



*“Coming together
is a beginning.
Keeping together
is progress.
Working together
is success.”*

Henry Ford,
American Industrialist

In A World of Individuals, Lions Know The Value of TEAMwork

Finally, we must work as a team. Teamwork encourages creativity, allowing everyone an equal opportunity to contribute. Even in seemingly individual sports like car racing, a driver without a well-organized support crew will never successfully finish the race. Each member of a team has his or her own strengths and when all of these are used together as one, you form an unbeatable entity. A Lions team should be about giving, listening, fellowship and achieving.

Poet John Donne wrote "no man is an island" and this is true. We are social beings. We must strive to get along well with other people in order to achieve desired results.

So Why Work As a Team?

Have you not noticed that it's more fun to work when you're working with others? It alleviates the pressure, and makes work fun and faster to finish. Teamwork also encourages creativity, allowing everyone an equal opportunity to contribute. More importantly, teamwork helps get the job done!

But are we doing enough to use the teams we have? Consider doing the following:

- Work with the Global Membership and Global Leadership Teams which include members of the District Governor Team
- Encourage club officers to work together in pursuit of the Club Excellence Award
- Strive to achieve the District Governor Team Excellence Award
- Continue reaching out to women and family members



In A World of Followers, Lions Lead The Way

To grow our organization and to guide our teams forward through this changing world, we need to identify leaders to whom we can pass the baton.

The most effective leaders are committed to the process of growth, and, over time, their personal investment in training and development is rewarded. Consider the most successful Indianapolis 500 drivers. They didn't prepare for victory all at one time – they recognized that preparation is an ongoing process. In addition, they understand that the race always favors the driver who is thoroughly prepared. The better prepared a driver is at the start of the race, the better his or her chances for success at the end, and that a strong daily focus on preparation can make each day a successful part of the overall race.

Good leadership is just too important to our future to leave it to chance. Instead, Lions can help the process along by taking advantage of LCI's many leadership development opportunities. Visit the online Leadership Resource Center. And remember, our Global Leadership Team (GLT) leader is always available to help. Your dedication to leadership development will position our association to continue to provide needed, effective service around the world. Just like the well-prepared Indianapolis 500 driver, your investment in training and development may be rewarded with a visit to the Victory Circle!

Teamwork and leadership in LCI are now linked together more than ever with The Global Membership Team (GMT) and Global Leadership Team (GLT) who together provide a structure for ongoing membership growth and development of new leaders.

It's a team that connects the international level, to the constitutional area level, the multiple district level, and to the district level for the benefit and success of the club. Members of the GMT and GLT work together to identify, develop and encourage opportunities for present and future Lions leaders, and to increase membership through service and engagement.

Lions Clubs International is made up of many teams – from the club level, to the district and multiple district, all the way up to the Board and executive officers – all working together to enhance our ability to serve others.

Tap into other team members' knowledge and be willing to share your special skills as well. Perhaps there is a member of your club or district team that has a particular interest and knack for computers. What better way to enhance your computer skills!!

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

John F. Kennedy, Former U.S. President

Two More Keys to Success

In A World of Instant Communication, Lions Are Connecting To Others

Nothing is changing faster in our world than our ability to communicate. No club or district can be successful today without effective communication, and effective communication requires preparation. I can think of no other aspect of our lives that has changed more in the past 10 years. Communication in the new millenium is fast paced, and ever changing. We must be agents of change – open to new ideas and open to strategies for connecting to others if we hope to communicate in a changing world.

It would be a mistake to assume that only young people are communicating online via emails, Facebook and other social media models. New studies have shown that the age group that spends the most amount of time communicating online is actually 45 to 54 year olds. Electronic communication provides the most effective means to connect with people around the world in real time.

Increasingly, Lions members, clubs, districts and multiple districts are online. Our ability to project our image and increase public awareness online is vital.

Last year, Lions Clubs International undertook a comprehensive study of the online community – how to engage both an internal and external audience via most frequented social media sites. The study showed that more and more Lions around the world are using social media in their lives to connect with others and also to promote their club's service work. We have now made tremendous strides forward connecting with our members online, and with potential new members by engaging them in online conversation.

This year LCI will continue to expand our methods of connecting to members and the general public as we expand our worldwide impact.



LCIF – The “Foundation” of Our World of Service

As the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) supports Lions' compassionate works by providing grant funding for their local and global humanitarian service efforts.

We're also working with partner organizations to do even more. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is challenging Lions to mobilize US\$10 million to rescue children from measles by donating US\$1 for every US\$2 raised by Lions – a total matching contribution of US\$5 million. This would be the largest single donation in LCIF's history.

In addition to the millions of dollars given annually through grant programs, LCIF actively supports the Lions mission of working with young people around the world. The Lions Quest program is LCIF's most comprehensive program for youth. Since 1984, more than 12 million youth have been taught positive life skills through this program. Lions Quest unites the home, school and community to cultivate capable



and healthy young people from kindergarten through 12th grade, allowing them to grow into successful adults.

Thanks to Lions Quest and LCIF, parents around the world can be confident that their children will have the tools needed for success and growth to deal with the complex issues they face every day.

Lions – Start Your Engines

One of the highlights of the Indianapolis 500 is just prior to the start of the race when the announcer says “drivers, start your engines.” The crowd begins to cheer in anxious anticipation of the start of the race.

Like an auto race, it is important we get a good start as we begin our 95th year of service. But it’s also important to remember that our year, and our service to others, is not a one lap race. It will take endurance, stamina and careful planning to succeed.

As Lions, we are recognized around the world for service to others. Lions don’t close their eyes to the fact that millions of people can’t read and/or don’t have access to books or other reading material. We live in a world where children go to school hungry, and many don’t go to school at all. We live in a world

where disaster strikes at a moments notice. We live in a world where preventable blindness is not being prevented. And we live in a world where over a billion people live in poverty.

That’s why it’s crucial that Lions continue to lead the way “in a world of service,” and expand impact.

Can we do it? Are we up for the challenge? WE ARE!!! But we will need our entire team of over 46,000 clubs around the world, each team working at a high rate of efficiency, in order to continue to make a real difference in our respective communities. We may come from different backgrounds and different cultures, but we share a common purpose – WE SERVE. That’s what I call TEAMWORK!! And that’s why in a world of service, Lions lead the way.



Photo by Dan Morris