

Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions LOWDOWN

Volume 42 | Number 4 October 2026



www.lowlioness.org

President's Corner

By Mary Lou Ambrose, LOW Lioness Lions President

Another month has flown by. I am looking forward to the fall, cooler weather, beautiful fall foliage and all the activities coming up for us.

We had a very successful 50/50 at the concert on the point led by Nicole Pappas and her team. Also, Barb Tomayko and her committee put on a first-class event with our card party and fashion show. It was a wonderful way to close out September. Thanks for all your hard work in making these successful events.

I'd like to thank Caroline Collantes for stepping up to the plate and chairing the LOWA Fall Festival which we will be participating in on October 3rd at the Sweetbriar Park. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help out and don't forget to wear your purple shirts to this fun festival for our community.

Looking forward to the Fall Fling on October 10th at Fareways. This has turned into a very popular event. At this time, we have sold ALL 200 tickets! A huge thank you to Nicki Buell and Heidi Brown for selling all those tickets!! You are invited to participate whether you purchased tickets or not. The Fall Fling will be from 4-6 PM with entertainment from DJ Tim Corner.

We will be participating with LOWLINC and the Lions on Friday, October 16th in the lower level of the clubhouse parking lot for the annual Hazardous Waste Collection Event from 11:00 – 12:30. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please wear your purple shirts.

Don't forget to wear pink at our next dinner meeting in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Pink witches might be fun! Oh, and speaking of Halloween, Teresa Wisniewski is heading up Halloween on the Point on Friday, October 30th. We are being told it will be held in the clubhouse lower parking lot this year and each club will be issued one parking spot to give out candy. Please stay tuned for more information.

Carol Greeney and Lynne Kovach are co-chairing our Christmas Treasures sale on Saturday, November 7th with set-up the night before. Please volunteer to help them with this sale and start going through your gently used Christmas items to donate to this cause. We've had so many wonderful new Lionesses join us, along with many guests who are interested in becoming Lionesses. I want to thank all of you for inviting your friends and introducing them to our club. It means so much to see our Lioness family growing. It's a wonderful reflection of the friendship, fun, and sense of community that we share.

What Shall I Bring to this Month's Meeting?

**Wear PINK for Breast Cancer
Awareness Month—Bling it up for
Halloween fun!**



What will I find inside this LOWDOWN?

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

A good time was had by all, celebrating the accomplishments of incoming and outgoing Lionesses, and welcoming new guests to our club!

- We welcomed four new guests: Traci Nicol, guest of Heidi Brown, Michelle Funk, guest of Jacq Mills, Lisa Sheire, guest of Caroline Colantes, Bev McInnis, guest of Kathy Merritt.



- We celebrated awards given to Beth Newton and Gloria Bishop Oliveri by Lions International.



- We inducted two new Lionesses: Angie Laing and Cam Miller, sponsored by Mary Lou Ambrose and Heidi Brown.



- We said goodbye to Lioness Joyce Morlan, who is moving to Indiana.



Happy Birthday!!!

October Birthdays:

Michele McKeown	10-4
Joyce Morlan	10-5
Susan Haynes	10-9
Cathi O'Brien	10-17
Kathy Merritt	10-23
Suzanne Herr (AFL)	10-31

September Birthdays!!!



TAMERS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Effective Immediately!

Due to a change in requirements from the LOW Clubhouse, the deadline for notifying the Tamers about your attendance and meal preference for the Lioness Dinners had to be changed. You must ***send an email to all three Tamers by noon on the Thursday prior to the dinner.*** As a reminder, correct change, \$30, and having your check ready before you get to the check-in desk is appreciated.

Please note there is one new Tamer, Diane Wiard. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Emily Florence for serving as Tamer Advisor this past year. We appreciate Nicki Buell volunteering to serve as a Tamer and look forward to her leadership in the future,

Ann Turner anntturner@gmail.com

Shaaron Corner andi prayed@gmail.com

Diane Wiard dkwiard2001@yahoo.com

OCTOBER DINNER MENU:

Harvest Pork Dinner

- Garden Salad – Ranch & Balsamic
- Roasted Pork Loin with Apple Cider Glaze
- Sweet Potato Mash
- Roasted Carrots
- Dinner Rolls
- Pumpkin Pie

Alternate: Cheese Tortellini with Marinara

AND LOOKING AHEAD:

November: Chicken Alfredo Dinner

- Caesar Salad
- Chicken Alfredo
- Penne Pasta
- Roasted Broccoli
- Garlic Bread
- Cheesecake

Alternate: Mushroom Ravioli in Alfredo Sauce

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

Lots of opportunities coming up. Volunteer and join the fun!

FOOD PANTRY:

The pantry will be open 5 times in October. **Friday October 2, Oct 9, and Oct 23** will be regular USDA pantry days. **Friday, October 30th will be an overstock day** since it is the fifth Friday. The pantry will NOT be open on October 16th. Instead, it will be open **Wednesday, October 14th from 4:30-6:30**. Volunteers are welcome!

BOOK ROOM:

The Book Sale will be held as usual on the last Saturday of the month: October 31, 8:30am -1:00 pm in the Ferris Building near the Lions yard sale. (It's the small tan building on the left near the new Lioness shed.) Come on out and find your next great read!

TRUNK OR TREAT: Will take place on Friday, October 1 in the Clubhouse parking lot. Check out the photo of our trunk so far. We'll be combining Hocus Pocus fun with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Pink witches, black witches, and all helpers are welcome!" Nicki Buell is donating the candy for the event this year. See the flyer in this issue of LOWDOWN



WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE:

Bins are out to collect winter coats, sweaters, scarves and gloves for needy folks in our area. See flyer in this LOWDOWN for details

Card Party and Fashion Show fun!!!



CONCERT ON THE POINT September 18, 2026

Congratulations, Deborah Baird — Concert on the Point 50/50 Raffle Winner!

A big congratulations to **Deborah Baird**, the lucky winner of the Concert on the Point 50/50 Raffle!

We are especially grateful to **The Licata Group** for once again choosing the **Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions Club** to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at the September Concert on the Point. We are also incredibly thankful to the Lionesses who volunteered their time and energy to make the raffle a success, under the leadership of **Nicole Pappas**.

And what a way to sell tickets! **Susan Haynes stole the show in her fabulous raffle-ticket-decorated hat** — a creative idea we may have to bring back next year! Susan was joined by **Carol Greeney, Val Protiva, Julie Phend, Caroline Collantes, Janet Stockman, Teresa Wisniewski, and Mary Lou Ambrose**.

Together, these enthusiastic Lionesses sold an impressive **\$1,455 in raffle tickets!**

That means **Deborah Baird took home \$728**, while **\$727 went to the Lioness Foundation** to help support the many community service projects made possible by the LOW Lioness Lions Club.

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket, volunteered to sell tickets, and helped make the evening such a success. **Your support truly helps us as “WE SERVE” our community!**



FALL FLING - DON'T Forget—Everyone Is Welcome!

Join us for the **Fall Fling** on **Saturday, October 10, at Fareways**. You do **not** need to purchase a drawing ticket to attend an afternoon of fun and music with **DJ Tim Corner**.

If you have purchased a ticket, check-in begins at **3:30 p.m.**, with drawings starting at **4:00 p.m.**

This Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions Club fundraiser helps support community service projects right here in Orange County. Come join the fun and help us make a difference!

CHRISTMAS TREASURES...

...AND MUCH MORE

Lake of the Woods Lioness Club will hold its popular **Christmas Treasures Bazaar on Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Community Center.**

We'll be selling new and nearly new holiday items, Thanksgiving and Christmas décor, ornaments, dishes, and tableware, as well as jewelry and jigsaw puzzles. There will also be a bake sale featuring all manner of yummy home-baked treats. Carol Greeney will chair this popular fundraiser.



Here's how you can help:

- **Sort through your closets for fall and Christmas décor and other holiday items, puzzles or jewelry you'd like to donate for the sale.**
- **Bring your donations to the Community Center on FRIDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 6, between 4:00-7:00 pm.**
- **If you are unable to drop your items off that night, please contact Carol Greeney (rcgreeney@comcast.net) or 540-903-0281 to make other arrangements.**
- **Please BAKE. We're looking for HOME-BAKED treats: cookies, brownies, candies, pies, cakes, and tea breads. Every Lioness should either bake or donate.**
- **Volunteers are still needed. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October Lioness meeting.**

Come, help out, trade in your old Christmas decorations, and find some new Christmas treasures!





2026 WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENT FOR SALE

This year's Official White House Ornament is also the 250 Commemorative Ornament. The ornaments are available early this year due to the theme of the United States 250th Year Anniversary Celebration and are available now for purchase through the Lake of the Woods Lioness Club. This will make a nice gift for any occasion throughout the year.

The cost of the ornament is the same as the past years — no price increase. To purchase or place your order call or text:

**Jan Stockman (703-943-9314) or
Kathy Merritt (540-538-6605)**



Front



Back

Price \$25.00

Emmy Nominated Documentary Screening

Free to Public. Refreshments Provided.

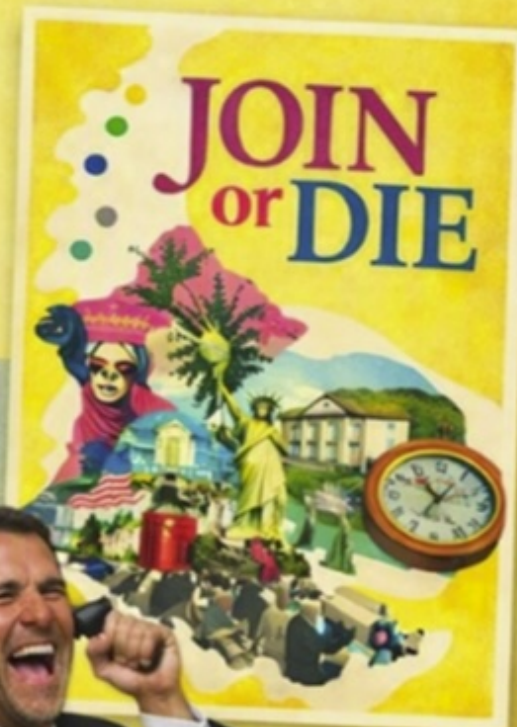
October 10, 7:00 PM

Living Water Outreach Center,
32345 Constitution Hwy Ste P
Locust Grove, VA 22508

Presented by

Lake of the Woods Lions Club

Follow social scientist
Robert Putnam's exploration
of the relationship
of community
involvement and mental health.



LAKE OF THE WOODS LIONS CLUB

Serving Orange County Since 1982
District 24-L



For info contact Alex Salustri lowlionsalex@gmail.com

**Minutes for the Club Board of Directors Meeting
Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions Club
Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
Community Center, Room 2**

Club BOD Meeting called to Order by President, Mary Lou Ambrose at 5:31 pm.

Present: **President:** Mary Lou Ambrose
 1st Vice President: Caroline Collantes
 2nd Vice President: Nicole Pappas
 Administrative Secretary: Charlene Fines
 Administrative Treasurer: Beth Newton
 Foundation Secretary/24L Liaison: Gloria Bishop Oliveri
 Tamers: Ann Turner and Sharon Corner
 Membership: Pat Licata; Gloria Bishop Oliveri and Barbara Tomayko
 Directors: Claire Donohoe and Emily Florence
 Immediate Past President: Heidi Brown

Absent: **3rd Vice President:** Teresa Wisniewski
 Foundation Treasurer: Loretta Lafley
 Tamer: Diane Wiard
 Directors: Nicki Buell and Kathy Merrit
 Tail Twister: Darcy Jennings

Secretary's Report: Charlene Fines

- 1) Motion requested to approve **Minutes from the August 27, 2026, BOD meeting**, which were previously submitted.
Motion to approve made by Sharon Corner and seconded by Nicole Pappas. **The motion was carried.**

- 2) **Monthly Report: Committee Chairs for August 2026 as provided by Gloria Bishop Oliveri:**

PS= 6,948 L= 182 H= 584 \$79.00*
* **Baskets Raffled:** \$29.00 **Dinner Meeting 50/50:** \$50.00

- 3) **Old Business:**

Audit required for 2025-2026 financials. Heidi Brown will seek LGA Treasurer, Darla Curnutte's availability to conduct the review.

- 4) **New Members:**

The following potential new members are anticipated to be inducted in **November 2026:**

- A) **Angie Long**, sponsored by Maggie Broadwater & Cheryl Murray – approved August 27, 2026 (orientation pending).
B) **Michelle Funk**, sponsored by Jacq Mills (application pending)
C) **Traci Nicol**, sponsored by Heidi Brown (application pending)
D) **Lisa Sheire**, sponsored by Caroline Collantes (application pending)

- 5) **Member Resignation:**

- A) **Joyce Morlan resignation** announced during September 10, 2026, Lioness dinner meeting as she is relocating to be closer to family.

Motion to approve **Joyce Morlan's resignation** made by Sharon Corner and seconded by Claire Donohoe.
The motion was carried.

Administrative Treasurer, Beth Newton:

August 2026 Report	
Total Income	\$2,364.00
Total Expenses	\$2,465.60
Income over (under) Expenses	(\$101.60)
Cash Balance Checking	\$13,958.69
CD Balance*	\$10,000.00
Total Admin Funds	\$23,958.69

*Plan to renew CD in October

President's Report: Mary Lou Ambrose

- 1) **Lioness Dinner Pricing.** Mary Lou has requested update from Clubhouse Food & Beverage Director, Craig Tebbe.
- 2) **Hazardous materials collection.** The Lioness will work with LOWLINC and the Lions to support Hazardous materials collection on Friday, October 16th at the Clubhouse Lower-Level Parking Lot between 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Carolin Collantes will send an e-mail announcement to the Lioness Club members.
- 3) **Pink Witches** –The Lioness are encouraged to wear pink to the October 8th dinner meeting in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness. Mary Lou has purchased a pink witch's hat in recognition of Halloween as well.
- 4) The **October 22nd BOD Meeting** will be held at the Clubhouse Oak Room.
- 5) **Halloween Trunk or Treat** – Friday, October 30th at the Clubhouse Lower-Level Parking Lot
 - Join us to help decorate the truck and dress as a witch (pink or black hats encouraged)! Further details will be included in the LOWDOWN, with another invitation closer to the date. A big thank-you to Nicki Buell for donating all the candy!
- 6) **Dr. Daniel P. Hornick**, Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools will speak briefly at the October 8th Lioness Dinner Meeting (between the pledge and the invocation) about the proposed 1% Retail Sales Tax for Schools.

1st VP's Report: Caroline Collantes

The Lioness will have a booth at the LOW Fall Festival on October 3rd at Sweetbriar Park. Games and giveaways are planned. Heidi recommended contacting Darcy for potential basket sales for the event.

Tamers: Sharon Corner, Ann Turner and Diane Wiard

Ann Turner recommended including menus for the subsequent two months in each LOWDOWN to assist with attendance planning.

Membership: Pat Licata, Kathy Merritt, Gloria Bishop Oliveri and Barbara Tomayko

Pat Licata concurred with the planned New Members listed above.

Directors: Nikki Buell, Claire Donohoe, Emily Florence and Kathy Merritt

Claire Donohoe confirmed that 21 Lionesses have registered for the October 15th Tie-Dye event to be held at Nicki Buell's home.

There being no further business to come before the **LOW Lioness Lions Club Board of Directors** at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Charlene C. Fines, LOW Lioness, Lions Administrative Club Secretary

Next Club BOD Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. **in the Clubhouse Oak Room.**

Minutes for the Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
Lake of the Woods Lioness Lions Club
Thursday, September 24, 2026
Immediately Following Club BOD Meeting
Community Center, Room 2

Foundation BOD Meeting called to order by President, Mary Lou Ambrose at 6:00 p.m.

Present: **President:** Mary Lou Ambrose
 1st Vice President: Caroline Collantes
 2nd Vice President: Nicole Pappas
 Administrative Secretary: Charlene Fines
 Administrative Treasurer: Beth Newton
 Foundation Secretary/24L Liaison: Gloria Bishop Oliveri
 Tamers: Ann Turner and Sharon Corner
 Membership: Pat Licata; Gloria Bishop Oliveri and Barbara Tomayko
 Directors: Claire Donohoe and Emily Florence
 Immediate Past President: Heidi Brown

Absent: **3rd Vice President:** Teresa Wisniewski
 Foundation Treasurer: Loretta Lafley
 Tamer: Diane Wiard
 Directors: Nicki Buell and Kathy Merrit
 Tail Twister: Darcy Jennings

Foundation Secretary's Report: Gloria Bishop Oliveri

- 1) Motion requested to approve **Foundation Minutes** from the **August 27, 2026, Foundation BOD meeting**, which were previously submitted.
- 2) **Motion** to approve **Foundation Minutes** made by Emily Florence and seconded by Sharon Corner.
Motion passed by a majority vote.

- 3) **Monthly Report:** Committee Chairs for **August 2026:**
Book Sale: \$633.50 Bake Sale: \$92.00 TOTAL: \$725.50

- 4) **Old Business:**
 - A) **Donation for Art Supply:** Mary Lou requested **(09/01/26 via email)** to authorize \$100.00 donation to LOW Arts to purchase art supplies for eight Orange County Schools. Original request was made by Kathy Waters. **Motion** to approve was made by Loretta Lafley and seconded by Darcy Jennings. **Motion** approved by a majority vote.
 - B) **2026-2027 Audits:** Loretta requests that we discuss 2025-2026 audit. Heidi Brown will seek LGA Treasurer, Darla Curnutte's availability to conduct the review.

Foundation Treasurer, Loretta Lafley:

August 2026 Report	
Total Income	\$725.50
Total Expenses	\$7,028.13
Adjusted Bank Balance	\$21,265.60
CD Balance	\$30,872.61
Total Assets	\$52,438.88

President's Report: Mary Lou Ambrose

- 1) **Dolly Parton Imagination Library:** Because Foundation Treasurer, Loretta Lafley was not present, it was decided to reserve further discussion until our October 22nd BOD meeting.
- 2) **Locust Grove Middle School Clothing Request:** This request was originally made to Teresa Wisniewski from Brandi Dubey, School Counselor, for Locust Grove Middle School. Motion to donate \$250.00 was made by Sharon Corner and seconded by Claire Donohoe. **Motion** approved by a majority vote.
- 3) **Fall Fling:** It is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 4-6 p.m. at Fareways Cafe. All tickets have been sold. Check in is at 3:30 p.m. The drawing begins at 4:00 p.m. One \$100.00 winning ticket will be pulled every ten minutes and returned for additional chances to win. The final ticket will be pulled for a \$500.00 prize. **You do NOT have to be present to win.**
- 4) **Christmas Treasures:** Carol Greeney and Lynne Kovach are cochairing this event. It has been scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2026. More information to follow. Volunteers sign-up sheet will be available at our October dinner meeting.
- 5) **Fall Festival:** It has been scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Sweetbriar Park from 10am to 4 p.m. We have been assigned A7 to set up our booth.

2nd VP's Report: Nicole Pappas

- 1) **50/50 on the Point:** It was very successful and Nicole had plenty of volunteers. The winner received \$728.00 and we made \$727.00 toward our Foundation Fund. Nicole indicated that for the future, we will need to emphasize that the winning ticket **MUST** be present to win.
The BOD gave direction for the Concert on the Point 50/50 Raffle chairperson to announce the winning ticket number inside the bar and Grill room when tickets are sold in those areas. No other areas, such as boats at the dock, were included in this direction.

3rd VP's Report: Teresa Wisniewski

Teresa reported that she received lovely thank-you notes from Head Start, Locust Grove Primary School, and Locust Grove Elementary School for our donations and support. She'll be happy to send copies to anyone interested.

There being no further business to come before the **LOW Lioness Lions Club Board of Directors** at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Gloria Bishop Oliveri, LOW Lioness Lions Foundation Secretary/24L Liaison

Next Club BOD Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. **in the Clubhouse Oak Room.**