

--- Lions Club



New Member Orientation Guide

LIONS

L = Liberty

I = Intelligence

O = Our

N = Nation's

S = Safety

Who Are the Lions?

The Lions are men and women dedicated to serving those in need, whether in their own community or halfway around the world. In addition to humanitarian service they enjoy fellowship and develop leadership skills.

Origin

Lions began in the United States in 1917 when a group of independent clubs responded to an idea presented to them by a young Chicago insurance agent, 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. This was heralded as a departure from the trend current at that time of forming clubs basically with a commercial motive – Jones' own group was the Business Circle of Chicago.

An organizational meeting was held at a local hotel on June 7, 1917 and from this meeting the organization was born. The association became “international” with the formation of the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Lions Club in 1920. From that time on clubs were formed worldwide.

Melvin Jones

The guiding force and founder Melvin Jones was the first acting secretary of the association, thus beginning an affiliation with the Lions that only ended with his death. He served the association from 1917 until his death in 1961. Melvin Jones, who was born on January 13, 1879 in Fort Thomas, Arizona, is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

First Annual Convention

The first annual convention was held in Dallas, Texas at the Adolphus Hotel, October 8-10, 1917. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states participated, approved the “Lions Clubs” designation, and elected Dr. William P. Woods of Indiana as their first president.

That first convention also began to define what the association was to become. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, the colors of purple and gold approved, and a start made on the Objects and Code of Ethics.

Name

The official name of “Lions” is “The International Association of Lions Clubs” or simply “Lions Clubs International.”

Emblem Description

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 the past and future – proud of the past and confident of the future.

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



Mission Statement

Developed at the 1997 International Convention in Philadelphia and included in the masthead of *The Lion* magazine beginning with the October 1997 issue.

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

Our Motto

Our Motto: *“We Serve”*

Our Slogan

The Slogan: “*Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety*”

The Colors: Purple and Gold

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 judgement, purity in life, and generosity in mind, heart, and purse toward those in need.

The Basis of Membership

Any person of legal majority, good moral character, and good reputation in the community may be granted membership in a duly authorized Lions Club. Any member may invite potential members to a meeting. The Alma Lions Board reviews all applications for membership and approves new applicants as members of the club.

Lions International Origin and History

A young Chicago insurance agent named Melvin Jones conceived the idea of consolidating several independent clubs into one strong, influential unit for the service to mankind. The Association of Lions Clubs was thus organized in Chicago on June 7, 1917. The new Association was an instant success. Four months later, the first annual convention was held on October 8-10, 1917 in Dallas, Texas with 23 clubs participating. In 1920, the Association became international in scope by the admission of a club from Canada. The growth of the International Association of Lions Clubs has been truly fantastic over the years with more than two new Clubs being chartered each day.

Today, Lions International is the world's largest humanitarian service organization with over 1.4 million members in more than 190 countries and geographical areas.

As the International Organization grew, it became apparent to the International Board that it would become increasingly difficult to exercise control without an intermediate level of organization on a more localized status, thus more than 700 Districts came into being along the national, state, or provincial lines. Where warranted by the number of Clubs and Lions, Districts can be broken down into sub-Districts. In this case, the original District is called a Multiple District. Examples would be Norway (Multiple District 104), which has eight sub-Districts or Wisconsin (Multiple District 27) with ten sub-Districts.

For administrative purposes, Districts (or sub-Districts) are generally subdivided into Regions and Zones.

The individual Lions Club is the most important and basic unit of the Association. When it comes time to elect International Officers and Directors, District Officers, or to amend or change the Constitution or By-Laws, it is the Club that casts the necessary votes through its authorized delegates. Each Club is entitled to at least one delegate or one delegate for every 25 members (International Level) or one delegate for each 10 members (District level).

International Constitution

The International Constitution of Lions Clubs International provides a structure around which the international association functions. It also serves as a guide for the Standard Form Constitution and By-Laws under which individual clubs function.

International Objects

The Lions Clubs International Objects outline the aims and goals of the Lions organization. It is up to the individual clubs to use the general Objects for specific purposes.

1. **TO CREATE** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
2. **TO PROMOTE** the principles of good government and good citizenship.
3. **TO TAKE** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community.
4. **TO UNITE** the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.
5. **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.
6. **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

The Code of Ethics, which, with only minor changes, has stood the test of time since its adoption by the International Convention in 1918, is a guideline for the personal values that each Lion should exemplify.

1. 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**.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Whenever a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards my fellow men, to resolve such doubt against myself.
5. 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.
6. Always to bear in mind my **obligations as a citizen** to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them my unswerving **loyalty in word, act, and deed**. To **give** them **freely** of my **time, labor, and means**.
7. To aid my fellow men by giving my **sympathy** to those **in distress**, my **aid** to the **weak**, and my **substance** to the **needy**.
8. To be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise: to build up and not destroy.

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. Thousands of Lions Clubs throughout the world communicate with each through activities that involve the clubs in creating and fostering a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

We Make a Difference

As Lions, we are part of a great organization that provides service to those in need in our communities, countries, and the world. Our local service consists of many projects/programs, which vary from supplying eye examinations and glasses for the less fortunate to providing community centers and parks that improve our local living.

On the state level we provide funds and labor to help the vision and hearing impaired. We operate Lions Camp in Rosholt, Wisconsin which has camping for vision impaired youth and adults, hearing impaired youth and adults, cognitively disabled youth, and diabetic youth. We also support Camp Needlepoint, which provides camping for diabetic youth. We provide diabetic screening to alert people to this dreaded disease and recycle eyeglasses and hearing aids to those who are in need. We also support Youth Outreach programs to improve and raise the level of life for our greatest national resource, our youth.

Internationally in the year 2000, we spent 42 million hours in service to mankind and raised \$900 million dollars to support our various programs. We raised over \$150 million dollars to eliminate preventable blindness.

These achievements are only accomplished through dedicated Lions committed to successful service. We do this in part by selling brats, flipping pancakes and burgers, serving spaghetti, running raffles and bowling tournaments, and many more projects too numerous to mention

New members are a **vital part** in the success of Lions. We need the **enthusiasm** and new ideas that new members can provide this organization. More members allow us to **better serve our community** and meet the goals and objectives of Lionism. There is so much we Lions can do. When “**WE SERVE**”, **We Make a Difference**, and we have **FUN** doing it.

Advantages of Becoming a Lion

Along with making our communities a better place to live there are personal advantages for becoming a Lion. Many leadership, communications, and team building skills can be learned and practiced when working on projects/programs for the Lions. Learning how to run meetings and organize projects use the same skills that business people use every day at work and home. Some of those skills are:

- Team Consensus
- Time Management
- Facilitating Group Discussions
- Training Others
- Public Relations
- Communicating Effectively
- Motivating Others

Learning these skills help build an individuals **self confidence** and makes them feel better about themselves.

You also gain **knowledge** about your community. Soliciting donations and asking the others in the community to support Lions projects provides a learning experience. By learning more about the community you live in you can better serve that community by meeting its needs.

The many programs that the Lions support locally, statewide, or internationally help you to **understand the needs of others**. The satisfaction that comes when helping to improve the lives of others as a volunteer is better than any cash reward. **Volunteerism** provides self-gratification in the knowledge that you left your community a better place to live by what you did through Lionism.

Another advantage of becoming a Lion is the very satisfying **friendship** and **fellowship** developed among Lions and those they work with. Many lasting friends are made because of the common beliefs we all have in Lionism.

Lions Membership

Subject to the provisions described in the following **Types of Membership**, any person of legal majority, good moral character, and good reputation in his/her community may be granted membership in this Lions club.

Types of Lions Membership

1. **ACTIVE:** A member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club confers or implies. Without limiting such rights and obligations, such rights shall include eligibility to seek, if otherwise qualified, any office in this club, district or association and the right to vote on all matters requiring a vote of the membership; and such obligations shall include regular attendance, prompt payment of dues, participation in club activities and conduct reflecting a favorable image of this Lions club in the community.
2. **MEMBER-AT-LARGE:** A member of this club who has moved from the community, or because of health or other legitimate reason, is unable regularly to attend club meetings and desires to retain membership in this club, and upon whom the board of directors of this club desires to confer this status. This status shall be reviewed each six months by the board of directors of this club. A Member-at-Large shall not be eligible to hold office or to vote in district or international meetings or conventions. but shall pay such dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues.
3. **HONORARY:** An individual, not a member of this Lions club, having performed outstanding service for the community or this Lions club, upon whom this club desires to confer special distinction. This club shall pay entrance fees and international and district dues on such a member, who may attend meetings, but shall not be entitled to any privileges of active membership.

4. **PRIVILEGED:** A member of this club who has been a Lion fifteen or more years, who, because of illness, infirmities, advanced age or other legitimate reason, as determined by the board of directors of this club, must relinquish higher active status. A Privileged Member shall pay such dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues. He/she shall have the right to vote and be entitled to all other privileges of membership except the right to hold club, district or international office.
5. **LIFE MEMBER:** Any member of this club who has maintained Active as a membership as a Lion for 20 or more years and has rendered outstanding service to this club, his/her community, or this Association; or any member who is critically ill; or any member of this club who has maintained such active membership for 15 or more years and is at least 70 years of age may be granted Life Membership in this club upon:
- (1) recommendation of this club to the association,
 - (2) payment to the association of \$300.00, or its equivalent in the respective national currency, by this club in lieu of all future dues to the association, and
 - (3) approval by the International of Directors. Nothing herein shall prevent this club from charging a Life Member such dues, as it shall deem proper.

A Life Member shall have all privileges of active membership so long as he/she fulfills all obligations thereof.

A Life Member who desires to relocate and receives an invitation to join another Lions club shall automatically become a Life Member of said club.

6. **ASSOCIATE:** A member who holds his/her primary membership in another Lions club but maintains a residence or is employed in the community served by this club. This status may be conferred by the invitation of the board of directors and shall be reviewed annually. The club shall not report an Associate Member on its Membership and Activities Report.

An Associate Member may be eligible to vote on club matters, at meetings where he/she is present in person, but may not represent the club as a delegate at district (single, sub-, provisional and/or multiple) or international conventions. He/she shall not be eligible to hold club, district or international office, nor district, multiple district or international committee assignments through this club. International and district (single, sub-, provisional and/or multiple) dues shall not be assessed on the Associate; PROVIDED, however, nothing shall prevent this club from assessing an Associate such dues as it shall deem proper.

7. **AFFILIATE:** A quality individual of the community who currently is not able to fully participate as an Active member of the club but desires to support the club and its community service initiatives and be affiliated with the club. This status may be conferred by the invitation of the club's board of directors.

An Affiliate Member may be eligible to vote on club matters at meetings where he/she is present in person, but may not represent the club as a delegate at district (single, sub, transitional, provisional, and/or multiple) or international conventions.

He/she shall not be eligible to hold club, district or international office, nor district, multiple district or international committee assignment. An Affiliate Member shall be required to pay district, international and such dues as the local club may charge.

Lions Member Rights

Before we can place responsibilities on our members, either new or existing, we must carefully consider the rights of all members.

1. The right of being offered the opportunity to become a member regardless of race, sex, age, or financial status.
2. The right to be carefully interviewed and asked to serve in an appropriate and meaningful way.
3. The right to expect training and supervision to enable them to perform the job well.
4. The right to be involved in planning and evaluating the activities they are to participate in.
5. The right to receive proper recognition in a way that is meaningful to them.
6. The right to be regarded as a person and individual with uniqueness and value.

International Lions

International Lions Headquarters

300 22nd Street
Oakbrook, Illinois 60521-8842

Board of Directors

Execute the business of the organization
Establish general policy to guide operations

Executive Committee

Assist International Board of Directors

International President

Executive administrator

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

Melvin Jones Fellowship - \$1000 donation to LCIF

International Lions Facts

_____ members worldwide (June _____)

_____ countries or geographical areas with Lions Clubs

_____ Districts

_____ Lions Clubs (June _____)

Fiscal Year – July 1 to June 30

International Convention - held in July at locations around the world

International Magazine – *The Lion*

Website: www.lionsclubs.org

Wisconsin Lions

Multiple District 27

10 Districts

27-A1, 27-A2, 27-B1, 27-B2, 27-C1, 27-C2, 27-D1, 27-D2, 27-E1, 27-E2

Council of Governors

Each district elects one

Council Officers elected by Council members

State Executive Secretary assists the Council

Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF)

21 directors – 2 elected from each district and 1 elected from the Council

Controls funds for statewide projects:

Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt

Wisconsin Eyebank in Madison and Milwaukee

Eyeglass and Hearing Aid recycling in Rosholt

Youth Exchange

Hearing and Sight Committees

Birch-Sturm Fellowship - \$1000 donation to WLF Endowment Fund

Websites: www.wlf.info or www.wisconsinlionscamp.com

Wisconsin Lions Facts

Wisconsin State Convention – 3rd weekend in May

_____ Lions Clubs in Wisconsin (March _____)

_____ Lions members in Wisconsin

Approximately _____ million people live in Wisconsin

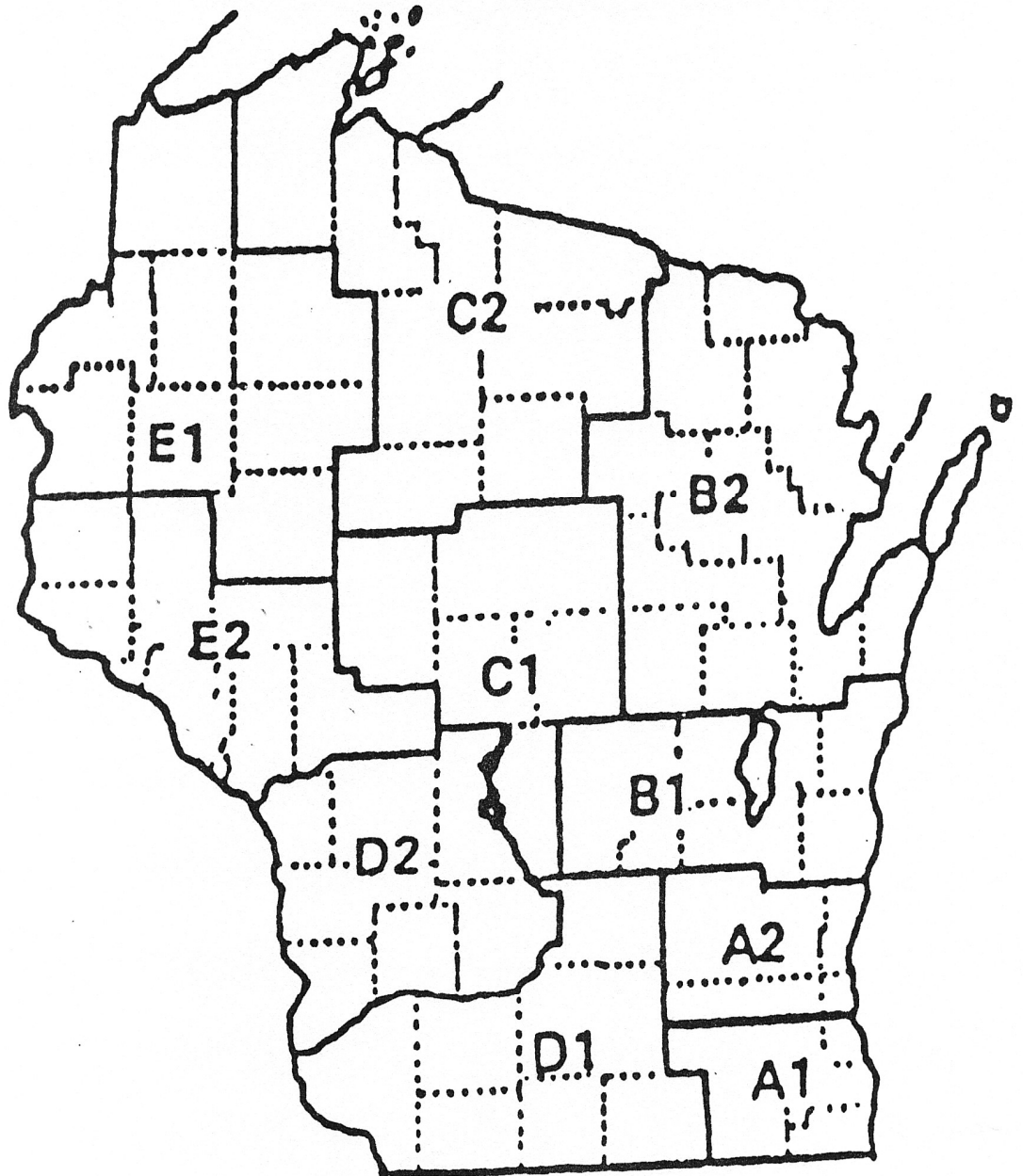
Only 1 Lion for every _____ people living in Wisconsin

Average age of a Wisconsin Lion is _____ years old

Wisconsin Magazine (newspaper) – *Wisconsin Lion*

Website: www.wisconsinlions.org

Wisconsin Lions Multiple District 27



District 27-E2 Lions

District Governor

Elected by club delegates at District Convention

Must have been a Vice-District Governor

Usually moves up from 1st Vice-District Governor

1st Vice-District Governor

Elected by club delegates at District Convention

Must have been club president

Must have been a Zone Chairman or on District Cabinet for 2 years

2nd Vice-District Governor

Elected by club delegates at District Convention

Must have been club president

Must have been a Zone Chairman or on District Cabinet for 2 years

District Cabinet

Appointed by District Governor

Includes Secretary/Treasurer, Committee, Zone Chairpersons, Song Leader, and Wisconsin Lions Foundation Directors

District Convention

Held the 3rd weekend of March at Plaza Suites in Eau Claire

District 27-E2 Region _____

District 27-E2 has 4 regions

_____ Lions make up Region _____

District 27-E2 Region _____ Zone _____

Each region is divided into 2 or 3 zones that average 6 clubs.

Each zone has a Zone Chairman appointed by District Governor

_____ Lions Club is in Zone _____ with the following clubs:

-
-
-
-
-

The Zone Chairman has 3 zone meetings each year that should be attended by club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Membership Chairpersons. All Lions are encouraged to attend.

**Lions Club Supports or
Donate Funds to The Following
Projects:**

- **Lions Clubs International Foundation**
- **Leader Dog for the Blind**
- **Wisconsin Lions Foundation Fund**
- **Wisconsin Eyebank**
- **Wisconsin Lions Camp**
- **Eyeglass/Hearing Aid Collection**
- **District programs**
 - **Camp Needlepoint**
 - **Mission to Mexico/Nicaragua**
 - **Lions Hearing Program**
 - **Organ/Tissue Donations**
 - **Diabetes Awareness**
 - **Vitamin “A” Fund**
- **Local programs**

Lions Mints customer list

Used eyeglass/hearing aid container list

--- **Lions Club**

Board of Directors

President

- Ensure meeting starts on time
- Use "Roberts Rules" to complete meetings in a timely and orderly fashion
- Select chairpersons for club committees as needed
- Assist all other officers in the performance of their duties
- Attend all Zone meetings
- Submit 100% Secretary and Treasurer applications by July 1st
- Attend District Officers Training Session

1st Vice-President

- Attends all Board of Directors meetings
- Assumes position of president the following year
- Assume the duties of the President in his or her absence
- Oversees such committees as appointed by the President

2nd Vice-President

- Attends all Board of Directors meetings
- Assumes position of 1st Vice-President the following year
- Assume the duties of President if both the President and 1st Vice-President are absent
- Oversees such committees as appointed by the President

3rd Vice-President

- Attends all Board of Directors meetings
- Assumes position of 2nd Vice-President the following year
- Assume the duties of President if the President, 1st Vice-President, and 2nd Vice-President are also absent
- Oversees such committees as appointed by the President

Secretary

- Take minutes at all club meetings and makes those minutes available at the next meeting
- Keep club attendance
- Send in monthly membership reports to Zone, District, and State Lions by the 10th of each month
- Send in annual activity report to Zone, District, State, and International Lions
- Submit 100% Presidents Award application
- Attend all Zone meetings
- Submit PU101 form to International by May 1st
- Submit State Convention Delegate forms to State Executive Secretary by May 1st
- Attend District Officers Training Session

Treasurer

- Responsible for ALL Club finances
- Prepares yearly budget as approved by the Alma Lions Club Board of Directors
- Provide accurate financial report at club meetings
- Pay all club bills on time
- Ensures funds received from committee chairpersons in a timely fashion
- Assists or provides yearly audit
- File IRS 990 report
- Attend all Zone meetings
- Attend District Officers Training Session

Tail Twister

- Brings fun to all meetings
- Levies fines not to exceed 25 cents per infraction or \$1.00 per meeting
- Turn collected fines over to treasurer for the Administrative Fund
- Responsible for club raffles

Lion Tamer

- Responsible for all clubs property
- Keeps an accurate inventory of club property
- Issues club property to chairpersons before events and ensures the timely return of club property after event
- Displays the American Flag and Lions Club Banner during membership Meetings
- Ensures the President has the Gavel and Bell

2 Year Board Member (4 positions)

- Assists chairpersons when needed

Membership Committee Chairperson

- Responsible for having new members properly introduced to Lionism
- Welcome potential new members and run regular orientations
- Assist and encourage the recruitment of new members
- Attend all Zone meetings

Wisconsin Lions Foundation Associate

- Maintains contact with the Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF)
- Reports and promotes WLF events and activities
- Encouraged to attend WLF Associate training at Wisconsin Lions Camp

Immediate Past President

- Assist the President and Board of Directors as needed

Lions Club Committees

 (Committee name)
Description:

 (Committee name)
Description:

 (Committee name)
Description:

 (Committee name)
Description:

--- **Lions Club Events**

General Membership meeting(s)

Date:

Time:

Place:

Apparel:

Club Board meeting(s)

Date:

Time:

Place:

Apparel:

Main Fundraisers

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

We are always looking for new ideas!!!

--- **Lions Awards/Plaques**

Melvin Jones Fellowship (LCIF)

The Melvin Jones Fellowship is **recognition of a commitment to humanitarian work.** (It is not an award in the tradition of Lions awards presented for specific accomplishments.) The fellowship is an honor given to individuals **who contribute the equivalent of US\$1,000 to LCIF**, and persons for whom such donations are made by others. The fellowship is the foundation's highest honor and represents humanitarian qualities such as generosity, compassion, and concern for the less fortunate. Created in 1973, the fellowship is named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones. The fellowship is not limited to Lions clubs members. It is open to non-Lions to whom identical recognition is presented. Contributions can be made by individuals including non-Lions, clubs, or districts in one sum, or in installments of a minimum of US\$100 over a five-year period, but only individuals can receive fellowship recognition.

International Presidents Awards

Recommendation comes from District Governor.

Birch-Sturm Fellowship (WLF)

The Birch-Sturm Fellowship was created by the Wisconsin Lions Foundation to honor those individuals who exemplify undying dedication and commitment to Lionism. The Fellowship is named after Wisconsin's only International Presidents, Frank V. Birch and Clarence L. Sturm who were great supporters of the Foundation. The Birch-Sturm Fellowship is a way for districts, clubs, or individuals to honor a person who displays dedication and commitment to Lionism. In order to become a Birch-Sturm Fellow, a district, club, or individual must donate \$1,000 to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation. The \$1,000 may be made in one payment or in installments.

District Governor Appreciation Awards

100% Club President

100% Club Secretary

100% Club Treasurer (optional)

Special awards given at the discretion of the District Governor

Presidents Appreciation

Selected by the President to recognize 1 or 2 members that he/she feels has helped make his/her year successful.

100% Attendance

Attend at least one club event each month - general membership meetings, board meetings, or club projects. Three excuses for work or sickness allowed per year - must call board member to be excused.

Proud Lion (This program is designed to properly orientate Lions members, which will improve the club's retention)

Must complete five tasks in a twelve month period:

1. Serve on Club project committee
2. Visit another Lions Club meeting or the Lions Camp
3. Attend your club or Zone orientation program with district membership committee members attending
4. Attend zone meeting, District Cabinet meeting, of District Convention
5. Bring prospective member to your club meeting.

Proud Sponsor

Must complete the same five tasks in a twelve month period as the Proud Lion, however, they must be completed with a new member that you sponsored.

Lions Dues

(Annually per member)

To Lions Club International

International Convention Fund	\$.50	
<u>The LION</u> Magazine	\$ 4.75	
District Governor's Office and Travel		
District Governor Elect's expense	\$ 4.90	
Special programs: Membership, Extension, Leadership, Activities, and Publicity	\$ 4.11	
Liability Insurance	\$ 2.23	
General Operations: District Governor Elect's seminar, International President, Other Officers, Directors, Past Presidents and Directors, District and Club Administration Literature and Supplies (Including postage), Field Operations, Auditing, International Exchange, Telephone, Telegrams, Legal, and International Headquarters	\$ 7.51	
		\$39.00

To Multiple District 27

Wisconsin Promotion	\$.75	
State Administration	\$ 4.80	
State Convention	\$.35	
<u>Wisconsin LION</u> Magazine	\$ 4.10	
Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF)	\$.50	
		\$10.50

To District 27-E2 \$ 4.50

To _____ Lions Club \$ 1.00

Total Annual Dues **\$55.00**

(Paid _____)

Board of Directors

____ LIONS CLUB
20__ - 20__

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

3rd Vice President

Past President

2nd yr board member

2nd yr board member

1st yr board member

1st yr board member

Secretary

Treasurer

Lion Tamer

Tail Twister

Membership Chair

Membership Roster

July, 20__