

## **HISTORY AND GROWTH OF LIONS INTERNATIONAL**

The International Association of Lions Clubs started as a dream in the mind of a young Chicago insurance agent. The man was MELVIN JONES; the dream was the consolidation of several independent clubs, already in existence, into one strong, influential unit for service to humanity. The dream was presented to the leaders of various independent groups at a meeting in Chicago, Illinois on June 7, 1917. From that meeting came a call for the Association's first annual convention, which was held October 8-10, 1917 in Dallas, Texas, with 23 clubs participating. Thus was conceived and founded the world's largest, most active and most representative service club organization with the idea of uniting on a basis of unselfish community service, business men's clubs that had no other affiliations. This was a distinct departure from the practice of forming business men's organizations primarily for business purposes.

The Association did not become international in fact until 1920, when the first Lions Clubs were organized in Canada and the Association had more than doubled its membership. The third, fourth and fifth Lions countries were China, Mexico, and Cuba in 1926 and 1927 and on June 30, 1927 the number of clubs had increased to 1,183 and the membership to 52,965 Lions. Eight years later, Central America entered the fold, and in 1936 the first South American club was established in Colombia. The first Lions club in Europe was organized at Stockholm, Sweden on March 24, 1948. In 1952 the first Lions club was chartered in Tokyo, Japan. Although the largest by far, the Lions are the youngest of the major service club organizations.

The expansion and growth of Lionism have continued steadily and today our Association is in practically all countries of the free world. For the past 20 years, new Lions clubs have been formed at the rate of more than two a day. There are now approximately 44,700 clubs in 186 nations and geographical locations on the six populated continents of the world, with a membership of more than 1,375,329 service-minded business and professional leaders. (July, 2001) Women have been members of Lions clubs since 1987.

The International Association of Lions Clubs for many years has been the largest, most active, and fastest growing service club organization in the world. On every continent it is working through hundreds of thousands of Lions of all nationalities and creeds.



### **LIONISM AROUND THE WORLD**

Lions International is truly international in every respect. Extending from the Arctic Circle, through North, Central, and South America to the Western Hemisphere's continent including Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, there's a vast network of Lions Clubs. Wherever a Lion may travel, in his/her homeland or in a distant country, he/she will find fellow Lions extending a warm friendly greeting and welcome.

The Lions Clubs in far-flung regions of the world constitute a tremendous nonpolitical and non-sectarian force for universal amity and goodwill and exert potent influence toward the establishment of a lasting world peace and the promotion of human progress around the globe.

## MELVIN JONES - FOUNDER OF LIONS CLUBS



On January 13, 1879 a son was born to Capt. Calvin Jones & Lydia Gibler Jones, in the Cavalry Outpost located at Fort Thomas, Arizona. The first seven years of Melvin Jones's life were precarious times because the Apaches were making their last stand against the white man's encroachment.

Finally the Jones family was transferred to St. Louis and then Quincy, Illinois and Melvin attended the public schools in both cities. As he grew to manhood, he took a course in the Union Business College and a "smattering" of law at Chaddock College in Quincy. He moved to Chicago in his twenties and got a job in the insurance agency of Johnson and Higgins.

An intelligent and alert young man, by the time he was 33, Melvin Jones owned his own insurance agency. It was at that time that he was invited to become a member of a local Business Circle which met regularly for lunch and whose slogan was literally "You Scratch My Back, and I'll Scratch Yours".

In 1915, when Melvin Jones was elected secretary of this group, he began to get the vague feeling that something was wrong with the picture. All these 200 successful, influential businessmen did was to pat each other on the back. What if these men's talents could be put to work in unselfish service, in other areas of community life?

Pursuing his thought of group action, because he knew in many other cities other groups of men were doing the same thing, Jones began, in 1916, to write letters to other clubs, feeling them out on the question of forming a national service organization. Some of the replies were of the "mind your own business" variety, but he received enough encouragement to call a general meeting of delegates from interested clubs.

On June 7, 1917 at the invitation of Melvin Jones, 20 delegates representing 27 clubs from various parts of the United States, met in the East Room of the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting went smoothly and a consensus developed favoring the formation of an association.

The only point of contention at the meeting was the selection of a name for the new organization. There were clubs there by the name of Optimists, Reciprocity Clubs, The Wheels, Concordia Club, Business and Professional Men, Cirgonians, The Vortex Group and the Lions Clubs of Indiana. Melvin Jones had researched the idea of calling the new organization LIONS. He was convinced that the LION stood for strength, courage, fidelity and vital action. On a secret ballot, it was tentatively decided to call the new group, the "Association of Lions Clubs".

In 1919 there was a move to change the symbol of the Association. However, at a luncheon on the first day of the 1919 Chicago Convention, a young attorney from Denver, Colorado rose to speak. His

name was Halsted Ritter and the message he gave to the assembled delegates has become part of the fabric of Lionism. "The name LIONS," he said, "stands not alone for fraternity, good fellowship, strength of character and purpose, but above all, its combination of letters, L-I-O-N-S, heralds to the country the true meaning of Citizenship: LIBERTY, INTELLIGENCE, OUR NATIONS SAFETY, Write it on your banners, Lions, inscribe it in your hearts; hold high that everyone may see, the magic electrifying letters ... "

When Ritter sat down, the name LION was securely established and later, his spelling out of the letters was adopted as the Association slogan.

The Association did not become International in fact until 1920 when the first club in Windsor, Ontario, Canada was formed.

Lionism's dedication to aiding the blind grew out of a speech by Helen Keller at the 1925 International Convention, when she challenged the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness".

In 1950, when membership had passed the 400,000 mark, Melvin Jones was conferred the title of Secretary-General of Lions International for Life. (NOTE: Melvin Jones was never President of the Association.)

Melvin Jones died on June 1, 1961 in Flossmoor, Illinois. However, his humble philosophy of life, "You can't get very far, until you start doing something for somebody else", lives on in our motto, "WE SERVE".

The International Board of Directors, by proclamation in 1961, proclaimed the date of January 13th, the birthday of founder Melvin Jones, as a day of memory each year throughout the world of Lionism and that Founders and Rededication month, traditionally observed in January, shall thereafter be designated as Melvin Jones Memorial Month.

Since he was born in Arizona, a movement was started there in the middle 1950's to erect the Melvin Jones Memorial. It was completed and dedicated on June 27, 1965. Every year on the Saturday closest to the 13th of January, Lions throughout the State of Arizona gather at Fort Thomas to pay tribute to the founder of Lionism, a man who said "dreams are the fool ideas of day before yesterday, that have become the commonplace miracles of today", --- Melvin Jones.

## PHILOSOPHY OF LIONISM

Lionism embodies within its Code of Ethics, in its Objects and Emblem, the basic essentials of good citizenship. These are to be studied and understood, to be practiced -- lived, that they may become disseminated throughout the thinking world.

While the application of these underlying principles may, of necessity, change from decade to decade, they form a livable Philosophy of Life. Since it has been demonstrated many times that we receive back from others the attitudes of mind that we ourselves send out, we find that to extend "good will" brings good will in return. This makes for mutual faith and basis for good fellowship, for resolving misunderstandings which might otherwise become divisive. With good will and recognition that the other is acting in good faith, "we can agree to disagree without being disagreeable".

Human nature being what it is, we are sometimes prone to allow ourselves to become absorbed with minutiae, "little things", with mechanics of operation, with personalities, all trivia in comparison to the great, all-consuming Spirit of Lionism with its tremendous opportunities and responsibilities, fraught with an everlasting challenge toward service to others. These are matters dependent on creative thinking in depth which reaches down and out to an overall "concern for others". A concern that transcends minor affairs.

This means that leadership in each club is moved to match the potent challenge to serve our youth, the physically challenged, our community, and our world. Leadership that will never yield to the temptation to be satisfied with a rating of "good" when its rating should be "the best", with the mediocre when it could be the marvelous.

The Lions believe in club meetings where good fellowship and harmony prevail; in developing projects and activities geared to the needs of their communities; in broad participation in an international program of brotherhood and fellowship, based upon service wherever the need exists without personal reward; in service to humanity without thought to race, creed, nationality, religion or politics; in the ultimate leadership of Lionism, but not at the expense of or in conflict with the programs of other organizations which, with different methods, seek the same goal of unselfish service to mankind.

There are people of means in our Association --- talent, energy, enthusiasm, good will, understanding, vision and determination; Lions who love liberty and are committed to its intelligent use. Leaders with conviction can use those qualities to demonstrate Lionism as the great potential force for good that it is. Lionism is being extended throughout the nations of the earth. If the TRUE spirit of Lionism can be brought into being in hearts of those who are attracted to it and practice it in their lives, we shall demonstrate that we have in our hands an instrument of unsurpassed POWER for International good will and the longed-for PEACE among the peoples of this small WORLD.

## LIONS INTERNATIONAL -- ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS is, as its name implies, a uniting of Lions Clubs into a working Association. Each Lions Club, therefore, is an integral unit, and each has the same right as any other to express itself at the Annual Convention. Each club is permitted at least one delegate to the International Convention and may have larger delegate strength in relation to its membership, based on one delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. The delegates to the Annual Convention elect the officers and directors of the Association. Policies are determined by vote of the delegates at an Annual Convention or by officers and directors elected by the delegates.

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE:- International President, Immediate Past President, First, and Second Vice-Presidents, and Directors from the United States and other countries. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is composed of five members of the International Board, one of which is the International President, who is the chairman. The committee is authorized by the constitution to act for and on behalf of the Board of Directors in the interim between the sessions of the Board.

THE CORPORATE POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, expressed and implied, are vested in the Board of Directors. The Board is the executive body of the Association, and has general management and control of its business, property, and funds. It is authorized by the Association's constitution to exercise general control and supervision over all officers and committees.

THE DISTRICT GOVERNORS are also officers of the Association. They are elected at the annual District Convention in their own state, district or country and the affairs of their districts are under their respective supervision.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS is the responsibility of an Executive Administrator and his staff. Approximately 300+ persons are employed in the headquarters in Oak Brook.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION - The Clubs of Lions International are presently divided into 741 districts. These districts are divided into regions and the regions into zones. Each district is under the guidance of a District Governor who is assisted by a Region Chairman for each region and a Zone Chairman for each zone. The District Governors appoint their Region Chairmen and Zone Chairmen. The VDG is the chief administrative assistant to the District Governor.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL - AT THE CLUB LEVEL: The heart of the Association is the individual Lions Club in the community. The main purpose of the district and international organizations is to service and assist the individual clubs so they can carry out more effectively their community service responsibilities. Through the worthwhile community activities and projects of the individual Lions Clubs, Lions International has become respected as the world's most active service club organization.

ADMINISTRATION - AT THE CLUB LEVEL: Each Lions Club has a President, immediate Past President, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, TailTwister, Lion Tamer, Membership Director, and three or more Directors. Active club members of each club are expected to attend meetings regularly and to take an active part in all club community service activities. Lionism brings together leading men and women in the community to put the golden rule into practice. While good fellowship is one of the important assets of Lions Club membership, it is the joy of working together with fellow members in constructive worthwhile causes that gives the greatest satisfaction to members.



## **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) was established by Lions Clubs International as its charitable arm in 1968. Originally called Lions International foundation (LIF), its name was changed to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in 1980. Since its inception LCIF has provided many millions of dollars to the needy of the world.

Originally, there were six major objectives of the foundation: Vocational Assistance Abroad, Major Disaster and Emergency Relief, Eye Care and Research, Cancer, Hearing, and Humanitarian Services. Over the years, the objectives were reduced to three: Vocational Assistance, Major Disaster Relief, and Humanitarian Services. LCIF strives to support through grants projects that have long-term and far-reaching effects, provide benefits as to as many people as possible, and are in harmony with the objectives of Lionism. LCIF does not provide assistance to services available through government, religious, charitable, social welfare, or comparable service programs.

Standard grants for Humanitarian Services or Vocational Training have a maximum of \$75,000. The grant applicant is usually a Lions District. The district (or Multiple District) is required to develop a blueprint explaining precisely how it will use the money to improve existing conditions. The districts themselves are expected to make generous contribution, matching or more the grant, to the project as well. Throughout, the local Lions provide a meticulous accounting for all funds received from LCIF. Emergency Disaster Relief was designed to assist Lions in quickly helping the homeless, hungry, and destitute in the wake of natural calamities (floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.). Working with local Lions makes it possible to administer relief programs at a minimum cost because Lions contribute their time and efforts without pay. In the case of emergency grants, up to \$10,000, the District Governor requests the grant from LCIF by telephone or FAX, specifying the nature of the emergency and exactly how the funds will be used (limited to food, clothing, blankets or medical supplies). The District Governor then must complete the formal application process and subsequently provide LCIF with a detailed accounting of the grant money's expenditures.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship was created in 1973 to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to humanitarian endeavors. It is presented to anyone who makes a donation--or in whose name a donation is made--of \$1,000 or more. Melvin Jones Fellows (MJF) received an inscribed plaque and wear a special lapel pin. For each \$1,000 beyond the original commitment (up to an additional \$5,000), a diamond is added to the recipient's MJF lapel pin.

The first Melvin Jones Fellows in 1973-74 were William G. Clayton of the Fort Lauderdale, FL, Downtown Lions Club and Dr. Luciano Nunziante of the Barletta, Italy Lions Club. By the 75th Anniversary of Lions International in 1992, there were over 75,000 Melvin Jones Fellows. There are over 144,000 MJFs as of the start of 1996-97. (Campaign SightFirst accelerated the growth in the number of MJFs)

In 1990 Lions Clubs International, through LCIF, introduced Campaign SightFirst, its most ambitious project ever. The three year fund-raising campaign was from 1991 through 1994 with money and pledges being accepted. The Campaign SightFirst (CSF) goal of raising \$130 million to fund SightFirst projects to eliminate curable and preventable blindness in the world has not only been reached but exceeded by October 1996. Over \$140 million in cash has already been collected with some pledges still incomplete.

SightFirst projects around the world are currently working in a variety of ways to reverse curable blindness and prevent blindness caused by such problems as glaucoma, diabetes, Vitamin A deficiency and river blindness. From the cataract clinics in India which are able to perform cataract surgeries for \$10 or less per patient to the projects providing Vitamin A to help prevent blindness caused by lack of the vitamin in the diet to the projects to provide Ivermectin to ward off river blindness to the projects in the U.S. to increase awareness and education relating to causes of blindness such as diabetes, glaucoma and cataracts, SightFirst monies are making a difference so great the end results cannot yet be seen.

In addition to the Standard Grants (Humanitarian, Vocational and Emergency), LCIF each year has a Humanitarian Award of \$100,000 or more. In 1996 this award was given to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity program. LCIF also funds major International Service program grants exceeding \$100,000. An example of this type grant in 1987-88 was a \$250,000 grant to LionsQuest Skills for Adolescence International Expansion.

LCIF monies which have been granted to districts and Lions entities in Texas amount to \$800,000 by 1996-97. The Texas Lions Camp has received \$300,000 in LCIF grants just for its CAMPAIGN 2000 improvements program. These funds have been used for the Texas Lions Camp, for Eye Banks in various districts, for emergency grants to different districts.

## ADMINISTRATION

**1. What is Lions Clubs International Foundation(LCIF)?** LCIF is the grant-making arm of Lions Clubs International (LCI). Its mission is to support the efforts of Lions clubs worldwide in serving their local communities and the world community as they carry out essential humanitarian service projects. LCIF is a public, nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The foundation was incorporated June 13, 1968 in the United States and is, therefore, governed by U.S. tax laws.

**2. How are the LCIF grant programs funded?** Grants are made possible by donations from Lions clubs and individual members worldwide. Interest on investments, gifts from corporations and the general public are also funding sources. LCIF does not receive any portion of Lions' membership dues.

**3. Who is responsible for LCIF operations?** The foundation is governed by a board of trustees comprised of the LCI board of directors plus two appointed members. The immediate past international president of LCI always serves as chairman of the foundation. The foundation manager, supported by six department managers, is responsible for daily operations.

**4. How is the foundation's mission achieved?** LCIF's mission is achieved primarily through its grant programs and by serving Lions. (Refer to the section on Grant Programs.)

**5. How are operating expenses paid?** By ruling of the board of trustees, all administrative and promotional expenses must be paid from interest on investments. Donated funds are never used to cover these costs. Administrative and promotional expenses average about nine percent per year – much lower than for most charitable foundations.

**6. What is a corpus?** A corpus is a reserve of assets that the foundations maintain to meet needs, make grants, and assure the stability of the foundation. It is an investment in the future.

**7. Why is it necessary to have a corpus?** A reserve fund assures governing bodies and other interested individuals or financial institutions of the foundation's long-term viability when undertaking large projects. Simply stated, a corpus ensures the foundation's ability to continue making grants. A reserve fund is an indication of fiduciary responsibility. It is good stewardship to allow donated funds to generate additional funds. LCIF's reserve fund earns unrestricted revenue that pays all operational expenses; the remaining interest income is available for making grants.

**8. How is the amount of funds available each year for LCIF grants determined?** Sixty percent of the prior year's total unrestricted revenue, less administrative and promotional costs of that same fiscal year, is available for grants, plus an additional US\$1 million can be used for Major International Service Program (MISP) grants. (Unrestricted donations plus interest on investments make up total unrestricted revenue.)

**9. Is there a similar formula for determining funds available for LCIF SightFirst grants?** No. All contributions restricted for Campaign SightFirst must be used for SightFirst projects.

**10. How may I contact LCIF?** The LCIF staff is ready to assist you. Contact us as follows: LCIF300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois (USA)60523-8842  
Telephone: 630/571-5466Administration: Ext. 383Grant Programs: Ext. 292, 580Donor & Financial Services: Ext. 581, 574, 517Communications: Ext. 386, 508Development US & Europe: Ext. 392, 508Development Asia: Ext. 395, 508Donor Systems: Ext. 294Fax: 630/571-5735E-mail: [lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lcif@lionsclubs.org)Web site: <http://www.lcif.org>

## Grants

### SightFirst

**1. What is the SightFirst program?** SightFirst is a global initiative that mobilizes Lions' resources at all levels in responding to worldwide blindness prevention needs. The program was launched in 1990 and is funded by LCIF. Lions have many partners in this global effort including ophthalmologists, government officials, the World Health Organization, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, The Carter Center and other non governmental organizations.

**2. What are the leading causes of world blindness?** The major causes of blindness are:

- \*- cataract (clouding of the lens of the eye)
- \*- trachoma (a contagious infection marked by scar formation that causes the eyelid to turn inward eventually leading to blindness)
- \*- onchocerciasis (river blindness, an infection carried by parasites)
- \*- childhood blindness including xerophthalmia (vitamin A deficiency blindness)
- \*- glaucoma (pressure within the eye that can lead to blindness)
- \*- diabetic retinopathy (a complication of diabetes).

**3. How does the SightFirst program approach the problem of global blindness?** SightFirst projects target the leading causes of blindness by world regions. Primarily, these projects are in developing countries and are designed to reach under served populations, provide resources and strengthen infrastructures.

**4. Is the SightFirst program making a measurable difference in world blindness?** Of the estimated 45 million people who are blind globally, 50 percent lost their sight due to cataract. LCIF has financed hundreds of SightFirst cataract surgery projects that have been implemented by Lions, primarily in developing countries where 90 percent of blindness occurs. Two examples of SightFirst's impact follow:

In the year 2000, the number of cataract surgeries performed in China, for the first time, exceeded new cases of cataract blindness. Much of the success for the aggressive approach to reversing the backlog of patients awaiting cataract surgery is attributable to the five year SightFirst China Action Project that has already supported well over 1.2 million cataract surgeries. In India, SightFirst has strengthened eye care delivery systems and improved output of eye care facilities. Essential to this effort is Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), which provides hands-on training and management skills development to eye care programs across South Asia. Of the first 36 Lions managed eye facilities involved in this program, the average increase in cataract surgery output was 116 percent per hospital.

**5. What is the nature of Lions' partnership with The Carter Center?** The partnership was begun in 1994 to combat river blindness in Nigeria and Cameroon; later, activities expanded to include Sudan. In 1999, a landmark grant of over US\$16 million was approved for river blindness control in Uganda, Ethiopia and the Americas and for trachoma control in Ethiopia and Sudan. In 2000, the partnership made it possible to treat more than eight million people with Mectizan®, the drug donated by Merck that protects at risk populations against river blindness. Local Lions are successfully motivating communities to take responsibility for sustaining these treatment initiatives. The partnership, by distributing the drug ZITHROMAX donated by Pfizer, is now engaged in projects to control blinding trachoma.

**6. How does SightFirst help developed countries?** In developed countries, Lions are participating in the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP). LEHP is a community based eye health education program that helps Lions communicate the importance of a dilated pupil exam to those at risk for glaucoma and diabetic eye disease. Multiple districts in the United States, Japan, the Great Britain, Ireland, Canada and Australia are participating in the program at this time. Occasional articles in THE LION Magazine track the development of LEHP as new countries become involved.

SightFirst projects that receive LCIF SightFirst grants focus on the major causes of blindness at national or large regional levels. These projects reach populations that are under served or that have limited or no access to eye

healthcare services. Sight related projects focus on community needs rather than national or international needs. Such projects, purchasing equipment for an eye clinic, for example, may qualify for an LCIF Standard grant.

**8. Who may apply for an LCIF SightFirst grant?** A SightFirst grant proposal may originate from any single, sub or multiple district. To guarantee that the proposed activities meet blindness prevention and eye care needs, Lions work with a SightFirst technical advisor assigned to their area. Before you begin the application process, the technical advisor, appropriate government officials, local ophthalmologists and the Grant Programs Department staff must discuss the proposed project. You may wish to send a brief abstract of the proposed project to LCIF to determine if the project meets SightFirst criteria. If it does, an official SightFirst Grant Application (LCIF-40) must be completed with detailed information about project strategies, budget and timetable. The district governor, council chairman, SightFirst Chairman and SightFirst technical advisor must sign the application. “How to Apply for an LCIF SightFirst Grant” (SF-203) will be helpful as you begin this process.

**9. How are SightFirst projects developed?** Projects are developed at the multiple district level to maximize their impact. Lions work with governments, the ophthalmic community and a SightFirst technical advisor assigned to the region to develop projects within the framework of a national blindness prevention plan.

**10. How are SightFirst grants approved?** The LCIF Grant Programs Department must receive completed applications with all required signatures at least 60 days before the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting. After a preliminary review conducted by the staff and SAC Secretary, applications providing all necessary information are placed on the SAC agenda.

**11. Who serves on the Sight-First Advisory Committee?** The SAC is comprised of Lions leaders and global blindness prevention experts. The committee reviews and approves projects to receive LCIF SightFirst grants. The SAC reports all actions to the LCIF Board of Trustees.

**12. When does the SAC meet?** The committee meets three times a year in conjunction with the Lions Clubs International Executive Committee meetings in January, May, and August. Contact LCIF for specific dates.

## Core 4

**13. What is the Core 4 Program?** Core 4 is an important LCIF grant program that supports high-impact Lions’ service projects as identified by the LCIF Trustees in four key program areas: **preserving eyesight, combating disability, promoting health, and serving youth.**

**14. How much funding is available to Lions who qualify for a LCIF Core 4 grant?** The program provides grants of up to US\$200,000 for projects organized primarily at the multiple district level. LCIF provides funds on a three-to-one matching basis, meaning that Lions applying for a grant need raise only 25 percent locally.

**15. What are the advantages of the Core 4 approach to grant making?** This approach focuses Lions’ energies on pressing humanitarian needs and opportunities in the areas most important to Lions. The program is flexible so that priorities can be added or changed to respond to emerging needs of developed and developing countries. Core 4 uses Lions’ volunteer resources to the greatest extent possible. A guiding principle of the program is to identify projects in which every club can participate in a hands-on manner.

**16. What are current priorities of the Core 4 program?** Under the “sight” component is an eye screening program to detect amblyopia and related vision problems in children ages six months-four years, using a photo-screening camera. The trustees have also identified, “Low Vision,” as a funding priority. Under the “youth” commitment is a grant initiative for the expansion of Lions-Quest activities worldwide. Under the “disability” component, the Trustees approved a partnership with Habitat for Humanity International to build low-cost homes for families in which at least one person is disabled. LCI also entered into a partnership to work with Special Olympics Opening Eyes program, funded by LCIF, to ensure that athletes get proper eye health care. Under the “health” commitment, the Trustees have identified diabetes prevention and treatment as a priority.

**17. What is involved in the Lions-Habitat partnership?** The partnership runs between 2000 and 2003, and is designed to build homes for individuals and families living with serious physical and mental disabilities. Local Lions Clubs and local Habitat affiliates build low-cost homes for persons with disabilities who are presently living in substandard or poverty-level housing. LCIF is providing up to US\$9 million in grants for qualifying applications jointly submitted by partnering Lions districts and Habitat affiliates. The partnership is doing much to raise global awareness about the need for affordable and accessible housing for persons and families living with disabilities.

**18. How can my club or district get involved in a Lions-Habitat project?** The LCIF Grant Programs Department will be pleased to help you. Call Ext. 553 or e-mail [lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lcif@lionsclubs.org). Also, ask for a Lions-Habitat Grant Criteria and application.

**9. My club/district wants to volunteer at a Special Olympics Opening Eyes event. How should we proceed?** Visit the web site at “[www.lcif-openingeyes.org](http://www.lcif-openingeyes.org)” to see if games will be held in your region. Also, talk with your district governor who will have information about scheduled games. Of course, you may always contact the LCIF office for details at Ext. 396 or e-mail [www.lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:www.lcif@lionsclubs.org).

**20. Specifically, what role do Lions play at Opening Eyes events?** Lions have an opportunity, through this partnership, to contribute to the health and well being of thousands of Special Olympics athletes. Volunteers interact with athletes, help with screening and are pertinent to the overall success of events. Lions who are ophthalmologists or optometrists provide valuable expertise. Optometric students have an opportunity to get pre-work experience with people with disabilities.

## Standard Grants

**21. What are LCIF Standard grants?** “Standard” is the name of the LCIF grant category with which many Lions are involved. LCIF Standard grants are approved for large-scale Lions service projects that address urgent humanitarian needs. To qualify, the project must serve many people and must be beyond the scope of traditional club and/or district fund-raising activities. Typical projects include the development of children’s hospices, care centers for the elderly, camps for special needs children, rehabilitation and vocational assistance programs for disabled persons. Also, Standard grants address universal needs such as health care. Many grants are awarded annually to develop mobile health screening units, Lions eye clinics and eye banks, and to purchase essential equipment for community hospitals. Finally, LCIF Standard grants are available to expand services for persons with disabilities including hearing and visual impairment.

**22. Who may apply for a Standard grant?** Any district (single, sub or multiple) may apply for a Standard grant.

**23. What is the procedure for applying for a Standard grant?** Contact LCIF Communications at International Headquarters; ask for “How to Apply for an LCIF Standard Grant (LCIF-109)” and a Standard Grant Application/Criteria (LCIF-27). Carefully review the criteria to see if your proposed project fits the guidelines before completing the application.

**24. Does LCIF provide funds to cover the total cost of a project?** Each project must have significant financial support from the district or of several clubs in the district. LCIF trustees approve Standard grants for up to 50 per-cent of the total project cost in amounts up to US\$75,000. Developing countries, as defined by the United Nations, may receive up to 75% of a total project budget in amounts up to US\$75,000.

**25. After a project has been chosen and determined to fit the criteria, who should submit the grant application?** The district governor of the sponsoring district, and the multiple district council chairman( where none exists, the single district cabinet) must endorse the need for the grant and sign the application. If the application is from a multiple district, only the multiple district council chairman must sign the application. Minutes of the cabinet (for district application) or council (for multiple district application) meeting at which the application was endorsed must accompany the application.

**26. How is a Standard grant application placed on the board meeting agenda?** As applications are received, they are reviewed to make certain that they meet the criteria. It is not unusual for additional information or project revisions to be requested after an application is reviewed. When the information necessary to complete the application is received, the grants department will notify the application originator that it will be on the agenda at the next scheduled meeting. Applications must be in completed form at least 60 days before a board meeting to be considered at that particular meeting.

**27. When does the LCIF Board of Trustees meet to review grant applications?** The board meets three times a year—October/November, March/April, and June/July – to review grant applications (excluding SightFirst grant applications.)

### **Emergency**

**28. How does a district get an LCIF Emergency grant after a disaster?** The district governor of an affected area may request an Emergency grant for up to US\$10,000, giving a description of the extent of damages and a plan for how funds will be used. We also need information on current relief efforts in the community –what Lions and other organizations are doing. To ensure quick action, the district governor should telephone, e-mail or fax the LCIF office with the required information, which will be relayed to the LCIF Chairman at once. If approved, a check will be issued immediately.

**29. If an Emergency grant is approved, what requirements or restrictions apply?** Grant funds must be used to purchase food, clothing, medical supplies or blankets. As soon as reasonably possible, the district governor must complete a grant application and grant report form and send them to the LCIF office.

### **International Assistance**

**30. What is the purpose of the International Assistance Grant(IAG)?** The IAG program was created to support Lions' projects that improve the quality of life through primary health care, food self-sufficiency, environmental protection, literacy and similar projects. A maximum of US\$2million is available yearly for IAG projects.

**31. How does a club or district apply for an IAG?** To qualify, Lions in at least two countries must be involved: a sponsoring Lions district, or club, that helps raise funds to match the funds requested from LCIF, and a host district, or club, in the country where the project will take place.

**32. What kinds of projects qualify for IAG funding?** Funding is available for a wide range of development projects that benefit disadvantaged communities as well as population groups with severe disabilities. Typical projects can include the development of physical therapy and mobility training services, equipment for rehabilitation centers, and some medical missions(short-term undertakings of Lions and other volunteers trained in primary health care programs such as screenings for eye diseases).

**33. How much support from LCIF can Lions expect to receive for an IAG project?** Grants are available for US\$5,000-US\$30,000. For projects requesting US\$10,000 and under, applications can be received throughout the year and can be approved by a committee of the Board of Trustees Chairman, Executive Administrator, and the LCIF Division and Grant Programs Department Managers. Projects requesting more than US\$10,000 require the consideration of the full board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

### **Major International Service Program**

**34. What are Major International Service Program(MISP) grants?** MISP grants support the major international service program(s)of Lions Clubs International. Since1982-83, this grant program has provided more than US\$4 million for the Lions SightFirst Diabetic Retinopathy Research Program. The SightFirst program has been awarded nearly US\$16million in MISP funds for blindness prevention projects.

## Major Catastrophe

**35. What is the criterion for awarding Major Catastrophe grants?** Major Catastrophe grants may be awarded when a documented catastrophe evidenced by significant mortality, injury, human suffering, property damage and loss, or population displacement occurs. Up to US\$1 million may be awarded each year.

### **36. Are there other LCIF grants categories?**

- a. A Humanitarian Award grant of up to US\$200,000, may be given yearly to the recipient of the Lions Clubs International Humanitarian Award.
- b. Designated grants represent restricted funds that LCIF handles for donors who wish to support a particular cause. Contact the LCIF Grant Programs Department before sending funds restricted for a specific recipient. LCIF must set up a special account and the eligibility of the recipient to receive an LCIF designated grant must be established. Examples are accounts set up to process donations for earthquake relief in India and El Salvador.

## Donor & Financial Services

### **1. What are unrestricted donations?**

Unrestricted donations are those that are not identified by the donor for a specific need. The importance of unrestricted donations cannot be over-emphasized because they are the primary funding source for the LCIF Core 4, Emergency, IAG, Major Catastrophe and Standard grant programs.

**2. What are restricted donations?** Restricted donations are funds handled by LCIF on behalf of the donor for a specific purpose. Often, an account is set up to accept gifts restricted for use in an area struck by a nature-related disaster. Examples include accounts set up for relief efforts in Turkey, El Salvador and India following powerful earthquakes. Please contact the LCIF Grant Programs Department before sending any funds for a specific disaster or area of need. You will be given specific details on sending donations restricted for such use. Restricted gifts may not be applied toward Melvin Jones Fellowship recognition.

**3. Should contributions be accumulated and periodically sent to LCIF?** Funds should be forwarded without delay. Doing so ensures prompt crediting of the donor's record and issuance of LCIF recognition and awards. In addition, cheques held for an extended period become stale-dated, sometimes requiring that we request a new cheque from the donor.

**4. How are donations to be sent?** In the U.S., it is best to send personal or bank cheques. Cheques sent from outside the U.S. should be in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. banks, which expedites processing and reduces costly international bank collection charges. In countries where LCI or LCIF has bank accounts, funds may be deposited in local currency in amounts equivalent to the required U.S. dollars, using the association's official exchange rate shown on monthly club statements. A copy of the bank deposit receipt must be sent to LCIF along with completed Contribution/MJF Application form (LCIF-42). Fax or mail documentation to LCIF Donor & Financial Services

**5. How are cheques or bank drafts to be made out?** Make cheques or bank drafts payable to "LCIF." If the gift is restricted for a specific purpose, write the name of the account to be credited on the face of the cheque and on related documentation. For example, "El Salvador Earthquake Relief." For unrestricted donations, write the purpose of the donation, such as "Melvin Jones Fellowship/recipient's name"; "club plaque"; "36 contributing memberships"; "toward Melvin Jones Fellowship," etc.

**6. What is the fastest means of sending funds to LCIF?** Wire transfer of U.S. dollars directly into LCIF's bank account in Chicago is the most efficient means of sending donations. In countries outside the U.S., many have found this to also be the most economical method, since purchasing U.S. dollars locally can often be done at a more favorable exchange rate. LCIF Wire Transfer Instructions: LCIF Bank: Northern Trust Company 50 South LaSalle Street Chicago, IL 60675 ABA Routing No. 071000152 Account Name: Lions Clubs International Foundation Account No. 79154 (**Be sure to use this account number.**) To transfer funds from the donor's bank to LCIF's account, present the above information to your bank along with the local currency amount, plus bank charges, and request the wire transfer of U.S. dollars to LCIF's bank. Next, fax or mail a copy of the receipt or wire transfer form to LCIF so that we can match it with the advice from our bank, ensuring completion of the transaction. Include on the form the

recipient's name, district, club and member number as well as the donor's name, district and club number, and the form of recognition requested (i.e., MJF, club plaque, etc.).

**7. May I charge my donation to my credit card?** LCIF accepts donations charged to Visa®, MasterCard® and American Express® credit cards. You will find a space for credit card donations on the contribution/MJF application form (LCIF-42) and Melvin Jones Fellowship brochure (LCIF-24). Be sure to show which credit card you want us to charge, give the account number and expiration date, and fill in the amount to be charged. Sign your name as it appears on your credit card in the space provided on the donation form.

**8. How should donations of securities (stock) be made?** If the stock to be donated is held as a book entry (no stock certificate), the donor should request this/her bank or brokerage firm to wire transfer the stock to: Morgan Stanley Dean Witter DTC 0152211 York Road Oak Brook, IL 60523 for the account of Lions Clubs International Foundation 335-97107-061. Donors should be sure to advise us of the gift by letter or fax at, or before, the time it is sent. If the stock is in the form of a certificate, or for further information, contact LCIF Donor & Financial Services.

**9. Can individuals contribute to LCIF through U.S. government or corporation-sponsored work-place solicitation programs?** Yes. LCIF is a member of the Independent Charities of America (ICA) and participates in the Combined Federal Campaign for government employees. The foundation is listed with other non-profit organizations in various publications allowing donors to select LCIF as a recipient.

**10. Can a form of recognition such as a Melvin Jones Fellowship be sent out before donation is received by LCIF?** LCIF board policy requires that donations must be received at headquarters before recognition can be sent. To ensure accurate and timely processing, and the prompt issuance of recognition, please include necessary documentation, such as a completed Melvin Jones Fellowship application form.

**11. What reports does LCIF Donor & Financial Services distribute?** LCIF provides district governors, multiple district & district LCIF chairs with a quarterly recap of donations and several other reports. These officers can use the reports to provide information on donations and Melvin Jones Fellowships to all Lions. (Refer to Recaps and Accompanying Reports beginning on page 13.)

**12. What can I do to help LCIF Donor & Financial Services expedite answers to my questions?** We respond to all inquiries as quickly as possible. To help us provide the best possible service, please plan ahead. As the year-end approaches, we are much busier than at other times and it may take longer to respond to requests for detailed information. You may contact us by e-mail, phone, fax, or mail. Always give us detailed information related to your inquiry. Complete contact information allows us to efficiently answer, and if necessary, contact you if we have questions. Responses are usually provided by the same means as your communication. Please have your six-digit club number available when phoning and include that number on any correspondence.

## **Contributing Member**

**1. What is the Contributing Member program?** The Contributing Member is an annual program that honors individuals who make an unrestricted donation of US\$20, US\$50 or US\$100 to LCIF. Contributing Members receive a lapel pin identifying the fiscal year in which a US\$20 donation is made. In October 1999, the LCIF Board of Trustees approved two additional levels of giving for this program: silver and gold. For a US\$50 donation, a pin and silver wreath are awarded; for US\$100, a pin and gold wreath are presented. The board has chosen November as Contributing Member Month each year, but Lions are asked to work throughout the year to encourage every Lion to become a Contributing Member. These unrestricted donations are used to support Lions' humanitarian service projects worldwide.

**2. Will my club get an award if every member is a Contributing Member?** Your club will be awarded a 100% Member Support banner patch and chevron for the first year of 100% Contributing Membership. For each subsequent year of 100% Contributing Membership, your club will receive a chevron.

**3. How should Contributing Member donations be sent?** The most efficient way to handle Contributing Member donations is to accumulate all contributions and send them at onetime to LCIF Donor & Financial Services. Please remember to include a list of donor names for appropriate recognition. Ideally, we will receive your donations by November 30 so that lapel pins will reach the club president for presentation to donors in a timely manner. You may, however, send Contributing Member donations throughout the year.

## **Melvin Jones Fellowship**

**1. What is the Melvin Jones Fellowship?** The Melvin Jones Fellowship is a 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 others. Beyond that description, LCIF does not provide criteria for selecting Melvin Jones Fellows.

**2. When did the fellowship originate?** Created in 1973, the fellowship is named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones.

**3. Is the fellowship for Lions only?** The fellowship is not limited to Lions club members. It is open to non-Lions who receive identical recognition.

**4. May the fellowship be presented posthumously?** Yes, the fellowship may be given in memory of a deceased individual. In those cases, the plaque is inscribed, "in memory of" and is presented with a lapel pin and letter from the Chairman of the LCIF Board of Trustees, to the individual named by the donor to receive them. (Often the plaque, pin and letter are presented to a close relative of the deceased.) When filling out the application, please provide all of the information requested for the person to whom the recognition will be presented (the family member). That information is required to prepare an appropriate letter for presentation with the plaque.

**5. Who can contribute toward a Melvin Jones Fellowship?** 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.

**6. Is it possible to make a donation and choose the MJF recipient later?** Yes. You must tell us that the donation is to be applied toward an unnamed fellowship at the time it is sent in. Complete the yellow Melvin Jones Fellowship application (LCIF-42) or the application on the Melvin Jones Fellowship brochure (LCIF-24). Write, "Melvin Jones Fellow to be named later" on cheque or bank draft. When an individual's or group of individuals' personal donation(s) are accumulated for a club's use to select a Melvin Jones Fellowship recipient, we require documentation of the consent of the original donor(s) in writing, signed by each individual. When a club's donation(s) are accumulated for a fellowship recipient to be selected by the district, LCIF requires signed documentation of the consent of the club. Please include such documentation with the completed MJF application that is sent to LCIF Donor & Financial Services.

**7. Can LCIF be authorized to charge a club's account with LCI for a donation for a Melvin Jones Fellowship or other type of recognition?** No, LCIF cannot charge a club's account for any type of donation.

**8. I lost my MJF lapel pin. How can I get a replacement pin?** Replacement pins are available from the LCIF office for US\$10. If you are authorized to charge your club, please include the club number and your complete address when ordering the pin. Cheques should be payable to LCIF.

## **Melvin Jones Fellowship Progressive Program**

**1. What is the “Progressive” Program?** The Melvin Jones Fellowship Progressive Program is a means for fellows to continue their support of LCIF. Levels of giving are identified in the Recognition and Awards section.

**2. What form should be used for Progressive donations?** Complete LCIF-42 or LCIF-24, previously mentioned, indicating in the appropriate section that the donation is for Progressive recognition.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

**1. What is the Heritage Club?** The Heritage Club is a program for recognizing individuals who name LCIF as the beneficiary of deferred gifts or bequests. Members receive an attractive lapel pin to signify their decision to include the foundation in their estate plan.

**2. What is meant by the term “Planned Giving”?** Planned Giving is the term used to describe a gift for which legal provisions are made during the donor’s lifetime, that allow for all legal, tax, and estate issues to be addressed before making the gift. The most common methods of planned giving are a trust, legacy, or a will as a bequest.

**3. May I make LCIF the full or partial beneficiary of my estate?** Yes. LCIF accepts bequests from individuals. The designation for the request should be Lions Clubs International Foundation. Ask your attorney to include wording such as this example in your will: “I hereby give to the Lions Clubs International Foundation, a nonprofit organization located in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (US\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ) to be used in continuing its humanitarian endeavors.

**4. Does LCIF accept gifts of insurance?** Yes. Gifts of insurance can be made by designating LCIF as full or partial beneficiary of the policy, or by designating LCIF as both owner and beneficiary of a policy.

**5. Does LCIF accept gifts of stocks, appreciated assets, or real estate?** Individuals may give these types of gifts to LCIF; however, before doing so donors should contact the LCIF Development Department (US & Europe or Asia) to receive information about transfer methods and to be sure the gift will be useable by the foundation.

**6. May I name LCIF a contingent beneficiary of my estate, insurance policy, stocks, bank accounts or other assets?** Yes. The potential donor, however, is not eligible for recognition in the Heritage Club when LCIF is a contingent beneficiary.

**7. How may I get more information about LCIF’s Planned Giving Program?** Individuals may contact the LCIF Development Department directly, or ask their attorney or financial advisor to gather information on their behalf.

**8. What is the purpose of the Melvin Jones Fellow “Cruise with the Chairman”?** The cruise is designed to bring together Melvin Jones Fellows in a relaxed, holiday atmosphere to boost support of the foundation and increase the number of MJFs worldwide. Cruise rates include a Melvin Jones Fellowship donation with two adult paid passengers. For details on upcoming cruises, visit the web site or call the LCIF Development Department. **Note:** For information on donating to LCIF through U.S. government or corporation-sponsored workplace solicitation programs, please refer to the Donor & Financial Services section.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**1. Do you have publicity material that I may use in promoting LCIF?** Yes. We have publications designed to help you understand how LCIF serves Lions and why your international foundation needs the support of every Lion. Answers to many of your questions will be found in this booklet. Brochures and other print material are available in all official languages, including information on: How to apply for a grant. Submitting donations The SightFirst and other grant programs The Melvin Jones Fellowship Program Estate planning Awards and forms of recognition. You may request quantities, at no charge, for club and district meetings, forums, seminars and conventions. Ask for a Publications Order Form(LCIF-54).

**2. Are publications available on the web site?** By clicking on the Publication Library and selecting a document, you may download all of our major publications.

**3. Can you help me prepare a presentation on LCIF?** There is an LCIF Presentation posted on the web site that maybe printed and/or downloaded as a PowerPoint presentation. The program contains statistical charts as well as information on grants and donations. Also, we are pleased to provide: Grant, donation and Melvin Jones Fellow histories by multiple district. Background data useful in preparing your presentation. Print material in all official languages. Video programs Four-color, 22" x 28" poster Contact LCIF Communications, Ext. 386 or 508 and we will fax current statistics the day before your presentation. If you do not have a fax machine, or if you want quantities of print material to distribute, please allow enough time for the material to reach you by regular mail.

**4. May I order publications by mail?** Yes, we can e-mail some publications. But always give us your contact information including complete mailing address even when communicating via e-mail.

**5. How does Fax-on-Demand work?** Call LCIF's fax-on-demand service at 732/544-2861. Follow the voice prompts; request an Index of available publications and then have the document faxed directly to your fax machine. Note: You must enter a three-digit code number for each document requested. For example, you may know that the contribution/MJF application form is LCIF-42. To receive that document, you must enter 042. This service is available for documents in English only.(For publications in official languages, access the web site Publication Library.)

**6. I want to know how my donations are used. Is there a way to get that information regularly?** Every issue of THE LION Magazine publishes "LCIF in Action" and "SightFirst Update."These articles describe how Lions are using LCIF grants to support important humanitarian service projects. Also, we write two cover stories and one feature article each year for the magazine, which are excellent sources of information about grants, Melvin Jones Fellows, the Heritage Club and other topics of interest. These articles are considered "directed pieces," and are intended for publication in each of the 31 editions of THE LION Magazine. If the Lion magazine that you receive is not carrying LCIF articles, please contact the editor.

**7. Do you have brochures that show how donations are used?** Yes. Ask for the Grant Disbursements List (LCIF-26), the LCIF Grant Programs brochure(LCIF-122 & -122A) and the LCIF Annual Report (LCIF-30). Also, these documents are posted on the web site Publication Library. The LCIF Annual Report is printed in English only; however, each edition of THE LION Magazine should print the portion that is published in the headquarters' edition.

**8. Do you publish newsletters?** LCIF Report, is part of the LCIUpdate Newsletter, published three times yearly. It is sent to club presidents, current and past international officers and directors, current and past district governors, multiple district secretaries, council chairmen, extension staff, international secretaries and development managers. SightFirst Profile, published yearly, is sent to SightFirst and LCIF district and multiple district chairs, multiple district council chairs, district governors, international officers and directors. It is also available in quantities upon request. This publication focuses on results of SightFirst projects and the impact of SightFirst on global blindness prevention.LEHP into Action, published twice yearly, is a newsletter for Lions clubs participating in the Lions Eye Health Program. Periodically, THE LION magazine carries articles on expansion of LEHP into other countries. For details, contactwww.lcif@lionsclubs.org or Ext. 638. News Bulletins are sent to district governors and LCIF district

and multiple district chairs for whom we have e-mail addresses. Please send us your e-mail address to receive these bulletins.

**9. What LCIF video programs are available?** **Share the Vision**, shows how Lions are making a positive difference in global blindness prevention and in their own communities. Describes how LCIF's partnership with other non-governmental organizations is maximizing efforts to improve the quality of life for people worldwide. Order PR-33-V. Running time: 11 min. **Giving and Gratitude** is a 10-minute video that takes you to three projects clearly showing how donations are used to support humanitarian service projects. Order PR-24V. These video programs, available in all official languages, are US\$19.95 each for NTSC broadcast system (N. America system), plus shipping and handling. (PAL, SECAM and other systems are US\$39.95.) Order from Lions Clubs International, Club Supplies U.S. & Canada, Ext. 254 or Club Supplies Outside U.S. & Canada, Ext. 261. Please do not send order to LCIF. LCIF Donor Systems studies the efficiency of current systems and suggests improvements. Faster and better communications with Lions result using current technology. Lions are better informed via the Internet, yet those Lions not online are rapidly informed of current LCIF programs via regular mail. All processes are reviewed with an eye toward cost effectiveness. This department is also responsible for maintaining the LCIF web site at [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org). Please help us communicate with you by providing your e-mail address. Send your e-mail address and complete contact information to: [lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lcif@lionsclubs.org).



## WHAT ARE THE LIONS?

The members of Lions Clubs are selected from the community's leading business and professional men and women, industrialists, farmers, clergymen, educators, merchants, retirees, and good hard-working citizens. They are pledged to help through Lionism those less fortunate than themselves. Lionism is non-sectarian, yet it encourages religious observances and church loyalties. It is non-political, yet it inculcates a lively interest in governmental and civic affairs.

The purpose of a Lions Club is to determine community needs and develop means of meeting them, either through its own efforts or in cooperation with other agencies. During the last fiscal year, Lions Clubs completed multiple thousands of separate, worthwhile humanitarian and community activities. At the same time, Lions Clubs provide good fellowship and Club social life for their members. A Lions Club also keeps friendships in good repair.

Lionism is an active and efficient medium for united community effort and enterprise. It is an outstanding force for national and world service, exerting tremendous influence for national welfare, international amity and peace, and human progress socially, culturally, and economically. The prestige and importance of Lions work in all fields of service endeavor is recognized throughout the entire world. The motto of the Lions is -- "WE SERVE". Yes, "WE SERVE BETTER TOGETHER!"

# International Association of Lions Clubs Organizational Framework

LIONS AT  
THE ANNUAL CONVENTION