pretty steady all morning.

We had plenty of workers on Saturday, and thanks to Val and Ellen, sold an immense amount of jewelry, thanks to Kathy Walter's presentation, all the baked goods (thank you bakers) were sold with Diane in charge, and Kathy Phillips and Kathy Haynes kept the puzzles moving! The customers were many, thanks to Lynne and Julie who did a great job with marketing. Finally, I need to thank all who contributed items for the sale! As you prepare for Christmas 2025, don't forget to put aside the decor you don't use for Christmas Treasures 2026!

Thank you all for all you do. We truly do serve!!

**And a big thank-you to Carol Greeney, for organizing and managing another successful Lioness event!**



## Directors' Notice Wreath Making

**Where:** Gobbler Hill Farm (Carrico Mills Rd.)

**When:** Thursday, Dec. 4, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$40 includes making 1 wreath, 1 bow. Coffee and snacks provided.

**Venue can accommodate 20-25 people.**

Contact a director (see below) if interested. More details to come about ride shares, etc.

**Claire Donohoe:** [cfdonohoe@hotmail.com](mailto:cfdonohoe@hotmail.com)

**Caroline Collantes:** [caroline6195@aol.com](mailto:caroline6195@aol.com)

**Emily Florence:** [emilyjflorence@aol.com](mailto:emilyjflorence@aol.com)



## FROM THE EDITORS

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

**Lake of the Woods  
Lioness Lions Club**

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 [www.lowlioness.org](http://www.lowlioness.org)  
 [LOW Lioness Lions Club](https://www.facebook.com/LOWLionessLionsClub)

## 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 all three of us, the Tamers, by noon on 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.**

Ann Turner [anntturner@gmail.com](mailto:anntturner@gmail.com)

Sharon Corner [andiprayed@gmail.com](mailto:andiprayed@gmail.com)

Emily Florence [emilyjflorence@aol.com](mailto:emilyjflorence@aol.com) (Tamer advisor)

### DINNER MENU FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

#### Fall Harvest Feast

- Garden Salad with Ranch and Balsamic Vinaigrette
- Pork Tenderloin with Apple Cider Reduction
- Sweet Potato Mash
- Roasted Carrots with Thyme
- Dinner Rolls
- Pumpkin Pie

**Vegetarian Option:** Stuffed Portobello Mushroom w/ Wild Rice, Apples, & Craisins



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karin Goetz	11/10
Linda Bruno	11/19
Ann Walker	11/20

### 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](mailto:bufsof@msn.com)



**Shake Up Your  
Holiday Tradition**

*Give Blood*

## **Blood Drive**

**Lake of the Woods Community Center  
110 Sweetbriar Park Rd  
Locust Grove, VA 22508**

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

**11:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Sign up today**

[RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)

to reserve an appointment today

**Give Something that Means Something<sup>®</sup>**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App