

MD-13 Lions Clubs Orientation Guide



**Provided by the
MD-13 Membership Committee
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MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

The purpose of this document is to provide a step-by-step approach for member orientation in each club. The design is such that each session can be included at a regular meeting and last no more than 5-7 minutes.

The Importance of New Member Orientation

The importance of a proper and thorough new member orientation cannot be emphasized enough. Imagine belonging to an organization and having only a vague idea of its goals, the responsibilities of membership, its programs, history or traditions. Would you feel like you belonged? Would you be motivated and committed to help the organization reach its goals? Of course not! You'd likely be wondering why you joined the organization at all.

The information provided during orientation provides a foundation for members. It helps them understand how the club functions, what their role will be and also gives them the big picture of the association. When new members are properly informed, they are more likely to feel comfortable with the club and become actively involved in club activities right away. A properly instructed member is also one who is most likely to remain in Lions through the years.

Consider involving your seasoned members in the orientation sessions as a refresher. It can help renew their enthusiasm.

What Makes an Orientation Effective?

Successful orientations do more than simply impart information; they also inspire and motivate new members to be the best Lions they can be. While there are different methods for conducting orientation, there are several elements common to all effective orientations. This guide is designed to meet two of those elements – presenting a manageable amount of information and limiting the length of each session. In addition the orientation should be conducted promptly and should be presented in a lively and interesting manner. Make sure to allow plenty of time for questions and answers. As part of the orientation supplement the new member packet with copies of THE LION magazine, your club's newsletter, a club directory, your club's brochure or fact sheet, and a district fact sheet, if available.

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Session 1: Brief review of International Association History

As a result of this session you should know who started LIONS, when it was started, and a few significant dates in our Lions history. Prepared by Lion Dana Zody (13B).

Lions Clubs International began as the dream of Chicago insurance executive 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.

An organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. The new group took the name of one of the groups invited, the “**International Association of Lions Clubs**”. A national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, in October of that year. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states were in attendance. The convention began to define what the association was to become. A constitution, by-laws, objects and code of ethics were approved. Among the official objects adopted in these early years was one, which read, “**No club shall hold out the financial betterment of its members**” as its object. The object has remained one of the association’s main tenets ever since.

Dr. W. P. Woods, of Evansville, Indiana, USA was elected as the first president. Guiding force and founder Jones was named acting secretary, thus beginning his relationship with Lions that ended only with his death in 1961.

Just three years after its formation, the organization became international when the first club in Windsor, Ontario, Canada was established in 1920. Clubs were later organized in Mexico, China and Cuba. By 1927, membership stood at 60,000 in 1,183 clubs.

Perhaps the single event having the greatest impact on the association’s service commitment occurred in 1925 when Helen Keller addressed the Lions at the international convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA. It was there that she challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” At the age of 18 months she had developed a fever, which left her blind, deaf and mute. At the age of six a teacher by the name of Anne Mansfield was hired to teach Helen sign language and brail. Then at the age of 10 she learned to speak. For more information on Helen Adam Keller you can go to http://www.lionsclubs.org/En/content/vision_service_keller.html and for her speech to the Lions http://www.lionsclubs.org/En/content/lions_history_hkspeech.html

In 1990 Lions launched their most aggressive sight preservation effort to date, Sight First. The more than US\$140 million-plus program strives to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness by closing the gap between existing health care services and those that remain desperately needed.

Broadening its role in international understanding, the association helped the United Nations form the Non-Governmental Organizations section in 1945, and continues to hold consultative status today. Each year, during the Lions Day with the United Nations ceremonies, an award is presented to the grand prizewinner of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

Another significant event in the association’s history occurred in 1987, when Lions Clubs International became one of the first service club organizations to admit women as members.

Since those first years, the association has grown to include 1.4 million men and women in more than 45,000 clubs located in approximately 200 countries and geographical areas.

Please note the time line in Appendix A.

Session 2: Objects and Ethics

As a result of this session the new Lion will learn the value of our International Objects and Code of Ethics. Prepared by PDG Jerry Smith (13A).

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL OBJECTS: The Lions Clubs Objects outline the aims and goals of Lions. It is up to the individual clubs to use the general objects for specific purposes.

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

TO PROMOTE the principles of good government and good citizenship

TO TAKE an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community

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 endeavors.

LIONS CODE OF ETHICS: The Lions Code of Ethics is a guideline for the personal values that each Lion should exemplify.

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 bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in work, 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.

A copy of this page should be given to each member of your club.

Session 3: Current Statistics at the International Level

As a result of this section, the new Lions will gain an appreciation of the size and extent of Lions Clubs International. Prepared by Lion Gary Closson (13E).

MEMBERSHIP

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with 1.3 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographical areas.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

Worldwide, Lions clubs are recognized for their service to the blind and visually impaired. This service began when Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" during the 1925 Lions Club International Convention.

Today, Lions extend their commitment to sight conservation through countless local efforts, as well as through their international SightFirst Program and Lions World Sight Day. Lions also collect and recycle eyeglasses for distribution in developing countries year-round.

In addition, Lions make a strong commitment to young people through outreach programs. Lions work to improve the environment, build homes for the disabled, support diabetes education, conduct hearing programs and, through their foundation, provide disaster relief around the world.

Based on a recent report of Lions clubs worldwide, it is estimated that **each Lions club donates an average of \$9,900 to charitable causes**, totaling \$449 million. Each year **Lions club members volunteer 76 million hours**, which is equivalent to 36,500 people working full time for a year.

SIGHT PROGRAMS

In 1990, Lions established SightFirst, raising \$143 million to fight major causes of preventable and reversible blindness. The program joins Lions volunteers with blindness prevention experts, organizations, and governments.

SightFirst has:

- provided more than 7.1 million cataract surgeries
- built or expanded 213 eye hospitals
- supported more than 80 million treatments to prevent river blindness
- improved eye care in 90 countries around the world

In 2005, Lions launched Campaign SightFirst II with a goal of raising at least \$150 million to continue and expand the extraordinary work of SightFirst.

Lions clubs support other sight-related activities.

Lions clubs and members:

- provide 600,000 free professional glaucoma screenings and make 25,000 corneal transplants possible each year
- collect more than 30 million pairs of used eyeglasses annually for free distribution to those in need in developing countries
- offer screenings, eyeglasses and sports goggles to athletes through the Special Olympics-Lions Club International Opening Eyes Program
- provide free quality eye care, eyeglasses, Braille-writers, large print texts, white canes and guide dogs for thousands of people each year
- establish and support a majority of the world's eye banks, hundreds of clinics, hospitals and eye research centers worldwide

Session 4: A brief history of your club

The local club is the most important unit in the Lions organization. Without strong active local clubs this Association will cease to exist. As a result of this session the new Lion will learn about his/her new clubs history and how it came into existence. Below is an example of one clubs history and the form in Appendix B will help the trainer develop his club's history. Prepared by PID Floyd Newberry Jr. (13J).

HISTORY – MOUNT ORAB LIONS CLUB

On September 17, 1951, the Mount Orab Lions Club became reality. The Bethel Lions Club was our sponsor and we chartered with 41 members. C.M. Bailey was our first president and Charles H. Bohl was our first secretary-treasurer.

While we have listed herein our Past Presidents, all of whom have served us well, we are ever mindful that there are many, many more who have faithfully served our club in various capacities and without their efforts this 50 year-old club would not have endured. It is to those "unsung heroes" that we dedicate this program. Also, we want to give thanks to the community who has supported us throughout the years.

We have furnished hundreds upon hundreds of eye exams and eyeglasses for indigent community school children down through the years and this is just one of our local projects! In addition, and not necessarily in the order listed, we have furnished and erected street name signs, posts and numbers; we provided and installed early street Christmas lighting; we improved the school ball diamond; constructed a concession stand; installed lighting, fences, grandstands, and maintained it for many, many years; we furnished and installed an uptown water fountain; we consistently provide 40-50 Christmas baskets throughout our community; our organization was the catalyst for the Bartlett Pear Tree Project and the Mt. Orab, Ohio Development Corp.; we built and furnished the "Welcome" signs at all 4 entrances to town; we provided Lions Quest teacher training; we equipped a Brown County General Hospital room; we provided an Audio Communication Board for a disabled child; we support the Eddie Eyeglass and the Good Programs in our local school; we have sponsored numerous Boy Scout Troops; we purchased Pee Wee Football uniforms; we sponsor local students to the Ohio Lions Band and each year a local girl to Girls State; we provide local students with college scholarships; we have participated in Adopt-A-Highway program; and many, many more local projects. In addition, we consistently contribute our fair share of funds for many district, state, and International projects.

We have been able to accomplish these projects with some of the following fund-raising programs: House Number Sales, Trap Shoots; Minstrel Shows, Rose Sales, Cookie Sales, Ball Park Concession Stand; Horse Shows; Auction Sales Concessions; Sample Fairs, Donkey Basketball and Softball; Summer Fair Concessions; Ruthven Print Raffle; Lions Mint Sales, Bob Evans Concessions at OVAM Show; Light Bulb Sales, Car Shows; Carnivals; Broom Sales; Radio Day; Turkey Raffles; JTM Cookouts; Pancake Breakfasts; Sugar Corn Sale, Beef Raffle, Highway Safety Break; Candy Day; Large Print Coloring Books and many, many other promotions.

Having had the privilege of being able to participate in at least some small way in each and every one of these community projects, my memory is flooded with the good times we shared as we labored together in spirit of Lions fellowship. If time would only permit us to share the many highlights of our Lionistic experiences, your bellies would ache from laughter and your eyes would tear from sorrow and joy. Ours is a proud past, and we're looking forward to a bright future!

Session 5: The major projects of the club and their sources of funding

As a result of this session the new Lion will learn how his/her club serve their community and how the club raises the money to support these service activities. Below is an example of one clubs service and fund raising projects. The form in Appendix C will help the trainer develop his/her club's information in regard to these projects. Prepared by PDG Judy Smith (13E).

Troy Lions club has many opportunities for fellowship during its major fundraiser: The Troy Strawberry Festival. They have participated at this festival for over 20 years thus earning them a prime location at the festival site. Over the years they have refined their product – chocolate covered strawberries – to a science. This was done to eliminate labor-intensive work since, like most Lions club, their members are aging and numbers are diminishing. This festival nets the club approximately \$4,000 to \$6,000 which they use to help fund their projects.

The Strawberry Festival is not their only fundraising project however. In early September they begin selling Entertainment Books. Although many other organizations sell these books, Troy Lions club has established a clientele that stays with them. This is also true for their Rose and Carnation Sale in the spring. They also have two chicken BBQ's in conjunction with a local church. Popcorn at the Mayor's concert is not a major money raising function, but it is a major public relations event. This concert is in August and outdoors so the minute the aroma of popping corn drifts over the area, the people start coming around their stand which is identified with a Lions logo and a sandwich sign that shows where the money goes. Mint stations are located around the community as are boxes for the collection of used eyeglasses. An annual White Cane day is held in late spring, and just recently they began selling the large print coloring books.

Twenty percent of the monies raised go to International and District projects such as LCIF, Sight & Hearing, West Central Eye Bank, OLERF, Ohio Lions Foundation, Ohio Lions Band, Lions Quest, Diabetes Awareness, and Campaign SightFirst II.

The remaining eighty percent is spent locally. Providing eyeglasses and exams is the major expenditure. They work with the local health department to service those who need glasses and exams. Two scholarships are given annually to local high school seniors who submit essays as part of their request. The Lions Magazine is given to the high school library and the local library annually as well. Since the club sponsors a Leo Club at a local high school monies are given there for student participation at the Strawberry Festival and chicken BBQs. Other projects such as the American Cancer Fund, Hospice, Peace Poster Contest, high school afterprom activities, welcome signs at the community's boundaries, as well as other local requests complete their projects.

The club has written and received a grant from Ohio Lions Foundation for a low vision reader at the local library. The club also receives grants from CVS pharmacy for other vision related projects.

Session 6: Club organization including the duties of the officers, directors, and committees

As a result of this session the new lion will become familiar with the structure and function of the club officers. Prepared by PDG Jerry Smith (13A)

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS: A Lions club is governed by a board of directors, normally consisting of a president as chief executive officer, the immediate past president, three vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a Lion tamer, a tail twister, four or more directors, a membership director and a branch coordinator (if applicable). Officers are elected annually for a term coinciding with the association's fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Directors are elected for two-year terms. Meetings of the board are usually held once each month.

President: the president serves as the club's chief executive officer and presides at all meetings of the club and the board of directors. The president issues the call for regular and special meetings in accordance with the club's by-laws or procedures, plans the agenda and ensures that the status of each committee activity is reported. It is also the responsibility of the president to see that regular elections are duly called, noticed and held. The president cooperates with, and is an active member of, the district governor's advisory committee of the zone in which the club is located.

Immediate Past President: The immediate past president, along with other past presidents, serves as an official greeter of members and their guests at club meetings and represents the club in welcoming new people into the community served by the club.

Vice Presidents: In the event that the president should be unable to perform the duties of office for any reason, the vice president next in rank occupies the position and performs the duties with the same authority as the president. Each vice president, under the direction of the president, oversees the functioning of various committees of the club.

Secretary: Under the supervision and direction of the president and board of directors, the secretary acts as a liaison officer between the club and both the district and International Headquarters. Responsibilities of the secretary include submitting reports, maintaining club records and issuing financial statements to club members.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for all club financial matters. Duties include receiving all monies and paying club obligations, maintaining financial records, preparing financial statements and submitting financial reports.

Lion Tamer: The Lion Tamer serves as custodian of club property. Duties include being responsible for club property (such as flags, banners, gavels, etc.), serving as a sergeant at arms during meetings and distributing materials at meetings.

Tail Twister: The Tail Twister serves to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at club meetings through the judicious imposition of fines on members. The Tail Twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present. Any funds collected by the Tail Twister are immediately turned over to the treasurer.

Membership Director: the membership director serves as the chairman of the membership committee. Responsibilities of the membership director include development of membership growth programs, implementation of recruitment and retention programs and preparation of orientation sessions.

Branch Coordinator: the branch coordinator is the chief officer of the club branch's executive committee.

At a Glance

Club Officers and Directors

The club's board of directors is composed of:

- Club President
- Immediate Past President
- Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Lion Tamer
- Tail Twister
- Branch Coordinator (if applicable)
- Elected Directors

Session 7: Membership categories, attendance and dues policies

As a result of this session the new Lion will learn about the different categories of membership, the attendance requirements associated with each, and the purpose of the dues structure. Prepared by Lion Dana Zody (13B).

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: There are several categories of membership, which are fully explained in the Lions Clubs Standard Form Constitution and By-laws. In brief, they are:

- Active: A member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club implies.
- Member-at-Large: A member who has moved out of the community and is unable to regularly attend meetings and desires to retain membership in the club. This member cannot hold office or vote at conventions and must pay dues.
- Honorary: An honor bestowed by a club to an individual who is not a member of the Lions club, to recognize outstanding community service or service to the club.
- Privileged: A member who has been a Lion for 15 or more years, who because of illness, infirmities or advanced age or other legitimate reason, must relinquish his or her active status. A privileged member may vote, but may not hold office.
- Life Member: A member who has maintained active status for 20 or more years, or for 15 years and is at least 70 years of age can be granted Life Membership. Life Members pay a one-time payment to the association in lieu of future dues. They have all the rights and privileges of membership.
- Associate: A member who holds his/her primary membership in another club, but maintains residence or is employed in the community of the club in which he/she attends. Associate members can vote on club matters, but may not serve as a club delegate at district, multiple district or international conventions, and are not eligible to hold office.
- Affiliate: An individual who is currently unable to fully participate in the club, but wishes to support the club. He or she may not hold office and may not represent the club at district, multiple district or international conventions, but may vote on club matters.

Members cannot simultaneously hold membership – other than Honorary or Associate – in more than one Lions club.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS: Clubs should meet regularly and it is recommended that they meet at least twice each month. All active members are strongly encouraged to attend meetings regularly. Members who maintain perfect attendance during the fiscal year may be given an annual 100% perfect attendance award. If a member misses a meeting, he or she has the opportunity to make up the meeting by attending a club board meeting, a region or zone meeting, the meeting of another club or a club committee meeting. The club secretary has complete details regarding your club's make-up policies.

DUES: Each club assesses an entrance fee and annual dues. Lions clubs use their entrance fees and membership dues for administrative purposes and to pay international and district dues. Preferably, dues should be collected from the individual member on a semi-annual basis. Clubs should mail dues statements to their members on or near January 1st and July 1st of each year. The club annually pays to Lions Clubs International a “per capita and convention fund tax” for each member. The club is billed semi-annually on January 1st and July 1st.

There now is what they call a Family Unit. This covers a family that belongs to a Lions club and lives in the same house. The first member pays full International dues and up to 4 additional members pays 1/2 of the International dues. There will be one Lions Magazine sent to each Family unit.

NOTE:

All clubs have their own idea about dues collection and attendance requirements and you should check with your club to find out exactly what they are. The club treasurer should also talk about the specific dues in your club.

Session 8: What it means to be a Lion and the benefits of membership

Below is a sample for the trainer to view. This can be read as is or the trainer can make up his own comments. The benefits will be good anywhere. Prepared by PID Floyd Newberry Jr. (13J).

Being an active Lion for 55 years, I appreciate the honor, joy, and responsibility that have been mine thanks to the determination of a neighbor of mine who asked me to join as a Charter Member of my Lions club.

I take great pride in my club membership. I wear my pin, which is the badge of Lionism; with the knowledge that I am a part of one of the greatest service organizations the world has ever known. This is a privilege, which I cherish, and I promise to never knowingly do anything which would dishonor our association.

I have worked long and hard to further the growth of my club, zone, sub-district, multiple-district, and international; and it is my hope that my health will allow me to continue with my efforts. With all of this giving of time, money, and effort, it has been the most joyful and fruitful time of my life. It is my hope that all of you find the honor, joy, and pride in membership that I have been privileged to experience, because someone saw something in me that indicated that I would become a good Lion.

The benefits of becoming a Lion are endless! Honor, prestige, fellowship, self-satisfaction, self-improvement, networking possibilities, fun, it goes on and on. By being active and involved in Lionism, I found several creative opportunities within myself that I believe would never have developed otherwise. I became more of an extrovert, rather than an introvert! I found that I developed a much more rounded personality, that I could accept the responsibility of leadership more optimistically and thus, my leadership abilities became more apparent.

I could go on and on about the benefits of Lionism to me since I am convinced that my association with Lionism has been one of the most important events in my life. I am sharing this with you in the belief that if you will dedicate yourself to this cause, you too will share in the endless benefits of Lionism.

Session 9: The Structure of the district and multiple district and responsibilities of the respective officers and the resources and contacts for your district and multiple district *Prepared by Lion Gary Closson (13E).*

MULTIPLE DISTRICTS: Ohio is MD13 with 10 sub-districts, A-K. Each district supervises the administration of its own affairs as provided in its respective multiple district constitution and by-laws.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS: The governors within a multiple district constitute a council of governors for each multiple district. Each member has one vote on each issue requiring action of the council.

DISTRICTS: Lions clubs are part of a district, which is usually comprised of at least 35 clubs with 1,250 members.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR: The district governor is the chief administrative officer. The district governor's responsibilities include representing the association in the district, supervising district officers, furthering the objects and ethics of the association, promoting the goals of the International Program, supervising the organization of new Lions Clubs, and presiding over district meetings.

VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR: The vice district governor serves as chairman of the MERL Team. The vice district governor must become familiar with the duties of the district governor so that in the event of a vacancy, he/she would be able to fill in.

DEPUTY DISTRICT GOVERNOR: The deputy district governor serves as region chairman and fulfills duties assigned by the district governor.

CABINET SECRETARY/TREASURER: This officer keeps accurate records of all cabinet meetings, collect and receipt for all per capita taxes and remit to the multiple district council secretary/treasurer. Another duty is to keep accurate books and records.

REGION CHAIRPERSON: This position is optional. The region chairman, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, is the chief administrative officer in the region. Duties include supervising the zone chairman in the region, supervising district committees, organizing new clubs and strengthening weak clubs

ZONE CHAIRPERSON: The zone chairman is the chief administrative office in the zone. The zone chairman is responsible for serving as chairman of the district governors zone advisory committee, taking an active role in organizing new clubs and reports on the activities and well being on all of the clubs in the district.

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON: Lions Club International officially recognizes twenty district chairmen:

Convention	Leo Club
Diabetes Awareness	LCIF
Environmental	Membership
Extension	Lions International Peace Poster Contest
Hearing & Speech Action and Work with the Deaf	Public Relations and Lions Information
Honorary	SightFirst
International Understanding and Cooperation	Youth Exchange
Leadership Development	Youth Outreach
Cultural and Community Activities	Retention
Information Technology	Lions Opportunity for Youth

Session 10: District, Multiple District, and International Projects that our club supports

As a result of this session the new Lion will gain insight into how the local club participates in project outside the local community. The local club can develop their own outline for their club using the form in Appendix D. Prepared by PDG Jerry Smith (13A).

In District 13A there are three sight related district projects that are supported by the local clubs. They are the Northwest Ohio Lions Eye Care Foundation, the Eyeglass Recycling and Refurbishing Center in Pandora, and the last two years we have supported the purchase of a Seeing Eye dog for Pilot Dogs in Columbus.

The Northwest Ohio Lions Eye Care Foundation provides sight services to needy individuals in our district that go beyond the eyeglasses provided by local clubs.

The Pilot Dog project pays for a dog and the training that it and its recipient need for them to work effectively as a team. The dog and training is given to the recipient at no cost. Our club donates funds to both of these projects.

The Eyeglass Recycling is just what the name implies. After the glasses are refurbished and cataloged they are sent to third world countries to people who have never had glasses before. Our club donates several hundred used eyeglasses every year.

In MD-13 (Ohio) there are several multiple district and International projects. The multiple district Sight and Hearing Committee provides services to various sight related projects including Pilot Dogs. The Youth Committee supports a camp for handicapped children, the Leo Clubs and other youth activities. The Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation (OLERF) supports sight related research at several colleges and universities across the state. The Ohio Lions (OLF) Foundation provides disaster relief to needy individuals around the state. The Ohio Lions Foundation also provided grants to clubs for low vision readers and other sight related projects.

At the International level Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) provides funds for disaster grants around the world along with other grants that help with a variety of social needs both in our country and abroad. International is also involved with Sight First II that has a goal of raising \$150 million dollars plus an additional \$50 million for preventable blindness aid throughout the world. Sight First I Accomplished a similar goal more than a decade ago.

Our club annually supports LCIF and then contributes to some of the other MD-13 and International funds based on the desire of the club each year. We will also be supporting Sight First II in the next two-years.

Session 11: District and Multiple District Conventions

As a result of this session the new Lion will gain insight regarding the both the district convention and multiple district convention purposes and activities.
Prepared by PDG Jerry Smith (13A).

District Conventions

If one visits all ten of the district conventions in Ohio (MD-13) one would find a large variety of styles and formats regarding the various conventions. However, one will find that each district convention is designed to celebrate the current year under the direction of the district governor. It is a time to recognize those Lions who have contributed to the success of the district during the past year. It is also a time to have great fun and fellowship with other Lions from the district. This sharing of successes and fun brings individuals from their local clubs together in that bond that unites all the Lions of the world.

Included in the events of the district conventions are several important issues of business. Usually the cabinet will meet to present their final reports of the year and vote on any items of business that they need to address. Each club is allowed to send one delegate for every ten members or major fraction thereof. At the business session those delegates will elect next year's district governor, vice-district governor, and deputy district governor and any elected state committee representatives. They may also vote on any amendments to the district constitution and by-laws that have been properly presented for consideration.

Some districts will include their officer training sessions for the incoming club president, secretary, and treasurer for the next year. Other in-service presentations may be made for any interested Lions.

The highlight of the weekend is the presence of an International Director or other International officer. This individual and his/her spouse will usually be at the convention the entire weekend. Their role is to bring news from International and to be the main speaker at the Grand Banquet for the convention. These individuals will give an informative and motivational speech at the Grand Banquet.

All of the sessions at the district convention are open to any Lion in attendance and Lions are encouraged to attend.

Multiple District Convention

In many ways the multiple district convention is similar to the district conventions. It is also a time of celebration for the year. In part, it honors the district governors for their year of service to their respective districts and to the multiple district for serving on the council of governors.

There is a final council of governor's meeting to finalize the business for the year. In addition, there are several in-service seminars open to all Lions in attendance. There is a business meeting to approve amendments to the constitution and by-laws, elect a candidate for International Director if it is a year we are running a candidate, and act on any other business presented. Each club is allowed one delegate for each 25 club members for the multiple district convention business meeting.

On Saturday evening there is usually some type of entertainment provided by the Past District Governor's Association. At the state convention we also have an International guest. Over the years we have had several Past International Presidents as our guest and motivational speaker.

It is highly recommended that Lions attend this very impressive event.

Session 12: The Association's motto, mission statement, logo, colors, etc.

As a result of this session you should know our motto, slogan, and other important information to a Lion. Prepared by Lion Dana Zody (13B)

Who are the Lions? 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.

The Name "Lions:" The official name of "Lions" is "The International Association of Lions Clubs" or simply "Lions Clubs International."

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

Motto: The Lions motto is "We Serve."

Slogan: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety.

Official Colors: Purple and gold were chosen when the association was founded in 1917. Purple represents loyalty to country, friends, to one's self and to the integrity of mind and heart. It is the color of strength, courage and dedication to a cause. Gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgment, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and commitment to mankind. Often, a dark blue is used in place of purple.

Official Emblem: The current Lion emblem (or logo) was adopted at the 1919 convention. Today, Lions worldwide are recognized by it. It consists of a gold letter "L" on a circular purple (or blue) field. Bordering this is a circular gold area with two lion profiles facing away from the center. The Lions face both past and future – showing both pride of heritage and confidence in the future. The word "Lions" appears at the top, and "International" at the bottom.



Always wear your Lions emblem pin proudly. And remember, since it is a registered trademark in most countries, it may never be used for commercial or fundraising purposes without prior permission from the Legal Division at International Headquarters.

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. Lions throughout the world communicate with one another through club activities that create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

Session 13: The structure of the International Association, the responsibilities of the board of directors, the role of the International Convention, International Headquarters, and resources and contacts at Headquarters.

As a result of this session the new Lion will gain an appreciation for the International Association and International Headquarters. Prepared by PID Floyd Newberry Jr. (13J).

The structure of the International Association of Lions Clubs, commonly and appropriately referred to as Lions Clubs International (LCI), is not a complex organization. The individual Lions club is the most important unit of your association. As an individual, you belong to the club. It is the club that belongs to the association. This means that when it becomes time to elect international officers and directors, or to amend or change the International Constitution and By-Laws it is the club that casts the necessary votes through its authorized delegates.

At the international convention, the delegates elect the international officers and directors who will act for them during the coming fiscal year. Officers elected include the international president and first and second vice president, along with 33 directors representing various areas of the world. International directors serve 2-year terms, with approximately one-half being elected each year. The immediate past international president is also an officer of the association and serves as chairperson of the LCIF Board of Trustees.

Our International Headquarters, with a staff of under 300 full-time employees, is located in Oak Brook, Illinois. An executive administrator oversees 11 operating divisions, which are: Club Supplies, Convention, Information Technology, District & Club Administration, Executive Services, Extension & Membership, Finance, International Activities & Programs, Leadership, Legal, and Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF).

Time will not allow us to tell you more about our great, soon to be 90-years old, association but we can state that there are probably as many different humanitarian services performed by Lions clubs worldwide as there are clubs. Each club is in tune with projects that will improve the lives of those less fortunate within their own communities. However, there are several programs that are commonly supported by a great many clubs around the globe, such as: Broader Community Services, Diabetes Awareness, Environmental Services, Hearing/Speech/Deaf, International Relations, Youth Opportunities, and Sight Conservation/Work with the Blind.

More information about these and other programs is available on the Lions Club International Web Site www.lionsclubs.org and in The Lion Magazine.

Session 14: International Projects and Programs

As a result of this session the new Lion will gain an appreciation for the wide variety of projects and programs supported at the International level. *Prepared by Lion Gary Closson (13E)*

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF):

Lions Clubs International Foundation is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. The foundation was chartered in 1968 to support the efforts of Lions clubs around the world in serving their local communities and the world community through humanitarian service, major disaster relief and vocational assistance programs. Donations to LCIF support grants in these categories: LCIF SightFirst, Core 4, Standard, International Assistance Grants, Emergency, Major Catastrophe and Major International Service Program.

SightFirst:

The SightFirst program responds to worldwide needs for the prevention of blindness. LCIF SightFirst grants are supporting projects that meet critical needs in both developing and developed countries. The SightFirst Program has already provided over one million cataract surgeries, initiated eye health awareness programs, supported eye disease treatment plans, constructed hospitals and funded training for ophthalmic personnel.

Other programs that are commonly supported by a great many Lions clubs around the world include:

- Lions Youth Outreach
- Leo Club Program
- Used Eyeglasses Collection
- Lions International Peace Poster Contest
- Lions Culture Program
- Environmental Projects
- International Youth Camps
- International Youth Exchange
- Diabetes Awareness
- Work with the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
- Eye Banks
- Guide Dogs
- World Sight Day

More information about these and other programs is available on the Lions Clubs International Web site, www.lionsclubs.org, in THE LION Magazine and from the appropriate department at International Headquarters.

Session 15: Test your Lions IQ

Test Your Lions IQ

1. What year was your club founded? _____
2. What is your district number? _____
3. What is the name of your club president? _____
4. What is the name of your district governor? _____
5. Name one of the Lions Clubs Objects. _____
6. What is the association's motto? _____
7. What are the official colors of Lions Clubs International? _____
8. How many international vice presidents are there? _____
9. Who founded the association? _____
10. What did Helen Keller challenge the Lions to become? _____
11. What is the primary service activity of Lions clubs worldwide? _____
12. How many countries have Lions clubs? _____
13. Who was the first president of Lions Club _____
14. Where was the association founded? _____
15. What does LCIF stand for? _____
16. What is the address of the Lions Clubs International Web site? _____
17. What is the address of your club's Web site? _____
18. List three things that occur at the association's International Convention. _____

19. List three projects that your club sponsors. _____

20. When and where does your club meet? _____
21. Who is the current International President? _____
22. What is your multiple district number? _____
23. Where is the International Headquarters located? _____
24. Name one district project. _____
25. How many international directors are there? _____

Session 15: Test your Lions IQ

Answers

1. What year was your club founded? _____
2. What is your district number? _____
3. What is the name of your club president? _____
4. What is the name of your district governor? _____
5. Name one of the Lions Clubs Objects. _____
6. What is the association's motto? _____ **We Serve** _____
7. What are the official colors of Lions Clubs International? ___ **Purple & Gold** _____
8. How many international vice presidents are there? _____ **Two** _____
9. Who founded the association? _____ **Melvin Jones** _____
- 10. What did Helen Keller challenge the Lions to become? Knights of the blind**
- 11. What is the primary service activity of Lions clubs worldwide? Preventing Blindness**
12. How many countries have Lions clubs? _____ **Approximately 200** _____
13. Who was the first president of Lions Club _____ **Dr. W.P. Woods** _____
14. Where was the association founded? _____ **Chicago, IL, USA** _____
15. What does LCIF stand for? _____ **Lions Club International Foundation** _____
16. What is the address of the Lions Clubs International Web site? www.lionsclubs.org
17. What is the address of your club's Web site? _____
- 18. List three things that occur at the association's International Convention: Elect Officers and Directors, approve constitutional and by-law amendments, seminars, parade, business sessions, district governor elect training**
19. List three projects that your club sponsors. _____

20. When and where does your club meet? _____
21. Who is the current International President? _____
22. What is your multiple district number? _____
23. Where is the International Headquarters located? **Oak Brook, IL, USA**
24. Name one district project. _____
25. How many international directors are there? _____

Appendix A. Simple Time Line *Prepared by Lion Dana Zody (13B).*

Lions Clubs International History Timeline

- 1917:** Association founded in Chicago on June 7 by businessman Melvin Jones
- 1920:** Association became international with the formation of the first club in Canada.
- 1925:** Helen Keller challenges the Lions to become her “knights of the blind in the crusade against blindness.”
- 1935:** Panama became home to the first Central American club.
- 1945:** Association helps form the Non-Governmental Organizations section of the United Nations.
- 1948:** Brought Europe into the association with Sweden, then France.
- 1952:** Japan had clubs in the association.
- 1968:** Lions Clubs International Foundation is established.
- 1987:** Lions Clubs International becomes the first service club to admit women as members.
- 1988:** Lions International Peace Poster Contest is introduced.
- 1989:** First Lions clubs organized in former “Eastern Bloc” Countries were in Hungary, Poland and Estonia.
- 1990:** Sight First, a major blindness prevention initiative, is launched.
- 1990:** The first club was chartered in Moscow.
- 1997:** Phase I of Sight First China Action, a program to correct cataract blindness and establish eye clinics in China, is launched.
- 2002:** Phase II of Sight First China Action is launched.
- 2002:** Lions clubs chartered in China.

These are some of the important dates of our Lions organization. It would be worthwhile to search out more just to make lions an important thing for you.

Examples of interesting items:

Year your club was chartered?

Who were some of the charter members?

When was your district started?

Appendix B. Session 4: CLUB HISTORY FORM

This outline will assist you in sharing your club's history. *Prepared by Lion Wallie Burnet (13C).*

Suggestion: If there is a Charter Member still in the club, ask him/her to make this presentation. Share any pictures that are available during the presentation.

WHEN was your club chartered?

Do you hold an annual Charter Night celebration?

WHERE was your Charter Night held?

WHO attended?

Performed Installation?

How many members?

Other Clubs?

District Representatives?

WHO were the Charter Officers/Members?

WHAT type of ceremony was used?

WHEN/WHERE were the first meetings held?

WHAT were the first service projects?

WHAT were the first fund-raising projects?

Appendix C. Session 5: CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS/FUNDRAISERS FORM

This outline will assist in your presentation of club projects/fundraisers. *Prepared by Lion Wallie Burnet (13C).* Suggestion: It is always nice to have pictures to share of the various events.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Sight/Hearing

Youth

Community/Environment

Health/Diabetes

International

Other

FUNDRAISERS

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?	WHO?	PROCEEDS?
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1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Appendix D. Session 10: District, Multiple District, and International Projects that our club supports *Prepared by PDG Jerry Smith (13A).*

District Projects:

Name of Project	What we do
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

Multiple District Projects

Name of Project	What we do
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

International Projects

Name of Project	What we do
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	