

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 helps build individuals **self-confidence** and makes them feel better about themselves.

The Lion member will also gain **knowledge** about the community. Soliciting donations and asking others in the community to support Lions projects provides a learning experience. By learning more about the community we live in, we can better serve that community and meet its needs.

The programs that Lions support locally, statewide or internationally help us to **understand the needs of others**. The personal satisfaction of a volunteer comes by helping improve the lives of others and 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 satisfying **friendship** and **fellowship** that is developed among Lions working for the common good.

Types of Lions Membership

ACTIVE – Entitled to all privileges and subject to all obligations which membership confers or implies. Active members shall be eligible to hold office in the club and to vote on all matters requiring a vote of the membership. Obligations of the Active member include regular attendance, prompt payment of dues, participation in club activities and conduct reflecting a favorable image of the Lions Club in the community.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – Can not vote or hold office. Status is reviewed each 6-month period. Dues determined by the club, which shall include International and District dues.

HONORARY – A special distinction given by the club. Club pays entrance fees, International dues, and District dues. May attend meetings but can not vote or hold office. An Honorary member is an individual who is not a member of a Lions Club. Generally, this status is conferred upon a person who has performed outstanding service for the community or the Lions Club and the club desires to give this special recognition.

PRIVILEGED – Fifteen or more years of service but because of age, illness, or infirmity, or other legitimate reason can not remain on **ACTIVE** status. Continue to retain all rights and privileges of **ACTIVE** member. Member continues to pay all dues but can not hold District or International offices.

LIFE MEMBER – Twenty or more years of continuous service; or 15 years and at least 70 years old; or 20 years of service and served as an International Officer. Needs club recommendation, \$300.00 payment to the Lions Association, and approval by International Board of Directors. A Life Member shall have all privileges of Active membership in any club. Life Members are

not obligated to pay International Dues, but continue to be responsible for payment of State, District and Club dues.

AFFILIATE – A quality individual of the community who is not able to fully participate as an Active Member of the club, but desires to support the club and its community service and be affiliated with the club. This status may be conferred by invitation of the club Board of Directors.

An Affiliate Member may be eligible to vote on club matters at meetings, but may not represent the club as a delegate at District, State or International Conventions. The Affiliate Member may not hold office at any level. This membership classification requires payment of dues to the District, State and International and any such dues as charged by the local club.

ASSOCIATE - An Associate Member may be a member of another Lions Club. This status may be conferred by the invitation of the Board of Directors and shall be reviewed annually. This member is not to be reported on the clubs Membership and Activities report.

The Associate member may be eligible to vote on club matters at meetings, but may not be a delegate at a District, State or International Convention. The Associate Member shall not be eligible to hold office. Dues of the International, State and District shall not be assessed; however, the club may charge dues to the individual as deemed appropriate.

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 W. 22nd Street
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 - 8842

International President

Is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association

Board of Directors

Executes the business of the organization
Establish general policy to guide operations
Are Ambassadors of the association speaking regularly at
Lions functions around the globe

Roberts Lions who served on the International Board

Ron Duffe, 1998 –2000 (as Director); 2000-2001 (as
Appointee)

Executive Committee

Consists of the Officers and 1 appointed International
Director

Assist International Board of Directors

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

Is the Humanitarian arm of the International Association
Is chaired by the Immediate Past International President
Promotes the Melvin Jones Fellowship - \$1000 donation to
LCIF

Governs the Grant process of financial aid for lionistic projects

Distributes Emergency Grants to Club and Districts whenever disaster occurs

International Lions Facts

1,310,876 members worldwide (March 2006)

196 countries or geographical areas with Lions Clubs

753 Districts

44,975 Lions Clubs (March 2006)

Fiscal Year – July 1 to June 30

International Convention - held in June or July at locations around the world

International Magazine – *The Lion*

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 near Rosholt, Wisconsin
Eyeglass Recycling Center – (One of 6 Lions Recycling
Centers in the US)
Hearing and Sight Committees
Youth Activities

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

The Wisconsin Lions Foundation is Responsible for the Administration of (8) Statewide Projects

Wisconsin Lions Camp - over 1,600 annually

Eyeglass Recycling - distributed annually over 150,000 pair

Children's Vision Screening - 7,000 annually

Community Diabetes Education

Hearing Aid Program

Leo Day at the Camp

Youth Exchange

Roberts Lions who have served on the Wisconsin Lions Foundation

Wilson Foster as Director – 1984-85

Lynn Steglich as Director – 1985-89

Ron Duffe as Director – 1989-93, as President 1993-94

Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin

The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin is a team of professionals and volunteers dedicated to restoring the *Gift of Sight* through transplantation of corneas, research to advance the knowledge and treatment of eye diseases, and education to increase donations of human eyes after death.

The Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin fulfills this mission by procuring, processing and distributing eye tissue to corneal transplant surgeons, researchers and teachers. Equally important is the commitment to education through a network of medical professionals, Lions clubs and members, and other volunteers who give generously of their time and ideas.

Eye donations are used for cornea transplants. The cornea is the clear outer layer in the front of the eye. Through injury or disease it can become cloudy, causing blindness, but doctors can transplant a donated human cornea and restore sight. Almost anyone can be an eye donor, even if glasses are worn or the person has poor vision.

Wisconsin Lions Facts

Wisconsin State Convention – 3rd weekend in May, annually

591 Lions Clubs in Wisconsin (March 2003)

21,738 Lions members in Wisconsin (March 2003)

Approximately 5 million people live in Wisconsin

Only 1 Lion for every 260 people living in Wisconsin

Average age of a Wisconsin Lion is 58 years old

Wisconsin Magazine – *Wisconsin Lion*

Wisconsin Lions Multiple District 27

