

Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club

Club Historical Sketch: In the late '60's, Lion Elmer Pirelli, who was a long time member of the Ruidoso Village Council and the Ruidoso Evening Lions Club, decided to start a new Lions Club in Ruidoso that met at noon. As a result of his recruiting efforts, the Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club was chartered 26 November 1969 with 54 Charter Members. The Club's first officers were: Elmer Pirelli, President; Austin Pritchett, 1st VP; Bill Pippin, Secretary; C. C. Watkins, Treasurer; Orlando Montes, Lion Tamer; Stormy Edwards, Tail Twister; and Board Members, George Jones, John Mobley, Ken Geaslin, and Stansel Jones. From 1969 to 1988, the Club met at the Whispering Pines Restaurant in the Upper Canyon, after which they moved to the Ruidoso Inn for meetings. Today the Club meets at the Cree Meadows Restaurant.

In the early years, the sponsorship of the Mule Races at Ruidoso Downs and Friday Night Bingo were the big fund raisers. Students' scholarships and holding bingo sessions at the Care Center were two of the Club's many community service projects.

Today, Ruidoso Noon Lions support many community service projects including Sight Conservation Projects (photo eye screening of young children, paying for eye exams and glasses for people in need, and diabetes testing and prevention); support of the State's Honor Band, Lions Crane Reading Foundation, Leader Dog, Lions Eye Foundation; recycling used eye glasses; Scholarships for Lincoln County Seniors; High Way Clean Up Project; the administering of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) funds to local people for disasters such as the Kokopeli fire; and providing financial and substance support for Christian Services, the Warehouse. Lincoln County Food Bank, Lincoln County Head Start, Girl and Boy Scouts, Meals on Wheels, and the New Horizons Developmental Center (Carrizozo). The Club is also an active sponsor of community projects such as Santa's Helpers, Aspenfest Parade (feed the Band members), Run For The Beach, and the annual Ruidoso River Cleanup.

The Club conducts three major annual fundraisers: Crafts, Guns, & Collectibles Show (Memorial Day weekend), Golf Tournament (September), and Antiques and Collectibles Show (weekend before Labor Day). Several other minor fundraisers such as supporting a local Chili Cook-Off are also performed.