



Welcome to the River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club!

<https://rhlwlions.org/>

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Order RH/LW Lions Apparel: <https://lakewylielionsclubstore.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Welcome! As a member of the River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club, you will become a part of the largest and most active Lions Club in the Carolinas. You are also a member of the largest service organization in the world, with 1.4 million members in 200 countries. So, wherever you go in the world you will find another Lion!

Our Background: River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club was established in 1975 to fulfill the “We Serve” motto of [Lions International](#). For almost 50 years, our members have met that challenge through the joy of fulfillment in our “pay it forward” efforts. Today our 142 members have fun while actively participating in the fundraising and volunteer services our Club provides. We returned over \$203,000 dollars this year to 22 charities and institutions with an emphasis on meeting the needs of our local citizens.

Our Eight Global Causes: The Eight Global Causes that are the basis of our service include vision, hunger, the environment, diabetes, childhood cancer, disaster relief, humanitarian aid and youth support. Each year we hold fundraising events to raise money for these charities, with our members volunteering to support the projects. As a Lion, you can participate in our fundraisers, such as the annual Golf Tournament, Pancake Breakfast, and Diabetes Run for Life.

We also volunteer in many other ways in our local community. With our KidSight program, Lion volunteers visit schools to screen children for vision problems. Our **educational outreach** efforts include reading to elementary school classes, providing hundreds of books through Roaring Readers free book program at Kinard, Larne and Bethany Elementary Schools, the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest (and giving an award and recognition), and three annual scholarships to a Clover High School seniors.

A Brief History of Lions Club International:

1917: The Beginning – Chicago business leader Melvin Jones asked a simple and world-changing question – what if people put their talents to work improving their communities? As of 2020, Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service club organization, with more than 1.3 million members in more than 48,000 clubs and countless stories of Lions acting on the same simple idea: let’s improve our communities.

1920: Going International – Just three years after our founding, Lions became international when we established the first club in Canada. Mexico followed in 1927. In the 1950s and 1960s international growth accelerated, with new clubs in Europe, Asia and Africa.

1925: Fighting Blindness – Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA, and challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade to eradicate darkness.” Since then, we have worked tirelessly to aid the blind and visually impaired.

1945: The ideal of an international organization is exemplified by our enduring relationship with the United Nations. We were one of the first nongovernmental organizations invited to assist in the drafting of the United Nations Charter and have supported the work of the UN ever since.

1957: Organizing Youth Programs – In the late 1950s, we created the Leo Program to provide the youth of the world with an opportunity for personal development through volunteering. There are approximately 144,000 Leos and 5,700 Leo clubs in more than 140 countries worldwide.

1968: Establishing Our Foundation – Lions Clubs International Foundation assists Lions with global and large-scale local humanitarian projects. Through our Foundation, Lions meet the needs of their local and global communities.

The Foundation Fund: The River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Community Foundation was founded in 2004 by the River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club with the express purpose of supporting philanthropic individuals in our community in achieving their long-term giving goals. Its motto is **“For good. For others. For ever.”**

The Foundation seeks to build assets for the long-term benefit of the community. The Foundation fund acts as an endowment wherein all donations’ principal amounts are preserved and only the earnings are used. Donations to River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club Charities are made annually. Donations to the Foundation go to its investment account to provide an income stream forever. The Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) charity within the River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club umbrella.

Our Meetings: We meet for a business breakfast the third Saturday of each month from 8am to 9:30am. We induct new members and receive updates on the current activities and needs of each of our fundraising committees. In addition, we meet for dinner or a social several times a year. We feature either speakers on topics of interest to Lions or we provide entertainment for holidays such as Christmas, Valentines, and the Fourth of July. We strive to provide an excellent program to keep our members informed and enlightened on the world!

Meet Your Leaders:

President – Michelle Gurevitch

Secretary – Jamie Henrickson

Treasurer – Mike Heslop

Past President – Mike Lannon

1st VP – Kevin Naumann

2nd VP – Linda Brantley

3rd VP – Carol Hurst

Membership Director – Anne Jernigan

Communications Director – Anna Johnson

Marketing Director – Art Versnick

Directors – Mike Lannon, Larry Lewis, Jack Leff, Phil Weiss

Understanding your Dues: Your Initiation Fee (\$50.00) is to register you with Lions International where you get a life-time serial number as a Lion, and to buy you a new name badge.

Dues are currently \$85.00 per quarter (\$340.00/year). If you join mid quarter, your dues are prorated. If you like, you can pay the dues for the whole year at one time. Your dues include 11 business breakfasts and 3 or 4 socials.

Our club has three bank accounts. The club member's account is referred to as the Admin account. Monies collected into Admin pays members semi-annual dues to Lions International and Districts, food for the various meals, awards, and incidentals like paper, envelopes, stamps, etc.

The Charities account is funded by our special projects, such as the golf tournament and pancake breakfast. These funds are distributed annually to a variety of charities and programs. The Foundation account receives donations and invests those funds. The Foundation contributed over \$50,000 in 2024.

Our Fundraising and Volunteer Opportunities:

Fundraisers:

Diabetes Run For Life - 5k & 10k Race and 1-mile Family Fun Walk Race in the beautiful lake side community of River Hills, Lake Wylie, SC. This team of volunteers raise money to send a child with Diabetes to a Diabetes camp where they can learn more about living with this disease. Committee Chairs: Robert Hunter email – rvcnhunter@gmail.com and George Elmiger email- Gaelmiger@yahoo.com

EMS Benefit Raffle –Our Annual EMS Raffle benefits the River Hills/Lake Wylie EMS. The winner of this raffle, held in October, takes home \$10,000 (minus taxes). The EMS receives the remaining proceeds. We need all members to purchase and sell tickets. Committee Chair: Ron LeBlanc email - ron.c.leblanc@gmail.com

Lions Charity Golf Tournament –The Lions Charity Golf Tournament is an annual charity fundraiser tradition played at the River Hills Country Club in September. Volunteers locate prospective vendors and golfers, place signs, register golfers, man the holds and obtain gift items for golfers bags. Committee Chair: Bob Breslin, email bobbreslin0607@gmail.com

Pancake Breakfast –The Pancake Breakfast is held on a Saturday Morning, the first or second week of December, and features Santa and lots of children’s activities. Volunteers sell tickets, set up and clean up the day of breakfast, collect tickets, supervise booths, distribute and remove signs. Committee Chair: Kevin Naumann, email - Naumannkevin48@yahoo.com

River Hills / Lake Wylie Directory –Our largest fundraiser, the River Hills Lions Club Directory, provides a unique telephone and e-mail address directory for River Hill’s residents and Lions Club members. The drive kicks off in late January. Volunteers sell ads for the yellow pages until April 1. In late May or early June, Volunteers stuff and deliver directories. Committee Chair: Linda Brantley, email - lionsdba@gmail.com Publication -Art Versnick, email - Art@artversnick.com

Roaring Eagles Newspaper - In conjunction with Clover High School students we publish a community newspaper. Committee chairs are Phil Weiss, email – weissphilly1@gmail.com and Dr. Kelly Clark, email – ktaylor927@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

Classroom Readers- Volunteers read to an elementary class once a week for 15-20 minutes. The book may be of the teacher’s choosing, or your own. Most volunteers say this is the highlight of their week! Committee Chair: Marilyn Robboy, email - Marilyn.robboy@gmail.com

Roaring Readers- Ordering and selecting books to be distributed to all Title One Students. Volunteers assist in adding stickers to each book saying, “This Book Belongs To...” and then helping the students sign their name. We serve 3 schools in Clover twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Committee Chairs: Sherri Ciurlik , email - sciurlik@aol.com and Michelle Gurevitch, email - mothrnet@aol.com

OTHER PROJECTS:

Bicycle Rehabilitation Project – Bikes are collected, repaired, and sold. With those proceeds, new bikes are purchased for children at Christmas. Committee Chair: Rick Thomas, email - ThomasRick1@yahoo.com

CAAC – Clover Area Assistance Center – Partnering with RH/LW Lions club, Clover Area Assistance Center (CAAC) responds effectively and compassionately to those in need who live within the boundaries of the Clover School District. Basic, urgent needs are met through food, financial assistance, health services, and education. It is through local partnerships and collaborations that we strive to help people bridge the gap between dependence and self-sufficiency. Committee Chair: Jamie Henrickson, email - jamie@henricksons.net

Community Outreach – Create greater awareness of the River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club among the residents in Lake Wylie and Clover, the many charities we support and encourage people to get involved. We attend events such as Music at the Marina, the Naked Goat Farm, Back to School events, etc. Committee Chair: Cynthia Seeley, email cynthiaseeley@gmail.com

Highway 49 Cleanup – Help Clean up Route 49 from Hamilton’s Ferry Road to the bridge. Committee Chair: Guy Cline, email - ggcline52@gmail.com

KidSight- Eye screenings scheduled at York County schools using a special camera. Committee Chair(s): Marc Robboy and David Allen, email - rhlwkidsight1@gmail.com

Program Committee – Schedule, Organize and Promote Lion’s Club Dinners and special events such as Christmas Party, Valentine’s Dance, May Pot Luck at the Marina. Committee Chair: Michael Marks email – mfmmarks07@yahoo.com

