



Newsletter

Bluffton Lions Club

www.ohiolions.org
www.blufftonlions.org

January 2026

2025-2026 Officers & Board Members:

President-Jackie Bourassa; V. Pres-Greg Denecker; V. Pres- Dwain Hall; V. Pres-Ed Yeager;
Secretary-Barbara Plaucher; Treasurer-Scott Hoff; Lion Tamer-Mark Bourassa; Tail Twister-Dennis Morrison; Board Members: 1 yr.-Mark Bourassa; 1 yr.- Jerry Szabo; 2 yr.- Brigitte Hoff; 2 yr.- Andrew Anderson. Editor-Barbara Plaucher

February Birthday:

Dennis Morrison 2/10 Clair Winebar 2/24 Brigitte Hoff 2/26

February Anniversary:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 3rd: Club meeting Town Hall 6:30 PM. Board to meet at 6 PM. Speaker will be TBA.

February 12th: Northwest Eye Care Foundation by zoom 7 PM.

February 17th: Club meeting Town Hall noon. NO lunch available this meeting. 50/50 charity raffle drawing. Speaker will be Lindsey Miller, WBGSU.

March 7th: Cabinet meeting Bluffton Town Hall 9 AM.

April 17 – 18: District Convention Hilton Garden Inn, Findlay.

January 50/50 CHARITY RAFFLE:

\$100 Beth Raeburn ticket sold by Lion Natalie Armstrong
\$50 Kyle Chamberlain ticket sold by Lion Gene Long
\$30 Nora Matthews ticket sold by Lion Renee Matthews
\$20 Laura Blackburn ticket sold by Lion Jesse Blackburn



Board Minutes: A few dues not paid are due. Treasurer's report shows all-inclusive playground monies moved to special account.

Death of member Lion Ted Cunningham in December. Ted was a long-time member and was currently in Mennonite Memorial Home. A check to LCIF in memorandum was presented.

Peace poster winner, Lydia Gratz, was chosen as the district peace poster winner.

Approval of 2026 donations include LCIF \$1,000; VOSH \$200; Pilot Dogs \$200; Ohio Sight/Hearing \$200; Ohio Lions Foundation \$400; Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer \$200; Ohio Diabetes \$250; Ohio Lions Eye Research \$100; Northwest Ohio Eyecare \$250.

Festival of Wheels scheduled for June 16th.

Pancake breakfast planned for May 16th along with the spring craft festival.

Citizen of the Year will be held in April.

January 6th Meeting:



Speaker for the evening meeting was Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Professor from the Bluffton University Environmental Science program. An interesting program and many questions answered involving the Bluffton University Nature Preserve.

January 20th Meeting: A business meeting was held on January 20th, along with the induction of two new members, and presentations of four students from the Bluffton High School Junior Class attending the Girls State at Bowling Green University and Boys State at Miami University. The business meeting gave an overview of our projects and fund-raising for this year. The All-Inclusive Playground shows pledges close to \$300,000 with cash on hand at approximately \$187,000. A matching grant has been applied for from Lions Clubs International Foundation.



Bluffton American Legion and Bluffton Lions Club sponsored the students to Girls and Boys State in June 2025. This includes education in citizenship, to provide an opportunity to live together as a self-governing citizen and participate in the actual functioning of their government.

Lion Mike Minnig, Truett Diller, Adrian Murray, Aubrey Burkholder, Elizabeth Suter, Lion Dennis Morrison.



Induction of 2 new Bluffton Lion members by IPDG Sue Davis. New members Kiley Rutzler, with sponsor Lion Greg Denecker (absent), and Ryan Gathard, with sponsor Dwain Hall. This brings the club's total membership to 53.



IPDG Sue Davis, President Jackie Bourassa, Kiley Rutzler, Ryan Gathard, Lion Duane Hall

New Members:

Ryan Gathard currently works with Brethren Management Services at the Mennonite Home Communities, as Regional Director of Missional Advancement. He has 22 years working in fundraising for health care and senior living communities. He resides in Greenville with wife, Katie, two children and two dogs. He is committed to serving others and has been a lion in previous districts.

Kiley Rutzler is a local community member, residing near Rawson with her husband, Clay, and four children. Kiley is the owner of Event Pro Connections, providing event curating. She also works with The Red Tornado Collective, a marketing team that helps businesses grow. Kiley serves on two nonprofit boards and is proud to help businesses thrive in their community.



Projects:

- Ride to Remember- \$7,557 Pathways Community Meal
- Eye Screening- 249 children/18 identified
- Fall Craft Show - \$728 for Playground Roadside Cleanup
- Peace Poster Contest- District winner
- Blaze of Lights Parade- Playground float
- Christmas Auction - \$642 for Playground

Continuing to Spread Joy Through Service



- April-**
 - Spring Highway Cleanup
 - Citizen of the Year
 - District Convention-April 18, Findlay
- May-**
 - Stacks & Crafts- May 16
 - State Convention
 - Award scholarships
- June-**
 - VOSH Sorting Center volunteer meeting
 - Installation of Officers
 - Festival of Wheels-June 19
- July-**
 - Family Picnic
 - Ride to Remember

Continual projects- collect for recycling: aluminum cans, glasses, hearing aids, ink cartridges

2025-26 Focus Building Joy Together



President Lion Jackie presented projects and community service for the first half of the lion's year. Many project funds are designated toward the All-Inclusive Playground.

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Attached to the left are projects and community service planned for the last half of the lion's year.

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Drawing of the All-Inclusive Playground. More information will be following.