



# Biloxi Lions Club

## Lions Roar



Founded February 18, 1924

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

December 15, 2021

### Last Meeting for December

One of the most important things to remember is that this is our last meeting for December. We hope you enjoy time with friends and family over the next two weeks and we will see you at our first meeting of the new year on January 5<sup>th</sup>!

### New Members

In a first for our club, today we installed two new members over Zoom!

Cheryl Barry-Smith was inducted first, followed by Tracie Craddock.



We welcome them to Lions and to our club and look forward to meeting them in person one day!



### Christmas Thank You

As we do every year for those who provide meals for us, we presented our Chef, Lion Kathryn Holden with a "Thank You" that we collected.



### Wishing Him Well

We were told that a Vernon Nix, a long-time member of our club, had surgery recently and is now home. We wish him well and a quick recovery.

### Eye Screening Report

We had a good eye screening last Saturday. We screened 78 people with the +Optics machine! Pictured is the "closing crew" from that day.



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

## Scout Coupe Drawing

Today is the day for the drawing. We asked our guest speaker, Sheriff Mike Ezell to do the honors and draw the winning ticket.



And the winning ticket belongs to Pam Perez!



## Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker is Mike Ezell, Sheriff of Jackson County.

I've been a law enforcement officer almost my entire adult life. My dad was a police officer in Pascagoula, so you could say I've either been around police my entire life.

I became the Sheriff of Jackson County in 2014 after the previous Sheriff was removed from the office. I finished his term and then ran for the next full term and won, and then I won the next term!

One thing I started right off, which previous Sheriff's had not done, was to involve myself with the county as a whole to include working with the Jackson County Board of Supervisors. I also contacted Human Resources and Risk Management to see how we could make things better for our

employees. Human Resources started giving briefings to the employees as to what all their benefits were and what services were available.

For Risk Management, we provided defensive drivers training. This reduced the number of accidents to our police cars, which lowered our insurance liability, saving the tax payers money by reducing our liability insurance.

A healthy work force was another way to save tax payer dollars. Having our people participate in healthy activities such as; yearly health screenings, reducing or eliminating tobacco use, etc. led to reduced premiums for our health insurance. It also led to people taking fewer sick days. We were able to share these ideas with other county departments leading to even more tax dollars.

Another project I started is posting our crime reports daily on Facebook. People like to know what is going on and this is an easy way to do this.

When I first became Sheriff, our people were way behind in their training. Jackson County had no training facility for us. We had to borrow resources from other agencies. Now, we have our own facilities. We have a shooting range with a building there where we can do in-door training.

One of the biggest things and is just now getting started is that we are going to have our own Crime Lab! Once it is up and running, we won't have to send samples to the state lab and wait for them to run the samples and appear in court for testimony. For some things, the state lab was running two years behind in their work, meaning that the court cases were happening two or more years from when the person was arrested. We will be the first in the state to have this.

