

Welcome New Lions
(NAME OF YOUR LIONS CLUB)

WHAT LIONS STAND FOR

Vision Statement:

“To be the global leader in community/humanitarian service.”

Mission Statement:

“To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, promote international understanding through Lions Clubs.”

Slogan: “We Serve”

Brief History

- **Lions Club International (LCI) founded by Founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1917 by Melvin Jones. It's objective was to use business talents of its members to benefit local communities. (www.lionsclubs.org),**
- **It was inspired by Helen Keller's work with the Blind (She termed Lions as 'Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness'),**
- **LCI now has over 1.4 million members belong to 45,000 clubs worldwide,**
- **The Lions logo is recognized around the world . It consists of a blue field surrounded by a gold circle. On either side is a lions head. One looking back to a proud past, one forward looking toward the future.**

Florida Lions Organization Structure

- Florida Lions clubs are grouped into Multiple District 35 which is composed of 4 districts and the Bahamas. Our club is in District for all clubs in Central Florida and is designated District 35-O, (www.lionsflorida.org)
- District 35-O is divided into 4 Regions and 10 Zones which oversee 59 Clubs. (Name of your club name) is in Region _, Zone _ with the other clubs of (Other clubs in your zone) (www.e-district.org/sites/35o/)
- (Name of your Lions Club) chartered on (charter date) with (number of) members, (If your club has a website, add the website address here).
- Any Lions club has always been treated as a separate entity all to itself governed entirely by its own Board of Directors.

Board of Directors/Committees

- We, like most Lions clubs, have the positions of a **President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Immediate Past President, Lion Tamer, Tail Twister** 1, 2 and 3 year Directors on our Board of Directors. This the sole governing body of the Club, <Correct if necessary.>
- All Officers are elected annually for a one year term beginning on July 1st. The nomination process starts in the previous March and ends with membership vote in late April of each year,
- Our club currently has the following separate standing committees: **Constitution & ByLaws, Finance, Audit, Membership, Nominating and Publicity**, <Update to show your club's standing committees>
- The President is technically a member of all committees and can offer advice but not vote,
- From time to time, the President may appoint , with approval of the Board, such special committees as may be necessary in his or her judgment.

Meetings, Dues, Budgets

- Our Lions club membership meetings are normally held on the _____ of each month , Board meetings are held usually on the _____. Both are held at _____. Special club events (e.g. installation of Officers, Xmas party) take the place of (membership or board?) meetings and are held in June and December of each year,
- Dues are normally collected from members once per lion year. Members currently pay \$___ annually (or optional payment every 6 months?) covering club, District, MD and LCI dues. New members will pay a onetime additional induction fee of \$30,
- All Lions clubs maintain 2 major budgets/accounts: administrative (club admin expenses only) and activities (funds raised from the public donations /fundraisers can only be expended to satisfy a public/community need).

Club Foundation/Charities Supported

- Most Lions clubs have a “foundation” function (called an Activities account) that depicts its 501(3)c non-profit, tax exempt designation. This “foundation” fund allows the club to collect donations and money from fundraisers, 100% of which is spread across the charities it supports. This 501(3)c designation allows the club to provide tax exempt receipts to donors/businesses for their tax purposes,
- We financially support the Conklin Center, Lions Foundation for the Blind, the District 35-O diabetes, hearing, Project Right to Sight, LCIF/Melvin Jones, Camp Winona Diabetes (children) and vision care (eye glass, eye exam) activities in _____ County. (Update to show entities or organizations your club supports)

Your Sponsor's Responsibility

- Help you get familiar with history and structure of LCI, MD 35, District and **(Name of your Lions Club)**,
- Introduce you to the Board, Club members, website, key documents, meetings and activities,
- Monitor and guide you in accomplishing the Governor's Achievement awards tasks in your 1st year as a Lion,
- Get you to actively take on a leadership role and keep you involved, as much as you can, in all meetings, events, fundraisers, community service projects, leadership training of the club/District,
- Provide you with timely advice and counsel on any aspect of Lionism.

Your Responsibilities as a Lion

- Understand the Club's Constitution and Bylaws, Lions Code of Ethics,
- Actively accomplish all of the Governor's Achievement Award tasks in your first year as a Lion,
- Work in as many Club fundraisers/community service events as possible,
- Periodically visit/help charities and other Lions clubs in your Zone,
- Attend all club meetings, attend District 35-O meetings, MD Conventions as often as possible,
- Wear Lion apparel/pins to all Lion functions and in the community as much as possible. [Register as a member on your club's website <<Include if your club supports the member only area of your Lions e-clubhouse website\).](#)
- Any Questions? (Ask now or remember to ask your sponsor or a club officer later!)