



**ROAR
Newsletter**

**4.24.2024
Edition**

Chartered February 18, 1924

**2023-2024
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LIONS OF MISSISSIPPI STATE CONVENTION

The Lions of MS State Convention starts tomorrow, Monday, April 29, 2024. You can pick up your registration packet tomorrow at the Doubletree Hotel from 12:00 to 5:00 PM or at the Biloxi Visitor Center on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, starting at 8:00 AM. An Agenda of the Convention will be in your registration packet.

If you are on a state committee you should have received prior notification of the committee meeting time scheduled for Monday at the Doubletree Hotel. Also, training for Club Officers and Zone Chairs will take place from 12-3 PM on Monday at the hotel. The Hall of Fame Induction will take place at the Biloxi Visitor Center at 6:00 PM.

On Tuesday morning all events are at the Biloxi Visitor Center: Registration from 8:00 AM—2:00 PM. The General Business Session starts at 9:00 AM on Tuesday; the District Meetings start at 1:00 PM; the PDG Event starts at 2:30 PM; and the District Governors Banquet starts at 6:30 PM.

MOTHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Award Presentation

May 8, 2024

**Biloxi Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum
115 1st Street, First Floor
Biloxi, MS 39530
12:00 Noon**

The cost of the event will be \$25 per person, excluding Corporate club membership.

UPCOMING DATES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

APR 29-30	Lions of MS State Convention, Biloxi, DoubleTree Hotel & Biloxi Visitors Center
MAY 1	NO MEETING
MAY 8	Mother of the Year Presentation, Maritime and Seafood Museum, noon
MAY 9	Board Meeting, TBA
MAY 15	Board Meeting Minutes Review; Susie Harville, Advocates for Freedom
MAY 22	OPEN
JUN 12	Father of the Year Presentation
JULY 10	Biloxi Lions Installation and Awards Banquet—Theme: Your Favorite Sport Team

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

4.24.2024 Meeting Recap

Opening: Lion President Gerald Gardner called meeting to order at 12:05pm; The BLC Choir led us in God Bless America; Lion President Gerald led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Lion Jerry Dodge offered the prayer

Guests: David Wheeler joined our guest speaker, his wife Candace Wheeler

Zoom: Lion Larry

50/50 drawing: \$14 to the winner Lion Elijah; **King of Clubs Progressive Drawing:** Lion Dorothy drew the 7 of Hearts. \$347 to the winner if the King of Clubs was drawn

Auction Item: none

Club Business and Announcements:

1. **Lion President Jerry's Announcements :**

A) Seafood Museum's volunteer request for Wooden Boat Show May 18-19

B) No Meeting on May 1

C) The Mother of the Year Committee will be meeting at Cadence Bank at 3:30 on Friday, April 26th

D) Mother's Day Program will be May 8th at the Seafood Museum. Cost will be \$25 per person excluding Corporate Club membership

E) Diane Hayes, widow of long time Past Club Member Roger Hayes, made a \$100 donation to the Club's 100th Anniversary in Roger's memory

F) Camp Wilkes's Draw Down will be May 4th and tickets are still available

2. Lion Penny reminded members to please register for the State Convention and to not mail in your reservations but email them to Paula at the state office. Paula particularly needs to know if you plan to attend either of the two dinners so that she can turn the count to the caterer by Friday April 26th. She also distributed the club volunteer list for set up and clean up times for both days. Also, items are still need for the hospitality room. The items should be brought to the Visitor Center by 8:30 am on Tuesday. Lion Carl said he has donations from Coca Cola for drinks and water he is providing

3. Thank you Lion Cindy for providing the jambalaya meal, and to Lion Mary Jo for the desserts

4. **Program:** Local Author Candace Wheeler reviewed her newest novel: *Sunset in the Sound*. Photo below

A Review of *Sunset in the Sound*

By Author Candace Wheeler

Sunset in the Sound, is the third and newest release in the trilogy of books set in Biloxi by Candace Wheeler. Just released it already the talk of the town. Candace presented a walk down memory lane of Biloxi's history in the early 1950s as the nation is booming following the end of WWII.

The Biloxi area is seeing an economic growth as the coast is fast becoming known for a wonderful area for tourist with the new man-made beach, seafood, restaurants and supper clubs with top name entertainers, hotels, alcohol, and the not-so-underground illegal gambling.

Also, with Keesler Air Field being made a permanent Air Force Base training facility in 1948, hundreds of young men were being sent to Keesler AFB for training during the Korean War in the early 50s.

The main story line in the book is the gambling and how it became a tug-of-war in Biloxi with economics and morality. In fact, in October 1951 a U.S. Senate Hearing on the gambling issue was held in Biloxi due to the illegal gambling activity as a possible affect on the national security. Concerned citizens and the military higher ups believed many of the young service men coming to Keesler were corrupted and financially ruined by the illegal gambling. In the hearing transcript Candace obtained at the National Archives in Washington D.C., over 300 Biloxi business were listed having over 1400 slot machines and various other gambling games. The estimated revenue in 1950 was 4.2 million in illegal gambling, and much 4.2M was contributed by 20,000 plus airman stationed to Keesler.

On the city's economy perspective local businesses and the "city services" greatly benefitted from the gambling profits a slot machine brought in each month. "One example was Rosetti's Restaurant which claimed to make enough money on their slot machines each month to pay for their expenses so each po-boy sandwich served was 100% profit" states Candace lovingly on the well-known local sandwich shop.

It wasn't until 1992, 40 years later, that gaming industry was legalized in Mississippi. Biloxi did flourish during the 1950s from the other added attractions for tourist to love the Biloxi area. Auto racing was making an appearance with racing track on Pass Road just east of Beauvoir Road. Power boar racing in Biloxi Back Bay brought fame to many boat designers, owners, and racers. And with Biloxi always known for its seafood, charter boats rentals made a name for itself and still thrives along the gulf coast today.

Candace stayed after the meeting to autograph copies of her new novel *Sunset in the Sound*. The book can be found for purchase at the Maritime and Seafood Museum gift



Local Author, Candace Wheeler receiving a Biloxi Lions Club 100th Anniversary Coin from Program Director Lion Jerry Dodge. Candace's husband, and her right hand man, joins Candace and Lion Jerry

Don't forget you can ZOOM a meeting if unable to attend in person. Please contact Lion Wayne in advance at the number below if you plan to attend via ZOOM.

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 Wayne at 228.348.1334 (or Lion Greg 228.760.0239) for help.

Remember you can reach me c/o Lion Penny's email: lionpennyedwards@gmail.com to help spread any LIONS news you feel need sharing! Please send in a separate email. Your email may be lost in the shuffle if sent as a reply in the ROAR email you receive.



APRIL LIONS

Ronnie Cochran Elijah Mitchell
Austin Krue

Lions of MS State Convention
I hope everyone enjoys their time in Biloxi!

NO MEETING ON MAY 1, 2024

MOTHERS DAY AWARD PRESENTATION

MAY 8, 2024

IN BILOXI WE SERVE
1924-2024

ARLO

Dessert Pledges

MAY

- 1st NO MEETING
- 8th Mother of the Year
- 15th Glenn Quave
- 22nd Judy Gavin
- 29th Open

JUNE

- 5th Carl & Dorothy Nehlig
- 12th Father of the Year
- 19th Glenn Bremerkamp
- 26th Cindy Bamburg

May 29th is still open for a dessert pledge



Your dessert does not need to be home made, we will enjoy store bought just as much, and bring dessert plates if needed. If you are not able to attend the meeting in which you have pledged a Dessert, please ask another member to cover your date.



Dates to Save

April 29-30, 2024
Lions of MS State Convention
Biloxi, MS
May 17-19, 2024
Lions Sea and Sun Camp, Biloxi,
Camp Wilkes

June 7, 2024
Mid-South Lions Golf Tournament
Olive Branch, MS
June 8, 2024
Mid-South Lions Cataract-A-Thon
June 21-25, 2024
Lions International Convention
Melbourne, Australia

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.