

Count Down 100
12 Months



ROAR
Newsletter

2.15.2023
Edition

Chartered February 18, 1924

**2022-2023
OFFICERS
& BOARD**

PRESIDENT

MELINDA FREEMAN

1ST VP

STAR RANSONET

2ND VP

GERALD GARDNER

SECRETARY

JOE MCCORMICK

TREASURER

SUZETTE DUHE

**COMMUNICATION/
IT/MARKETING**

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CINDY BAMBURG

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2 YR DIRECTORS

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JERRY DODGE

3 YR DIRECTORS

AUSTIN KNUE

MIRIAM MITCHELL

PAST PRESIDENT

ELIJAH MITCHELL

The Lions of Biloxi
presents

***Biloxi's
Outstanding Citizen
2022***

**93rd Annual
Award Presentation**



February 15, 2023
Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum



UPCOMING DATES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

FEB 18	HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY BILOXI LIONS
FEB 22	Lion Greg Crapo, update on BLC website, Board Mtg Minutes Review
MAR 1	Bryan Wallace, Biloxi Police Dept., Community Relations
MAR 8	Dr. Marie Danforth, USM, Local discovery "Mexican-American War" remains
MAR 9	Biloxi Lions Board Meeting, Cadence Bank, 2nd Floor, noon
MAR 10-12	Girls Leadership Conference, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, MS
MAR 17-19	Boys Leadership Conference, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, MS
APR 15	Mid-South Lions Visiting Day, Hamilton Eye Institute, Memphis
APR 21-23	MS Lions/De L'Epee Deaf Center Deaf Camp, Camp Wilkes

The Biloxi Lions Club meet every Wednesday at noon
Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, first floor, 115 1st Street, Biloxi, MS 39530

2.15.2023 Meeting Recap

PROGRAM

Call to Order / Introduction of Master of Ceremonies
Melinda Freeman
President

Song: God Bless America
The Lions Choir and All

Pledge of Allegiance
Gerald Gardner
Lion of the Year 2022

Invocation
Rev. Elijah Mitchell
Committee Chairman - Emcee

Welcome Remarks / Introductions
Rev. Elijah Mitchell
Committee Chairman - Emcee

PAUSE FOR LUNCH

Shared Memories of our 75th, 50th & 25th - Anniversary Recipients

Introduction of Recipients in attendance

Announcement of 2022 Outstanding Citizen

Remarks by Family and Friends

Proclamation
Honorable Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
Mayor - City of Biloxi

Presentation of Traditional Loving Cup
Col John G. Sullivan
2020 B.O.C.

Acceptance and Remarks 2022 B.O.C. Mrs. Tina Ross Seamans

Closing Remarks / Benediction
Rev. Elijah Mitchell

RECIPIENTS

2022 Tina Ross Seamans
2021 Dr. Paul A. Tisdale
2020 Col John G. Sullivan
2019 Gregory K. Crapo
2018 Lee Ann Dubaz
2017 Errol Blessey Bradley
2016 Susan Hunt
2015 Joe Boney
2014 Katherine Blessey
2013 Dennis J. Burke
2012 Jaye Gilich Brice
2011 Lt. Col Thomas A. Varble
2010 Theresa A. Pavlov
2009 Kathy Springer
2008 Delmar P. Robinson
2007 Arlene Canaan
2006 Lt. Gen. Clark Griffith
2005 Citizens of Biloxi
2004 Paul J. Collins
2003 Clara Watson
2002 Sr. Mary Riordan R.S.M.
2001 A. J. Stanovich
2000 Jimmie W. Roy
1999 Tonsie Gaudé
1998 Ron Peresich
1997 **Sandy Steckler**
1996 Liz Joachim
1995 Tommy Munro
1994 Chris Moore
1993 Arlene Wall
1992 Bill Holmes
1991 Rusty David
1990 Chevis Swetman
1989 Clare Hornsby
1988 Dick E. Wilson
1987 Dr. Olon Ray
1986 Joseph Duffie, Jr.
1985 Sherwood L. Fayard
1984 Sen. Tommy Gollott
1983 Ernest Melvin
1982 Nina Schwartzman
1981 L. J. "Blue" Caillavet
1981 Lloyd Moon
1980 Bruce Stewart
1979 Matre Pitalo
1978 William R. Lyons
1977 John Pettus

1976 Albert L. Mangin Sr.
1975 Austin Moritz
1974 Rev. W. C. Wyatt
1973 Harry J. Schmidt, Jr.
1972 **Glenn L. Swetman**
1971 Rev. David C. Ehrenfeld
1970 Walter F. Fountain
1969 John P. McDermott, Jr.
1968 Laz Quave
1967 Leo K. Crapo
1966 Jerry O'Keefe
1965 Mosline Savarro
1964 Emile Fallo, Jr.
1963 Mathew P. Lyons
1962 Daniel Guice
1961 George C. Quint
1960 John T. Collins
1959 Frank "Yankie" Barhanovich
1958 Frotscher R. Steckler
1957 Dr. B.Z. Welch
1956 Frank P. Corso
1955 Dr. D. L. Hollis
1954 Kline Coquet
1953 Cosman H. Eisendrath
1952 Mrs. Dora F. Gilly
1951 M/Gen. James Powell
1950 Eugene Peresich
1949 Mrs. Josephine W. Reicker
1948 L.C. Corban
1947 **Msgr. Geoffrey O'Connell**
1946 Ross L. Fickes
1945 Donald R. FitzRoy
1944 Maj. E.A. Hiller
1943 Mrs. W. T. Bolton
1942 F. H. Kimbrough
1941 Mrs. J. H. Beeman
1940 George Ditto
1939 Mrs. W.F. McDonnell
1938 Rev. J. A. Demiller
1937 Louis J. Braun
1936 Frank E. Bowes
1935 Eugene P. Wilkes
1934 Anthony V. Ragusin
1933 Walter G. Wilkes
1932 E. E. Moore
1931 William F. Swan



TINA ROSS SEAMANS BILOXI'S OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2022

L-R Photo #1: BOC Event Chair Past Pres. Lion Rev. Elijah Mitchell, 2022 Recipient Tina Ross Seamans, 2021 Recipient Col. John Sullivan

Photo #2: 2021 Recipient Col. Sullivan presenting 2022 Honoree Tina with the Traditional Loving Cup

Photo #3: Honoree Tina receiving a Proclamation from the City of Biloxi's Public Affairs Manager, Cecilia Dobbs Walton, on behalf of Mayor FoFo Gilich who was unable to attend

Photo #4: 2022 Honoree Tina and her family



Don't forget you can ZOOM a meeting if unable to attend in person.

Direct Access to the Biloxi Lions Club weekly meeting is available on our website www.biloxilions.org just by clicking the ZOOM HERE button.

Or, by the following information below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89166624322?pwd=V25tWXJMRkRXdGRWTTIHSJJsMEZWUT09>

Or, Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID 891 6662 4322 Passcode: 996230

Log on a few minutes prior to our 12 noon meeting to assure your connection

*Issues Logging on...Please call or text Lion Greg at 228.760.0239 for help



Dessert Pledges January-February

FEBRUARY

8th Mary Jo Walsh

15th Melinda Freeman

22nd Greg Crapo

MARCH

1st Jaye Brice

8th Carl & Dorothy Nehlig

15th Glenn Bremenkamp

22nd open

29th open

There are a lot of openings....if you like dessert please sign up. The FEBRUARY-MARCH Quarter Dessert Sign-Up Sheet is available at every meeting on the dessert table. Please sign up and showcase your special dessert. Dessert pledges are posted in the ROAR in case you forget your date.



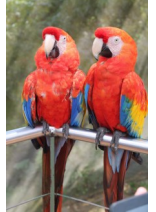
FEBRUARY LIONS

Cindy Bamberg Tom Wicks
Tina Gillich Kathryn Holden

NEWS Flash!!!

Biloxi Lions

Jack and Jill are back on the coast with the wonderful weather Biloxi has been enjoying. They tried to capture Lions in action during the Mardi Gras season, however, there were so many events going on that they did not know where to start. So Biloxi Lions, share a picture or two, of your Mardi Gras madness with Lion Penny, ROAR Editor, and she will feature them in future ROAR Editions. lionpennyedwards@gmail.com (in case you need her email address)



Dates to Save

March 10-12, 2023

Girls Leadership Conference, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville MS

March 17-19, 2023

Boys Leadership Conference, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, MS

April 15, 2023

Mid-South Lions Visiting Lions Day

April 21-23, 2023

Lions of MS Deaf Camp, Camp Wilkes, Biloxi

May 5-6, 2023

Lions of MS State Convention, Columbus, MS

May 17-19, 2023

Lions of MS Sea and Sun Camp, Camp Wilkes, Biloxi

July 7-11, 2023

International Convention, Boston, MA

Lions Club of Biloxi
P.O. Box 196 Biloxi, MS 39533
228.424.7840

<http://www.biloxilions.org>
<http://m.facebook.com/BiloxiLions>

To enjoy back editions of the Biloxi Lions ROAR newsletter please visit our website.

Swetman receives cup as Biloxi citizen

Chris Swetman, president of Peoples Bank, was honored New Year's Eve as Biloxi's outstanding citizen at the third presentation of a loving cup as the honored citizen by the Biloxi Lions Club.

Swetman was selected for the honor ten days ago by a committee of Biloxi leaders, representing civic clubs, organizations and former winners.

On acceptance of the loving cup, Swetman recalled he looked forward each year to his nomination at the Biloxi Community Center, adding, "I regret tonight, on the one hand, this tradition has been broken; whereas, on the other hand, I must confess my pleasure has been multiplied many, many fold."

Swetman said he considered being named the city's outstanding citizen a high honor and an exceptional privilege. He expressed thanks to the many hundreds of friends, who participated and made his selection possible, particularly the members of the community committee who made the final selection.

He expressed special thanks to Dr. Harry Schmidt Sr. for placing his name in nomination and singularly lauded Mrs. Florence Helms, Colette Eisenhardt and John McDermond as his "unofficial campaign managers."

"I cannot wholly receive this trophy as mine alone as today one man can do very little by himself. It takes cooperation of many to get the job done."

Swetman had been nominated for the loving cup as an individual who is both conservative and progressive and who believes the old can be blended with the new and that the past is a foundation for the future. The past year he led a group in restoring the old Magnolia Hotel in Biloxi, heavily damaged in the 1969 hurricane, to what will soon be a city and state showplace.

Sunday night he credited the restoration of the hotel having been completed at a time which gave him the "necessary" edge over the "other worthy nominees." "Timing is important in accomplishing victory. And here again, in the restoration of the Magnolia Hotel, I received most of the credit and did perhaps less of the work."

Swetman said he spearheaded movement and his friends carried it along. Among names mentioned as being responsible for the restoration job and cooperation were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene P. Wilkes, Jo Wilkes Becker, Mrs. Lillian Holley Maumas, Mosby Grisham, Rose Calloway, Victor Pringle, Matt Lyons, Pete Parker, Dominic Fallo, John Collins "and his honor, Mayor Guice, along with a group of master craftsmen who did the actual restoration, furnished by the mayor's office."

"Let's all give a big hand to these people for a job well done," he said.

Swetman asked well-wishers and citizens of Biloxi attending the celebration to focus attention on what to be done in the year to

come "but let's look back and remember especially the cooperative restoration of the Magnolia Hotel. We have one of the finest specimens of early American architecture in the Carriage House immediately south of this building. It needs restoring badly and will be a worthy project for someone in 1973."

Swetman, the son of the late O. G. Swetmans, succeeded his father as president of the bank. He was elected president of The Peoples Bank in 1963.

He and his wife are the parents of two sons and two daughters, all grown. The couple resides at Miramar Place.

Leo Crapo, chairman of the Lions club committee, served as master of ceremonies and introduced Swetman. Dr. Charles V. Laing is president of Biloxi Lions.

Mayor Philip Shaw foresees 1973 as a year in which the election for city officials may overshadow the largest financial expenditure ever proposed in the Gulfport water and sewerage fund. He may decide to delay a public election on the \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 bond issue until after the city election May 3.

The mayor, in his year-end forecast of things to come, said he would not let political issues endanger the proposal. "I deem this issue so important that if necessary, we will delay the vote until after the city election," Shaw said in an interview.

In his summation of water and sewer development, which is being planned for the city administration by the consulting firm of Brown and Russell, the mayor pointed out that "we expect sometime during the year to firm up the federal participation."

At least four federal and one state agency will participate in the funding. Shaw hopes the city can attract additional outside funds in order to lighten the load on city water users who may finance the sewerage and water improvements with a bond issue as well

as an increase in rates. Looking at other areas, the mayor commented, "We are anticipating some type of repair facility for the maintenance of police cars, probably somewhere near the police station."

Fire Department: "The new station—the first drive-through fire station in the city's history—will be open on Pass Road at Washington Street in Hattiesburg shortly after the first of the year; we will during the year purchase another fire truck for the station."

Urban Renewal: "We will see the completion of much needed drainage work in the business district under our Urban Renewal program. In cooperation with Commissioner Alvin Savarese, we will probably begin some type of drainage work east of Courthouse Road and north of the railroad."

James Park: "The lighted fountain underway in the park on Highway 90 will, barring inclement weather, be completed in the new year. The city has paid 90 per cent of the initial costs. The plumbing and electric lights have been installed. We've decided the fountain. In addition, the area of the park

Nominees for Outstanding Citizen of Biloxi - 2022
 Mr. Curtis Cotton, Sr.
 Mr. James Crowell
 General Richard Moss
 Mrs. Tina Ross Seamans

We are proud to present Biloxi's Outstanding Citizen 2022
Mrs. Tina Ross Seamans

****Excerpts from Nominations****

"There is no bigger champion for Biloxi and its small businesses."

"She never seeks the limelight; instead, she always shines it on others. - a true trait of a selfless leader."

"She is a model of an outstanding citizen in so many ways and deserves to be recognized for her superior performance."

"Some of the organizations that are important to Tina include: The Maritime & Seaford Industry Museum, Preserve Biloxi, Biloxi Mainstreet and the Humane Society of South Mississippi."

"Biloxi is fortunate to have such a dedicated leader."

"She never hesitates to take time to talk to someone and give them the benefit of her expertise."

"Her real superpower is her integrity and morals."

In Biloxi - We Serve!
 Chartered February 18, 1924

Recognizing the 75th, 50th, 25th, and Honoring the 2022, Biloxi Outstanding Citizens

75th: 1947 Msgr. Geoffrey O'Connell
50th: 1972 Glenn L. Swetman
25th: Sandy Steckler
2022 Tina Ross Seamans



Lions honor Steckler as 1997 Outstanding Citizen

By PEG LANDRY
 SPECIAL TO THE SUN HERALD

BILOXI — Biloxi attorney Sanford R. "Sandy" Steckler was recognized as Biloxi Lions' Club 1997 Outstanding Citizen on Wednesday for exceptional public service and contributions to the community.

Steckler said he was "thrilled" by the honor, but considers himself a "team" player.

"The award is a community effort and should be shared by the community who made it possible," he said.

As third-term president of Camp Wilkes Inc., Steckler has been active in reviving the financially-strapped camp for Boy and Girl Scouts and

other youth. He secured contributions for various projects to fund the camp, which now boasts new buildings, roofs, windows and piers. In the process, he was instrumental in organizing the 1997 World Championship Offshore Power Boat Races on the Coast, for which Camp Wilkes received about \$20,000.

Steckler, who is running for a County Court judge's post in Harrison County, credits a number of other "team players" for helping make the boat races a success, especially Rusty David, who organized volunteers, and he credits city and county governments and the tourism commission for financial support.

The Biloxi native has a family tradition of community service beginning

with his parents who were involved in scouting and other civic efforts. Forty years ago, his father, Frutcher R. Steckler, was the Biloxi Lions Club's Outstanding Citizen. His brother, Dr. David Steckler, was honored recently for service in Natchez.

"I'm thankful to my parents," he said. "They always told me to leave the world a better place."

"I'm a part of a lot of things that happen here. I just try to do my part. I've been blessed to be part of this team."

Steckler served in the Mississippi Senate from 1972-80 and was instrumental in bringing legalized gaming to the Coast. He has played an active role in the development of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, Point Cadet Marina,

the Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center and the Gulf Coast Branch of University of Southern Mississippi at Gulf Park.

He is active in a number of professional organizations and has served as president or committee chairman of a number of civic groups. He served on the Coast 21 Steering Committee and was a charter member, board of directors of Kids Voting Mississippi and Leadership Gulf Coast.

Steckler was educated in Biloxi public schools and received his bachelor's degree from University of Mississippi and his juris doctorate from the Ole Miss School of Law.

He is married to Judy Huff Steckler and they have two children, Jason and Karla.

HERALD Volume 12

US Envoy 13 Die in Train W

check in Of cups

OTterville, Mo., Jan. 13 other holiday killed in the New collision of two passenger trains. Approximately 12 injured, five of them hospitalized.

The dead also included Alexander W. Weddel, M. Ryan, identified wood movie director.

The collision occurred in a heavy snow at the Missouri Pacific Missouri" was killed from St. Louis to Kansas City.

The wreckage was being removed by the railroad.

All of those killed were from the Richmond to Chesapeake, Va. Weddel, 71, had an extensive career in the world. He began his career in 1927 as secretary to the Denmark. He became came secretary in 1933 until 1939, then, until his retirement in 1950. He served as assistant secretary for the past 10 years. Traffic on the highway was halted by the failure of black signs and Pacific states

Msgr. O'Connell Cup Winner

Msgr. Geoffrey O'Connell, M.A., Ph.D., pastor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Biloxi, was named the 75th outstanding citizen of Biloxi, announced by a committee of 25 representatives of various organizations of Biloxi, was made at the annual Lions New Year's Eve ball at the Community House.

Msgr. O'Connell was designated because of his outstanding contributions to the community particularly through the subsidizing of his parish.

Since coming to Biloxi, Notre Dame senior and junior high schools have been started by Msgr. O'Connell. In addition the Youth Center has been organized, the new Sacred Heart kindergarten has been established in the old Parish building. All of these were formed at Sacred Heart Academy and Notre Dame also has its own band. The Church of the Immaculate Conception is being completed in near future.



2022 Nominees for Outstanding Citizen of Biloxi

Mr. James Crowell
General Richard Moss
Mr. Curtis Cotton, Sr.