



New Member Orientation

This New Member Orientation can easily be customized to your Lions Club.

Use it in connection with your club's new member orientation program

or

Use it in segments as a "Continuing Education" program for all club members

- Step 1: Download
- Step 2: Customize
- Step 3: Save & Print

Instructions for Customizing the Orientation

- Page 1: Change the name of the Lions Club in the title
- Page 2: Edit the name of the Lions Club and the list of service activities
- Page 2: Edit the club history
- Page 3: Edit the meeting dates, time and place
- Page 3: Edit the amount of club dues
- Page 5: Edit to the committees your club uses
- Page 7: Add the zone number and clubs within your zone
- Page 12: Add your club website address if applicable



TROY LIONS CLUB INFORMATION

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LION

Lions are men and women dedicated to serving those in need, whether in their own community or halfway around the world. Membership in a Lions club provides people with the opportunity to meet and work with other individuals in a spirit of fellowship, striving toward the common goal of helping those in need. Through their mutual concern of others, members have the opportunity to improve both their local and world communities and develop valuable personal and professional skills.

New members are expected to give freely of their time and energy whenever possible. They are expected to attend club meetings, be available for committee assignments, be knowledgeable about the aims and objectives of Lions and to support club officers.

LIONS MISSION STATEMENT

“To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation.”

LIONS MOTTO

The Lions motto is "We Serve." It was voted in as the Association's motto at the 1954 convention in New York, as the best of the 6000 submitted suggestions.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The benefits of Lions clubs membership are numerous, and include:

- The unparalleled satisfaction of helping those in need.
- Making a difference in your community.
- Having an impact on those in need worldwide.
- Developing leadership skills.
- Enhancing communication skills.
- Utilizing planning and organization skills.
- Working hands-on to meet community needs.
- Meeting new people – from your community and abroad.
- Opportunities to network.

- Opportunities to travel.

WHAT DO THE TROY LIONS DO?

The Troy Lions Club provides:

- Eye examinations and eyeglasses for those who cannot afford them.
- Vision Screening for preschool children to detect Amblyopia.
- Collection of used eyeglasses for recycling to needy persons in other countries.
- Sponsorship of the Newton Leo Club (a school-age community service group).
- Scholarships annually for Troy High School and Newton High School seniors.
- Donations to the various Lions State and International Projects.
- Care packages for military personnel serving overseas.
- The G O O D program (citizenship and motivation program) at Van Cleve School.
- “Peace Poster” contest at local schools.
- Christmas care packages to children.
- Volunteering at a local “soup kitchen”.

TROY LIONS CLUB HISTORY

The Troy Lions Club began in 1942. We were sponsored by the Piqua Lions Club. Dues in the first year were set at \$1 a month. Our membership started at 22 members and reached an all-time high of 86 in 1956. The club’s very first community service project was the purchase in 1942 of an American Flag and Standard which was donated to the Boy Scouts. Eyesight Conservation has always been the focus of our work. Ever since the first year, Troy Lions have been purchasing eyeglasses and paying for eye exams for local needy individuals. Over the years, tens of thousands of used eyeglasses have been collected and recycled to under developed countries. We purchased a Timus II vision testing machine for the Troy School System and a MagniSight Video Magnifier for the public library. The Club held weekly meetings until 1975 when it changed to twice monthly. We sponsored the Fletcher Lions Club in 1956 and started the Newton Leo Club in Pleasant Hill in 2002. Troy was also the sponsor for the Sidney Branch Club of 2009 through 2011. Our first female Lion member joined in 1995, and our first female President was elected in 1997. We have sponsored four District Governors and hosted 4 district conventions. Our largest service project was a medical and eye health trip to two Russian orphanages and we established the first ever permanent recycled eyeglass distribution center in the country of Russia.

CLUB OPERATIONS

Lions Pin: Your Lions pin is the symbol of your membership in this organization. It should be worn at all times and especially to meetings. The pin, a two-headed Lion, represents one head looking backward, honoring our tradition and history and another head looking forward looking for new challenges and opportunities to serve. You should be proud to display your pin.

Meetings: We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. This consists of a full catered meal, program of local interest and a short business session. All meetings start at 6:30 pm and usually end around 8:00 pm. Reservations are needed for the meal. For those who wish to attend only the program and business session, they should arrive by 7:00 pm. Business only meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of most months and start at 7:00pm. Meetings are held at the Hayner Cultural Center, located at 301 West Main Street in Troy.

Dues: Members pay dues to the Club, which in turn pays the member's International, State and District per-capita tax. Dues are set by the club Board of Directors and are payable annually in July. Members may elect to pay dues on a six-month basis in July and January. There are spouse and student discounts available. Dues are currently \$65.00 a year.

Funds: Each Lions club is required to maintain two separate funds, an administration fund and an activity fund.

- 1) The **Administrative Fund** will be used for the internal running of the club. The income of this fund will be from member's dues, tail-twisting fines, and other money raised directly from the club members. The expenses of this fund will be for per-capita tax, printing, postage and other costs relating to running club meetings.
- 2) The **Activities Fund** will be used to fulfill the exempt purposes and goals of the club. The income of this fund will be from public fund raising projects. The expenses of this fund will be the direct costs of the fund raising projects, as well as, the donations and charitable activities of the club.

Sponsoring a Member: Every member should attempt to strengthen his/her club by extending an invitation to others to become a Lion. If you sponsor a new member, it is your responsibility to assist that individual to become an active member of our club. This includes answering questions, seeing that the new member is introduced to all club members and generally being available to make certain that the new member gets the most out of his/her membership. You are responsible for the new member for at least a year and a day. Lions are recognized for sponsoring new members.

100% Attendance: Members are recognized for attaining 100% attendance. This can be accomplished by attending meetings, working on projects, visitations to other clubs, attending conferences and conventions, etc. To qualify, at least half of the meetings must be made in-person and up to half of the meetings may be make-ups by these other activities.

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.

CLUB OFFICERS

A Lions club is governed by a board of directors, normally consisting of a president as chief executive officer, the immediate past president, three vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a Lion tamer, a tail twister, four or more directors, and a membership director. Officers are elected annually for a term coinciding with the association's fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Directors are elected for two-year terms. Meetings of the board are usually held once each month.

President: The president serves as the club's chief executive officer and presides at all meetings of the club and the board of directors. The president issues the call for regular and special meetings in accordance with the club's by-laws or procedures, plans the agenda and ensures that the status of each committee activity is reported. It is also the responsibility of the president to see that regular elections are duly called, noticed and held. The president cooperates with, and is an active member of, the district governor's advisory committee of the zone in which the club is located.

Immediate Past President: The immediate past president, along with other past presidents, serves as an official greeter of members and their guests at club meetings and represents the club in welcoming new people into the community served by the club.

Vice Presidents: In the event that the president should be unable to perform the duties of office for any reason, the vice president next in rank occupies the position and performs the duties with the same authority as the president. Each vice president, under the direction of the president, oversees the functioning of various committees of the club.

Secretary: Under the supervision and direction of the president and board of directors, the secretary acts as a liaison officer between the club and both the district and International Headquarters. Responsibilities of the secretary include submitting reports, maintaining club records and issuing financial statements to club members.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for all club financial matters. Duties include receiving all monies and paying club obligations, maintaining financial records, preparing financial statements and submitting financial reports.

Lion Tamer: The Lion Tamer serves as custodian of club property. Duties include being responsible for club property (such as flags, banners, gavels, etc.), serving as a sergeant at arms during meetings and distributing materials at meetings.

Tail Twister: The Tail Twister serves to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at club meetings through the judicious imposition of fines on members. The Tail Twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present. Any funds collected by the Tail Twister are turned over to the treasurer as administrative funds.

Membership Director: The membership director serves as the chairman of the membership committee. Responsibilities of the membership director include development of membership growth programs, implementation of recruitment and retention programs and preparation of orientation sessions.

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 based. Activities committees can be further broken down into fund raising and service committees.

Our Administrative Committees include:

- ❖ Audit: Provides for the constitutionally mandated audit of financial records at least annually.
- ❖ Calling: Courtesy phone calls reminding members of up-coming meetings or events.
- ❖ Finance: Prepares annual budget and looks after the general financial welfare of the club.
- ❖ Membership: Encourages proper practices to retain current members and to sponsor new members into the club.
- ❖ Newsletter: Provides information to club members.
- ❖ Program: Coordinates the speakers and programs of local interest at club meetings.
- ❖ Public Relations: Promotes Lions club news to the general public.
- ❖ Visitations: Coordinates visits to neighboring Lions Clubs.
- ❖ Website: Maintains the club's website.

Our Fund-Raising Committees:

- ❖ BBQ Chicken Dinners: Organizes our two annual chicken/pulled pork dinners.
- ❖ Concessions: Organizes our popcorn stand and other concession opportunities.
- ❖ Grant Writing: Completes our annual grant applications.
- ❖ Rose and Carnation Day: Organizes our annual flower sale
- ❖ Strawberry Festival: Organizes our annual booth at the Festival.
- ❖ White Cane Day: Organizes our annual general public solicitation.

Our Community Service Committees include:

- ❖ Christmas Child: Organizes our annual Christmas Shoebox for children donations.
- ❖ Leo Club Advisor: Works with our Leo Club (school-age support group) at Newton School.
- ❖ Peace Poster Contest: Organizes and coordinates with the schools our annual art poster contest.
- ❖ Recycling Eyeglasses: Coordinates our on-going collection of eyeglasses to be recycled in developing countries.
- ❖ Scholarship: Organizes and coordinates with Troy High School our annual scholarship contest.
- ❖ Sight Conversation: Organizes and coordinates with the Miami County Health Department and local eye health professionals to provide eye exams and eyeglasses to the financially eligible.
- ❖ Vision Screening: Organizes the club's pre-school vision screening program.

LIONS DISTRICTS

For administrative purposes, Lions clubs are arranged into Districts. Our district is **13-OH5**. In order to be a viable district, a membership of at least 1250 and/or 35 clubs is required. A district is administered by a **District Governor**. The district governor serves as the chief administrative officer for the district. He or she is elected to serve a one-year term at the district convention. The new governor takes office at the close of the international convention. The district governor's responsibilities include representing the association in the district, supervising district officers, furthering the Objects and Ethics of the association, promoting the goals of the International Program, supervising the organization of new Lions clubs and presiding over district meetings. The District Governor appoints a number of district chairmen and zone chairmen who make up his **Cabinet**.

The **Vice District Governors** serve as chief administrative assistants to the district governor. The vice district governor's specific responsibilities are to further the Purpose and Ethics of Lions Clubs International, become familiar with the duties of the district governor should there become a vacancy in the office of district governor, perform administrative duties assigned by the district governor, participate in district meetings, help prepare the district budget, supervise district committees at the request of the district governor, help review clubs and engage in all matters to be continued during the next year.

Cabinet Secretary / Treasurer: Acts under the supervision of the district governor. The duties of the Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer are to further the Ethics and Objects of Lions Clubs International and perform other functions and acts required through the cabinet secretary-treasurer manual and other directives.

Cabinet Committee Chairs and Trustee Chairs: These appointed or elected positions include: Foundations Chairs (Lions Clubs International Foundation, Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation, Ohio Lions Foundation), State Committees (Building Committee, Constitution & By-Laws, Finance & Planning, Global Leadership Team, Global Membership Team, International Convention, USA/Canada Forum, International Relations, Lions Quest, Ohio Lions Band, Public Relations and Marketing, Sight and Hearing, Youth Projects, Campus Camps, Bulletin Committee and Convention Committee) and District Committees (Diabetes Awareness, Leo Committee, Pin Committee, District Projects, Eye Bank, Lions Services for Children, Newsletter, Webmaster) and the Governor's Honorary Committee.

The **District Cabinet** meets four times each year. These meetings are usually held in August, November, February and the final cabinet meeting is held at the District Convention. At these meetings, the various zone chairmen and committee chairmen make reports and the cabinet also conducts the business of the district.

The District Governor and Vice District Governors of our district are elected at our annual convention. Even though each post is elected, normal procedures are for each Lion to proceed from Second Vice District Governor to First Vice District Governor to District Governor. Each year, we elect a **new Second Vice District Governor**.

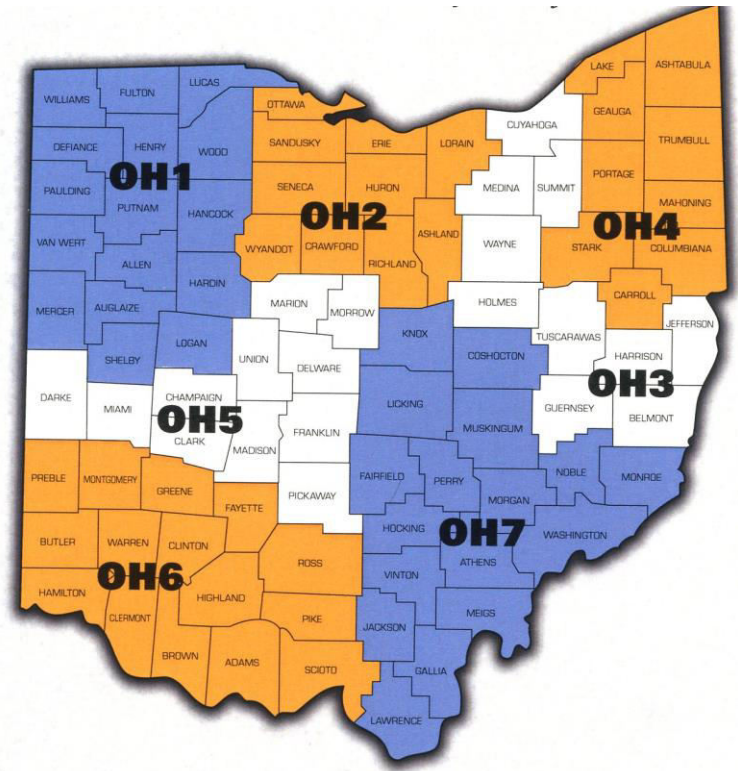
OHIO LIONS CLUBS

A geographical grouping of Lions Clubs districts is known as a Multiple District. The Troy Lions are a part of the Ohio Lions, which is known as **Multiple District 13**. There are currently seven districts that make up Multiple District 13. Our club is located in **District 13-OH5**.

Geographically, District 13-OH5 is made up of Darke, Miami, Champaign, Clark, Union, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Delaware, Franklin and Pickaway counties.

The District is further divided geographically into zones. The administrative officer for each zone is called a **Zone Chairperson**. The zone chairperson, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor and/or region chairperson, is the chief administrative officer in the zone. Responsibility includes serving chairperson of the district governor's advisory committee in the zone, playing an active role in organizing new clubs and keep informed on the activities and well-being of all clubs in the zone. The zone chairpersons are members of the district governor's cabinet. They are appointed by the governor.

Three zone meetings are held each year, usually in September, November and February. At these meetings, the clubs report on their various fundraising and service projects. They also discuss various other issues involving Lions Clubs. All Lions members are encouraged to attend zone meetings to learn more about the operations of Lions Clubs and to fellowship with Lions from other clubs.



CONVENTIONS / CONFERENCES

Our district holds a **District Convention** annually to conduct the business of our district and to have fun and fellowship with other Lions. All members are encouraged to attend all or part of the district convention. The convention is held in March or April depending on the wishes of the current District Governor. The current District Governor also chooses the site of the District Convention.

The **State Convention, also known as the Multiple District Convention**, is held in May each year. The site for the State Convention is Columbus. At the State Convention, the delegates conduct the business of Multiple District 13. This is another opportunity to learn more about Lionism.

The **International Convention** is held annually, usually at the end of June or the beginning of July. The International Convention is a gathering of Lions from all over the world. The location changes each year. The colorful native costumes contribute to the pageantry of the setting. At these conventions, the delegates elect the International Officers and the International Board of Directors.

While the conventions offer an opportunity to learn about Lionism, there are some events that are specifically designed to give members a better understanding of our organization. At the district level, we have our annual “**Learn to Roar**” **Conference**. This event is usually held in May or June. There are opportunities for club officer training and opportunities to become more knowledgeable about Lionism in general. All Lions are strongly urged to attend.

The District also offers an annual **Club Improvement Retreat**, usually held in October. This program is hosted by the district’s Global Membership Team and the Global Leadership Team. As the title suggests, the program focuses on proper practices to strengthen a club. All Lions are strongly urged to attend.

At the state level, we annually have a **Winter Retreat**. This event is held in January at an Ohio State Park. There are motivational speakers and opportunities to attend forums on some aspect of Lionism or personal growth. All Lions are urged to attend Winter Retreat.

Another opportunity to improve your Lion’s and personal growth skills is offered each year at the **USA / Canada Lions Leadership Forum**. This event is held at various sites in the United States and Canada. in September each year. This event draws outstanding speakers from all over North America.

APPROVED LIONS CHARITIES

Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) – International program

LCIF is Lions helping Lions serve others. It is the only Lions foundation that serves the entire world and all Lions. LCIF, the official charitable Foundation of Lions Clubs International, brings help, hope and healing to the world. Grant funding is awarded to Lions districts worldwide for large-scale humanitarian projects that address community needs, tackle global problems such as blindness and hearing loss, and respond to major catastrophes such as earthquakes and floods. LCIF also helps Lions serve their local communities by partnering with them for large scale projects.

Recognition: Melvin Jones Fellowship (\$1,000), Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship (each additional \$1,000) and Contributing Memberships (\$20, \$50, \$100)

International Relations – International program endorsed by the Ohio Lions

This fund is a state committee which allocates funds annually supported by all Ohio Lions Districts. Monies are collected and expended for Volunteer Optometric Services for Humanity (VOSH) Student VOSH, and Amigos de las Américas (AMIGOS).

Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation (OLERF) – State program

Established in 1952 by the Lions of Ohio, monies collected have been distributed to fund research grants to approved medical colleges and universities throughout Ohio. Over three million dollars have been collected and distributed. One elected trustee represents each District. Also responsible for Diabetes Awareness and Bryan research grants.

Recognition: Dick Bryan Fellowship (\$500)

Ohio Lions Eye Bank – State program

The two Ohio Lions Eye Banks are non-profit organization dedicated to restoring, improving and preserving vision by connecting eye donors and transplant recipients, educating physicians, and enhancing eye research through quality eye banking services.

Ohio Lions Foundation (OLF) – State program

This Foundation was created by the Lions of Ohio in 1986 for any charitable cause or Lions club project within the State of Ohio. Some examples are disaster relief grants, grants for preschool vision screening, Helen Keller Scholarships - scholarships for sight impaired students at Ohio Universities, matching grants for low vision reading machines, and capital grants.

Recognition: James T. Fellowship (\$500), Betty Coffey Fellowship (\$250)

Sight, Hearing, & Pilot Dogs Committee – State committee/project

An Ohio Lions endorsed program. This committee funds various sight and hearing activities through the following projects, according to a budget set at the beginning of each year: Ohio Radio Reading Services, Lions Pilot Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Columbus Speech and Hearing Center, News Reel, Inc. and Prevent Blindness Ohio. The majority of the budget goes towards Pilot Dogs.

Ohio Lions All-State Band – State project

Ohio Lions All-State Band donations support activities and trips of an all-Ohio High School Youth Band, promoting teamwork, service and positive youth activities for those young people involved. Funds raised are for general costs associated with band trips to Lions International Conventions and State Band Tours. Each student and their sponsoring club are responsible for the specific costs of that student participating in this program.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION HISTORY

Lions Clubs International began as the dream of Chicago insurance man Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large.

Jones' own group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed. After contacting similar groups around the country, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. The new group took the name of one of the groups invited, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of that year. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states were in attendance. The convention began to define what the association was to become. A constitution, by-laws, objects and code of ethics were approved. Among the official objects adopted in these early years was one which read, "No club shall hold out the financial betterment of its members as its object." The object has remained one of the association's main tenets ever since.

Dr. W.P. Woods, of Evansville, Indiana, USA was elected as the first president. Guiding force and founder Jones was named acting secretary, thus beginning his relationship with Lions that ended only with his death in 1961.

Just three years after its formation, the organization became international when the first club in Windsor, Ontario, Canada was established in 1920. Clubs were later organized in Mexico, China and Cuba. By 1927, membership stood at 60,000 in 1,183 clubs.

In 1935, Panama became home to the first Central American club; the first club in South America was organized in Colombia the following year. Sweden, then France, brought Europe into the association in 1948. Japan had clubs by 1952, and the so-called "Eastern Bloc" was unblocked in 1989 with the formation of clubs in Hungary, Poland and Estonia.

Perhaps the single event having the greatest impact on the association's service commitment occurred in 1925 when Helen Keller addressed the Lions at the international convention in Cedar Point, Ohio. It was there that she challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

In 1990 Lions launched their most aggressive sight preservation effort to date, SightFirst. The more than US\$140 million-plus program strives to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness by closing the gap between existing health care services and those that remain desperately needed.

Broadening its role in international understanding, the association helped the United Nations form the Non-Governmental Organizations section in 1945, and continues to hold consultative status today. Each year, during the Lions Day with the United Nations ceremonies, an award is presented to the grand prize winner of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest, itself a significant program which draws over 350,000 entries annually.

Another significant event in the association's history occurred in 1987, when Lions Clubs International became the first major service club organization to admit women as members. Since those first years, the association has grown to include nearly 1.4 million men and women in more than 44,000 clubs located in 189 countries and geographical areas.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL OBJECTS

TO CREATE and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

TO PROMOTE the principles of good government and good citizenship.

TO TAKE an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

TO UNITE the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

TO PROVIDE a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.

TO ENCOURAGE service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

LIONS CODE OF ETHICS

TO SHOW my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

TO SEEK success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

TO REMEMBER that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

WHENEVER a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

TO HOLD friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

ALWAYS bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in work, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

TO AID others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

TO BE CAREFUL with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

LIONS ALPHABET SOUP

Positions:

PP Past President **ZC** Zone Chair **DG** District Governor
PDG Past District Governor **FVDG** First Vice District Governor
SVDG Second Vice District Governor **CST** Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer
CC Council Chair **PCC** Past Council Chair **IP** International President
ID International Director **PIP** Past International President
PID Past International Director **I** In front of a title means Immediate Past

Organizations:

LCI Lions Clubs International **LCIF** LCI Foundation **OLF** Ohio Lions Foundation
OLERF Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation
MD-13 Multiple District 13 - Ohio **13-E** District 13E (our District)
GLT Global Leadership Team **GMT** Global Membership Team

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.lionsclubs.org Lions Clubs International website
www.ohiolions.org MD-13 Ohio Lions website
www.lionsdist13e.org District 13E website

There are many opportunities on these websites to increase your knowledge and understanding about Lionism. The Lions Clubs International website has a number of courses that you can take online to further your Lions education. Each Lion who completes ten (10) of the online courses is recognized at the District Convention with a "Diploma". There is also the Lions Club University offering courses on-line to achieve a Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and a Doctorate in Lionism.

Notes

