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# Have You Ever Wondered About Lions?

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*LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL*



- HOW IT ALL STARTED -

## LIONS OBJECTS

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

TO PROMOTE the principals of good government and good citizenship.

TO FUND and otherwise serve the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

TO ASSIST financially, culturally, socially and morally the disabled, disadvantaged and infirm of the community both directly and also indirectly.

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 endeavours.

## 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 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.

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.

After the Board has met the minutes of this meeting are distributed to all members for comment prior to them being ratified at a subsequent Club meeting.

We hold one dinner meeting and one works meeting per month (eg: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays) and all meetings are open for those partners who are not Lions to attend.

The President may also appoint a number of Club Chairmen to carry out various Club projects such as Christmas Cakes, Lions Mints, Youth of the Year, etc.

### **The Board**

Consists of— President; Immediate Past President; Secretary; Treasurer; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice Presidents; Membership Chairmen; Tail Twister; Lion Tamer; Bulletin Editor; Public Relations Officer; Almoner and a number of Directors.

The Board has one meeting per month.

At these meetings, decisions are made as to the activities and administration of the Club. All accounts are approved for Payment and new activities approved.

*Please note that any member is welcomed to attend Board Meetings.*



## **The History of Lions Clubs International**

**The Association of Lions Clubs began as the dream of Chicago businessman 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, and organisational meeting was held on 7th June 1917 at the La Salle 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 in October of that year at which, a constitution, by-laws, objects and code of ethics were approved.**

**Among the objects adopted in those early days was one which read, “No club shall hold out the financial benefit of its members as its object”. This object has remained one of the association’s main tenets ever since.**

**Just three years after it’s formation, the organisation became international when the first club in Canada was established in 1920. International expansion continued as clubs were established throughout Europe, Asia and Africa during the 50’s and 60’s.**

**Perhaps the single event having the greatest impact on the association’s service commitment occurred in 1925 when Helen Keller addressed the Lions at their International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio. It was there that she challenged Lions to become “Knights of the Blind in their crusade against darkness”.**

**In 1990 Lions launched their most aggressive sight preservation effort to date, "SightFirst". This \$US130 million program strives to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness by closing the gap between existing health care service and those that remain desperately needed. This project actually raised in excess of \$US200 million and is already providing services to those in need throughout the world.**

**Broadening its role in international understanding, the association helped the United Nations from the Non-Governmental Organisations sections in 1945, and continues to hold consultative status today. Each year, during the Lions Day with the United Nations ceremonies, and award is presented to the grand prize winner of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.**

**Since those first years the association has grown to include nearly 1.45 million men and women in more than 44,000 clubs in approximately 185 countries and geographical areas including many former Communist countries since the demise of the Iron Curtain.**



He/she presides over the District Governor's Zone Advisory Committee and collects reports on Club Activities, etc. from each Club President for forwarding to the Region Chairman who presents them, together with his own report, to District Cabinet so that the District Governor is aware at all times of the current situation among the Clubs in the District.

### **Who are We?**

As can be seen from the list published from time to time in the monthly bulletins we are ordinary citizens from all walks of life who have banded together, not only with other citizens, but with approximately 1.45 million citizens of about 185 countries around the world to better serve our local and global communities.

### **What do we Do?**

We serve our community by means of donations, personal labour, moral support, etc. and the global community mainly by means of donations to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) or direct to specific Lions Clubs projects overseas. Basically, it is up to our members to decide the appropriate means of support.

### **How do we Operate?**

We elect each year a Board of Directors (approx 15) to carry out the business of the Club, however, normal Club members are encouraged to have their say in the decision making process.

**The District Governor**

The District Governor (DG) is the representative of Lions Clubs International in the District. He/she is elected at the District Convention to serve as the executive officer of the District for one year.

**The Vice District Governor**

The Vice District Governor (VDG) serves as an assistant to the District Governor while they learn the duties and Responsibilities of District Governor. That person will normally become the District Governor the following year.

**The Region Chairman**

He/she acts as the District Governor's representative to the Clubs within the Region. He/she also acts as a conduit, in collaboration with the relevant Zone Chairmen, for delivering the wishes, inclinations and aspirations of Clubs and their members to the District Governor and the Cabinet.

**The Zone Chairman**

The detail person on the administration team, who keeps in close contact with the Clubs within the Zone (normally four to six clubs) to supply help and advice when required. His/her job is to 'see' problems before they arise and to set in motion the necessary steps to 'nip them in the bud'.

**History of Lions in Australia**

It could be said that the Lions movement started in Australia by Accident as the following sequence of events will show.

An Apexian named Bill Tresise found himself out of a job on turning 40, and, not wanting to retire from community service, as well as seeing a need for more varied service organisations, went to America to have a look at what organisations were around. He first contacted an organisation known as Kiwanis whose main interest was in helping the young, but they were not interested in expanding outside of America.

By chance he met with a Past International President of Lions, Fred Smith, who put him in touch with the Secretary and Founder of Lions, Melvin Jones. After learning about the Lions Association and its goals, Bill was appointed Provision District Governor with powers to return to Australia and establish the first Lions Club on the continent.

On July 1st 1947 the Lions Clubs of Lismore was founded with Jim Brown as President who received a cable from Melvin Jones stating: "Congratulations to the 18th country to enter the International Association of Lions Clubs".

What started in 1947 initially spread fairly slowly. In fact in the first five years only three Clubs had been formed (Lismore, Murwillumbah—1948, and Melbourne Host—1952), but in 1956/7 James D Richardson was elected as our fifth District Governor. Jim was a member of the Brunswick Mullumbimby Lions Club that had been formed in September 1952.

This remarkable man, during his year as District Governor, instigated the formation of 52 Clubs! A feat never again approached by any District.

By 1976 there were 1000 Clubs in Australia and now, in 2001, we have about 1,400 clubs with nearly 29,00 members.

Lions Clubs International's 50th year of existence in Australia was celebrated at the Multiple District Convention held, appropriately, in Lismore in May 1997.



## The Structure of Lions Clubs International (LCI)

<b>LCI Board of Directors</b> President,	President, Immediate Past  1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, 32 Directors from all areas of the world.
<b>Multiple District (MD) 201 Council</b> MD	Chairman, Executive Officer, Treasurer, Legal Officer and all MD  201 District Governors.
<b>District Cabinet</b> Past  and	District Governor, Immediate District Governor, Vice District Governor, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Treasurer, all Region  Zone Chairman and all District Chairman.
<b>Region</b> Chairman,  and  Region.	Region Chairman, Zone  All Club Presidents, Secretaries  Membership Chairman of
<b>Zone</b>	Zone Chairman, President, Secretary and Membership Chairman and any other member wishing to attend.