

Lions/Lioness Club
Chairman's New Member
Orientation Information



Lions Clubs International
Founded June 9, 1917

MOTTO:
"We Serve"

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NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

You have seen how Lions Clubs serve their communities and their neighbors who are blind, sick, stricken and handicapped. This humanitarian work would not be possible unless men and women were willing to give their time and effort. Any member will tell you that this requires some time and work. You as a member will be asked to sign up to help when you can. Lionism is a cooperative effort in which every member shares the load so that the load of less fortunate people will not be so heavy.

The rewards of membership are great. You will enjoy the fellowship of the finest men and women in our town and cities. You will be warmed by the thanks of people you help; you will be thanked by the people of the community you serve. You will have the pleasure of working with other people through committee service, directing their efforts. You will see the problems of the community and, as a Lion, be asked to assume leadership in their solution. Above all, you will find in your Lions club a medium through which you as good citizens and good neighbors can express to others the good will which is in your hearts.

Why have a New Member Orientation?

New members need to be inspired and motivated right away. They need to know the goals not only of their club but International as well. New members need to be properly informed of the activities of the club. They need to understand how Lions International, the District and the club functions so that they can get the "big picture" of the association. When new members are properly informed, they are more likely to feel comfortable with the club and become actively involved in club activities right away. A well informed member is also one who is most likely to remain in Lions.

Conduct the orientation promptly. Whether you have one new member or five, a new member orientation should take place within one month of the member's induction. Present a manageable but informative session for the new member(s). Limit the length of your orientation.

It is recommended that the orientation session does not exceed 45 minutes. Therefore, this could be scheduled one hour prior to the regular meeting. This allows members plenty of time to socialize with the other members before the regular meeting.

KEEP THE PACE *LIVELY* AND INTERESTING. Have a good outline in front of you to follow. Show an approximate 10 minute video either at the beginning of the session or about half way through it. Inform the members that they may raise their hands at any time they have a question.

DIRECT NEW MEMBERS TO SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Members get new information in the new member packet that they received when becoming a member. Show them a copy of the Lions Club International magazine, "The Lion, the Wisconsin Lion magazine, your club newsletter and district and local club information.

DIFFERENT ORIENTATION STYLES. There may be only one presenter or several. There are several ways you can conduct an effective new member orientation. Choose a method that best suits your club. The most important factor isn't the method you choose for presenting the information, but rather making sure that you are presenting thorough consistent information to each new member that joins your club.

Sample ORIENTATION SESSION (45 minutes---55 min. if a ten minute video is shown.)

Conducting an orientation session necessitates the trainer(s) imparting only the most basic, critical information. Focus on those items that will be most helpful to the new member in becoming the best Lion he or she can be.

INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Why is this important? The rich history and service tradition of Lions clubs provides a foundation for members. It helps instill pride and gives them a broad view of the organization that they are joining.

BRIEF REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION HISTORY.

The "At a Glance" timeline is a good reference for the orientation session. Focus on the impact of Melvin Jones and Helen Keller on the association, and the importance of Lions clubs worldwide reach.

CURRENT STATISTICS--The Lions Clubs International Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) has the most recent statistics in the FAQ section.

ALL ABOUT YOUR CLUB (20 minutes)

Why this is important: This information is the nuts and bolts of membership. Make sure new members understand all the particular requirements of your club.

Provide a brief history of the club--this information is most effectively conveyed by charter members, past club officers, or knowledgeable and enthusiastic members.

Discuss the major projects of the club and their sources of funding. Provide a briefing on the club's current activities and fundraising projects.

Explain the organizational structure of the club, the duties of officers, directors and committees.

Explain membership categories, attendance and dues policies.

Talk about what it means to be a Lion and the benefits of membership.

GENERAL VIDEO ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION (10 minutes)

YOUR DISTRICT and MULTIPLE DISTRICT (10 minutes) Why this is important: Your district provides support for your club. Emphasize this relationship and how your club participates in district activities.

Present a history of the Lions in your district, multiple district and country. You can obtain this information from the district governor or multiple district chairman.

Present information about district and multiple district projects and how your club participates.

Review the structure of the district and multiple district and responsibilities of the district and multiple district officers.

Talk about district and multiple district conventions. Encourage attendance, questions and answers.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (10 minutes)

Why this is important: Your club is an integral part of the association, for without the dedication and hard work of Lions clubs worldwide, there would be no Lions Clubs International. Explain the support available from the International headquarters, and emphasize how the structure unites clubs worldwide in working toward a common goal.

Review the association's official motto, mission statement, logo, colors, etc.

Review the structure of the organization, discuss the responsibilities of the board of directors and review the role of the International convention.

Discuss the International Headquarters.

Review International Projects and Programs.

Questions and Answers.

A SUGGESTED PLAN FOR A CLUB LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION MEETING

The following is a suggested plan for your very important Club Leadership Orientation meeting to be held PRIOR to taking office.

SESSION LEADER

1. Incoming Club President

ATTENDEES

1. All committee Chairmen
2. Club Board of Directors

MATERIALS

1. Club President's Manual
2. Committee Information sheets (supplies with the club President's Manual by International Headquarters)
3. International President's Program
4. Copies of your goals for the club

PREPARATION

1. Develop the items to be accomplished during your year using the International President's Program, materials supplied by the International Office and your knowledge of your club's needs.
2. Plan to give each chairman sufficient direction for him/her to operate at maximum potential.
3. Prepare goals for the committees to attain.
4. Be sure to distribute all available materials to your Chairmen prior to the meetings. These are the tools with which to succeed.

AGENDA

I. Purpose of the meeting

- A. To discuss duties and responsibilities
- B. To assign specific tasks
- C. To explain the overall goals for the club
- D. To encourage teamwork in the accomplishment of these Lionistic endeavors

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OVERALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- A. Explain Club procedures
 - 1. Budget preparation
 - 2. Methods of requesting funds
 - 3. Where to get assistance if needed
 - 4. What you, as President, and the Board of Directors, require from the committees and their Chairmen.
- B. Inform them of your expectations
 - 1. Hold regular committee meetings
 - 2. Involve the members
 - 3. Encourage innovation within the committees
 - 4. File periodic written reports on activities with the Board of Directors
 - 5. Develop leadership by delegating responsibilities
 - 6. Keep the membership informed of all progress by making reports at the general meetings
 - 7. Establish committee plans for the year and present them to the Board

III. CLUB GOALS FOR THE YEAR

- A. Club operation plans
- B. International president's Program
- C. Money Making projects and approximate income
- D. Service programs
- E. Membership growth, development and involvement
- F. Goals for each committee
 - 1. Hand out your written objectives
 - 2. Give brief descriptions of each committee's functions
 - 3. Delegate assignments
 - 4. Inform them of the club Vice-President to whom they report

IV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Give them an opportunity to express any questions or doubts they may have)

V. CONCLUSION, MOTIVATE AUDIENCE BY TELLING THEM THAT:

- A. All members should strive for an outstanding year in their club.
- B. They have selected the best team ever and together much will be accomplished.
- C. They are the leaders; it is up to them to make things happen.
- D. Club enthusiasm can be achieved by keeping members informed and involving them in activities.
- E. Each committee should be active throughout the year.
- F. Their club is the best but it will take dedicated effort to remain in that position.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

AT A GLANCE

YOUR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| FOUNDED: | 1917 in Chicago, Illinois, USA |
| FOUNDER: | Melvin Jones |
| MOTTO: | We Serve |
| OFFICIAL COLORS: | purple and gold |
| SLOGAN: | Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety |
| PRIMARY ACTIVITY: | Blindness Prevention and Sight Conservation |
| MEMBERSHIP: | Nearly 1.4 million men and women in approximately 200 countries and areas worldwide |

AT A GLANCE

CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Club's board of directors is composed of:

Club President
Immediate Past President
Vice Presidents
Secretary
Treasurer
Lion Tamer
Tail Twister
Membership Director
Elected

THE LOCAL CLUB AT A GLANCE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

1. Attendance
2. Constitution and By-Laws
3. Convention
- 4.
- 5.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEES

1. Education Services (Scholarship, etc.)
2. Youth Exchange
3. Lions Quest Program
- 4.
- 5.

CLUB DONATIONS

1. Wisconsin Lions Camp
2. Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin
3. Hearing Program
4. Diabetes Education
5. Children's Vision Screening
6. Leader Dogs for the Blind
- 7.
- 8.

CLUB MONEY MAKING PROJECTS

1. Chicken Fry
2. Pancake Breakfast
3. Mint Sales
4. Rose Sales
- 5.
- 6.

SPECIAL EVENTS

1. Adopt-A-Highway
2. Breakfast with Santa
3. Steak Fry
- 4.
- 5.

DUES

1. Amount
2. How Paid

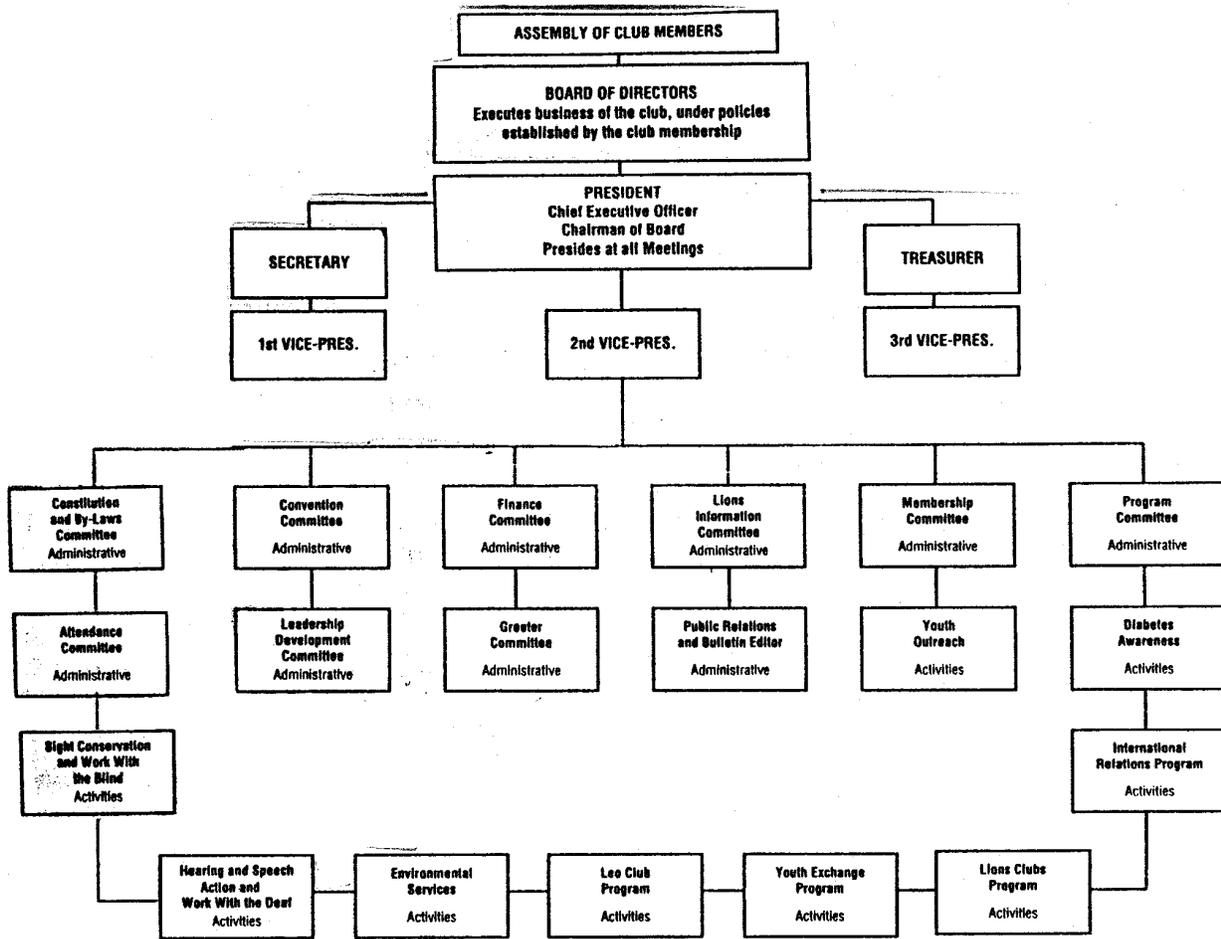
MEETINGS

1. Date
2. Time
3. Place
- 4.
- 5.

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS

1. Wear a Lions pin, shirt or vest when attending meetings.
2. Spouses and guest night, special events such as Christmas party or anniversary.
3. Participate in club fund-raising projects.
4. Make an effort to attend meetings.

EXAMPLE OF A CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



LOCAL CLUB

ELECTIONS

All officers of the club are elected annually. Directors, however, are elected every other year. The process begins with the nomination of club officers and directors in March. The president appoints a nominating committee. This committee proposes the names of candidates for each club office to the members at a nominating meeting. At this meeting, nominations for all offices can be made from the floor. Elections are held in April of each year. Terms of office begin on July 1st.

To ensure continuity in the club's membership efforts, the election of membership committee members is handled a little differently than other committees. Each club elects a three- person membership committee. The committee includes a member, a vice chairman and a chairman who automatically becomes a director on the board. After the first year, only the membership chairman/director moves off the committee. The vice chairman moves up to become the membership chairman/director. The remaining committee member becomes the vice chairman and a new Lion is elected to fill the vacancy.

COMMITTEES: Club projects and activities are originated and led by club committees under the direction of a committee chairman. The president generally appoints the chairman and committee members. There are two general classifications of club committees: administrative and activities and activities-based.

Examples of administrative committees include: attendance, constitution and by-laws, convention, finance, information technology, leadership development. Lions information, membership, program, public relations-bulletin editor and greeter. Activities committees are set up to address specific community needs as well as to provide support for international services. Activity committees include youth outreach, diabetes awareness, sight conservation and work with the blind, hearing and speech action and work with the deaf, environmental services, Leo Club Program, youth exchange program, Lioness club program and international relations program. Clubs may also appoint committees for various other activities, such as citizenship, educational or health services and international youth camp.

The chairman of each committee will call periodic meetings of their members, and are frequently asked to attend board meetings to report their progress to the officers and directors. Vice presidents also communicate these activities to the general membership.

CLUB CALENDAR: The program committee is responsible for maintaining a calendar of events. This calendar helps remind members of pertinent club dates.

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS: The club newsletter is a vital communications tool. Many clubs also have Web-sites. Members are encouraged to read each issue of the club's newsletter and visit the Web-site regularly to keep abreast of Lionistic news.

AWARDS: There are many awards available to members at the club level for service

activity and membership initiatives. They include:

Extension award: Given for outstanding efforts in formation of new Lions clubs.

Year-Round Growth Award for recruiting three or more members in one year.

Membership Keys: Awarded for recruiting quality members.

100% Attendance: Recognizes perfect attendance.

Chevrons: Awarded for length of membership.

Many clubs also have their own awards programs to recognize the outstanding achievements of their members, as do districts and multiple districts.

Additionally, club leaders are eligible for a variety of awards to acknowledge superior efforts, such as the club President Excellence Award.

MEMBERSHIP

OBLIGATIONS

| Category | Regular Attendance | Prompt Payment of dues (club, district and international) | Participation in club activities | Conduct Reflecting favorable image |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Active | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Affiliate | no | yes | yes, when able | yes |
| Associate | yes, primary no, secondary | yes, club only | yes, when able | yes |
| Honorary | no | no, club pay applicable, Intl & District dues | no | yes |
| Life | no | yes, District & club only-No Intl dues obligations | yes, when able | yes |
| Member at large | no | yes | yes, when able | yes |
| Privileged | no | yes | yes, when able | yes |

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

| Category | Eligibility to seek Dist. or Intl office | Voting Privileges | Delegate at Dist. or Intl Convention |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
| Active | yes | yes | yes |
| Affiliate | no | club matters only | no |
| Associate | no | District Convention (primary) Club matters only (both) | no |
| Honorary | no | no | no |
| Life | yes, it fulfills obligations of active members | yes, if fulfills obligations of active members | yes, if fulfills obligations of active members |
| Member at Large | no | yes, club matters only | no |
| Privileged | no | yes | yes |

WHERE DOES YOUR DUES MONEY GO?

2009-10 FISCAL YEAR

To Lions Clubs International:

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|--|
| \$ | .50..... | International Convention Fund |
| | 4.75..... | The LION Magazine |
| | 8.82..... | District Governor's Office and Travel District Governor Elect Expense |
| | 7.40..... | Special Club Programs including: Membership, Extension, Leadership Activities and Publicity |
| | 4.02..... | Liability Insurance |
| | <u>13.51</u> | General Operations Including: |
| \$ | 39.00 per year, per member | District Governors Elect Seminar International President, Other Officers and Directors, Past Presidents and Directors District and Club Administration Literature, Supplies (Clubs & Districts) (includes postage for mailing these items) Field Operations, Auditing, International Exchange, Telephone, Telegrams and Legal International Headquarters |

To Multiple District 27:

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| \$ | 1.82..... | Wisconsin Promotion |
| | 3.41..... | State Administration |
| | .35..... | State Convention |
| | 4.39..... | WISCONSIN LION Newspaper |
| | .50..... | Wisconsin Lions Foundation |
| | <u>.03</u> | Reserve |
| \$ | 10.50 per year, per member | |

Bonding Insurance is set at \$ 6.20 per club for the 2009-10 year

To Sub-Districts:

Each district cabinet determines the district dues to be charged up to the maximum.

Both International and Multiple District 27 dues are collected on a semi-annual basis using membership figures as of June 30 and December 31.

AT A GLANCE
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 27 HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1921: The first Lions Club in Wisconsin was organized in Milwaukee on June 10th.
- 1921: On November 9th, the Lions of Milwaukee and the state's second club, organized at Racine, received their charter.
- 1922: A large delegation of Wisconsin Lions attended the District Convention.
- 1922: July 19, 22 at the 5th annual International Convention, Wisconsin was divided between District 1 and District 5.
- 1922-23: Wisconsin became District 27.
- 1923: Wisconsin held its first convention as an independent District 27.
- 1936-37: Wisconsin District 27 was divided into three sub Districts, A, B, C.
- 1937: The original Milwaukee Lions Club became known as the Milwaukee Central Lions Club.
- 1938: District D was formed by combining parts of District A and C.
- 1949-50: District C was divided again and District E was created.
- 1966-67: District B was divided into Districts B1 and B2.
- 1968-69: District C was divided into Districts C1 and C2.
- 1971-72: District A was divided into Districts A1 and A2.
- 1979-80: District E was divided into Districts E1 and E2.
- 1980-81: District D was divided into Districts D1 and D2.

SOME HISTORICAL TRIVIA
by Historian, Lion Orv Doede, PDG

The first Lions clubs organized in what is now District 27-B1 were:
Manitowoc 1-10-22, Sheboygan 1-30-22, Fond du Lac 2-15-22 and Appleton 3-1-22.

At that time all of Wisconsin was one District.

The first year for District 27-B1 as we know it was 1967-68. (Note that Wisconsin now has 10 Districts).

The first District Governor for the new District 27-B1 was Howard Heimke from Brillion.

The State Convention that year was in Chippewa Falls.

The entire State of Wisconsin had 335 Lions Clubs and our new District 27-B1 had 43 Lions Clubs.

Wisconsin now has 587 Lions Clubs and 27-B1 has 78.

Only one International Director has ever been elected from District 27-B1. That was Edward Eik, also from the Brillion Lions Club. He served on the International Board of Directors 1963-65.

The first District Convention was held in Fond du Lac in 1977. The District governor that year was John Schneider, Jr. from Montello.

12 State Conventions have been held in our District. They were in Fond du Lac (2), Appleton (2), Oshkosh (4), Sheboygan (1), Menasha (1), Manitowoc (1) and Two Rivers (1).

In 1954 Lion Ray Hempel of Poy Sippi visited a hospital and spoke with two blinds youths. He asked them if they had ever attended any kind of camp. They said, "When you're blind, you can't go to outdoor camps and stuff like that." In 1954 he brought the idea of a camp to his club. They rented a Boy Scout camp in the area and introduced five visually-impaired local youths to outdoor life. This eventually led The Purchasing of land near Rosholt that is now known as our Wisconsin Lions Camp.

During the 1956 State Convention in Fond du Lac, the Lions of Wisconsin voted to purchase 240 acres of farmland along part of a lake near Rosholt. This land makes up the central portion of what is now the Wisconsin Lions Camp.

During that convention, the Lions also voted to organize the Wisconsin Lions Foundation.

The first Wisconsin State Lions directory was published for the 1965-66 Lions year.

Early in the history of Lionism, the Lion official we now call the "Tail Twister" was called the "spizzerinkter", sometimes described as an official in a Lions Club who is "hot headed, sharp, witty, alive, awake, quick, sizzling, speedy, high stepping, gate crashing." This implies reckless partiality.

Fond du Lac conducted the first annual 27th District Lions bowling Tournament in 1930.

The first Wisconsin Lions trading pin was issued in 1962, and was traded or given away at the Lions Clubs International Convention in Nice, France.

WISCONSIN LIONS CAMP

The Wisconsin Lions Camp first consisted of 240 acres purchased at a cost of \$18,000. To date, the camp consists of 440 acres which includes all the land surrounding Lions Lake.

Pinewood Lodge was the first all season facility that was built in 1989 and has eight apartments. Also under construction was the eyeglass center which was doubled in size to accommodate the need for more eyeglasses. It is here that the eyeglasses are sorted, repaired and then packed for shipment. In 1997 all the old cabins were being replaced with new cabins which would allow for complete handicap accessibility, including shower facilities in each building. This project was completed in 2001 at a cost of approx. \$175,000 for each completed cabin. In 2002 a new office building was completed on the grounds. An expanded and remodeled dining hall and kitchen area was constructed in 2003. A new Health Lodge opened in 2005.

The other buildings and facilities include the caretakers home, which is currently the Lions Pride Office, camp garage, shop buildings, and a pole shed. For the campers, there is a recreation center, nature center, gift and refreshment shop, called the Trading Post, health lodge, handicraft shop, a swimming beach and boating area, with canoes and paddle boats. They can go on an overnight camping trip, enjoy a trip around the lake on a tractor-drawn wagon or spend time in the mud pit and rope swing into the lake, on the climbing wall and high adventure area. Their days are well-planned, and the time goes by very quickly.

The camp serves visually-impaired, hearing -impaired children, cognitively disabled children and children with diabetes. Visually and hearing-impaired adults also attend during their week. A total of 1,500 people attended camp each summer for a week stay.

During the off months, the foundation operates a Retreat and Conference Center which not only helps keep the staff employed year round, it also brings in hundreds of Wisconsin residents that would have never visited our facilities.

This Wisconsin Lions Camp is known around the world as one of the finest of its kind.

LIONS EYE BANK OF WISCONSIN, INC.
HISTORY TIMELINE

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, Inc. is a team of professionals and volunteers dedicated to restoring the GIFT OF SIGHT through transplantation of corneas, research to advance the knowledge and treatment of eye diseases, and education to increase donations of human eyes after death.

The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, Inc. fulfills this mission by procuring, processing and distributing eye tissue to corneal transplant surgeons, researchers, and teachers.

Equally as important is our commitment to education through our network of medical professionals, Lions and Lioness members of Wisconsin, and other volunteers who give generously of their time and ideas.

The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, Inc. continues to commit itself to people--those in the present who receive a transplant and those in the future who will benefit from today's research. Our ultimate aim is improving people's quality of life through the GIFT OF SIGHT.

- 1945: The first corneal transplant was over 90 years ago with the first eye bank in the United States forming.
- 1953: First program in the State of Wisconsin to assist the medical community in regard to tissue transplant which began in Milwaukee.
- 1964: The Milwaukee Eye Bank was taken over by the Wisconsin Lions Foundation and was renamed the Wisconsin Lions Eye Bank.
- 1969: A separate eye bank facility in Madison, Wisconsin was started with similar goals to the Milwaukee program.
- 1998: A new eye bank for the State of Wisconsin was formed, the Eyebank of Wisconsin, Inc.
- 2000: The name of the eye bank was changed to the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, recognizing the participating and financial support provided by Lions and Lioness members.
- 2008: The Eye Bank moves into a new building purchased by the Eye Bank.

INFORMATION:

The following information is provided to you in an effort to increase awareness of eye banking procedures. Your participation in the eye donation and the corneal transplant process is needed and greatly appreciated. This information is designed for Lions and Lioness members and contains detailed information related to the donation and recovery of eyes for corneal transplant, research, and education purposes.

Imagine stepping from darkness into brilliant light, eyes taking in the beauty of sun, sky, and a loved one's face. Words cannot describe the excitement and awe felt by a person whose vision is restored through corneal transplantation. The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, with a statewide network of caring professionals, volunteers, and hospitals, helps hundreds of people regain their sight each year. Recent years have shown a noticeable increase in the numbers of donated corneas being used for transplant purposes. The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin serves as a major participant in eye banking efforts throughout the United States.

Transplantation of corneas from one human being to another is now a well established medical procedure. The success in recent years has been one of the most dramatic developments in modern medical history. When a cornea is going to be transplanted from one individual to another, the interval from the time of death to recovery of the eyes from the donor is critical. Various procedures and solutions have been developed to facilitate preservation of eyes. Nevertheless, any storage technique must maintain the function of that tissue. Since the primary function of the human corneas is the transmission of light in a regular and orderly fashion, storage techniques from the human cornea will have to maintain the cellular processes that are responsible for corneal clarity and transparency.

The First successful corneal transplant was over 90 years ago with the first eye bank in the United States forming in 1945. In the past 30 years, over 700,000 transplants have been performed in recipients, spanning an age interval from infancy to over 100 years old. The overall success rate exceeds 90% and corneal transplants are now often performed as a routine outpatient procedure under local anesthesia. Although more than 40,000 corneal transplants were performed in North America last year, the need for corneal tissue is never satisfied. To date, the use of artificial tissue for transplantation has been unsuccessful. The need for more corneas for transplant continues. Worldwide, over 11 million people could benefit from corneal transplants but must often wait long periods of time due to economic considerations.

Eye banking in the State of Wisconsin has entered a new era enabling greater service to patients, both donors and transplant recipients. Unique among transplant services, corneal transplant is now often offered to Wisconsin residents on a scheduled basis enabling patients, doctors, and surgical facilities to better prepare and plan for the surgery. Wisconsin residents are given priority to available surgical tissue. Additional eye tissue is then made available to hundreds of other surgeons and eye banks throughout the United States. Patients with financial need and programs providing

corneal transplants for free in underdeveloped foreign countries are provided corneal tissue on a gratis basis.

In recent years, the use of scleral tissue by ophthalmic surgeons in some glaucoma and plastics cases has given a new dimension to the importance of eye banking. Scleral tissue is used to reinforce the recipient tissue and therefore its viability is not critical. Its storage is, therefore, simple since it is preserved in dehydrating solutions such as 95% ethanol.

Many Lions from all over the state transport tissue to the Eye Bank in Madison and then drive corneas back to doctors for transplantation. Wisconsin is the only state where all the tissue is transported by Lions and Lioness members.

Should you have any questions, ideas, or comments, please contact the eye bank. Your input is needed to improve our procedures such that all of us may provide the GIFT OF SIGHT to many in need.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL HISTORY TIMELINE

1917: Association founded in Chicago, Illinois, USA on June 7 by businessman Melvin Jones.

1920: Association became international with the formation of the first club in Canada.

1925: Helen Keller challenges the Lions to become her "knights of the blind in the crusade against blindness."

1931: First club in Latin America chartered.

1945: Association helps form the Non-Governmental Organizations section of the United Nations.

1947: First club in Australia chartered.

1948: First club in Europe chartered.

1953: First club in Asia chartered. First club in Africa chartered.

1987: Lions Clubs International becomes the first service club to admit women as members.

1990: SightFirst, a major blindness prevention initiative, is launched.

2002: First chartered club in China

WHO ARE THE LIONS?

LIONS GENERAL INFORMATION

Volunteer members of clubs grouped under an International organization, where they enjoy fellowship and dedicate part of their free time to help those in need all over the world while making their individual communities a better place which to live.

THE ORIGIN

Lionism began in the United States in 1917 when a group of independent clubs responded to an ideal presented to them by a young Chicago insurance agent, Melvin Jones.

The ideal was one of service as a group to their fellow men without regard to politics, religion, race or in any way the personal interests of the members. This was heralded as a departure from the trend current at that time of forming clubs basically with a commercial motive. A conference was called of some 25 independent clubs on June 7, 1917 and from this meeting the organization was born.

THE NAME

The official name of "Lions" is: "The International Association of Lions Clubs" or simply "Lions Clubs International".



THE EMBLEM

It consists of a gold letter "L" on a circular purple field. Bordering this is a circular gold area with two conventionalized lion profiles at either side facing away from the center. The words "lions" appear at the top and "international" at the bottom. Symbolically, the lions face both past and future--proud of the past and confident of the future.

It is the unwritten obligation of every Lion to wear and display his emblem with pride.

THE SLOGAN

"LIBERTY, INTELLIGENCE OUR NATION'S SAFETY."

THE COLORS

To Lions, PURPLE stands for loyalty to country, friends, one's self and the integrity of mind and heart. It is the traditional color of strength, courage and tireless dedication to a cause. GOLD symbolizes sincerity of purpose liberality in judgment, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and purse toward his fellow man.

WORLD-WIDE GROWTH

Although the youngest, the International Association of Lions Clubs has grown to be the largest service club organization in the world, represented by 44,829 clubs and 738 districts with a membership exceeding 1,377,487 in OVER 200 countries and geographic areas.

WORLD-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The Association's headquarters is located in Oak Brook, Illinois, U.S.A. The Association is governed by an elected Board of 33 members from all parts of the world. This Board includes 28 Directors, 3 Vice-Presidents, the immediate Past President and is headed by the International President.

CLUB ORGANIZATION

A Lion joining a club for the first time pays an entrance fee to the Association. His annual dues to the International Association, the District and his home club constitute his financial commitment other than the meeting costs.

A Lion member may transfer to any club in the world, subject to the new club's acceptance. It is a requirement that a Lion complete his transfer with SIX MONTHS following the date of termination of membership in his former club.

Club meetings are held at least twice monthly. One meeting may be devoted to business and the planning of projects and the other to a dinner meeting often with a guest speaker.

The required attendance of members (whether at club meetings or at activities) , type of program, formation of committees, etc., are all decisions finally taken by the local club based on the board recommendations of the Association.

Lions Clubs elect their officers annually and work through club committees.

All monies for a Lions Club activity are raised by the efforts of the members through whatever legal fund-raising projects they may devise.

THE BASIS OF MEMBERSHIP

Any male or female of legal majority, good moral character and good reputation in the community, may be granted membership in a duly authorized Lions Club.
MEMBERSHIP IS BY INVITATION ONLY.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

From the start, the emphasis has been on service in all forms to less fortunate members of the community. The club constitution, as recommended by the Association, may be adapted by the local club to set its own particular requirements while keeping within the principles of the Association and its International constitution. This autonomy allowed to the individual clubs and the concentration on practical service to be the two principal factors which maintain the momentum of the Association's growth and progress.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

The numerous service activities that Lions undertake have been classified in the following manner:

MAJOR SERVICE COMMITMENTS

Drug Awareness
Diabetes Awareness

OTHER MAJOR SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind Hearing & Speech Action & Work with the Deaf Environmental Services
Leo Club Program
Youth Exchange Program
Lioness Club Program
International Relations

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF LIONISM:

Citizenship Services
Educational Services
Health Services
Social Services
Recreational Services
Public Services
International Youth Camps

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF)

The LCIF was established by the Association with the purpose to promote human welfare through careful application of contributed funds.

FAMILY CONCEPT

To keep the complete involvement of families, Lions Clubs also sponsor Lioness Clubs and Leo Clubs.

OUR MOTTO:

"WE SERVE"

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION'S NAME: The official name of the association is "The International Association of Lions Clubs" or simply "Lions Clubs International." The name Lions was chosen because of the symbolism of what a lion animal represents--courage, strength, activity and fidelity.

MISSION STATEMENT: to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation.

MOTTO: The Lions motto is "We Serve." It was adopted at the 1954 International Convention, after being selected from more than 6,000 suggestions from members worldwide.

SLOGAN: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety. It was adopted at the 1919 International Convention.

OFFICIAL COLORS: Purple and gold were chosen when the association was founded in 1917. The purple represents loyalty to country, friends, to one's self and to the integrity of mind and heart. It is the color of strength, courage and dedication to a cause. Gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgment, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and commitment to mankind. Often, a dark blue is used in place of the purple. The new logo, adopted in 2009, is on the right.



OFFICIAL EMBLEM: The current Lions emblem (or logo) was adopted at the 1919 convention. Today, Lions worldwide are recognized by it. It consists of a gold letter "L" in a circular purple (or blue) field. Bordering this is a circular gold area with two Lion profiles facing away from the center. The Lions face both past and future--showing both pride of heritage and confidence in the future, The world "Lions" appears at the top, and "International" at the bottom.

Always wear your Lions emblem pin proudly. And remember, since it is a registered trademark in most countries, it may never be used for commercial or fundraising purposes without prior permission from the Legal Division at International Headquarters.

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING: It may appear that the language barrier would make international understanding almost impossible. But international understanding and friendship (or fellowship) is a matter of spirit rather than language. Lions throughout the world communicate with one another through club activities that create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The International Headquarters, with a staff of approximately 290 full-time employees, is located in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA. Although branch offices exist worldwide, the International Headquarters serves as the association's central administrative and information source.

Many services are provided to Lions through this office, including issuing charters to new clubs, providing brochures, activity guides and newsletters to members and maintaining all association records.

The staff is led by an executive administrator, who oversees all headquarters operations and works to carry out the policy decisions made by the International Board of Directors. Assisting the executive administrator is the association's treasurer.

Eleven operating divisions divide the administrative responsibilities of International Headquarters. They are Club Supplies and Distribution, Convention, Information Technology, district and Club Administration, Executive Services, Extension and Membership, Finance, International Activities and Program Development, Leadership, Legal, Public relations and production.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF)

Lions Clubs International Foundation is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. The foundation was chartered in 1968 to support the efforts of Lions Clubs around the world in serving their local communities and the world community through humanitarian service, major disaster relief and vocational assistance programs.

The SightFirst program, the aggressive global service initiative that mobilizes Lions resources at all levels, responds to worldwide needs for the prevention of blindness. LCIF SightFirst grants are supporting projects that meet critical needs in both developing and developed countries. The SightFirst program has already provided over one million cataract surgeries, initiated eye health awareness programs, supported eye disease treatments plans, constructed hospitals and funded training for ophthalmic personnel.

The newest LCIF grant program, "Core 4," provides grants of up to US\$200,000 for high impact Lions service projects. The Core 4 program addresses the larger humanitarian needs in the communities where Lions serve. LCIF Core 4 grants are limited to a list of specific types of projects consistent with the top four humanitarian concerns of Lions preserving eyesight, combating disability, promoting health and serving youth.

Donations to LCIF support grants in these categories: LCIF SightFirst, Core 4, Standard, International Assistance Grants (1AG), Emergency, Major Catastrophe and Major International Service Program.

LCIF honors donors with a variety of awards and forms of recognition. The highest form of recognition is the Melvin Jones Fellowship. Other recognitions include Honor Roll and contributing Membership.

LEO CLUB PROGRAM: A Leo club is an activity sponsored by a Lions club. Leo clubs provide young men and women with an opportunity to serve others in their community--and around the world. Leo clubs can be school affiliated or community based.

Leo club activities include meetings, organizing and conducting community service projects and social functions. The Leo motto--Leadership, Experience, Opportunity--is fulfilled as members work together to respond to the needs of others. Participating in Leo activities and projects help young people prepare for the future by developing leadership, organization and social skills. Through their service efforts, Leos develop a positive self-image and personal growth as they meet new challenges and responsibilities.

LIONS YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM: The mission of the Lions Youth outreach Program, "Changing Tomorrow Today," is to help and challenge youth to learn, to achieve and to serve. Emphasis is placed on the many opportunities available for young people to volunteer in their communities in order to help them gain responsible citizenship skills. A video program is available to help Lions clubs implement a youth

outreach program in their community.

The Lions Youth Outreach Program also emphasizes drug awareness prevention through education. Alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse threaten the lives and future of young people everywhere. To counter these negative influences, Lions sponsor education programs in thousands of schools. The Lions--Quest Skills for Growing (Grades K-5), Skills for Adolescence (Grades 6-8) and Skills for Action (high school) teach youth how to make healthy decisions and to say "no" to drug abuse and other negative behavior.

All three Lions-Quest programs also include community service and violence prevention / conflict resolution components.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION: The annual International Convention is held in late June or early July. It constitutes the annual meeting of the members of the association. Some of the activities held during the convention include voting on constitutional amendments, electing new members to the board of directors, seminars of interest to all Lions, district governor-elect seminar, general business sessions and the parade of nations.

Attending an international convention provides members with a wonderful opportunity to rekindle their dedication to those in need, meet Lions from all over the world, learn new tips and techniques for being the best Lion he/she can be, and obtain valuable resource materials.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY OF LIONS CLUBS: The directory of Lions clubs contains a list of all the clubs in the world_ The listing includes the name, address and phone number of the club president and the meeting time and place for each club. it also provides information on the executive officers, and international directors, as well as the names and addresses of all district governors, cabinet secretary-treasurers, council chairmen and extension representatives. The directory is available through the Club Supplies and Distribution Division at International Headquarters. A listing of clubs is also available on the Lions Clubs International Web site at www.lionsclubs.org.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

There are probably as many different humanitarian services performed by Lions clubs worldwide as there are clubs. Each club is in tune with the needs of its local community and responds appropriately with projects that will improve the lives of those less fortunate. However, there are several programs that are commonly supported by a great many clubs around the globe. They include:

Lions Youth Outreach

Leo Club Program

Used Eyeglasses Collection (Including Lions Recycle for Sight and the Lions/Lens Crafters Gift of Sight initiatives)

Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Lions Culture Program

Environmental Projects

International Youth Exchange

Diabetes Awareness

Work with the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Eye Banks

Guide Dogs

World Sight Day

More information about these and other programs is available on the Lions Clubs International Web site, in THE LION newspaper and from the appropriate department at International Headquarters.

THE LION MAGAZINE

The official magazine of Lions Clubs International, THE LION Magazine, was established in November 1918. It is sent regularly to every member of the association. The annual subscription price is included in the international dues.

THE LION is published in English, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Flemish-French, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Thai and Turkish.

THE LION Magazine has four major functions:

To inform the members of official notices.

To serve as a central reference point for service and fundraising ideas and the best methods to employ in order to ensure their success.

To supply information about countries and areas in which Lions are active, enabling all members to better understand and support international program objectives and to promote worldwide peace and understanding.

To present the story of Lions Clubs International in the best possible manner so that not only Lions, but the casual reader as well, will receive a favorable impression of the association.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL WEB-SITE: The official Lions Clubs International Web-site, located at www.lionsclubs.org, contains a wealth of information about the association and its programs. There are also downloadable materials, online Club Supply sales, a club directory and online report filing. Additionally, the site has various newsletters, an online version of THE LION Magazine, message boards and online training courses. The site is updated monthly. Lions are encouraged to visit often to learn the latest news and updates.

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LIONS/LIONESSE CLUB CHAIRMAN'S NEW MEMBER

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