

The first Lions Club Convention was held on October 8–10, 1917, in Dallas, Texas, with 36 delegates representing 22 clubs, all located in the United States. At the time of this convention, there were six other clubs in existence or being formed. An article in the Dallas Morning News dated October 8, 1917, concluded with,

“Although this will be the first international (Lions) convention, delegates said the gathering will be more in the nature of a meeting than a convention. The meeting today, tomorrow and Wednesday will be to perfect the organization and to make plans for its expansion.”

At the first Convention, the delegates elected a President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, two Three-year Directors, two Two-year Directors and two One-year Directors. The delegates chose purple and gold as the Lions' colors and Melvin Jones was authorized to open an office in Chicago, Illinois. The Lions Objects and Code of Ethics were drafted at this convention as well.

At the second convention, held August 19–21, 1918, in Saint Louis, Missouri, the first district officers were appointed. The country was divided into single districts for organization and administrative purposes, appointing a District Governor for each district. These first districts were numbered from west to east with California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington comprising District One.

In November 1918, it was announced in the first issue of “The Lion” magazine that the number of District Governors had been increased from three to nine.

Lions became an international organization March 12, 1920, with the establishment of the Border Cities Lions Club in Ontario, Canada. The club was later named Windsor and was joined by clubs formed in Toronto and Hamilton Ontario.

At the 1921 convention in Oakland, California, the Board of Directors redistricted the whole country and District One became District Four. When the District Governor of District Four reported that he could not efficiently administer the Lions activities in the Pacific Northwest, the Board, at an emergency meeting, formed Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia into District 19, a provisional district, with California and Nevada remaining as District Four.

However, at the Association Convention in 1922, Bigelow was elected Third Vice President of the Association. It should be noted that the International Association did not automatically promote Vice Presidents to President at that time. The reason Vice President Ray Bigelow did not continue is not known.

Each district elected a District Governor who appointed his Cabinet, Secretary, Deputy District Governors, and Zone Chairpersons

By July of 1944, the Association had 4,447 clubs and 177,579 members in 13 countries, having expanded into China and Ibero-America. By July 1954, the Association had nearly doubled to 11,024 clubs, 501,488 members in 50 countries. The International Board of Directors was comprised of the five Executive Officers: President, Immediate Past President, and three Vice Presidents and a varying number of International Directors.

Much of the International Association's growth was outside the United States and the clubs, districts and countries around the world continued to clamor for more representation on the Association Board. A fair and representative plan was not developed until 1962, at which time the association had 16,502 clubs, 655,237 members in 99 countries.

In 1962, the International Board of Directors divided the world into eight geographical areas with 26 directors: 15 from the U.S.A. and affiliates; one from Canada; one from Mexico; three from Ibero-America; three from Europe; one from Asia and Southeast Asia; one from Africa and Southwest Asia; and one from Australia and the South Pacific.

In 1980 the Lions International Association had grown to 33,864 clubs and 1,288,398 members in 145 countries.

Lions Clubs International currently has just under 1,500,000 members in 46,000 clubs in 743 districts and more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Multiple District 7 has long been, and remains, an integral and leading district in this greatest of service organizations, Lions Clubs International.

Multiple District 7 of [Lions International](#) is administered by a Council Of Governors consisting of the seated District Governors and Immediate Past District Governors of each of the 4 MD7 Districts, the Council Chairperson, Vice Council Chairperson and Immediate Past Council Chairperson.

District Governors are elected at their respective District conferences, usually held in the spring, and serve 1-year terms over a fiscal year from July 1 through June 30.

The Council Chair serves as the chairperson of the Multiple District and the Council of Governors. The Council Chairs and Vice Council Chairs are elected annually.

The Council Of Governors typically holds 4 formal meetings each year: A council Meeting with 60 days after international Convention, a Fall Council Meeting in conjunction with a District Convention, a Mid-Winter Council Meeting in February, and a Spring at the annual MD Convention, typically in May.

MD7 holds an Annual Convention in the Spring, typically in May. Lions clubs in the Multiple District vote at the annual convention by delegates allocated to the clubs based on club size.

The MD7 Secretary, a part-time employee hired by the Council of Governors, oversees day-to-day business operations.