



# Biloxi Lions Club

## Lions Roar



Founded February 18, 1924

<http://biloxilionsclub.org>  
[www.facebook.com/BiloxiLions](http://www.facebook.com/BiloxiLions)

August 25, 2021

### August Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the August Board Meeting were read. You will find them posted on our web page.

### Name Placards

As discussed at the board meeting, our badge box has some structural issues. In other words, it needs some repair work done. But, should we spend any time on it when the new badges won't fit properly? After discussion, we decided to try something else. We had placards made for each club member. By having them at your table, other people at your table, possibly new or prospective members, will know your name. The badge box is being retired, so please gather your badge if you want to keep it. You can still wear it at meetings, it just won't be stored with the club property.

### New Member

Today, we initiated Juanita Horton as a new member to our club! She is the daughter of Miriam and Elijah Mitchell. Please welcome her when you see her.



### Avery McKinley

Committee Chairperson, Judy Gavin, reminded us that Avery McKinley involves a \$25 personal donation that goes towards eye sight.

### Change for Change

Change for Change is a fundraising program for White Cane. The idea is simple; get a mason jar (or any other container) and use it to collect change. You can keep it at home or have one at work (you can have as many jars as you like!). Once the jar is full, you can bring it in as a donation to White Cane. We will give the empty jar back to you and the cycle repeats!

### Dessert Sign-up Sheet

Most people like dessert after their meal. This is a reminder that our club members provide the dessert for our meetings. Please see the sign-up sheet to see if there is a meeting you would like to help out with.

*Meetings are noon every Wednesday at the Maritime and Seafood History Museum*

## Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for today was Barry Lyons from the Biloxi Shuckers. Mr. Lyons is a Biloxi native. (Some of our club members may have a story or two about the Lyons family!) He played 10 seasons in Major League Baseball for the New York Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers, California Angels, and Chicago White Sox. After retiring from the major leagues, he became a minor league manager for the next 3 years. He then spent the next 3 years broadcasting for the Nashville Sounds as well as running a baseball academy. He returned to Biloxi in 2002 where he became involved with efforts to bring professional baseball back to the Mississippi coast which hadn't had a team since 1928. His efforts succeeded in 2014 when the Milwaukee Brewers AA-affiliate Huntsville Stars relocated to Biloxi and were renamed the Biloxi Shuckers. The Shuckers played their first Biloxi game on 6 June 2015.

My role with the team is being an ambassador for the ball club. I've worked for about 27 years to have this dream come true, and it has. From building the ball park to having a team in Biloxi.

We are nearing the conclusion of our 6<sup>th</sup> season here in Biloxi. The last season was cancelled due to COVID and this year began with a lot of uncertainty. This season was pushed back a month and the schedule was shortened by about 20 games. While the season is usually over on Labor Day, they have added 2 more weeks of playing to help make up for the late start. This season has not been as good as previous years. The first 5 seasons we were in the playoffs 3 of those years. This year, we've had about the least amount of talent across the board. But, that's part of Minor League Baseball.

The goal of any Minor League team is to develop the players to become productive Major League players for that organization. So, when the good players do well, they get moved up! This year, we've had several of our players get moved up.

There has been a lot of talk about the cost of building the stadium, if the Shuckers are paying their share of the cost, and if the city is getting the funding they are due. While the stadium was built for the Shuckers, there are other revenue generators built into the contract to help pay for the stadium

that aren't being met, some with the city and some with the management group they at first. The Shuckers organization have been very active in the community and with non-profit organizations. They have paid the city their share, but the short fall between our revenue and the bond note are due to other things that should be happening and more events at MGM Park are very much needed. Now that the Shuckers have the authority to host any and all events happening there now, there will be an increase in collegiate games, possibly some concerts, and other events going forward.

We are excited about our fan base and our core supporters that have been very loyal to us. While there are plenty of activities for adults along the coast, I believe that bringing your family for an outing at the ball park is some of the most effective family entertainment you can find.

