

Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions LOWDOWN

Volume 41 | Number 6 | December 2025



www.lowlioness.org

President's Corner

By Heidi Brown, LOW Lioness Lions President

I start all these letters thanking everyone for all they do. I want to highlight someone who is doing something big behind the scenes: **Kathy Gillespie**.

Kathy picks up dog and cat food every month from local pet stores and packages it in gallon sized bags and delivers it to the Food Pantry for distribution to the families with pets. She literally does this from the goodness of her heart. Thank you very much for doing this, Kathy. It means the world to the people who have pets.

November was a slower paced month for a change. Yes, the normal things that you do still go on but fortunately we didn't have any major events.

Thank you to Lynne Kovach for a very successful coat drive. Winter clothing was distributed on the 15th of November.

Thank you to everyone who brought bags of potatoes to our last meeting that were distributed to families for their Thanksgiving meals.

As we head into December, please remember:

- We are collecting unwrapped gifts for adults for Orange Bridges.
- The Orange County toy drive has begun. Please donate unwrapped gifts to one of the many toy box locations. (See flyer)
- White House Christmas Ornaments remain on sale. Kathy Merritt and Jan Stockman will be selling them at Christkindl mart on 6 December at the Community Center.

Our guest speaker for our December dinner meeting is Kley Parkhurst. He's the pilot who flies people to medical appointments and pet rescues FREE OF CHARGE! We will present him with a check to thank him for what he does for this community.

Deborah Raines and Lynne Kovach have worked tirelessly behind the scenes updating our webpage. Please visit the page to see our news. In addition, Deborah has volunteered to create an annual yearbook for us. I'd like to have the Tamers bring it to our dinner meetings each month so people can look at/admire it. Please take pictures at various Lioness functions so we get photos of all of you in action.

I asked and you delivered! Thank you to everyone who created baskets to help the Veterans Club with their fundraiser in December.

Thank you for a wonderful 2025. I am grateful and thankful for each of you.

Happy Holidays! Heidi

What Shall I Bring to this Month's Meeting?

- Unwrapped toy for the Toy Drive (Clubhouse collection)
- Gift (winter hat and scarf) for adults at Orange Bridges:
 - A-M: Bring gift for guys
 - N-Z: Bring gift for girlsDon't wrap the gift, put in a gift bag.



No Dinner Meeting in January



Look at all those coats!!! WOWZA!!!

Great job, ladies!!!

And look at those beautiful smiles! 😊

What will I find inside this LOWDOWN?

Pg 1 - **President's Corner**

Pg 1 - **What Shall I Bring to this
Month's Meeting?**

Pg 2 - **We Missed You!** – High-level
Recap of Last Month's Meeting

Pg 4 - **How Can I Serve?** – Upcoming
Service Opportunities

Pg 8 - **Calendar of Events**

Pg 9 - **Did You Know?** – Miscellaneous
Club News and other
Information

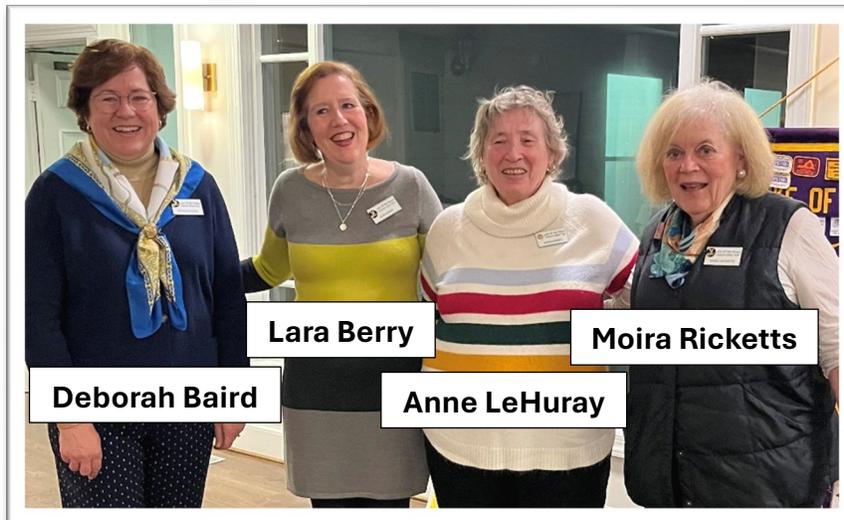
Pg 11 - **Monthly Stuff (not service
related...)** – Menu, Birthdays,
etc.

Flyers to follow at the end...

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

Quick High-Level Recap of the November 13 Meeting

NEW MEMBERS!



Welcome to our two new members – Lara Berry and Moira Ricketts. We inducted Lara and Moira at our meeting in November.

Anne LeHuray sponsored Moira Ricketts, who recently moved to LOW from Florida, where she had moved after many years in NOVA. She has become a regular volunteer on Fridays at the Food Pantry. Welcome, Moira!

Deborah Baird sponsored Lara Berry, who moved to LOW in mid-July and is looking forward to getting involved. When first meeting Lara, Deborah mentioned various groups including Lioness and then invited her to attend our dinner on Aug. 14. After meeting several members at dinner, Lara joined us for eyeglasses cleaning began helping at the Food Pantry. She was also a member of an Alexandria chorus for many years and joined the "Encore on Broadway" singing group here at the Lake.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



MIGHTY LIONESSES

We are fortunate and honored to have members who, 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. Please congratulate the Mighty Lioness recognized at our November meeting.

SHARLA BAILEY, *You Mighty Lioness!*

You make us proud. You are quick to acknowledge the contributions of others and are consistently generous with your thanks and gratitude. Your work on the LOWDOWN, the Member Directory, and as co-chair of our annual Dinner Dance truly reflects the spirit of "We Serve." We're continually amazed by how much you accomplish while working full time—your dedication and energy inspire us all. 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

If you forget your Name Badge when attending our monthly meeting, please drop \$1.00 in the basket at the check-in table, and write yourself a temporary name badge. We may remember your lovely face, but not always your name. Thank you!

2025-2026 Board of Directors

President – Heidi Brown

Secretary – Gloria Bishop Oliveri

Foundation Treasurer – Loretta Lafley

Administrative Treasurer – Beth Newton

1st Vice President – Mary Lou Ambrose

2nd Vice President – Teresa Wisniewski

3rd 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
- 3

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.

Heidi Brown

208 Limestone Ln
Locust Grove, VA 22508
(703) 402-8773
hvbrown59@gmail.com

Gloria Bishop Oliveri

14612 Junction Court
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
(909) 772-2716

gloria@cubicles-and-more.com

How Can I Serve?

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

CHILDHELP WRAPPING

The LOW Lioness Lions will be wrapping Christmas presents for the children at Childhelp on Wednesday, December 17th. We will meet in the lower-level Clubhouse parking lot at 8:30 that morning. Please bring your scissors. There will be sign-up sheets at the December dinner meeting. Contact Marian Rood at 540-270-7554 with any questions.



THE BOOK STORE

The **final book sale for the year** took place on November 29. No further sales will be held until February.

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 for three days in December due to the holiday.

The pantry will be open December 5, 12, 19. All will be regular USDA days. **WE WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 26.** FYI - We plan to be open on January 2 for a regular USDA day since we will have been closed the week before.

For info: Nicki Buell 703-217-5615

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING

Mondays @ 9:30am

Upcoming Dates: There will be NO eyeglass recycling on 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

SHIMMERY SHAMROCK GALA

When: Saturday, March 14, 2026

Where: LOW Clubhouse

All hands on deck! Yes... ALL of Us!

The Shimmery Shamrock Gala is one of the biggest and most exciting fundraisers of the year!

Get ready for:



Live music by The Reunion Band – hit the dance floor!



Delicious Dinner



Wine Pull



Pie Pull



Silent Auction



Fun, Friends, and Celebration!



*Join us for a fantastic night of dancing, laughter, and camaraderie —
all while raising funds for charities we love!*



Be a Table Captain and help Sell Tickets!

Host an 8- or 10-top table! Choose your guests, sell the seats, collect the money, and create your own fun, energetic group for the dance floor.

Sign Up/Questions: Nicki Buell nbuell113@comcast.net | 703-217-5615

Be a Table Sponsor – \$125

Your name displayed at your table shows your support and generosity.

Contact to donate: Sharla Bailey skbailey1429@gmail.com | 703-989-5519 or

Teresa Wisniewski teresawish@msn.com | 703-901-9023



Wine Pull – We Need Wine!

Help make our Wine Pull a success:

- Red, white, rosé, sparkling, or specialty bottles
- Ask friends, neighbors, or local retailers or donate yourself

Questions / Donations: Sharla Bailey skbailey1429@gmail.com | 703-989-5519 or

Teresa Wisniewski teresawish@msn.com | 703-901-9023



Pie Pull – Help Needed!

We're collecting pies — bakery or homemade — for our Pie Pull.

Volunteers needed to:

- Ask local bakeries
- Donate pies
- Coordinate pickup

Contact to Volunteer / Donate: Sharla Bailey skbailey1429@gmail.com | 703-989-5519 or Teresa Wisniewski teresawish@msn.com | 703-901-9023



Day-of Event Helpers

We need fun, energetic volunteers for:

- Silent auction monitoring
- Greeting guests
- Raffle and fun stations
- Distributing purchases, and more...

Contact to volunteer: Heidi Brown hvbrown59@gmail.com



Share Your Ideas!

We want your input:

- What items or experiences would you love to bid on?
- What would make the dance extra fun?
- How can we spread the word beyond Lake Currents?

Contact Sharla or Teresa with your ideas: Sharla Bailey

skbailey1429@gmail.com | 703-989-5519 or Teresa Wisniewski teresawish@msn.com | 703-901-9023



The Current Basket Plan (we reserve the right to change this... 😊)

We're putting together 8 themed baskets for the dance and need your help! You can donate items, a full basket, or gift cards. Darcy has many items that align with these baskets already – but, if you have some items or get some gifts for Christmas that you would like to donate, we will take them! LOL!

1 Irish Luck – Whiskey minis, Irish tea, shortbread, green/gold chocolates, shamrock mug/towel, or gift card to an Irish pub/shop

2 Bourbon & Cigar – Bourbon minis, cigars, whiskey glasses, whiskey stones, chocolate/nuts, or gift card to a liquor store

3 Coffee Lovers – Coffee, syrup, mug, biscotti, candle, or gift card to a coffee shop

4 Wine Lovers – Red & white wine, wine opener, napkins, chocolate truffles, or gift card to a wine store

5 Relax & Pamper – Candle, bath salts, lotion, cozy socks, herbal tea, or gift card to a spa/store

6 Game Night – Dominoes, cards, popcorn, snacks, small games, or gift card to a toy/game store

7 Gardening – Gloves, seeds, small tools, kneeling pad, plant markers, or gift card to a garden center

8 Grandkids Fun – Coloring book, crayons, chalk, bubbles, stickers, plush toy, card game, beach/lake toy, or gift card to a toy store

Contact to Volunteer / Donate: Sharla Bailey skbailey1429@gmail.com | 703-989-5519 or Teresa Wisniewski teresawish@msn.com | 703-901-9023

Thank You, Lionesses!



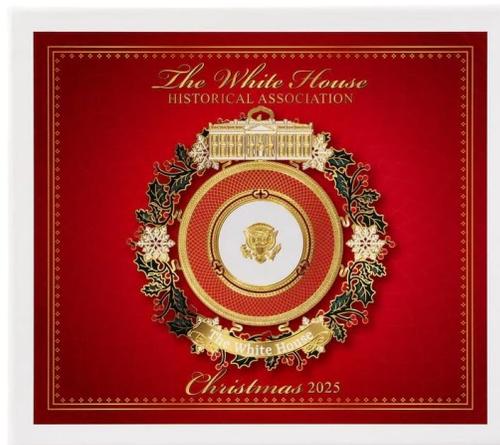
Your energy, generosity, and spirit make this event sparkle! We can't wait to celebrate, dance to the awesome Reunion Band tunes and raise funds together at the Shimmery Shamrock Gala!

WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS

2025 White House Ornaments will be available for sale and pickup on October 1st. As Heidi mentioned in her letter, they will also be selling them at Christkindlmarkt on December 6. 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?

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 NO Eyeglass recycling	23	24	25 Christmas Day!	26	27 No Book Sale	28
29 NO Eyeglass recycling	30	31 New Year's Eve!				

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			New Year's Eve	New Year's Day	Pantry Open 9-10:30	
4	5 Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am	6	7	8 No Dinner Meeting	9 OVERSTOCK 9 til gone	10
11	12 Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am	13	14	15	16 Pantry Open 9-10:30	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25 Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am			BOD Meeting	Pantry Open 9-10:30	No Book Sale
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	31 Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am				OVERSTOCK 9 til gone	

Did You Know?

Miscellaneous Club News & Information

THANK YOU!

By Lynne Kovach, Coat & Winter Clothing Drive Chair

COAT & WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Thank you to our fabulous Coat & Winter Clothing Drive Team!

This year's Drive was a tremendous success! Our ongoing collaboration with the Lions Club continues to strengthen the friendly partnership between our clubs, and together we truly made a difference.

Collection Team:

The community's generosity was incredible this year—so incredible that your job became a bit more challenging with those overflowing boxes! Thank you for keeping everything organized and moving smoothly.

Sorting Team:

You did it again! We wrapped up sorting in record time. Starting at 10:00 AM and finishing by 10:45 AM is no small feat. The Lions were thoroughly impressed with our efficiency and teamwork.

Distribution Team:

Thank you for arriving bright and early at 7:30 AM to set up. As personal shoppers for our clients, you brought joy and dignity to the experience. One adorable little girl fell in love with a jacket and refused to take it off—that kind of moment reminds us why this service matters so much.

According to Lion Cathy Hix, we provided warm coats and accessories to **124 individuals** on Saturday. And that number doesn't even include those who will benefit from the additional donations delivered to local schools, Blessings Boutique Thrift Store, SAFE House, and Goodwill.

Thank you again to each of you—including those who stepped in at the last minute when someone from the original team couldn't make it.

You are truly WONDERFUL!

Lynne Kovach

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



L to R: Jan Terra, Christy Busey, Teresa Critchfield, Sharon Corner and Judy Booe.

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

Caroline Collantes: caroline6195@aol.com

Emily Florence: emilyjflorence@aol.com



FROM THE EDITORS

Editors: Sharla Bailey 703-989-5519 sksbailey1429@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.

**Lake of the Woods
Lioness Lions Club**

PO Box 811
Locust Grove, VA 22508

 lionessclub@lowlioness.org

 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
- Sharon Corner andiprayed@gmail.com
- Emily Florence emilyjflorence@aol.com (Tamer advisor)

DINNER MENU FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Classic Roast Dinner

- Mixed Greens with Ranch and Thousand Island Dressing
- Roast Beef with Au Jus
- Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Fresh Dinner Rolls with Butter
- Cheesecake with Whipped Cream

Vegetarian Option: Stuffed Portobello Mushroom w/ Spinach, Cheese, Breadcrumbs



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nancy King	12/6	Ann Rosenfeld	12/13
Kathy Walters	12/6	Linda Corsones	12/19
Mary Lou McFarland	12/12	Cindy Dussinger	12/23

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 by The Lioness Lions Club.

Thank you for your help with this!

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



ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN'S



CHRISTMAS
TOY BOX



November 20—December 14

Collections coordinated by :

LOW Lioness Lions Club

Kathy Merritt: (540) 538-6605



Clubhouse Manager

Chaz Kilby: (540) 972-2221



Lake of the Woods

All donated toys will remain in Orange County and will be given to children in our area

Drop off **NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS** at any of the following locations:

- * **LOW Clubhouse**
- * **Fareways Café**
- * **The Licata Group (Near CVS)**
- * **Edward Jones (near Car Doctor)**
- * **The Holcomb Building (in the foyer)**
- * **LOW Community Center**

Monetary donations are accepted. Please make checks payable and mail to:

Orange County Children's Toy Box, P.O Box 1117, Orange, VA 22960-0659

Or donate online at: occtoybox.org