

Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions LOWDOWN

Volume 41 | Number 7 | January 2026



www.lowlioness.org

President's Corner

By Heidi Brown, LOW Lioness Lions President

I truly hope that everyone who attended the December dinner meeting had a great time. Between Jill playing the harp, Kley talking about his passion for people and animals, and the wonderful dinner meal, I personally thought it was fantastic. Thank you to the Tamers who did a great job with the meal and Nicole for getting our guest speaker lined up.

As we look toward 2026, let's reflect on 2025.

I was going to start listing all the wonderful events we participated in and drives to collect bags, toys, plastic, and that kind of thing--but I feared I might not mention all of them, so I just want to say thank you in this run-on sentence! Thank you for everything that you do for this community in particular, and the County of Orange in general. Thank you for coming together when one of our Lionesses needs some comfort or assistance. You are marvelously generous in all that you do. It was a tough year—we lost some Lionesses, spouses, and friends. It's hard to say good-bye, but we know we will see one another again.

I met with the new GM last Thursday, and all I can say is that we need to hear what the LOW board will be proposing for the Clubhouse for next year. I don't know yet if we will be able to keep our monthly meetings on Thursdays at a cost of \$30. I did provide her with a one-pager on who we are and what we do. I gave her a copy of the trifold, which she instantly started to read. She said she knew about the Lions but not Lioness, which is why I prepared the packet I gave her. I also provided much of the same things from the LGA so she would know who they are as well. We'll wait and see what happens. Just know that we will be represented at that board meeting whenever it is calendared.

Our second Trex bench has arrived and will be assembled by Nicole Pappas' husband, Scott Bartel. I don't want to put it at the Tree of Love Garden by the Ferris building until we have a Lioness plaque installed. If anyone knows of a place to get this done, please let me know as soon as possible. I think we need our purple logo in the center of the bench. Maybe put a smaller plaque that has Lions International on one of the sides.

What Shall I Bring to this Month's Meeting?

Nada! And please don't even bring yourself since we aren't having a meeting this month! 😊

No Dinner Meeting in January



These Lionesses made amazing baskets to help the Veterans Club! Way to go, ladies!!!
And more lovely smiles! 😊

What will I find inside this LOWDOWN?

- Pg 1, 3 - **President's Corner**
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- Pg 4 - **We Missed You!** – High-level Recap of Last Month's Meeting
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- Pg 10 - **Calendar of Events**
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- Pg 16 - **Monthly Stuff (not service related...)** – Menu, Birthdays, etc.

Blood Drive Flyer at the end...

The Insider's View

Highlights from the Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting Thursday, December 18, 2025

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

Secretary's Report: G Bishop Oliveri

- **Member Updates**

- It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of **Carol Lee**. Carol became a Lioness on 02/10/2000. She was an active member and held many positions, including President. Carol was moved to an assisted living facility. Please keep her family in prayer.
- Margaret J Legge requested that her status be changed from AFL back to Active.

- **Old Business**

- Bylaws and Constitution update – Heidi will continue to update
- Lioness Website –BOD approved to allocate \$1,600.00 to upgrade our Lioness website.

Treasurer's Reports: Loretta Lafley and Beth Newton

Account details were shared by both Treasurers.

President's Report: Heidi Brown

- Outcome of meeting with the new LOWA GM – Heidi introduced our Lioness club. She shared documented stats and our trifold representing our activities, our various fundraisers and how we serve our community. Heidi will continue discussion regarding club dinner fees to be consistent and affordable.
- Lioness Service Chair - Heidi will research responsibilities and make an appointment soon.
- The Board of Directors, along with sponsors, need to encourage Lionesses to continue attending dinner meetings and other functions.
- Congratulations to our Plastic Bag Recycling Committee and members. We met our goal and received another bench!
 - Nicole and her husband Scott will assemble.
 - Heidi will research local vendors for a plaque.

Tail Twister: Nicole Pappas

- Nicole expressed gratitude to all members who have contributed by providing her with names to honor as Mighty Lioness.
- **Donation request**– Nicole would like us to participate in subsidizing cost toward the High School DECA Team. This is an organization that mentors and prepares students for various fields. She will provide us with more information.

President's Corner, continued

Remember that there is NO DINNER IN JANUARY.

Thank you for volunteering for the Shimmery Shamrock Gala at the December dinner meeting. I'll be sending the sheet out to see if I can get additional volunteers for this wonderful event.

If you know of a Lioness in need, please contact Shellee Williams.

Thank you for a wonderful six months serving as your President.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

--Heidi

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

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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

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

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

Quick High-Level Recap of the December 13 Meeting

PROGRAM

Angel Flights – The Sharing of the Gift of Time and Talent

Kley Parkhurst was our special guest and speaker during our December Meeting. Wasn't he amazing!?!? He described how he gives of his talent as a pilot, his time (he puts in way more hours than commercial pilots!), and his heart...

He transports people who need medical care who cannot fly commercial for medical reasons, pets who need homes, and supplies to people in need – and much more!! Our club has donated \$500 to support his work through the purchase of fuel...

Pat Licata and the Licata Group hosted a fundraising event to support Kley's work at Clearwater Grill and will do so again next year – and we will be sure to let you know when that will be so you can continue to support him in his work. 



VISITORS



Kathy Merritt brought former Lionesses Sharon Thornton and Roselyn Edwards. Sharon and Roselyn came to dinner to visit and see old friends. It was lovely to see you both.

Emily Florence brought Danielle Pilon to visit with us again, Yay!

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.



VISITORS, CONTINUED



Julie Phend brought Susan Haynes – another repeat visitor! Yes! Susan has lived in Lake of the Woods since 2010. She’s a retired academic librarian and software designer. She’s active in Bocce Club and LOW Church Flower Guild, and travels frequently with her husband, Kingsley.

Sharla Bailey brought Kay Bailey, her mom! Sharla is trying to get her mom to move down to the lake with her dad from Northern Virginia. Her niece and nephew are the big draw up there – maybe soon? 😊



GREAT TO SEE ARLENE RICH

Wonderful to have Arlene back with us - we missed her VERY much!

GOODBYE TO ELLEN BEARDEN...



I didn’t get a picture of Ellen... maybe I was crying?! 😭
The December meeting was Ellen’s last official meeting since she will be moving to Northern Virginia. We will miss you so much, Ellen! Very excited for your new adventure. We know you are going to make some fabulous new friends and might even start a new Lioness Chapter at Woodleigh Chase. 😊

BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

In addition to the wonderful meal and everyone dressed in festive apparel; we had a harpist at the December dinner meeting! What an absolute treat that was!!! Thank you, Jill Francis, for sharing your talent with us!!!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



MIGHTY LIONESSES

KATHY GILLESPIE, You Mighty Lioness!

Your kindness shines through in the way you care not only for people, but for the pets they love. By providing the Food Pantry with essential food for cats and dogs, you offer a lifeline that makes a real difference. Thank you for your compassion, your generosity, and the light you share with everyone around you.

DEBORAH RAINES, You Mighty Lioness!

You took on the challenge of rebuilding our aging website. Your research, dedication, and tenacity are ensuring we will have a modern, reliable, and user-friendly Lioness Club website. We deeply appreciate the behind-the-scenes work you're doing to help our club shine even brighter. You are amazing.

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!

How Can I Serve?

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

THE BOOK ROOM

The Book Room will reopen on February 27, 2026. If anyone has questions, please contact Helene Burns, Sherri Lasover or Ann Walker, Book Room co-chairs.

We sometimes receive more donations than we can shelve as we have limited space. Lioness Nan Lamb mentioned that SAFE house residents were pleased to receive books, and we are delighted now to be able to provide the residents with surplus books. Thank you, Nan, for agreeing to deliver books to them! We also continue to provide books for homebound Lake residents.

While the demand for written books has dwindled over the years, we continue to have a good flow of traffic during our sales. We are grateful for the help of Gina Davies, Margaret Height and Marty Legge during our sales and in managing the continued sorting and shelving of books.

THE FOOD PANTRY

Fridays @ 9:30am

The pantry will be open for five Fridays in January.

The pantry will be open January 2 (USDA), January 9 (Overstock), January 16 (USDA), January 23 (USDA), January 30 (Overstock).

For info: Nicki Buell 703-217-5615

EYEGLASS RECYCLING

Mondays @ 9:30am

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 or Sheran Marks joensheran@comcast.net | 540-846-6956

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. If you have some items you would like to donate, we will take them!

- 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!

Calendar of Events

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	6	7	8	9	10
	Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am			No Dinner Meeting	OVERSTOCK 9 til gone	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am				Pantry Open 9-10:30	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	MLK Jr. Bday Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am	Blood Drive 12:30 – 5:30pm		BOD Meeting	Pantry Open 9-10:30	No Book Sale
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am				OVERSTOCK 9 til gone	

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am				Pantry Open 9-10:30	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	RSVP for Dinner Mtg by Noon; Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am			Dinner Meeting	OVERSTOCK 9 till gone	Valentine's Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	President's Day Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am				Pantry Open 9-10:30	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Eyeglass Recycling 9:30 – 11am			BOD Meeting	Pantry Open 9-10:30 Book Room Reopens	

Did You Know?

Miscellaneous Club News & Information

WREATH MAKING FUN

Thanks to the Directors for putting together a fun outing. Wreath making was great fun and some of us even ended up with some nice wreaths, too! 😊





CHILDHELP GIFT WRAPPING

Thank you for wrapping gifts at Childhelp! (L-R, Marian Rood, Deborah Baird, Susan Haynes, Linda Corsones, Donna Morrissey, Colleen Cameron, Lara Berry and Rani Manhard)



HOW TO SPONSOR A NEW LIONESSE

Interested in sponsoring a new member to our LOW Lioness Lions Club?

Here's all you need to know!

- Your sponsee is required to complete two service opportunities prior to application.
- Your sponsee will attend one dinner meeting.
- Advise a Membership Committee Co-Chair (Barb Tomayko/Pat Licata) that a membership application is forthcoming.
- Your sponsee will complete a new member application, which is located on our website (lowlioness.org), along with the sponsor's responsibilities form. The application is then provided to one of the Membership Committee Co-Chairs.
- The inductee and sponsor will attend a new member meeting (typically held at Two Brothers and attended by several BOD members.) This is an opportunity to get to know the inductee on a more personal level and to further acquaint her with Lions International, as well as our club specifically.
- Induction occurs every other month, with the first of 2026 at our March dinner meeting.
- Dues of \$85 (prorated) plus the \$35 new member fee should be given to Beth Newton, Treasurer.

Sponsor Responsibilities:

- Please note that sponsoring a new member entails responsibilities and is an extremely important role in ensuring an involved Lioness, specifically:
- Accompany the prospective member to two meetings. Facilitate her participation in two activities before her induction.
- Introduce her to the club's members and identify the various officers and their responsibilities.
- Discuss the club's purpose, activities, and responsibilities and answer any questions she may have regarding the operation of the club or its goals.
- Notify the Membership chair that you are sponsoring a prospective member and obtain an Application for Membership. Help the prospective member fill it out and return it to the Membership chair.
- Attend the New Member meeting with the inductee and participate in her induction ceremony. Do all you can to make certain the new member's induction is impressive so that she feels pride in joining Lioness.
- Encourage her to review the membership kit, including the Constitution and By-laws that she will receive upon induction. Follow up by talking about it with her and asking if she has questions.
- Call her prior to her first few meetings and offer to accompany her to the meeting or meet her there. Continue to introduce her to people and facilitate her participation in Lioness.
- Help her to become an INVOLVED LIONESSE!

HOLIDAY BASKET MAKING FOR VETERANS CLUB

At the request of our President, Heidi Brown, a group of Lionesses donated items and created beautifully arranged raffle baskets in support of the Veterans Club Annual Holiday Dinner Dance.

Special thanks to Donna Morrissey for capturing the event with some wonderful photographs.

This was a fun, meaningful project for our members and a great opportunity to support another worthy community cause.

Basket makers & donors: Donna Morrissey, Donalda Lovelace, Darcy Jennings, Kathy Merritt, Pat Licata, Lynne Kovach & Nancy King.



TOY DRIVE

Kathy Merritt and Emily Florence helped our Orange County Toy Drive volunteers with all the toys donated by our community this year. Special thanks to the Licata Group and Edward Jones Financial for allowing donation boxes in their offices.



FROM THE EDITORS

Editors: Sharla Bailey 703-989-5519 skbailey1429@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

As a reminder:

1. Cost of the monthly dinners is \$30
2. **12:00 Noon on the Monday before the dinner is the deadline** for notification (preferably email) of not attending, guest attendance, and selection of alternate meal.

If you know that you will not be able to attend the dinners for an extended time (work schedule, family responsibilities, snowbird, etc.) you may want to consider applying to the board for Affiliate Membership.

Ann Turner anntturner@gmail.com (don't forget there are two Ts)

Sharon Corner andiprayed@gmail.com

Emily Florence emilyjflorence1@gmail.com (Tamer advisor)



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Loretta Lafley	1/5	Cindy Coover	1/21
Mary Lou Ambrose	1/10	Penny Schultz	1/23
Maggie Broadwater	1/11	Shellee Williams	1/25
Jan Stockman	1/16		

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



**Shake Up Your
Holiday Tradition**
Give Blood

Blood Drive

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

**Tuesday, January 20
12:30 AM to 5:30 PM**



**SCAN AND
ENTER
ZIP CODE**

Sign up today

RedCrossBlood.org

to reserve an appointment today

Give Something that Means Something®

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App