

# Biloxi Lions Club

## LIONS ROAR

Founded February 18, 1924

<http://biloxilionsclub.org>

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4th Edition

January 2019

### EPILEPSY

Kathleen Williams, an Ocean Springs nurse practitioner and Epilepsy Foundation of MS Advisory Board member, stated that people with epilepsy are usually very private individuals. "Unless you have a personal connection with a person with epilepsy you may not even know of the presence of this condition until a seizure happens. And, that too, will depend on the type epilepsy the person has been diagnosed as having" explained Williams.

Kathleen's experience is very personal as she lost her only child, her daughter Kelsey, 6 1/2 years ago to epilepsy complications.

So, what is epilepsy? Williams described epilepsy by abnormal electrical impulses in the brain and typically manifested by sudden brief episodes of altered or

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Kathleen Williams, Nurse Practitioner  
Epilepsy Foundation of MS  
Advisory board

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### UPCOMING DATES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

FEB 6	Harrison Co. Deputy Tax Assessor, Homestead Exemption
FEB 6	Deadline for Outstanding Citizen Nominations
FEB 13	Mike Montgomery, The ARC of MS (disability service)
FEB 18	 BILOXI CLUB FOUNDED 95 YEARS AGO
FEB 20	Biloxi's Outstanding Citizen Luncheon
FEB 21	Board Mtg, McAlister's Restaurant, noon
FEB 27	No Speaker, Board Minutes Review
MAR 6	Stephanie Chapman, Shuckers Ticket Sales Executive

*Meetings are noon every Wednesday at the Biloxi Yacht Club*

## January 30 , 2019 Club Meeting Recap

- ◆ Meeting was called to order by Lion President Wayne Ross. Lions Dick and Darrell led the song; Lion Bob led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Lion Joe offered prayer
- ◆ 50/50 winner: Lion Carl; Lion Darrell drew the 9 of diamonds in the King of Clubs Progressive drawing
- ◆ Pres. Wayne presented Lions Suzette and Bob with Avery McKinley pins (photo below)
- ◆ DG Carl Nehlig announced that the 30S Mid-Winter convention is this Friday and Saturday at the Biloxi Visitor Center. Members are needed to help.
- ◆ Lion Penny announced the Sees Candy Easter Sales Campaign will start the second week of February.
- ◆ Lion Ronnie reiterated the nomination deadline for the Biloxi Outstanding Citizen will be Feb 6, selection committee meeting on Feb 7. The Biloxi Outstanding Citizen Award will be made on Feb 20th at the Biloxi Club luncheon
- ◆ President Wayne introduced the guest speaker, Kathleen Williams, Epilepsy Foundation of MS Advisory Board

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diminished consciousness, involuntary movements, or convulsions.

According to Williams there are approximately 37,000 persons in Mississippi with some form of active epilepsy, 5,100 of those being 18 or younger and over 30,000 being 18 or older. The Gulf Coast area has the second highest rate of active cases in Mississippi.

The mission of the Epilepsy Foundation in MS is to provide awareness, to support newly diagnosed patients, to be a resource of information for education and treatment, and assist in making referrals for treatment. They are one of 47 affiliates of the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Williams followed up with her explanation of the patients being so private coming from the stigma that is associated with epilepsy. Many people associate epilepsy to a person having grand mall seizures but some epilepsy episodes are typically unnoticeable by the untrained person. This type episode could be a minor as a far off stare to a small involuntary movement. However, those with epilepsy find it effects employment, social events, and bring upon being bullied or being ignored. Also, many states will not issue a drivers license unless you can prove 6 months being seizure free.

In closing, Williams stated her effort, since Kelsey's death, is to help bring awareness and advocacy of this little know disorder to as many people as possible.



Lions Bob and Suzette receiving their Avery McKinley pins from President Wayne

**Coming in the February 1st Edition of the ROAR— Highlights and photos of the Mississippi District 30S Mid-Winter Convention**



**FOR 95 YEARS!  
IN BILOXI -  
WE SERVE**